

# DECCAN Chronicle

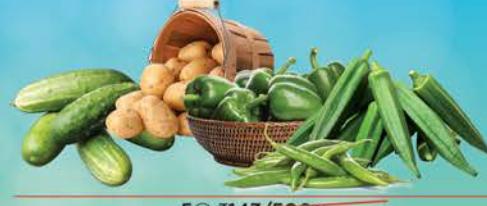
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 14 OCTOBER 2020

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## Greenko project gets SC red-flag

### Bhagyanagar Society says firm trying to take over their colony

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Supreme Court has red-flagged energy major Greenko's grandiose realty project on 119 acres of disputed land in Survey No. 1007, popularly known as Bhagyanagar Society Colony, located between Hitec City and Kukatpally.

In a recent order, the apex court directed all the parties to "maintain status quo as to possession" and "no third party interest will be created" till ownership is decided.

Rival claimants of land are 1,400 registered plot owners of whom 600 got their plots regularised under the LRS and some even built houses and apartments. Promoters of Greenko — Ch. Anil Kumar and K. Mahesh — entered the scene just two years ago. "It is just bulldozing using their money power. The government records

establish our ownership yet Greenko is moving fast to build a world class city, displacing us," said E. Raja Uma Reddy and Kiran, president and secretary of Bhagyanagar Cooperative Society. Documents available with *Deccan Chronicle* revealed that the Greenko promoters floated Ace HIBC Pvt Ltd and entered into a joint development agreement (JDA) with one Prime Properties which claimed to own the disputed land and Siddharth Infratech Services which is all set to take over Prime Properties.

Apart from several legal shortcomings and suppression of facts, what makes the JDA curious is that owner of 119 acres will get just 18 per cent of the developed property while the remaining 82 per cent will go to the developer.

■ Page 2: TS too had opposed registration of JDA

## Record rain drowns Hyd, more heavy rain in store for TS today 7 die in city house crash

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Seven persons were killed when a row of houses collapsed at Ghouseenagar, Bandlaguda, late at night on Tuesday when record-breaking rain lashed the city as well as the rest of the state. The incessant and extremely heavy downpour that began in the morning and continued into the night, threw normal life out of gear.

Latest reports said 10 houses at Bandlaguda collapsed, leading to the death of three women, two children and two adults. Police and rescue teams were at the site. MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, who was at the site, on Twitter put the toll at nine, and nine others injured. He said a wall had collapsed, leading to the deaths.

The downpour which began with some drizzles interspersed with sudden sharp showers around 8 am in many parts of the city,



Vehicles splash their way on the busy Rashtrapati Road in Secunderabad which was inundated following continuous spell of rain in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

only increased in its intensity and showed no signs of abatement till past 11 pm.

The extreme weather event, is expected to go down into the record books as the longest continuous spell of rain to hit Hyderabad. The heaviest rain recorded in the city

previously was 24.15 cm on August 24, 2000.

On Tuesday, till 10 pm, parts of the city had recorded upwards of 17 cm of rain. The 24-hour rainfall since Monday, amounted to more than 20 cm of rain in some parts of the city, the Chief Minister's office said. The

Met office, the government and the GHMC were unanimous that the state was in for more of the same on Wednesday with expectations of heavy to very heavy rainfall.

■ Page 3: Don't step out, warns GHMC

PAGE 7: PDP CHIEF MEHBOoba MUFTI RELEASED FROM DETENTION

## Women get 50% quota in GHMC

### 10% of the GHMC budget to be set aside for greener

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Tuesday passed the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Amendment Bill 2020 to provide 50 per cent reservation for women in the GHMC Council.

The Assembly also introduced another four amendments to set aside 10 per cent of the GHMC budget for greener, constitution of four citizen committees in each division, extending reservations for two terms and a provision that mandates the State Election Commission to decide on conducting the GHMC elections in concurrence with the state government.

Introducing the Bill, K.T. Rama Rao, municipal administration and urban development minister, said TS had become the first to provide 50 per cent

CONVERSION OF NON-AGRICULTURE LAND BILL PASSED

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Assembly on Tuesday passed the Telangana Agricultural Land Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes (Amendment) Bill, to end the controversial discretionary powers of revenue divisional officers (RDOs) for converting land use.

■ Report on Page 2

reservation for women in all local bodies by amending the Panchayat Raj Act, the Municipal Act and the GHMC Act.

■ Page 2: Act changed to make Hyd global city

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## IN BRIEF

SCRIBE BEATEN  
FOR RAPING  
MINOR GIRLNARENDER PULLOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 13

Women beat up an alleged accused in the rape on minor girl here on Tuesday.

The accused was identified as Pothu Shiva Prasad, 46, editor of *Maro Aksharam* newspaper. A group of women beat him with footwear and brooms at his office on Jawahar road and damaged furniture in his office.

On the pretext of exorcism, Prasad sexually assaulted the girl for the last three months. Reportedly, he threatened to kill her parents, if reveal the rape.

A 15-year-old girl from Metpally town in Jagtial district was brought to Nizamabad three months ago as she has been suffering psychological problems. Prasad, who runs a newspaper, YouTube channel and also a clinic for mentally disturbed people, was asked to treat her.

The victim said that Prasad had given her injections that disoriented her and that he raped several times during her visits.

MINOR, INFANT  
DIE IN  
CHILDBIRTHPULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC  
JAGTIAL, OCT. 13

A minor in Dharmapuri of Jagtial district was cheated by an unidentified youth in the name of love, became pregnant and gave birth to a premature infant. However, with delivery conducted by her mother secretly at their house, both the minor and infant died.

According to sub-inspector, Srikanth, the 16-year-old was a school dropout and was living with her mother in a rented house in Dharmapuri. After the death of her father, her mother was running the family working as a domestic help.

A few days ago, the girl's mother noticed the growth of her daughter's stomach and when she approached the hospital, the pregnancy was confirmed. Fearing social stigma and humiliation, the girl's mother hid the pregnancy of her daughter and made her stay indoors since then.

However, in the seventh month, the girl had labour pains on Saturday. Instead of taking the girl to the hospital, her mother donned the role of a midwife and performed the delivery at the house which resulted in the death of both the minor and the premature infant.

Treating it as a suicide case, her mother kept the pregnancy of the girl a secret and conducted the final rites, taking the dead body in a municipality vehicle. The truth came to light on Monday through the municipal staff.

TS OPPOSED  
REGISTRATION OF  
FIRM'S JDA

From Page 1

When the plot owners approached the Telangana High Court against registering the JDA, the state government too opposed it. It told the court that signatories of JDA never figured in the revenue records which reflected of those who sold land to the Bhagyanagar plot owners.

Taking the state government's contention and an existing status quo issued by the Supreme Court as some of the grounds, Justice Sanjay Kumar ruled against registering the JDA stating that creating third party interest will complicate matters further.

However, a High Court division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chouhan directed the registration authorities to decide on the JDA following due procedure. Mere presentation of JDA to sub-registrar can't be assumed as registration. If the party, after registration, violated the status quo it is for them to face consequences, the bench said adding that the aggrieved parties may invoke contempt in such case.

"The officials wasted no time after the High Court order and registered the JDA without following due process. There is no surprise if the company launches the project and sells it off, creating some more interested parties and we have to run around courts," said the plot owners.

## Civic body corporators will have it tough

They will face the axe for not meeting targets, under the latest amendments to the GHMC Act

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The amendment made to the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act 1955 (GHMC Act) has made corporators and all other elected representatives residing in Hyderabad more accountable on par with the new Municipal Act 2019.

The amendment means if public representatives want to save their jobs, they will have to ensure 85 percent survival of plants sown during Haritha Haaram programme. Likewise, it would be the responsibility of the mayor and GHMC com-

the government will be able to sack elected representatives if a complaint is raised against him or her for not ensuring 85 per cent survival of plants.

The government has also increased the green budget from 2.5 per cent to 10 per cent to enhance the green cover.

It will be the responsibility of ward member and special officer (deputy or zonal commissioner) to ensure that 85 per cent of plants sown during Haritha Haaram survive. Likewise, it would be the responsibility of the

commissioner to ensure proper upkeep and growth of nurseries.

The GHMC commissioner will have the power to form flying squads and take up regular inspections of plantations and nurseries ward wise. In all such cases, where the survival is less than 85 percent or involvement of the ward member or special officer is lackadaisical, resulting in poor survival of plants, the ward member will be disqualified and removed.

Likewise, the special officer will be removed from service by the GHMC com-

missioner for his or her failure in ensuring 85 per cent survival of plantations. Importantly, cabinet ministers cannot stay the orders issued by the civic body commissioner.

Elected ward members and lower-rung officials should also ensure sanitation, hygiene, effective garbage disposal, greenery, and maintenance of roads and drainage in their respective areas.

This apart, amendment to the GHMC Act makes it mandatory for State Election Commission to take concurrence of the government while con-

ducting elections. Municipal administration and urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao said government's concurrence is necessary for conducting the polls in view of any contingency like Covid-19 pandemic or heavy rains.

The amendment has also given legal status to 50 per cent reservation for women in GHMC. The amended GHMC Act provides for creation of four committees in each division – youth committee, women committee, senior citizens' committee and eminent citizens' commit-

tee. Each panel will have 20 members. Ward-wise reservations for the current tenure will remain the same in all 150 divisions of GHMC.

The amendment makes mandatory adopting of TS-BPASS, the online building permission system with self-certification, which was passed by the legislature last month. According to it, the builder has to upload progress reports of construction on the prescribed website, so that investors can know detailed information of the project. If builders fail

to furnish correct information, they will have to pay high amount of penalty.

Persons under supervision of district collectors will check the authenticity of claims made by landlords about constructions taken up by them. Individuals with plots less than 500 square metres can get self-certification for paying property tax online. The government will undertake random audits and any individual found deviating from the plan submitted to the government will have to pay heavy fines.

## Centre puts out co-infections alert amid Covid

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13TS RECORDS 1,708  
NEW COVID  
CASES, 5 DEATHSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Centre has called on all states to be on the lookout for co-infections of seasonal diseases with Covid-19. This will require a "concerted effort in prevention, surveillance, behaviour change communication and management of such cases," the Centre said.

The Union health ministry in its latest Covid-19 related advisory stated that "alert vigil, a high index of suspicion and constant awareness of the possibility of co-infections can help physicians avert the adverse outcome of cases with co-infection and improve clinical outcomes."

There are 24,208 active cases of which 19,748 are in home isolation. The testing increased on Monday to 46,835, after a dip over the weekend. A total of 36,24,096 samples have been tested so far.

In the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area, there were 277 new cases. Medchal Malkajgiri district recorded 124 cases, Ranga Reddy 137 and Bhadradri Kotagudem 97 cases.

With the unseasonal rains and a dip in the temperatures there is fear that there will be a resurgence of cases and people are advised to wear masks, follow physical distancing norms and report early to hospitals in case of symptoms.

Meanwhile, Jagtial MLA Dr Sanjay Kumar has been tested positive for the Coronavirus. He had taken part in several programmes for the past few days. He also held a press meet on Monday after former MP K. Kavitha won the MLC elections.

be alert and also ensure that the medical community is geared up to diagnose, tackle and fight the disease.

People are also requested to report to hospitals early so that the medical management is easy.

## Surety has to ensure accused attends court

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

punish the surety in case of disappearance of the accused from the trial.

Pointing out that the judicial officers conference has recommended imposing a fine on the surety in the event of the accused abstaining from the trial, Reddy said that accordingly the state government has proposed an amendment to Section 441 of the CrPC.

CLP leader, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, participating in the discussion on the bill, suggested that the state government draft tough laws that would take stern action on perpetrators of violence against Dalits and Adivasis.

When he tried to raise the incident of the rape of a minor girl in Khammam district, Reddy said that the government will take action against such criminals and asked Vikramarka to confine his remarks to the current Bill.



Braving heavy rains, city police discharge their duties in front of the Telangana Legislative Assembly when the session was on, in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — P. SURENDRA

## Law changed, RDOs lose power to decide on conversion of land use

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Assembly on Tuesday passed the Telangana Agricultural Land Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes (Amendment) Bill, to end the discretionary powers of revenue divisional officers (RDOs) for converting land use.

Legislative affairs minister Venkula Prashanth Reddy, introducing the Bill in the House, said that there were complaints that some officials were indulging in irregularities and corruption and causing abnormal delay in granting approval for the conversion of land use. Therefore, the government had decided to simplify the process and bring transparency.

The minister said the government had found undervaluation of land by some revenue divisional officers had resulted in ₹826 crore loss to the exchequer. Since 2016, the government had received only ₹623 crore.

With the amendment, owners can apply for conversion of land use from agriculture to non-agricultural purposes as per available records, data of 1.48 crore acres have been entered into the Dharani portal.

## Officials out, committee to now fix stamp duty

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Assembly on Tuesday approved the Indian Stamp (Telangana Amendment) Bill, 2020, which was aimed at scrapping the discretionary powers of registration authorities including the inspector general of stamps and registrations in fixing the value of the stamp duty.

Minister for legislative affairs Venkula Prashanth Reddy, introducing the Bill, explained to the House that the amendment proposed to Section 47-A of the Indian Stamps Act, 1899, would scrap the discretionary powers of registration authorities and that right will be given to a committee headed by the district collector concerned, with the district registrar as convener and the municipal commissioner, zilla parishad CEO and DIG stamps as members in

urban areas.

While explaining the power under Section 47-A, Reddy said "Earlier, if any citizen felt that the stamp duty was exorbitant, s/he would go ahead pay 50 per cent of the stamp duty and get the property registered. While the registration process will be kept in abeyance, the registrar or the IG can take a decision based on the appeal made by the consumer. They can either increase or decrease the stamp duty."

Maintaining that this has given scope for corruption in some places, Reddy said that after this amendment, the committee will deal such cases and once the committee decides on the final stamp duty, the consumer must then pay the entire stamp, book a slot and complete the registration.

While answering queries raised by MIM MLA, Zafar Hussain Meraj, Reddy clarified

that the registrar will not object if both the parties agree on registering a property by quoting lesser value than the value mentioned in the government book.

He also told the Meraj that registration of properties will resume sometime after the launch of the Dharani portal scheduled for October 25.

Informing Reddy that several people are facing hardships because of the suspension of registration for a long time, first due to lockdown and then because of the proposed launch of Dharani portal, Congress Legislator Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka mentioned the Layout Registration Scheme (LRS), demanding that the government to scrap the scheme.

The minister said that the government will ensure that the poor are not burdened by the LRS and asked Vikramarka to confine his comments to the issue at hand.

## Act changed to make Hyd global city: KTR

From Page 1

K.T. Rama Rao, municipal administration and urban development minister, claimed that to develop Greater Hyderabad as a global city, the government had brought the amendments to the GHMC Act.

Rama Rao said that the government during the 2016 GHMC elections had extended 50 per cent reservations to women through an executive order which had now been given statutory status as per the electoral promise made by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao. The minister said the TRS had set an example by getting women elected from 79 municipal divisions against reservations for 75

out of the 150 divisions in the GHMC Council. Rama Rao said Telangana had achieved the feat even before the Centre had started moving on the issue of women's reservations in legislative bodies.

On earmarking 10 per cent in the GHMC budget to develop greenery, he said the government had in a similar provision in the New Municipal Act, 2019 and it was being implemented across local bodies and yielding good results.

Rama Rao said that the Forest Research Institute had released a report recently revealing that the green cover in the state had increased by 6.7 per cent "which can be attributed to various measures

by the state government." By forming four citizen committees per ward, he said, the government would promote citizen participation. The divisions already have ward committees. The citizens committees would include youth, senior citizens, women and eminent citizens.

The minister said that each committee will have 25 members and these committees will form a 15,000-strong citizens force who can be involved in increasing green cover, solid waste management, prevention of encroachment of public properties, discourage plastic usage, promote sports and other activities in their respective divisions.

With regard to continu-

ing reservations for two consecutive terms, Rama Rao told the House that the measure had been brought in to ensure continuity.

He said the reservations which were fixed in the 2016 elections will continue in the ensuing elections. The reservations for the 2026 elections will be based on 2021 Census data.

As far as mandating the State Election Commission to take decision on conducting the GHMC elections in concurrence with the government, the minister explained, "conducting elections in the GHMC is a tedious task and the objective behind bringing this amendment is to consider all issues like natural disasters (heavy rains and

floods), availability of staff, law and order, and other issues into consideration." Replying to the request of Congress Legislator Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to ensure 33 per cent reservations to Backward Classes, the minister was protected under Section 5, Clause II of the GHMC Act.

MIM MLA Ahmad Balala expressed concern over GHMC officials insisting on people to tell the source of their property and seeking Aadhaar card details while recording their property details.

TRS MLAs M. Krishna Rao, K.P. Vivekananda and Sudheer Reddy participated in the discussion on the Bill.

## WEATHER

Max: 24.4°C  
Min: 21.4°C  
RH: 96%  
Rain: 90 mm  
Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Thundershowers likely.  
Max/Min temp. 25/31°C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+64,015)	(+725)
72,37,084	1,10,617
covid19india.org	

## STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,708)	(+5)
TS: 2,14,792	1,233
(+4,622)	(+35)
AP: 7,63,573	6,291

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

3,82,84,920	DEATHS
28,758,548	COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213	worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Adhika Aswayuja Bahula Dwadasi till 11.46 am  
Star: Purvaphalguni till 8.35 pm  
Variyam: 6.04 am to 7.31 am (Wednesday); 2.59 am to 4.24 am (Thursday)  
Durmuhurtam: 11.38 am to 12.25 pm  
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm  
HJRI CALENDAR  
Safar ul Muzaffar 26, 1442 AH  
PRAYERS  
Fajr: 5.08 am  
Zohar: 12.12 pm  
Asar: 4.01 pm  
Magrib: 6.01 pm  
Isha: 7.19 pm  
SUNSET TODAY 5.54 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.09 AM  
MOONSET TODAY 4.17 PM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.24 AM



Keep an eye on him... he is wearing a saffron colour mask these days!

## IN BRIEF

## Dacoit jailed under PD Act

**Hyderabad:** Police commissioner on Tuesday invoked the Preventive detention Act on one Mohd. Waseem, a realtor, for dacoity. Waseem, 25, is a resident of Alibagh, Kalapathar, Hyderabad under the Afzalgunj police limits. Police said he had committed a dacoity in the city with his associates. He was arrested on July 8 and remanded to judicial custody. The PD order was executed on him on September 23 and is lodged in the Chanchalguda prison.

## 5 HELD FROM JHARKHAND FOR FRAUD

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 13**

The Cyberabad cybercrime police arrested a five-member gang for cheating people under the pretext of updating KYC (know your customer) data of PayTM accounts. The arrests were made on the complaint of a woman resident of Madhapur on October 2, who gave data and lost ₹4,29,360.

The police recovered ₹1.47 lakh from the gang. The accused were identified as Nanku Mandal, 27, Rajesh Mandal, 26, Shiva Shakti Kumar, 25, Gaurav Arun, 46, and Dilkish Kumar Singh, 18.

The victim received an SMS from 7478092505, belonging to Vinay Sharma, asking her to renew KYC and call 8345989385 for the same. When she called that number, Sharma took the call and directed her to install an application like Team Viewer. After she complied, she was asked to log into her PayTM account and add ₹ through her debit and credit cards. This allowed them to get her data, and the gang withdrew the money.

# Hyd reels under impact of heavy rains

Long power outages have city reeling

BALU PULIPAKA  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Tuesday's downpour resulted in many areas going without power for long periods of time. There were reports of 11kv feeders tripping since morning that were attended to quickly.

"The situation changed after 5.30 pm when sudden gusts of wind accompanied rain that led to trees falling on power lines in some areas," the TS Southern Power Distribution Corporation said.

Of the more than 2,800 11kv feeders in the GHMC area, major power breakdowns were reported from at least 15. Major power disruptions were experienced in the Greenlands, Saifabad, Banjara Hills divisions of TSSPDCL plunging large areas into darkness.

Power officials called on people to be careful when stepping out of their homes and watch out for fallen power lines or trees or branches leaning on power lines and be cautious while out on the streets.

Power distribution company chairman and managing director G. Raghuma Reddy said 189 disaster management teams, each with 25 members have been set up and are working attending to power breakdowns, restoring falling electricity poles and repairs.

Anyone with a complaint on power supply can contact phone numbers 1912, 100, 7382072104, 7382072106, and 7382071574, he said.

The power utility said late at night that with rainwater flooding electricity substations, they were shut down as a precautionary measure. These included the ones at NIMS, Kandikallu Gate, Banjara Colony, Pedda Amberpet, Kothapet, RR Court, Hanuman Nagar, Hayatnagar, and Tatti Annaram.



1. Nadeem Colony in Tolichowki was inundated, resulting in the Disaster Response Force having to deploy boats to rescue people.

2. Water enters houses at Malakpet, where the roads were inundated and traffic disrupted following heavy and incessant rain on Tuesday. — P. SURENDRA

3. A woman stands in a house in Mangalhat, on which a rock weighing an estimated 15 tonnes rolled down from an adjoining hillock. No casualties were reported.

4. Workers open drain covers to allow water to drain away at Raj Bhavan Road. — S. SURENDER REDDY

## Don't step out, cautions GHMC

From Page 1

The situation was enough for the GHMC to declare that the state of affairs in the city were "serious" and urged people not to step out of their homes unless it was absolutely necessary. There were reports of house collapses from some parts of the city.

"The situation in the city is very serious," the EV&DM director Viswajit Kampati said.

"We request people not to venture out unless absolutely necessary."

The heavy rain forced the civic body's Disaster Response Force press into service one of its

inflatable boats to get people to safety from flooded residential localities such as Nadeem Colony in Tolichowki that quickly went underwater. Similar reports of the floods entering homes came from many other parts of the city and the districts.

The rains yet again exposed the woefully inadequate drainage infrastructure and poorly planned and executed road works including traffic management mechanisms put into place in the city. With the stormwater drain system in the city long ago converted and dovetailed into the sewerage system

that is usually choked with debris, sand and mud that are common everywhere on city roads, hundreds of traffic, law and order police officials, and GHMC officials and staffers were seen using long sticks to poke clear the drains to make the water flow away faster.

Adding to the troubles were the cement block dividers that prevented water from flowing along the natural contours along the roads that added to the flooding on the roads and streets. At some locations, police officials were seen moving some of these blocks to allow water to flow

from one side of the road to another.

The rain and the consequent power cuts also saw the demand for electricity in the state fall from 4,300 mega watts on Monday to 2,800 mega watts on Tuesday night.

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy announced that the Centre was ready to press into service personnel from the CISF and the CRPF to assist the state government in relief and rescue efforts.

He instructed more NDRF teams to rush to Hyderabad and two NDRF teams were on their way from Vijayawada.

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy announced that the Centre was ready to press into service personnel from the CISF and the CRPF to assist the state government in relief and rescue efforts.

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## 300 old buildings pose danger

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Over 300 dilapidated structures in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits have been posing grave threat to residents, especially with the incessant rain.

These weak structures have already claimed over eight lives. In the past two days, two persons were killed and five others, including two children, sustained injuries when an old building collapsed at Hussaini Alam. The people trapped under the debris were taken out and rushed to hospitals.

On Tuesday, a roof collapsed in the Khairatabad municipal quarters and in another incident an old structure collapsed in Mekalabanda, Aliabadi, due to the incessant rain. In both incidents, there was fortunately no loss of life as there was nobody standing beneath the remaining 388 struc-



GHMC's Disaster Response Force personnel demolish a dilapidated building at Mekalabanda in the city.

tures.

Top officials in the GHMC headquarters monitoring the emergency situation were mute spectators. Officials even did not address emergency calls nor attend to the grievances raised by citizens.

According to the GHMC data, over 600 weak structures have been identified so far this year. Of them, about 200 structures were either demolished or repaired while the remaining 388 struc-

tures were given caution notices.

Most of these fall under the Charminar and Khairatabad zones.

Tuesday saw 17 wall collapse incidents and four buildings were identified as extremely weak and in dilapidated condition. Officials claimed that the GHMC had taken precautionary measures on structures deemed most dangerous. It has vacated structures, sealed buildings, put barricades around the structures and displayed

caution notices," a senior GHMC official said.

Caution notices were issued u/s 459 of HMC Act, 1995 on dilapidated houses, asking the owners or occupiers to either repair the structures,

falling which inmates will be responsible for any sort of danger or loss of life. He said few residents have already vacated their properties and some of them are still residing in the property despite issuing caution notices.

## HUSSAINSAGAR FULL, GATES TO BE OPENED IF RAIN GOES ON

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Water at the Hussainsagar crossed the full tank level (FTL) of 513.700 feet on Tuesday. It still has a metre to reach the maximum water level (MWL) of 514.91 feet, officials of the GHMC's irrigation wing said. The Hussainsagar crossed its full tank level on Saturday.

Officials said that if the rain continues for a few more days, sluice gates will have to be opened and residents living in low-lying areas downstream have to be moved out to safer areas. Residents would be alerted and requested to shift to nearby rehabilitation centres if the level crosses 514.91 feet.

The GHMC on Tuesday opened the vent and sluice gates to prevent sudden increases in the water levels downstream. The excess water is also being diverted through the diversion nala on the Marriott Hotel side.

The release of a large quantity of water could endanger people especially those living along the canals in Ambedkar Nagar, Sabarmati Nagar, Arundhati Nagar, Subas Chandra Bose Nagar, parts of Domalguda, Bapujinagar and Himayatnagar, Dattanagar, Srirangam, Satyanagar, Ratnagar, Shivagananagar and Ganganagar.

Waterlogging was reported at Panagutta, Khairatabad, Telugu Talli.

Almost all underpasses experienced flooding, some more than others. For instance, the underpass at Mettuguda was deep in water and traffic at the Alugadda Bavi Junction was completely jammed for a long time and the police had a tough time redirecting traffic.

Waterlogging was reported at Panagutta, Khairatabad, Telugu Talli.

The Water Board late on Tuesday night opened two gates at Himayatsagar to release floodwater from the lake into the Musi river.

With 16,666 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water coming into the lake, the Board said that against the full reservoir level of 1,763.50 feet, the water level reached 1,762.867 feet necessitating the decision to release water from the lake.

The last time the gates were opened at the Himayatsagar was 10 years ago. An alert has been sounded in the downstream areas along the river course.

## Traffic haywire on inundated roads, even highways

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Junctions, while flooded roads along with fallen trees caused disruptions to vehicular movement at Kavadi guda crossroads, Bowenpally, Road No 2 Banjara Hills, and SNT Junctions, and at Mir Chowk, the Shivam Road, among other locations.

It was not just in the city, even highways leading out of Hyderabad bore the brunt of the heavy rains. There was flooding on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway near Abdulla purmet that quickly resulted in a 2-km long traffic jam which saw officials from the police, roads and buildings and the National Highways Authority of India rush to the scene to resolve the issue but with little luck.

Disruptions due to flooding were also reported between Bhongir and Chityala, Narkatpally and Addanki. Long lines of traffic were reported from Choutuppal mandal with the highway under a flood near Elligiri, and Tippa.

Similar reports came in from Chityala railway bridge with the road under the bridge getting filled to the brim and vehicles stuck in traffic getting submerged.

In many locations on the highways, any resolution of the traffic jams appeared remote till late in the night.

Advt. No. 78/2020 Government of India  
**Public Enterprises Selection Board**  
invites applications for the post of  
**Chairman and Managing Director**  
in  
**Bharat Coking Coal Limited**  
Last date of receipt of applications in  
PESB is by 15.00 hours  
on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.  
For details login to website  
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

DECCAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY  
Dar-us-Salam, Aghapura, Hyderabad-1, Phone: 24802634  
II Year B.E. (Lateral Entry) TSECET - 2020  
Few seats are left vacant in Civil, ECE, EEE, Prod/Mech & EIE. Eligible and interested candidates qualified/not qualified in TSECET-2020 and have not taken admission anywhere so far and secured 44.5 % marks and above in the relevant diploma/B.Sc. examination may obtain application form from the college on 14th & 15th Oct 2020 and submit the same on or before 15.10.2020 at 10 AM to 3 PM. Candidates may attend for spot admissions on 16.10.2020 at 10 AM with all original certificates, tuition fee (Rs 72,000/-), special fee (Rs 5,500), processing fee (Rs 1200/- or 2000/-) and any other fee as prescribed by the Convener-TSECET-2020. Candidates admitted under spot admissions are NOT ELIGIBLE for Govt. scholarship / fee reimbursement. Spot admissions will be made as per the guidelines and subject to ratification by the Convener-TSECET-2020.

PRINCIPAL

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी  
National Testing Agency

(उच्चतम् विद्या विभाग, नियम नियन्त्रण, भारत सरकार के तहत एक स्वायत्त संगठन)

An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt.

All India Sainik Schools Entrance Examination (AISSEE) 2021

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INVITING ONLINE APPLICATION</p

## SHORT TAKES

**MBT: REGISTER ASSETS BOOKED TILL SEPT. 7**ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Majlis Bachao Tahreek (MBT) demanded that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao allow registering of properties to those who had paid the fee until September 7 but could not complete the process due to faulty online system of the registration department. The government banned the registration of properties from October 8.

MBT spokesperson Amjedullah Khan Khalid in a letter to the Chief Minister said many property buyers had executed deeds, paid the sale consideration to the vendor and income-tax but could not complete their registration as the online system did not work properly.

**MARRI: EVMs SENT WITHOUT CONG CHECK**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Marri Shashidhar Reddy, Congress election coordination committee chairman, has alleged that the first level checking (FLC) of EVMs was conducted at Kondapaka in the absence of representative of the Congress. Kondapaka is part of the Dubbaka Assembly constituency, where a bypoll will be held.

In a letter to Shashank Goel, Chief Electoral Office, Shashidhar Reddy stated that FLC was completed before 1 October and EVMs were shifted to Dubbaka and handed over to returning officer for storage even for which there was no intimation.

Congress office-bearers who were locally available were called at the last minute and asked to sign on the seal at the godown.

He alleged the FLC process is totally defective, done in an irregular manner. The Congress demanded that a fresh FLC be conducted immediately.

**WAKF BOARD TO RENOVATE SHAHI MASJID**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Wakf Board resolved to renovate the Shahi Masjid, Public Garden, which is under the direct management of the minorities welfare department. The Wakf Board is the custodian of every masjid as per the Wakf Act.

Wakf Board Chairman Mohammed Saleem work at an estimated cost of ₹33 lakh has been prepared for the Shahi Masjid.

With regard to the Garden View commercial complex situated on the southern side of the Haj House, he said the delay in completing the work was because of certain differences. While the government wanted to house all organisations working under the minorities welfare department in the building, the Wakf Board had planned to let it out to commercial establishments.

Now a consensus has been reached and the upper floors will be leased to the minorities department organisations and the lower floors to commercial establishments. The construction work will begin soon.



TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy and AICC incharge of TS affairs Manickam Tagore at a function where the party felicitated those activists who had been arrested for staging protests against the TRS government, in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— P. ANIL KUMAR

**Fight polls fair and square, says Uttam**IREDDY SRINIVAS  
REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

ly believe that their government is serving people honestly, why are they spending crores of rupees and appointing one person in-charge of every 100 voters to bribe them and lure them with different sops," he asked. He expressed confidence that Congress candidate Ch. Srinivas Reddy will win with a huge majority.

The TPCC chief said standing crops over lakhs of acres across Telangana state have suffered heavy damage due to recent rains and floods. Paddy, maize and cotton crops have been badly hit. Criticising the TRS government for not yet enumerating the losses so far he demanded that farmers be paid compensation of ₹20,000 per acre for paddy and ₹30,000 per acre for cotton crops.

"The ongoing defections clearly show that TRS has no base or public support. It is still luring Congress leaders for winning elections. If KCR or Harish Rao seriously

**Tagore: Don't fear cases filed**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Telangana Congress in-charge Manickam Tagore on Tuesday interacted with Indian Youth Congress (IYC) and National Students' Union of India (NSUI) cadre at Gandhi Bhavan here in a bid to boost their morale following their recent arrest while protesting near home minister Mahmood Ali's residence in the city.

Tagore told the youth that must not fear cases booked by government against them as they were fighting for the cause of people.

He appreciated efforts of AICC secretary Sampath Kumar, IYC president Anil Kumar Yadav, and NSUI president Balmuri Venkat for fighting against injustice to rape victims and issues related to students.

Later, Tagore had a meeting with TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior leaders to review the strategy for the graduate MLC elections and enrollment of voters.

He underlined that all leaders must coordinate with each other without bothering whether one is senior or junior.



TS BJP leader Bandi Sanjay and other BJP leaders protest near the Assembly against the proposal to change the two-child norm for the GHMC polls.

— P. SURENDRA

**BJP leaders held for protests**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Mild tension prevailed following BJP's 'Chalo Assembly' call against the proposed relaxation of the two-children norm in the GHMC Act. The BJP has already said that the move is to favour the MIM.

On Tuesday, several BJP activists came to

the Assembly premises in batches from the morning. City police took them into preventive custody and sent them to police station.

Dr K Laxman, BJP OBC Morcha president, former MLA Ch Ramchandra Reddy, BJYM state president Bhanu Prakash and others were detained.

TS BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar condemned the arrests. He alleged

that the TRS government was trying to do favours to the MIM.

He alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had not fulfilled the promises which were made during the last GHMC elections. He criticising the government for collecting money under the guise of the Land Regularisation Scheme.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The public in general is hereby informed that my client is proposing to purchase immovable property bearing municipal No. 8-2-293/82/A/560, 8-2-293/82/A/560/1, 8-2-293/82/A/560/2, Total admeasuring 2644 sq. yards situated in the layout of The Jubilee Hills Cooperative House Building Society Limited, Road No. 33, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad from its owner Mr. N. Suryanarayana Raju and has entered into an agreement of sale and paid advance sale consideration. Any person/s, having any objection to the above transaction or claim over the above property may submit their objection / claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within 7 days of this publication. In the event of nonreceipt of any such objection/claim with in the above period, my client will be going ahead with execution of sale deed by paying the balance sale consideration and any objection / claim received thereafter will not be entertained and will not be binding on my client.

S. NAGESH REDDY, Advocate

Flat No. 101, 102, Saaipriya Apartments, Jaffer Ali Bagh, Somajiguda, Hyderabad. Ph : 040-23303350

**KCR requests farmers not to cultivate maize**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Tuesday requested farmers not to cultivate maize during the ensuing Yasangi (Rabi) season. He said only those prepared to sell their crop at less than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) can sow the crop.

Speaking at a high-level meeting with state and district-level agriculture officers at Pragathi Bhavan, the CM urged agriculture officers to transform themselves into friends of farmers. They must make farmers understand the need to stay away from maize, considering that its prices may fall very low.

Pointing out that the centre has decided to allow imports of

maize, KCR asked officials to inform farmers that maize will not fetch more than ₹800 to ₹ 900 per quintal. This could stop farmers from cultivating maize.

The Chief Minister asserted: "It is now a misnomer that it is better to run a pan shop than do farming in Telangana, as the situation in the state has changed and farming has become the most promising occupation of all."

**MALLU BHATTI: ONE-DAY SESSION FOR TRS BENEFIT**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Congress Legislative Party leader Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday alleged that the TRS-led government has conducted Tuesday's Assembly session in a hurry for their political benefit but did not care about people's interests.

Speaking at the Assembly media point, he said though the Congress wanted to discuss the proposal of non-agriculture land conversion, the government did not show any interest. He said that there were several issues related to the Dharani portal which the government has to clear for the public.

He alleged the introduction of Dharani portal appears like a scam. There are several loopholes due to which even if anybody wants to convert land use from agriculture to non-agriculture, it may not happen immediately.

Instead of addressing the existing issues, the government decision was leading to another huge mistake. It will also create trouble for the original owner of the land, Mallu Bhatti said.

The CLP leader said that earlier when the Congress raised the concern, the Chief Minister said that the government will conduct a survey of the land bank and solve the issues. The government action is contrary to this, he said.

**KTR: CONG. HAS NO RIGHT TO TALK ON PHARMA CITY**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao ridiculed the Congress stating that its leaders have no moral right to speak on pollution caused by pharmaceutical industries in Telangana state.

He was reacting in the Assembly on Tuesday to remarks of Congress MLA D. Anasuya alias Seethakka on Hyderabad Pharma City and CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka over the inundation of Osmania General Hospital in the city and Government Hospital in Madhira of Khammam district due to heavy rains.

Seethakka said that the Congress welcomed the 50 per cent reservation for women in the GHMC Council but was demanding the constitution of the Woman Commission, which has been defunct for years.

Referring to the 10 per cent Budget in the GHMC Amendment Bill, Seethakka pointed out that the state government may not give any concession to corporate companies while establishing their units. She alleged that the state government flouted norms in establishing the Hyderabad Pharma city and acquiring the land for it.

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti suggested drafting a comprehensive drainage policy for urban areas. Rama Rao said that people are well aware that it was the Congress which had allowed pharma units around Greater Hyderabad in violation of environmental protection norms.

**3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**Death is swallowed up in victory.  
1 Cor. 15:14

JOHN ISRAEL THADI  
S/o (Late) T.Y. Sanjeva Rao  
DOB: 12-12-1967 DOD: 14-10-2013  
Inserted by: Smt. PRIYA JOHN and  
FAMILY MEMBERS  
Phone: 9704294341

(S/2021/D00702)

**7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

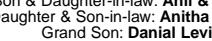
The memory of the just is blessed. Prov.10:7



KAMALA SAKU BAI  
W/o Late Dayanandam  
DOB: 04-12-1967 DOD: 14-10-2013  
Inserted by: Daughters, Sons, Grand  
Children and Kamala Samasthanam.  
Cell No: 9866209473, 7093081508,  
9550414675

**7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

The memory of the just is blessed. Prov.10:7



Mr. S.L. JAYA RAJ  
DOB: 05-05-1941 DOD: 14-10-2013  
Daddy you are always in our thoughts  
and we remember you in our silent tears.

Inserted by:  
Wife - Mrs. Hemalatha Jaya Raj  
Son & Mrs. Hemalatha Jaya Raj  
Daughter & Son-in-law: Anitha & Sam  
Grand Son: Daniel Levi**REMEMBRANCE**

"The Memory of the Righteous is Blessed" Pro.10:7



Dr. A.J. SANJEEVA RAO  
DOB: 23-12-1929 DOD: 29-11-2010  
(Retd. Commercial Instructor, ZTS, SCR)  
Mrs. Asoda Soundarya Thilaka  
DOB: 26-07-1938 DOD: 21-04-2020  
(Retd. Teacher, St. Pious High School)

In fond remembrance : Grand Children  
Prathima Asoda, USA  
Preetham Asoda, USA**22nd ANNIVERSARY**

DOB: 06-01-1929 DOD: 14-10-1998



PARASA MANOHAR JOHNSON  
Retd. Defence Accounts.  
An unforgettable person, a loving father  
who is always in our hearts

Inserted by: Wife: P. Evelyn Johnson,  
Sons: P. Amul & Fly, P. Anil & Fly,  
P. Rajeev & Fly, Daughter: Jayanthi & Fly  
and Grand Children. Ph: 7989641639**KAVITHA GOES INTO HOME ISOLATION**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Newly-elected TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has decided remain in home quarantine for five days as a precautionary measure, as she had come in contact with Jagtial MLA Dr Sanjay Kumar who tested positive for Coronavirus on Tuesday.

She took the decision after Sanjay Kumar tweeted requesting all those had come in contact with him to take precautionary measures and get tested for Covid-19.

Sanjay Kumar came in contact with Kavitha during the counting of votes for the Nizamabad local bodies bypoll on Monday.

Kavitha also put out a post on Twitter urging TRS leaders and cadre to avoid visiting her office for the next few days.

**SHRADDHANJALI**Addala Suryanarayana Murty  
ex Tata Steel

DOB: 21-04-1951 DOD: 06-10-2020

Dharmadakal on 15 Oct. 2020 at Mahaprasthanam, Hyderabad

Inserted By

Addala Padmini (Mother)  
A.S.N. Palavi (Babu), Subbalakshmi (Wife)Palavi, Bhargav (Children),  
Prosenjit (SL), Aruna (DL)

Pranita, Prajat (Grand children)

Jandhyala Nagarjun (ML)

Smt. &amp; Sri J.V. Subba Rao, J.V. Subba Rao (BILs)

**4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

SHETTIGARI SABITHA

Your Touching Memories are our Precious Possessions that will live with us Forever

Shettigari Satyanarayana

S. Ashoka Shetty S. Pramila

Dr. S. Ashoka Shetty Dr. S. Pramila

S. B. Dhananjay S. Sucharitha Akansha, Oorja, Ananya, Jayesh &amp; Neha

Inserted by: Family Members

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Tim:4:7

OBITUARY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Tim:4:7

MERCILA MOHAN

(W/o Mopetta Mohan)

Called to Glory on: 13-10-2020

## SHORT TAKES

**10 GATES OF SRISAILAM DAM OPENED**

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC KURNIOOL, OCT. 13

With massive inflows following heavy rains in the upper reaches of the Krishna and the Tungabhadra, officials opened 10 gates at the Srisailam dam to release excess water.

The Priyadarshini Jurala project discharged 1,98,500 cusecs of water into Srisailam reservoir while Sunkesula barrage on the Tungabhadra has been letting out 58,694 cusecs. In all, the Srisailam dam received 3, 23, 936 cusecs till Tuesday evening.

Water stands at the Srisailam reservoir at 884.40 feet against the full reservoir level of 885 feet. It has 211.9572 tmc ft against its full capacity of 215 tmc.

Officials released 4,02,045 cusecs including 3,76,670 cusecs to the Nagarjunasagar. Lift irrigation projects like Handri, Neeva and Pothireddypadu are not drawing any water from Srisailam. The Pothireddypadu head regulator stopped lifting water as the Kundu is overflowing and flooding Nandyal and other villages.

All other reservoirs and irrigation tanks were brimming in Kurnool district. Officials are on high alert and advising people not to visit reservoirs and dams. Nandyal sub collector Kalpana Kumari along with revenue and police officials visited low-lying areas along the Kundu river bank in Nandyal.

**NO ANTARALAYAM DARSHAN IN DURGA TEMPLE**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

There will be no Antaralayam darshan during Dasara festival celebrations this year from October 17 to 25 at the hilltop Indrakeladri Kanaka Durga temple in view of unabated Coronavirus pandemic. Tonsuring and bathing rituals too have been suspended. As per the schedule of Dasara Mahotsav released by authorities, Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on behalf of the AP government, will present silk robes to Goddess Durga on the auspicious Moola Nakshatram day that falls on October 21. Minister for endowment Velampalli Srinivas Rao, ministers Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Kodali Venkateswara Rao and Perni Venkataramaiah, apart from other dignitaries will accompany the CM.

The Hindu community treats Moola Nakshatram as an auspicious day. A huge number of devotees from near and far places visit the temple round-the-clock on that day. But due to the threat of Covid-19, only 13,000 devotees will be allowed for darshan. Further, darshan of Goddess Durga will be permitted only between 3 a.m. to 9 p.m. Children below 10 years and senior citizens above 65 years will not be allowed.

Krishna district collector A. Md. Intiaz said only devotees wearing masks will be allowed to stand in the queue for darshan. The queue area will be sanitised from time to time. Devotees will be allowed only Mukha Mandapam darshan. Cultural programmes generally held during Dasara Navaratri celebrations have been cancelled. Devotees will not be allowed for even Teppotsavam on the concluding day of nine-day Dasara celebrations.

The collector said devotees of Bhavani have been requested to visit the nearest Durga temple for their relinquishing function as the same will not be allowed at Indrakeladri.



Children play near a Bangladeshi merchant vessel MV Maa which drifted to the shore in Visakhapatnam, under the impact of strong winds caused by the deep depression that crossed the coast on Tuesday. The 80-metre ship is said to have lost her anchors.

— P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

**Rain, winds leave trail of havoc along coast**

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 13

The deep depression in Bay of Bengal, which crossed Andhra Pradesh coast during early hours of Tuesday near Kakinada, left a trail of destruction.

A mother and child died in Visakhapatnam city when boulders crashed into their asbestos-roofed house in Gajuwaka on Monday. An elderly woman died when the car in which she was travelling with a couple got swept away by storm water on the road that connects Tuni in East Godavari to Narsipatnam in Visakhapatnam district. Local people save the couple but the woman drowned in the swirling water.

Another woman Lothu Lakhami (43) died when a parapet wall collapsed into her bathroom at Bommuru in Rajahmundry Rural mandal on Tuesday morning. Rajahmundry sub-collector Anupama Anjali visited the spot and inquired into the incident.



Workers busy in clearing the debris after a huge tree gets uprooted due to the cyclonic depression at the Bay of Bengal, at MVP Colony in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.

— DC

The storm caused landslides in Gajuwaka, which resulted in boulders flattening a house in Bhanojinagar in Visakhapatnam industrial area. Four of the family living in the house had a miraculous escape.

Reports from other parts of coastal Andhra indicate normal life getting completely paral-

yed due to heavy rains caused by deep depression in the Bay of Bengal during the last 72 hours. Bunds have been breached in rural areas, resulting in water flowing into houses and roads, which snapped the communication system. Revenue officials are still estimating losses caused by the depression.

However, there have

been massive inflows into reservoirs across coastal Andhra Pradesh.

During the last 24 hours, Yanam received the highest rainfall of 25 cm, followed by Amalapuram and Tanuku 19 cm, and Vijayawada, Kaikaluru, Bhimili, Ichapuram and Palasa 16 cm. Most places received rainfall above 10 cm.

According to reports, 40 villages in 10 mandals of Visakhapatnam district have been affected by the rainfall. Around 3,470 people from 900 families have been evacuated from flooded villages and given shelter. In East Godavari, 11 villages have been marooned and 90 families evacuated and provided shelter.

In Visakhapatnam, many low-lying areas were inundated. People had to wade through waist-deep water to reach their homes. Trees were uprooted in many places affecting road communication. People had to hold each others' arms to cross roads in main localities of the city.

**Stalker sets nurse on fire, both die in blaze**

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

A 24-year-old nurse Chinnari, working at a Covid care centre in Guntur, died when she was set on fire by a stalker at her residence on Monday night. The stalker, Nagabhusanam, also sustained 80 per cent burns while setting the woman afire. He died while undergoing treatment at Government General Hospital in Guntur in the early hours of Tuesday.

Assistant commissioner of police M. Ramesh said Chinnari had been in love with Nagabhusanam for the last four years. But a few months ago, she

decided to end the relationship. Since then, Nagabhusanam had been stalking and harassing her to marry him. On October 5, the woman lodged a complaint with Governorpet police alleging that the man was continuing to harass her, though she has refused to marry him. Police summoned Nagabhusanam and warned him, after which he gave an undertaking that he would not trouble her, said the ACP.

On Monday night, when Chinnari returned to her room nearer the Covid care centre where she was working, the stalker arrived and picked up a

quarrel for filing a police complaint against him. During the course of argument, he took out a bottle of petrol he had brought with him, poured it over her and set her ablaze. The woman caught hold of him tightly, so that he could not escape after killing her. Listening to their cries, neighbours rushed there and separated them before dousing the fire.

While the woman died on the spot, the stalker was admitted to the government hospital with severe burns. As he was serious, he was shifted to Vijayawada, where he died during early hours of Tuesday.

seized in 2018 (₹1.11 crore) and 2017 (₹1.21 crore). After Karnataka (₹4.78 crore) and Gujarat (₹3.77 crore), AP has seen the third highest face value of fake currency seized in 2019.

Most alarming is the rise in the flow of counterfeit notes in the denomination of 2000, which increased to 7,292 last year from just 1,630 in 2018 and 1,394 in 2017. Of the remaining, about 9,266 are in the new ₹500, 2,827 are in the new ₹200 and ₹3,620 are in ₹100 denomination notes. Over 16,900 are in the old ₹1,000 denomination and 81 are in the old ₹500 notes.

The continuous seizures of fake currency notes, though in small amounts, though double the value of counterfeit currency

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT. 13

The circulation of fake currency notes appears to be still rampant in Andhra Pradesh. The number of counterfeit notes seized by the law enforcement agencies in the state last year has increased at the rate of 128 per cent, when compared to the figures in 2018, going by the national crime records bureau (NCRB) data, 2019.

According to the data compiled by respective state crime record bureaus, the face value of the counterfeit currency seized in AP last year has also doubled. While AP witnessed a

massive spike last year, neighbouring Telangana state has seen a steep decline of 97 per cent in terms of seizure of fake notes as well as face value of counterfeit money.

The NCRB data shows that over 40,000 fake currency notes were seized in AP last year. This made the state second in the list of states (apart from AP) in the country, after Gujarat, (44,580) in the highest seizing of counterfeit currencies. The total number of fake currency notes seized in 2018 were 17,493, while in 2017, it was 33,047.

The seizures in 2019 amounted to ₹3.7 crore,

more than double the value of counterfeit currency

seized in 2018 (₹1.11 crore) and 2017 (₹1.21 crore). After Karnataka (₹4.78 crore) and Gujarat (₹3.77 crore), AP has seen the third highest face value of fake currency seized in 2019.

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The continuous seizures of fake currency notes, though in small amounts,

**NO PILGRIMS TO BE ALLOWED FOR ANNUAL FEST IN TIRUMALA**

DC CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI, OCT. 13

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has withdrawn its earlier decision of conducting upcoming Srivari Navaratri brahmotsavams in four mada streets of Tirumala temple. It now says the celebrations will be confined to inner precincts of the temple.

Earlier, the TTD had announced on October 1 that vahanam sevas of Navaratri brahmotsavams will be conducted in the four mada streets. Only a limited number of devotees with darshan tickets will be allowed into the galleries.

In a statement released here on Tuesday, the TTD Board clarified that the brahmotsavams scheduled from October 16 to 24 will instead be celebrated in Ekantham (solitude). TTD said the decision was taken considering the widespread threat of Covid-19 across the country, which may affect the health of devotees.

A decision to this effect was taken during a detailed review meeting held by TTD executive officer K. S. Jawahar Reddy in his chambers. District collector Narayan Bharat Gupta, TTD additional EO A. V. Dharma Reddy, DIG Kranti Rana Tata, JEO P. Basanth Kumar and CVSO Gopinath Jatti participated in the meeting.

It may be noted that as per Covid-19 guidelines issued recently by Union health and family welfare ministry, no religious or cultural festivals should have a congregation of more than 200 persons even if conducted in open.

E-TENDER NOTICE

Open Tender Notice No. - SPJ-S-T-12-2020 DRM (S-T) Samastipur invites open e-tenders on behalf of president of India for the following work:

- Name of work with its location : Signalling work in connection with "Electrification of Dauram Madupura (Excl- Purnea) (77.3 RKM) section of Samastipur Division".
- Approx. cost of the work : ₹5,56,49,769 (Rupees Five Crore Fifty Six Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Nine Only).
- Earliest Money to be deposited : ₹4,28,300/- (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred only).
- Date & Time for Submission to tender & opening of tender : 29.10.2020 Upto 16:00 hrs. 29.10.2020 at 16:30 hrs. 5. Particulars of website where full details of tender may be seen : www.reps.gov.in

Note : For any corrigendum (if any) in above tender, the details will be uploaded/available on website. For further details please visit the website www.reps.gov.in.

Divisional Rail Manager (S/T) ECR/Samastipur PR/0747/SPJ/S&T/T/20-21/32

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT**

Tenders are invited for Construction of check Dam near Yellamma Bodu, Marthan Gowrelly (V), Yacharam (M) Ranga Reddy District for e-procurement Notice No. 25/2020-21, DL 05.10.2020. ECV: Rs. 50.26 Lakhs. Last date and time for receipt of bids is 22.10.2020 upto 11.30 am. Note: For further details visit [www.tender.telengana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telengana.gov.in)

Sd/- K Dharma, Dt: 13.10.20  
Superintending Engineer, &CADD,  
Irrigation Circle, Ranga Reddy

R.O.No.:1017-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GAJULARAMARAM CIRCLE, GHMC

R.O. No: 5939-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GAJULARAMARAM CIRCLE, GHMC

**GAJULARAMARAM CIRCLE-26**

NIT No. 19/DB/EE/Gajularamaram Circle/GHMC/2020-21, Dt: 13-10-2020, Name of the Work: Laying of CC Roads and Balance Work, Estimate Amount Rs. In Lakhs: 61.50, Start Date & Time: 14-10-2020, 03.00 PM., Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bid: 19-10-2020, 03.00 PM., Name & Address of EE: Executive Engineer, Gajularamaram Circle-26, GHMC, 7995077953 (HD)

Further details can be seen at procurement @ [www.tender.telengana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telengana.gov.in)

DPR No.:1016-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

**HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PROJECT DIVISION-4**

5th Floor, West Wing, Swarna Jayanti I Complex, Amerpet Hyderabad-500038.

E-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No.: HMDA/DEV/SE-II/08/2020-21 Date: 12.10.2020

Tenders are invited on e-procurement from valid registered contractors for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of LED Street Lights at ROB Kukatpally Flyover, Hitech City Flyover and Bagapat Bridge for a period of Two (2) Years. The Download Starts Dated: 15.10.2020 from 3:00 PM and Last Date for submission of the bid is on 22-10-2020 upto 3:30 pm. For further details visit [www.tender.telengana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telengana.gov.in)

Sd/- Superintending Engineer-II, HMDA

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA O/o. District, PR Engineer, Adilabad**

NIT.No.175 to 177 Tender Notice Dated 08.10.2020

Invites for the following works under 28HK 2018-19 Grant No. of Works - (3), Name of works : C/o 2 Bed Room Houses (09 Nos) in Mangrol (V) of Bela (M) in Adilabad Dist. Block-J, C/o 2 Bed Room Houses, (05) Nos in Mangrol (V) of Bela (M) in Adilabad Dist. Block-K in Undersigned Total ECV:115.92 Lakhs. Tender documents will be available in e-procurement market place from 18.10.2020 to 27.10.2020. Further details can be obtained from e-procurement market place on [www.tender.telengana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telengana.gov.in)

Sd/- District PR Engineer (PIU), Adilabad

**Advt No. 79/2020 Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board**

Invites applications for the post of **MANAGING DIRECTOR** in

**NATIONAL HANDLOOM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NHDC) Ltd.**

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 15.00 hours on 01st December, 2020

For details login to website <http://www.pesb.gov.in>  
davp 41102/11/0007/2021

**INDIAN RAILWAYS****GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)  
(RAILWAY BOARD)****CORRIGENDUM NO. 1**

Sub: Tender

# DECCAN Chronicle

14 OCTOBER 2020

## Demand stimulus on offer is too little

S pending to resuscitate the pandemic-hit economy will face longer delays because of the stalemate over making up for the revenue shortfall by way of GST. In the absence of an agreement on how to cover the Rs 2.35 lakh crore shortfall expected by March 2021, state governments will be left largely to their own devices to work out how to pick themselves up after heavy expenditure on tackling the coronavirus and looking after the sick over the last several months, in which time their SGDP would have also slackened considerably. The data flow on Monday from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) are indicators of the extent of the bind the Indian economy is in even as rising headline inflation flashes warning signs over the future of the accommodative stance of RBI's monetary policy, because rising inflation may not be transitory as the MPC may have perceived it to be.

In the face of dispiriting data, which however is common enough in a phase when a second wave of the coronavirus is threatening the world economy, came the somewhat good news over a spending stimulus estimated at around ₹73,000 crores declared by the finance minister. If states also follow suit and gladden their employees with sops and festival cash advances, the stimulus could touch ₹1 lakh crore. Even that would appear to be a drop in the ocean in a country with a GDP close to three trillion dollars. All the fiscal stimulus put together would amount to just about 1.2 per cent of GDP, including the grandstanding announcements. The much trumpeted ₹20 lakh crore stimulus had more to do with lines of credit to industry and SMEs rather than cash payments that several countries like the US, UK, Japan and South Korea made to come to the aid of those worst hit by the pandemic — people, companies and trade.

In the final analysis, the Centre has shown a distinct lack of imagination in opening up the purse strings at a time when governments had to contribute the most to get the economies going again. Handing out lollipops to babus and the rich by way of tax write-offs through the purchase of consumer durables in lieu of leave travel concession is indicative of a conservative mindset just when a lot more was called for. Cash doles to the poorest — which some state governments did attempt but with too little in their kitty to make a real difference to lives and livelihoods of the most stricken — and tax breaks to the middle class to stimulate festive demand would have been ideal ways to show that governments at the Centre and the states were willing to cover the interests of all. The enormity of the growth hit will become known as we transit from the strict lockdowns to the final "unlock", which is when the relatively small size of the demand stimulus will show up how niggardly the Centre has been and that very quality is reflected in its reluctance to fulfil sovereign guarantees on the GST growth shortfall.

## Keep Bollywood unfettered

B oollywood, cricket, politics. There is hardly an Indian citizen not occupied by any of the above. If there is a single activity that has a hold on the minds of the general public, and is arguably the lever to mould them, it is that of storytelling as performed by Indian cinema. A story has more power than it is usually given credit for. It is, at its core, the purveyor of an idea. More than television news, newspapers or literature in the various languages, the Hindi film industry is the single largest vehicle of ideas, and for long it has enacted its roles of both thought pioneer as well as force multiplier against Indian conservatism, caste tyrannies and non-egalitarian power structures. That role is now being challenged.

Quite aside from propaganda assisted by sections of the media that this industry is a den of drugs, nepotism, corruption and other venal vices, all of which are nonetheless pervasive in almost every field and walk of life, and the hounding of personalities like Deepika Padukone and Anurag Kashyap whose political opinions differ from the official line, both have, at different times, registered their protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, there is the very noteworthy departure from the trend of realist and experimental, creative, filmmaking that had begun in the early Eighties and continued to entertain us through the Twenty-tens. Starting from *Uri: The Surgical Strike* through *Kesari* to *Manikarnika*, many prominent and officially publicised films released in the last two years, including super-duper hits like *War*, *Pad Man* and *Padmaavat*, had a militaristic or moralistic theme. Wearing its patriotism on its sleeve, the National Film Development Corporation organised an online patriotic film festival as part of the Independence Day celebrations this year. It must be remembered that the Joseph McCarthy era witch-hunts and Hollywood blacklists effectively ended the careers of hundreds of directors, actors and writers.

Very recently, auteur Karan Johar has tweeted that the "film fraternity" will come together to celebrate the hoary "valour, values and the culture of India". It is, however, less unexpected than the tweet of his industry colleague, Vivek Agnihotri, who has publicly opined that Bollywood has "destroyed Indian culture". The crony capitalist nexus is well-known. Now with government forces infiltrating erstwhile independent institutions like banks, universities and the judiciary and the nationalist versus anti-national rhetoric drowning all reason, alarm bells have rung. It is time to issue a caveat. What we are witnessing today is the rise of "Godi Bollywood" following a similar rise of the "Godi media".

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

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**Kochi:** No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthra Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408  
**Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014  
**Kozhikode:** Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Ph: 0495 4019 018  
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Subhani



## Can CMs help India set up political alternative?



Sanjivani Sahni

**H**ow will a credible challenger to the incumbent Prime Minister emerge?

The current wisdom, and most opinion polls, indicate that the PM's popularity is overwhelming, leading to the TINA (there is no alternative) factor.

The largest Opposition party's leadership, even as it asks the government the right questions, fails to make any impact. There is a lack of credibility in its present leadership and little hope that it will improve in a hurry.

The divided Opposition hasn't been able to throw up a candidate who will hold appeal on a pan-India basis. Many chief ministers and other regional leaders have local spheres of influence, but don't have a presence in most areas outside their direct domain. As a result, the nation doesn't have a credible leader in sight who could effectively take on the PM, let alone be considered as a replacement.

The question is — how will one emerge?

Over time, India has thrown up regional leaders, particularly CMs, who had the ability and in fact have shouldered the responsibility of leading the country. Even the present PM fails into that category. Experience as a CM is an important ingredient in the grooming of a Prime Minister. It's not necessarily a sufficient one, but certainly an indicator of where potential challengers could emerge.

Recent developments, including but not limited to a steep decline in economic performance, most recently reflected by the 23.9 per cent negative GDP growth; using majoritarianism to impose divisive steps like the CAA, NRC, and the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution, are illustrative. The domination of multimedia communications to reinforce this divisive agenda, dilution

of protective democratic institutions are all well known, but have not been catalysts of bringing about changed electoral attitudes. This is not new.

But it seems that recent developments which have aggravated friction in Centre-state ties could become a powerful trigger, which if properly institutionalised and propagated, might provide the route to change.

What is suggested is the creation of an institution that could become one of the supportive pillars of democracy. The compulsion to create such an institution will come from the growing Centre-state rifts. The forum also has the advantage of creating a competitive environment where state CMs and LOPs could compete for visibility to get their points of view across to their constituents and also become examples for a wider audience. This process would throw up potential leaders who would get wider acceptability from their states as well as the national audience.

These should become the trigger for states (in practice, non-BJP states) to join hands in a formal forum. This could comprise the CMs and leaders of the Opposition as members.

This would obviously be across party lines, but the membership wouldn't be decided by political parties. It would comprise the elected representatives in states, including CMs and LOPs, and it could in turn create a body of experienced bureaucrats, legal experts and eminent citizens both to advise the forum headed by CMs as well as act as spokespersons.

The CMs will have credible reach in their states and perhaps beyond. The spokespersons and experts would send appropriately approved messages on behalf of the forum, not themselves. Therefore, it would not rest on their individual credibility, but messaging from a mass based politically credible entity.

Think of such a body that could include people

like Raghuram Rajan, Arvind Subramanian, Ravish Kumar, P. Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal, Derek O'Brien, Shashi Tharoor and others that the CMs/LOPs and other leaders with their ear to the ground would choose. In essence, good communication skills would be backed by experience to send collective messages on matters of importance to the people.

The focus of coordination would be Centre-state relations, but clearly it would also include matters of importance to the nation as a whole.

The process of creating such an institution is far less complex and more administratively feasible than trying to create alliances between parties and multiple states. The forum also has the advantage of creating a competitive environment where state CMs and LOPs could compete for visibility to get their points of view across to their constituents and also become examples for a wider audience. This process would throw up potential leaders who would get wider acceptability from their states as well as the national audience.

There are several important issues that remain on the backburner, but which need to be debated and brought to the forefront. For the present, we will use one example as an illustration of what if collectively rather than individually brought into the public domain would help bring a new important discourse of material relevance to change the course of events in India.

Today, the nationalism card is equated with propagating India's strength. Combined with majoritarianism, aggressive stances have been taken both internally and now increasingly externally.

Internally, the divisive agenda should be replaced by policies that help the State carry along all its citizens. Most important, and relevant to the suggested changes, is cooperation rather than friction between New Delhi and the states. No other initiative will be more conducive to rapid progress all around and achieving the growth targets needed to alleviate poverty. Only a collective forum can initiate a meaningful dialogue on issues like nationalism. With properly researched facts, political will and diplomatic endeavours, this is eminently achievable. A transformation could follow — peace could replace aggression all around.

The writer is a management and economic adviser

### LETTERS

#### JUDICIARY

The opinion of AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is very important (*Judiciary must keep itself above suspicion, DC, Oct. 13*).

At the same time it should be mentioned that he had politicised the complaint given to CJI of SC (on one SC Judge and some AP HC judges), by releasing it to the media.

Releasing it to the media amounts to expression of lack of faith in CJI office.

**B. Raghunadha Rao**  
Hyderabad

#### SPENDING SOPS

The move of the finance ministry to extend LTC sops, festival loans to Central government staff aims to increase spending. It would be worthwhile to increase demand by the government spending through MNREGA programme. This will benefit the needy.

**P.R. Ravinder**  
Hyderabad

#### TTD DARSHANS

The TTD must recall and reveal the ancient *Oppondam* (truce) between Varaha Swamy and Venkateswara Swamy that the devotees who takes darshan of Varaha Swamy first and Venkateswara Swamy next will surely get their wishes fulfilled. The TTD must start dharma darshan queue likewise.

**Padmavathi Vikram Raj**  
Hyderabad

#### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Nagarjunasagar to be international tourist centre

By a staff reporter HYDERABAD, Oct. 13

The Tourist Department of the Government of India and the India Tourism Development Corporation have committed to develop the Nagarjunasagar Project in the State as an international tourist centre.

The proposals for making the Nagarjunasagar as a major tourist attraction included building up of a house guest with 40 rooms, provision of 3 hydro-foil boats, 2 launches and a swimming pool.

Disclosing this to reporters State Minister for Women's Welfare and Tourism, Mrs Roda Mistry said here today that the Director-General of Tourism, Mr. S. K. Roy, who is also the Chairman of the India Tourism Development Corporation and Mr. B. N. Raman, Additional Director General of Tourism had already visited the projects in this connection.

Dilip Cherian



Dilli Ka Babu

## RAW & IB set to teach tax officers about 'tradecraft'

Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers trying to nab economic offenders will now get an edge after undergoing training from spooks. Officers from the nation's premier intelligence agencies, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Intelligence Bureau (IB), have been roped in to train them in intelligence "tradecraft".

Sources say that revenue officers from the Enforcement Directorate, income tax, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, CBI and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence will be training in gathering intelligence and handling digital and forensic evidence. The training programme is being conducted by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) of the finance ministry.

Apparently, nine course modules have been developed. While RAW and IB sleuths will conduct training

of Group A officers of the Indian Revenue Service, some other modules are open to officers starting from superintendent level up to principal commissioners. Other courses include investigating economic crimes in the securities market, trade-based money laundering and also legal aspects. Hopefully, after training these "specialists" will make economic offenders think twice before violating the law.

#### TRANSFER TRAVALS OF A SENIOR COP

Frequent transfer is a fait accompli in government. But Pimpri-Chinchwad police commissioner Sandeep Bishnoi who was recently transferred has approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) challenging his transfer order.

He was moved out from his post in less than a year. He has been suc-

ceeded by Krishna Prakash, a 1998-batch IPS officer.

Mr Bishnoi has stated that "such abrupt transfers without justification or valid reason is contrary to law and ought to be set aside". Mr Bishnoi and Mr Prakash are part of a major reshuffle carried out by the state government in which around 50 officials were transferred.

Mr Prakash is the third police commissioner of Pimpri-Chinchwad in two years after the state government established the commissionate in the industrial town, as law and order became a challenge following a rise in the number of street crimes and cases of vandalism. Mr Bishnoi's predecessor, senior IPS officer R.K. Padmanabhan, too was transferred before completing two years in office.

#### ADHOCSIM MAY UNDERMINE RAILWAY REFORMS

After the heady announcement heralding long-awaited reforms, Indian Railways is moving cautiously on the implementation. Some observers are surprised at the slow pace. From the time when Covid-19 struck and passenger rail traffic almost stopped, the Railways have had plenty of time on its hands to consider its internal rearrangement.

While all posts of members of the Railway Board are ex-cadre now and should be filled with suitable officers, based on seniority and residual service, the railway ministry is edging ahead with great caution. Sources say that the post of director general of HR (DGHR) was filled with an Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) officer, even though more senior officers from other cadres are eligible and available. It is also being reported that the post of member, traffic and

rolling stock, is likely to be given to an officer from the Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE). Similarly, there seems to be a proposal to appoint the member (finance) from the Indian Railways Accounts Service (IRAS).

So far so good. But there is some grumbling among the Indian Railways Service of Engineers (IRSE) and Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSEME), which seem to have lost out on apex grade posts to the other services in the new plan.

According to sources, the railway ministry is still not drafted the recruitment rules, which may explain the sense of ad-hocism prevailing in the ministry's actions.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipcherian@Twitter.com](mailto:dilipcherian@Twitter.com). Let's multiply the effect.

**SHORT TAKES**  
**POLLS TO 11 RS SEATS IN UP, U'KHAND ON NOV 9**

New Delhi, Oct. 13: Elections to 10 Rajya Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh and one in Uttarakhand, falling vacant next month, will be held on November 9, the poll panel announced on Tuesday.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Arun Singh and Neeraj Shekhar (BJP), Chandrapal Singh Yadav, Ram Gopal Yadav, Ram Prakash Verma and Javed Ali Khan (SP), Rajaram and Veer Singh (BSP), and Panna Lal Punia (Cong) are the 10 members from Uttar Pradesh retiring on November 25.

Actor-politician Raj Babbar's (Cong) term as Rajya Sabha member from Uttarakhand also ends on November 25. As per practice, counting of votes will take place on November 9 evening after polling concludes.

The notification for the elections will be issued on October 20, the EC said.

**ONE MORE ARRESTED IN TRP SCAM**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

The Mumbai crime branch, probing the TRP scam case, arrested the person who paid money to the arrested accused for soliciting the viewers by bribing them to watch Republic TV for boosting the viewership of the channel. The officials arrested the person from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh and was associated with Hansa Research as relationship manager.

He had fled after the crime branch arrested Vishal Bhandari, to whom he paid money for paying the house-holds.

The arrested accused was identified as Vinay Tripathi, who was apprehended from his native where he had fled after the case was filed and first arrest was made.

Probe in the TRP scam has revealed that Tripathi allegedly paid ₹1,000 to Bhandari for paying ₹200 to five houses. They were asked to keep Republic TV channel on for boosting the TRPs of the channel.

# Mufti released from detention

**PDP chief detained under J&K's stringent PSA released after more than 14 months**

**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC**  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 13



Mehbooba Mufti

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti was late on Tuesday evening released from detention, more than 14 months after she along with hundreds of politicians and other activists were taken into prevention custody ahead of the Centre's abrogating Article 370 and splitting the state up into two Union Territories on August 5 last year.

Many of these leaders and activists including the PDP president were subsequently formally detained under J&K's stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

Although most key political figures including two other former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah were freed earlier this year, Mufti, 61, remained incarcerated even after being shifted to her home here which had been declared a 'subsidiary jail' in April this year.

Under the PSA, introduced in J&K in 1978 initially to deal with timber smuggling but later used by successive governments often against their political opponents, a person can be detained for a period of six months to two years without the authorities seeking a formal trial.

Mufti's daughter Iltija wrote on the Twitter handle of her mother, "As Mufti's illegal detention finally comes to an end, I'd like to thank everybody who supported me in these tough times. I owe a debt of gratitude to you all. This is Iltija signing off. May Allah protect you."

**I'M PLEASED TO hear that @MehboobaMufti**

Sahiba has been released after more than a year in detention. Her continued detention was a travesty & was against the basic tenets of democracy. Welcome out Mehbooba.

**OMAR ABDULLAH, J&K former CM**

During her mother's incarceration, Iltija would run her Twitter handle.

Earlier, J&K government spokesperson Rohit Kansal while announcing Mufti's release from detention wrote a one liner on the micro-blogging site, "Mehbooba Mufti being released."

Official sources said that Mufti's detention under the PSA was revoked through an order issued by Shaleen Kabra, principal secre-

tary to the government (home department), earlier during the day on Tuesday.

The order said that the government has revoked the relevant detention order issued by the Srinagar's District Magistrate on February 5 this year and last extended for a period of three months on July 31 "with immediate effect".

Former chief minister and National Conference vice president, Omar Abdullah, while welcoming her release tweeted "I'm pleased to hear that @MehboobaMufti Sahiba has been released after more than a year in detention. Her continued detention was a travesty & was against the basic tenets of democracy. Welcome out Mehbooba."

PDP spokesperson Suhail Bukhsh said that Mufti would be addressing a press conference here on Friday to express her views on the abrogation of Article 370, bifurcating J&K, the subsequent events and her detention.

The PDP had on Monday reiterated that it will not accept the bargain of (restoration of) statehood for Jammu and Kashmir against him against the special status it enjoyed under Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution prior to August 5, 2019.

The PDP had termed its president's continued incarceration as "a highly undemocratic, unconstitutional and inhuman approach of the government" and reiterated that "such vindictive measures will not deter the PDP from pursuing its core agenda and speak truth to power".

Nikhil Nair: The film's story is one part satire on significant men who posture, and lesser men who imitate that posturing, and one part political pamphlet about merit being supreme, about merit trumping all, irrespective of opportunity.

Manu Joseph is a fine writer but in *Serious Men* he betrays a rather abhorrent worldview. Writers have a right to tell whatever stories they want to tell. But storytellers are like puppets who move their characters in certain ways, they decide what happens to them, what life lesson we draw from them.

Though the satire of *Serious Men* is primarily pivoted on upper caste Acharya and how he feels the world with gibberish and his nonsensical research, the film never interrogates him.

In fact, the film redeems him by making him Adi and Mani's saviour in the end.

Mani, on the other hand, is enveloped in ambiguity. Even when most vulnerable and narrating a story about his mother, we are made to feel it's counterfeit. And at the end, status quo reigns for all, except Mani and Adi.

The outlier is sent further away from the power centre, and the whole set-up seems to have been created to trump Mani, to teach the dalit father and son a lesson.

I have not read *Serious Men*, but I read somewhere that Joseph claims kudos for daring to show a poor dalit character as conniving. There are no literary bravely awards to be given out for showing lower caste characters as fraudulent, dishonest.

That has been the upper caste's narrative for ages about "neech log".

But if kudos are being doled out for reiterating upper caste prejudice about lower castes, then they are Joseph's to claim.

# A charming story ring-fenced by a seriously anti-Dalit worldview

**Serious Men**  
Cast: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Aakshath Das, Indira Tiwari, Nassar, Sanjay Narvekar, Shweta Basu Prasad  
Direction: Sudhir Mishra  
Streaming on: Netflix  
Rating: \*\*

**SUPARNA SHARMA**

Sudhir Mishra, director of the beloved *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* (2003), has been shooting duds for a while. But with *Serious Men* he seems to have regained his form, if not his sharp politics.

*Serious Men* is an entertaining, well-made film that tells the story of Ayaan Mani, a Dalit man who resents being invisible, and when he is seen he is subjected to daily humiliations, lucrative offers to convert, vote-bank politics. The film's plot is about a desperate man's desperate attempts to make sure his child, born in a pool of fraud by a hotel's poolside, amounts to something. Except that the seemingly sweet, benign story of *Serious Men*, which is rooted in reality, is ring-fenced by a worldview that is seriously anti-dalit.

While the film is sympathetic to men like Mani, it sets out to teach him a lesson. Merit, *Serious Men* says, is everything, it is the great equalizer, and not opportunity. The karmic cycle of misdeemeanours and comeuppance only sucks Mani into its orbit, not similarly fraudulent upper caste men.

*Serious Men*, based on a novel of the same title by Manu Joseph, opens with the posturing of an impatient, serious man who frowns and growls at the world.

It seems to be in his way as he is rushing about doing very important things. Astro-politician Aravind Acharya (Nassar) acts as if he's on emergency duty to save the

world with his discovery of alien microbes. They hold answers to humankind's profound questions, he believes, and is in the pursuit of another round of government funding for his spatial explorations.

Everyone looks around Acharya defers to him, assuming that what sounds like gibberish to them are words of wisdom, for he is a man of greater knowledge, superior intellect and with a plan.

Enter a father-daughter politician duo — Keshav (Sanjay Narvekar) and Anuja Dhavale (Shweta Basu Prasad) — who, impressed by his scientific knowledge and the awe he inspires in the dalit chawl, pick on Adi, and recruit him.

They have an agenda. A high-rise housing complex where Mani's dingy, rat-infested chawl squats.

Mani, who often uses his caste to get his way, is more than willing. And all goes as per plan till the day when, Sayani, Adi's schoolfriend, is being thrashed by her mother for doing badly in an exam and lying about it.

Mani's plan and Adi's formidable reputation begin to unravel. Exam papers were bought, and there were a father's instructive susurrations into his son's ears. As Mani's life begins to spiral out of control, affecting Adi the most, he turns his sights on his boss, Acharya.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui is an exceptional actor who is able to convey the machinations of his character's mind even while holding still. As a desperate father on a dogged pursuit of his and his son's life amounting to something, he and little Aakshath Das hold the film together and are supported by a very strong ensemble of actors, including Indira Tiwari, Nassar, Sanjay Narvekar and Shweta Basu Prasad.

*Serious Men*, adapted from a novel, credits four writers — Bhavesh Mandavia, Abhijeet Khuman, Niren Bhatt and

# India, China agree to not let differences turn into disputes

**PAWAN BALI | DC**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

The Indian and Chinese armies said in a joint statement on Tuesday that Monday's military talks at the corps commander level between India and China was "positive and constructive", and both sides agreed to earnestly implement the understanding by their leaders to not turn differences into disputes, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

The order said that the government has revoked the relevant detention order issued by the Srinagar's District Magistrate on February 5 this year and last extended for a period of three months on July 31 "with immediate effect".

Former chief minister and National Conference vice president, Omar Abdullah, while welcoming her release tweeted "I'm pleased to hear that @MehboobaMufti Sahiba has been released after more than a year in detention. Her continued detention was a travesty & was against the basic tenets of democracy. Welcome out Mehbooba."

PDP spokesperson Suhail Bukhsh said that Mufti would be addressing a press conference here on Friday to express her views on the abrogation of Article 370, bifurcating J&K, the subsequent events and her detention.

The PDP had on Monday reiterated that it will not accept the bargain of (restoration of) statehood for Jammu and Kashmir against him against the special status it enjoyed under Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution prior to August 5, 2019.

The PDP had termed its president's continued incarceration as "a highly undemocratic, unconstitutional and inhuman approach of the government" and reiterated that "such vindictive measures will not deter the PDP from pursuing its core agenda and speak truth to power".

## CHANGE IN ARMY LEADERSHIP IN LADAKH

**PAWAN BALI | DC**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

Amidst heightened tensions with China, there has been a change in army leadership in Ladakh. Lt Gen PGK Menon on Tuesday took over command of Leh based 14 Corps also known as 'Fire & Fury Corps' from Lt Gen Harinder Singh.

Lt Gen Singh will take over as Commandant of the Indian Military Academy (IMA) after completing his one-year tenure with 14 Corps.

The Fire and Fury Corps looks after frontlines with both China and Pakistan in Union Territory of Ladakh.

Lt Gen Menon was already part of the Indian delegation during 6th and 7th Corps Commanders meeting between India and China to ease the military stand-off.

Now, next Corps Commanders meeting will be held under his leadership.

years guns were used and shots had been fired.

The Chinese government has, meanwhile, objected to defence minister Rajnath Singh's "virtual" inauguration of 44 major permanent bridges in border areas on Monday, including 10 strate-

tic bridges in Jammu and Kashmir and eight in Ladakh. The Chinese foreign ministry said "neither side should take any action in the area to complicate the situation and China opposes any infrastructure construction for military monitoring and control".

At the corps commanders' meeting at Chushul, on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control, India again insisted that China withdraw its troops from all friction points in eastern Ladakh, and restore the status quo ante of April 2020 in Pangong Tso and Gogra Post-Hot Springs.

The Chinese Army has also been preventing Indian patrols in the Depsang sector. India has made it clear that since it was China which had first transgressed, the PLA will have to make the first disengagement move.

Both sides seem prepared to keep their armies at these high-altitude mountains during the winter when the temperatures dip way below zero degrees and bone-chilling winds make survival extremely difficult.

This was the last meeting under 14 Corps commander Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh who will take charge as Commandant of the Indian Military Academy later this month.

In the last corps commanders' meeting, both sides had agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any action that might complicate the situation.

## AG CONCERNED OVER MEDIA'S REMARKS

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal on Tuesday expressed concern over the electronic and the print media commenting on sub judice matters having potential to influence judges dealing with the case and said that it bordered on contempt of court.

Venugopal told a bench of Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Krishna Murari, "Today, electronic and print media carry on discussions seeking to influence the thinking of judges. This is doing great damage to the institution."

"When I see TV and a bail application is coming up, the TV is flashing conversations between the accused and someone. This may be damaging to the accused and it comes up during the bail hearing. This is contempt of court."

Venugopal urged the court to consider this issue in the course of hearing the 2009 contempt case against activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan and their Tehelka editor, Tarun Tejpal.

Bhushan alleged misconduct against Justice S.H. Kapadia for being a part of the bench that decided the case of Niyamgiri mining lease in favour of Sterlite, a subsidiary of Vedanta, whose shares he allegedly owned.

## Partner with Railways... Serve the Nation with Opportunity to Earn



### Northern Railway invites Expression of Interest for Provision of Battery Operated Cars (BOC) at various stations over Lucknow Division to carry passengers

On behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Northern Railway/Lucknow Division, Lucknow invites expression of interest for provision of Battery Operated Cars (BOC) at various stations over Lucknow division/N.R. for 05 years to carry passengers. Rules and regulations are as follows:-

1. The details are as under:

SN	Stations	No. of BOC	Location of BOC operation	EMD	Maximum charges per passenger/per trip (With GST)
1	Pratapgarh	01	PF-01	174834	151
2	Raebareli	01	PF-01	174834	113
3	Jaunpur Jn.	01	PF-01	174834	227
4	Shahganj	01	PF-01, 02, 03 & 04	174834	227
5	Sultanpur	01	PF-01, 02 & 03	174834	227
6	Varanasi	01	PF-01, 04 & 05	202757	131
7	Varanasi	01	PF-01, 04 & 05		

## SHORT TAKES

**ODISHA: WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING RACKET BUSTED**

AKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 13

The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha's crime branch on Tuesday busted a wildlife trafficking racket and seized one leopard skin. The STF arrested one person in this connection near the government ITI in Subarnapur district.

Acting on reliable information about the deal for sale of the leopard skin, a STF team conducted a raid and arrested one Ashok Chhatria, a resident of Babunekta under Mahupalli police station in Sambalpur district.

The police also seized one leopard skin from his possession. The STF said the seized skin would be sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for chemical examination.

A case has been registered under Sections 379 and 411 of the Indian Penal Code and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 against the accused. Further investigation is underway, said the police.

**CONG ANNOUNCES CANDIDATES FOR ODISHA BY-POLLS**

AKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 13

The Congress on Tuesday announced the names of its candidates for by-polls to Odisha's Balasore and Tirtol Assembly constituencies which are scheduled to be held on November 3, 2020.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi gave her approval to a proposal for the candidature of Mamata Kundu and Himanshu Bhushan Mallick as party candidates to contest the ensuing by-polls to Balasore and Tirtol Assembly constituencies, respectively.

Earlier in the day, BJD named Swarup Kumar Das and Bijaya Shankar Das as its candidates.

The BJD had announced its candidates Manas Kumar Dutta and Raj Kishore Behera for the by-polls.

The BJD is pulling out all stops in Balasore to retain the seat. Its candidate Manas Kumar Dutta is the son of Madan Mohan Dutta, the sitting MLA who died in July this year. The party strategists believe sympathy factor would work wonders for the party and its nominee would post a spectacular victory.

The BJD is also trying to defend the seat in Tirtol playing the sympathy card. Its nominee Bijaya Shankar Das is the son of Bishnu Charan Das, the sitting MLA who died in July.

**PRIYANKA HITS OUT AT U.P. GOVT FOR RISING CRIMES**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday hit out at the Uttar Pradesh government over the rising 'lawlessness' in the state. The latest attack comes over the alleged pouring of a chemical on three sisters in Gonda in Uttarakhand.

The three sisters suffered burn injuries when someone allegedly poured a chemical on them while they were sleeping on the roof of their house in Paksa village of Gonda, police said on Tuesday.

Tagging a video in which the father of the girls is narrating the incident to media persons, Priyanka Gandhi tweeted, "This man's three daughters aged 17, 10 & 8 were asleep in their home when someone entered and threw acid on them." She further added, "The UP government's politically motivated narrative of justifying and protecting perpetrators of crimes against women has only emboldened criminals across the state."

Superintendent of police Shailendra Kumar Pandey said the incident took place on Monday night when the girls were sleeping on the roof of their house. An unidentified person poured a chemical on the eldest girl and some of it fell on her younger sisters as well who were sleeping with her. Asked if it was an acid attack, the SP said, "The chemical used in the attack is yet to be ascertained. It will be clear after a probe by experts."

The Congress has been attacking the UP government over the Hathras incident in which a 19-year-old Dalit woman from the district was allegedly raped and attacked by four men.

**It's showtime again**

A worker wearing PPE kit sanitises a cinema hall in New Delhi on Tuesday, as multiplexes prepare to reopen from October 15 after seven months of closure due to the Coronavirus lockdown.

— PTI

**4 VACCINES IN ADVANCED STAGE OF PRE-CLINICAL TRIALS IN INDIA**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

A steady decline in fresh positive cases of Coronavirus is being noted in India now as 55,342 new cases were detected in the last 24 hours taking the country's overall figures to 71,76 lakh.

According to Union health ministry, the average daily Covid-19 positivity rate has declined from 8.50 per cent between September 9-15 to 6.24 per cent between October 7-13.

"Decline in cumulative, weekly and daily Covid-19 positivity rates stand at 8.07%, 6.24% and 5.16%, respectively. There is a significant increase in testing for Covid-19 and there is also a continuous decline in positivity rate," said union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. He added that there are 8.39 lakh active cases in the country as on date and they have been below the 9 lakh mark for the fifth consecutive day.

Niti Aayog member Dr V.K. Paul said though the country has managed to stabilise the spread of virus, coming winters and the festival season pose a serious challenge as sharp increase in fresh cases are expected during this time. He gave example of other countries where the virus has re-emerged in winters.

The fatalities due to the virus too seems to be coming down as in the last 24 hours 706 deaths were recorded across India taking total fatality figures to 1,09,856. Bhushan said about 70% of Covid-19 deaths are of males and 30% fatalities from the infection have been reported in females. About 35% deaths are of patients in 45-60 yrs age group, 10% in 26-44 yrs age group and about 53% in patients aged 60 and above.

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said vaccine against Coronavirus is expected to be available in India by early next year and there could be vaccines from more than one source.

"We are expecting that early next year, we should have vaccine in the country from maybe more than one source. Our expert groups are already formulating and devising strategies to plan on how to roll out the distribution of the vaccines in the country, who do we give the vaccine first and then of course we are strengthening the cold chain facilities," he said during a meeting of the group of ministers. He added at present, four vaccines are in advanced stages of pre-clinical trial in India.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Covid-19 situation in Maharashtra is worrisome.

"The danger of Coronavirus still persists. In Maharashtra, the situation is a little more worrying. I appeal to everyone, don't be careless when it comes to wearing masks and social distancing," he said.

**BJP expels 9 rebels leaders for 6yrs**

**Party expels leaders after they decide to contest upcoming Bihar elections on LJP ticket**

NAYEER AZADI | DC  
PATNA, OCT. 13

In a major move, the BJP has initiated tough action against its rebel leaders for abandoning the party and joining hands with Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) ahead of Bihar Assembly elections.

The BJP insiders said that the party has expelled nine senior leaders for six years after they decided to contest polls on LJP ticket. The suspension letter was issued by BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal on Monday evening.

Among those who have been expelled is Ravindra Yadav, sitting MLA from Jhajha. He has been fielded by LJP after the seat went to JD(U).

He has been fielded by the LJP against the JD(U) nominee and a minister in Nitish Kumar's cabinet Jai Kumar Singh.

In 2015, he had contested against Jai Kumar Singh from the seat but lost. Rajendra Singh's switching sides has raised eyebrows in Bihar political circles as he was seen as an active RSS member.

BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal in his letter clearly states that the party's and NDA's image has been maligned by nine leaders who are contesting polls against the NDA on LJP ticket.

"You are being suspended for six years for indulging in anti-party activities", the BJP notice said.

The development is being seen as a major setback for the BJP which is contesting Assembly elections in alliance with

Nitish Kumar's JD(U), Hindustani Awam Morcha and Vikash Insan Party. Before the announcement of seat-sharing last week, the LJP had pulled off the NDA defying the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The LJP had, however, announced that the party's ties with BJP will remain intact and it will not field candidates against the same from party during Bihar elections.

The LJP has fielded 42 candidates against the JD(U) and two other smaller parties HAM and VIP for the first phase of polls. However, no candidate has been fielded against the BJP.

The JD(U) is contesting 122 seats out of which seven have been allotted to Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM. While the BJP has been allotted 121 seats and it has given 11 seats from its quota to Mukesh Sahani's VIP.

The Assembly elections in Bihar for 243 seats are to be held in three phases beginning October 28 and results will be declared on November 10.

RABINDRA NATH CHOURDHURY | DC  
Bhopal, Oct. 13

Congress has moved the Election Commission (EC) seeking dismissal of 14 non-MLA ministers in the Shivraj government for allegedly misusing their offices to influence voters ahead of November 3 by-elections in 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

The Opposition party said their continuance in the offices may deny free and fair by-polls particularly in the Assembly constituencies they were seeking re-elections in the upcoming by-polls.

"The 14 non-Congress MLAs have been making various promises and laying foundation stones for various schemes to influence voters in their

respective constituencies. This is gross misuse of their positions and violation of model code of conduct". Congress spokesman here Narendra Saluja said on Tuesday.

The party took up the matter with the EC for action late on Monday.

Saluja alleged that the non-MLA ministers were also misusing the government machinery in the by-elections.

Ruling BJP however denied the allegations.

"The allegations are politically motivated. None of these ministers violated the model code of conduct during electioneering. The Congress is leveling wild charges against them out of sheer frustration".

BJP spokesman here Rajneesh Agrawal said.

The 14 ministers were

among the 22 former Congress MLAs who resigned from the Assembly and subsequently from their party in March this year leading to the fall of 15-month-old Kamal Nath government.

All the 22 former MLAs, staunch followers of senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, later joined the BJP.

The BJP has re-nominated all the 22 former Congress MLAs in their respective Assembly constituencies in the November 3 by-elections.

Three more Congress legislators quit their party and joined Congress in July this year.

All the three former MLAs have also been given tickets by BJP to contest from their respective Assembly seats in the upcoming by-elections.

**'Don't need your certificate to prove my Hindutva'**

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

War of words broke out between Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday over reopening of temples in the state. Both the leaders sent hard-hitting letters to each other. While Koshyari questioned Thackeray's commitment to Hindutva, the CM retorted saying he doesn't need the governor's cer-

tificate. NCP chief Sharad Pawar also backed the CM and wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protest the "intemperate language" used by the Governor.

The Maharashtra Governor had written a letter to Thackeray on Monday urging him to reopen the places of worship in the state. Both the leaders sent hard-hitting letters to each other. While Koshyari questioned Thackeray's commitment to Hindutva, the CM retorted saying he doesn't need the governor's cer-

tificate and goddesses have been condemned to stay in the lockdown".

"You have been a strong votary of Hindutva. You had publicly espoused your devotion for Lord Rama by visiting Ayodhya after taking charge as the Chief Minister. You had visited the Vitthal Rukmini Mandir in Pandharpur and performed the Puja on Ashadhi Ekadashi. I wonder if you are receiving premotion to keep postponing the reopening of

the places of worship time and again or have you suddenly turned 'secular' yourself, the term you hated?" Koshyari wrote to Thackeray, who also sent a strongly-worded response to the Governor.

Informing the Governor that his government will consider his request to reopen temples, Thackeray wondered if Hindutva meant merely reopening places of religious worship to Koshyari. Responding to the Governor's secularism

jibe, Thackeray wrote, "Isn't secularism a key component of the Constitution, by which you swore while taking oath as the state Governor?"

"I don't need your certificate for my Hindutva. While considering the sentiments and beliefs of the people, it is also important to take care of their lives and it is wrong to impose and lift lockdown suddenly," Thackeray wrote.

Interestingly, the Governor's letter to the CM came in the wake of two days

protests carried out by the Bharatiya Janata Party demanding reopening of temples. The BJP on Tuesday held protests outside temples in various cities in Maharashtra. In Mumbai, BJP workers led by MLC Prasad Lad and Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Praveen Darakar tried to enter the famous Siddhivinayak temple as part of an agitation.

In Pune, BJP activists staged a demonstration outside the Tambdi Jogeshwari temple.

**FARM | BILLS Policy experts, industry leaders & academicians with agri sector praise the recently passed Bills**

**Centre reaches out to stakeholders to clear confusion**

New Delhi, Oct. 13: Reaching out to stakeholders to allay apprehensions about the recently passed farm Bills, Union minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday met policy experts, industry leaders and academicians associated with the agriculture sector, who were all praise for the new legislation.

Singh along with agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has so far held a series of meetings with farmers and many others associated with the agriculture sector to deliberate upon the three agriculture-related Bills recently passed by the Parliament.

"In a way these three farm Bills will usher a new era of reforms in the agriculture sector and will give farmers' independence from the clutches of the middle men and help in getting them better prices for their produce," Gambhir told reporters after the meeting.

Echoing similar sentiments, Chairman of Global Food and Retail Council Rakesh Gambhir, who was

part of the delegation that met both Union ministers, said it was a good interaction and praised the government for bringing these three Bills.

He said talking to the farmers in their own language is important so that there is no confusion about these three Bills.

Last week, Singh had a long meeting with a delegation of award-winning farmers including a Padma Shri awardee to deliberate on the government's farm legislations.

— PTI

Earlier in a statement, Singh had assured that the MSP mechanism will stay and the support price will continue to rise under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

The meetings with a number of stakeholders in the agriculture sector are being held at Singh's residence here.

Chairman of Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture M.J. Khan who was present in all the meetings held so far said in a way it is a dialogue process between farmers, key stakeholders in the agriculture sector and the centre to clear any apprehensions and misgivings about the farm bills.

— PTI

Kangana booked by K'taka police over tweet on farmers

Bengaluru, Oct. 13: A case has been registered against Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut in Karnataka over her tweet allegedly targeting farmers protesting against contentious central farm laws, police said on Tuesday.

The case was registered by police in Tumakuru district on Monday based on the recent order of a local court.

It has been registered

under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, including 108 (abettment), wanton vilification upon a community (153A) and intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace (504), police said.

The Tumakuru Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court had on October 9 directed police to register an FIR on a complaint by lawyer L. Ramesh Naik who contended that the September 21 tweet on the actor's Twitter handle @KanganaTeam had hurt him.

"People who spread misinformation and rumours about CAA that caused riots are the same people who are now spreading misinformation about farmers bill and causing terror in the nation, they are terrorists. You very well know what I said but simply like to spread misinformation," Ranaut had tweeted.

— PTI

**IN BRIEF**  
**Muslims protest in Indonesia**

**Jakarta:** Thousands of conservative Muslims marched in Indonesia's capital on Tuesday demanding that the government revoke a new law that says will cripple labour rights. Authorities blocked streets leading to the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, where clashes between riot police and rock-throwing demonstrators, including workers and students, broke out last Thursday. The protests spread and turned violent in some cities across the world's most populous Muslim nation, but calm had largely returned to Jakarta over the past four days.

**US hits Taliban with airstrikes**

**Lashkar Gah (Afghanistan):** American forces carried out several airstrikes in support of Afghan security forces under attack by the Taliban in southern Helmand province, a spokesperson for the US military in Afghanistan said on Monday. Colonel Sonny Leggett said the recent Taliban attacks in Helmand are "not consistent" with a US-Taliban deal signed in February and undermine ongoing intra-Afghan peace talks. He said the airstrikes do not violate the February deal. The Taliban "need to immediately stop their offensive actions in Helmand Province and reduce their violence around the country," Leggett said in a statement on Twitter, quoting Gen. Scott Miller, the commander of the US Forces in Afghanistan.

**Indian-origin patron wins award in US**

**Washington:** Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work in the US for meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The lifetime achievement award from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) was presented to Kotecha, who is founder and president of Hindu Charities for America (HCA), at its 32nd annual conference on October 9, a statement said.

**49 stranded Indians return home**

**Dubai:** A total of 49 Indians, who were stranded for several months in the UAE after being abandoned by their employers, have been repatriated after the Indian mission here helped them secure their passports and security deposits from two companies, a media report said on Tuesday. The expats were abandoned and unpaid for the last six months after two Dubai-based carpentry firms owned by Indians shut during the Coronavirus pandemic without informing their staff, the Gulf News reported. Left to fend for themselves, the expats reached out to the Indian Consulate in Dubai in July and sought help to return home.

**VIRUS REINFECTION MIGHT SEVERE SYMPTOMS**

**Houston,** Oct. 13: Covid-19 patients infected with the Coronavirus for a second time might experience more severe symptoms, according to a study which is the first to confirm a case of reinfection with the virus in the US.

The study, published in the journal Lancet Infectious Diseases, found evidence that an individual with no known immune disorders or underlying conditions was infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in two separate occurrences. According to the scientists, including those from the University of Nevada in the US, the patient, a 25-year-old male, was infected with two distinct SARS-CoV-2 variants within a 48-day time frame, while testing negative in between infections.

The study noted that the patient's second infection was more severe, resulting in hospitalisation with oxygen support, indicating previous exposure to Covid-19 may not translate to guaranteed total immunity. The patient tested negative for the virus after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 in April 2020, the researchers said. Then in June 2020, after experiencing severe Covid-19 symptoms, including fever, headache, dizziness, cough, nausea, and diarrhea, the patient was hospitalised and tested positive for a second time.

# Trump holds 1st rally since Covid

Busy schedule of the Prez comes amid unanswered question of travel impact on his health



Donald Trump

## Amid poll fears, Microsoft targets malware network

**Washington, Oct. 13:** Microsoft announced legal action on Monday seeking to disrupt a major cybercrime digital network that uses more than 1 million zombie computers to loot bank accounts and spread ransomware, which experts consider a major threat to the US presidential election.

The operation to knock offline command-and-control servers for a global botnet that uses an infrastructure known as Trickbot to infect computers with malware was initiated with an order that Microsoft obtained in Virginia federal court on Oct. 6.

Microsoft argued that the crime network is abusing its trademark. "It is very hard to tell how effective it will be but we are confident it will have a very long-lasting effect," said Jean-Lan Boutin, head of threat research at ESET, one of several cybersecurity firms that partnered with Microsoft to map the command-and-control servers. "We're sure that they are going to notice and it will be hard for them to get back to the state that the botnet was in." Cybersecurity experts said that Microsoft's use of a U.S. court order to persuade internet providers to take down the botnet servers is laudable.

—AP

**NIKKI HALEY SLAMS BIDEN, HARRIS FOR THEIR POLICIES**

**Washington, Oct. 13:** Popular Republican politician Nikki Haley has hit out at Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden for being a "status quo" on China and wanting to revive the Iran nuclear deal while accusing his running mate and Senator Kamala Harris for advancing the leftist agenda.

Indian-American Haley, 48, had so far refrained from publicly criticising 55-year-old Harris, has now come out in open against the California Senator's policies, which the former US Ambassador to the UN said was reflective of Harris' leftist agenda.

"I went through it and now they say I'm immune," Trump told a cheering crowd in Sanford, near Orlando, few of whom wore masks.

"I feel so powerful. I'll walk in there, I'll kiss everyone in that audience. I'll kiss the guys and the beautiful women, just give you a big fat kiss."

Trump's medical team announced he had tested negative and was no longer contagious as he jetted to Florida — the first of four battleground states he plans to visit over the next four days. His claim of immunity is unproven.

—AFP

## Bipartisan Christian group opposes Don

**Washington, Oct. 13:** A group of prominent Christians from both sides of the aisle, including a past faith adviser to former President Barack Obama, is forming a political action committee designed to chip away at Christian support for President Donald Trump in the final weeks of the 2020 campaign.

Dubbed Not Our Faith, the new super PAC plans to roll out six-figure TV and digital ads focused on Christian voters — particularly the evangelical and Catholic voters who helped power Trump to victory in 2016. Its first digital ad, set to run in Michigan and Pennsylvania, takes sharp aim at Trump's claim to a foothold with Christians.

The ad says Trump "has used Christianity for his own purposes," invoking imagery of the Republican president's photo op outside a historic Washington church amid this summer's racial justice demonstrations. Urging Christians to break from Trump, the ad states that they "don't need Trump to save them. The truth is that Trump needs Christians to save his flailing campaign."

—AP

## SECOND J&VACCINE TRIAL HALTED OVER ILLNESS

**New Brunswick (US), Oct. 13:** A late-stage study of Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine candidate has been paused while the company investigates whether a study participant's "unexplained illness" is related to the shot.

The company said in a statement on Monday evening that illnesses, accidents and other so-called adverse events "are an expected part of any clinical study, especially large studies," but that its physicians and a safety monitoring panel would try to determine what might have caused the illness.

The pause is at least the second such hold to occur among several vaccines that have reached large-scale final tests in the US. The company declined to reveal any more details about the illness, citing the participant's privacy. Temporary stoppages of large medical studies are relatively common. Few are made public in typical drug trials, but the work to make a Coronavirus vaccine has raised the stakes on these kinds of complications.

Companies are required to investigate any serious or unexpected reaction that occurs during drug testing. Given that such tests are done on tens of thousands of people, some medical problems are a coincidence. In fact, one of the first steps the company said it will take is to determine if the person received the vaccine or a placebo. The halt was first reported by the health news site STAT. —AP

## Japan protests against China for coast invasion

**TAIWAN BANISHES CHINA SPYING ACCUSATIONS**

**Taipei, Oct. 13:** Taiwan on Tuesday dismissed new spying allegations by China as a further attempt to smear the government of the self-governing island democracy that Beijing claims as its own territory.

The remarks follow a report on Monday night by Chinese broadcaster CCTV featuring a taped confession from a man identified as Cheng Yuchin, the second such report in as many days. On Sunday, CCTV broadcast a confession by a man identified as Li Mengjia, whose name is also spelled Lee Meng-chu, who like Cheng said he had been working to destabilise China and harm the ruling Communist Party's reputation.

In the same report, CCTV said security personnel had solved more than 100 spying cases as part of an initiative dubbed Operation Thunder 2020. Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang called the accusations an attempt by Beijing to "defame and create fear," while the foreign ministry's head of European affairs, Johnson Chiang, called the allegations "pure defamation and calumny".

CCTV's airing of videoed confessions have prompted lawsuits abroad amid accusations that the accounts were coerced and that the broadcaster is merely a propaganda arm of the Communist Party. The latest reports come amid increasing Chinese diplomatic and military pressure on Taiwan aimed at compelling the administration of President Tsai Ing-wen to recognise Beijing's claim that the island is a part of Chinese territory. While the sides share strong cultural and economic links, a strong majority of Taiwanese reject any moves toward political union with China.

The Japanese government says Japan has had ownership of the islands since the late 1890s under international law. Tokyo also says Beijing started claiming its ownership around 1970 when possible undersea oil deposits near the islands were reported. Japan sees China's military development and increasingly assertive stance in the East and South China seas as a major security threat.

Japan's military invasion of China in the 1930s and 1940s remains a sore spot between the two sides. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian repeated China's position.

"The Diaoyu Islands and its affiliated islands are China's inherent territory," he said at a regular news conference in Beijing on Monday. "It is China's inherent right to carry out law enforcement patrol in the waters of the Diaoyu Islands, and the Japanese side should respect this."

—AP

## Day of the Race



A demonstrator paints the helmet of a riot police officer near a statue of Christopher Columbus which was surrounded by a metal fence for protection, during Columbus Day in Mexico City, on Tuesday, October 12, commemorates the arrival of Columbus to America in 1492, which in Mexico is called the 'Day of the Race'. — AFP

## Chinese FM terms US Indo-Pacific strategy a "huge security risk"

**Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 13:** The United States poses a "huge security risk" to Asia by pushing to boost engagement with the region, China's foreign minister said on Tuesday during a tour of Southeast Asia, where Beijing and Washington are locked in a battle for influence.

Speaking in Malaysia, Wang Yi said the US's real aim is "to build an Indo-Pacific NATO," in a strategy he said harkened back to the Cold War. Washington is trying to "stir up confrontation among different groups and blocs, and stir up geopolitical competition

while maintaining the predominance and hegemony system of the US," Wang said at a joint news conference with his Malaysian counterpart, Hishammuddin Hussein. "In this sense, this strategy itself is a huge security risk," Wang said.

Wang also urged Southeast Asian nations, which are aiming to draw up a code of conduct with China in the South China Sea, through which a third of global shipping passes, have drawn rebuke from the United States and become a flashpoint for a region in which Southeast

Sea, to remove "external disruption" in the disputed waters, but did not elaborate. Wang's tone is typical of China's increasingly hard-line approach to disputes with Washington as it seeks to capitalise on political divisions within the US and a perceived decline in America's global influence to advance its own foreign policy aims.

China's aggressive moves to assert its territorial claims in the South China Sea, through which a third of global shipping passes, have drawn rebuke from the United States and become a flashpoint for a region in which Southeast

Asian nations Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei all have rival claims. Hishammuddin said the disputes over the South China Sea must be resolved peacefully through regional dialogue.

The US says its Indo-Pacific engagement framework supports sovereignty, transparency, good governance and a rules-based order, among other things. By using the term "Indo-Pacific," the US also wants to propagate the idea that the region stretches far beyond China's backyard and the tiger economies of East Asia to include the Indian Ocean.

—AP

## Pandemic to leave deep scars on world economy, says Gita

## IMF puts total economic loss at \$28tn

**Washington, Oct. 13:** The International Monetary Fund has scaled back its estimate of the hit to the global economy from Covid-19 this year but warned that the final bill for the pandemic would total \$28tn (£21.5tn) in lost output.

In its flagship world economic outlook, the IMF said a stronger performance in the second and third quarters meant it believed glob-

al output would fall by 4.4 per cent in 2020 compared with the 5.2 per cent drop forecast during the summer.

But the Washington-based organisation said rising infection rates in some emerging market economies had forced it to pare back its estimate of the rebound in 2021 from 5.4 per cent to 5.2 per cent. The gap between rich and poor countries was growing, it added.

Gita Gopinath, the IMF's economic counsellor, described Covid-19 as the worst crisis since the Great Depression, and said the pandemic would leave deep and enduring scars caused by job losses, weaker investment and children being deprived of education. "The cumulative loss in output relative to the pre-pandemic projected path is projected to grow from \$11tn over 2020-21 to \$28tn over 2020-25," Gopinath said in a blog. "This represents a severe setback to the improvement in average living standards across all country groups."

The IMF said swift action by central banks had softened the impact of the damage to economic activity caused by lockdowns this week, Gopinath said that "to the extent possible, policies must aggressively focus on limiting persistent economic damage from this crisis".

— Agencies

## IN BRIEF

## PG&amp;E set to cut power in California

**NEW YORK:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company said it was preparing, if necessary, to cut power in parts of Northern California this week as wildfire risk returns to the state, the company said in a statement posted to its website on Sunday. The California utility would shut power off to prevent its equipment from catching fire, with a major wind storm expected to hit some parts of the state starting Wednesday.

## U.S. CITIZENS UNHAPPY WITH BIOFUEL POLICIES

**Washington, Oct. 13:** US President Donald Trump enjoys broad support among farmers, but some are unhappy about the impact of his trade and biofuel policies on crop prices and international demand for US agricultural products. Democrat challenger Joe Biden has seized on the biofuel issue, pledged a more multilateral approach to international trade, and promises to make farming more environmentally friendly.

## SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS FOR CARBON REDUCTION

**London, Oct. 13:** Investors managing around \$20 trillion in assets on Tuesday called on the heaviest corporate emitters of greenhouse gases to set science-based targets on the way to net zero carbon emissions by mid-century.

AXA Group and Nikko Asset Management Co are among 137 investors urging 1,800 companies responsible for a quarter of global emissions to act, coordinated by non-profit group CDP. While more companies are pledging their support for the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change, aiming to be carbon neutral by 2050, not all have been clear about how they will get there.

To help limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial norms by 2050, companies need to set out their pathway to net zero and ensure it is consistent with the science and independently verified, the investors said. "Climate change presents material risks to investments, and companies that are failing to set targets grounded in science risk losing out — and causing greater damage to the world economy," said Emily Kreps, Global Director of Capital Markets at CDP.

The companies targeted together annually contribute 13.5 gigatonnes of emissions directly and indirectly tied to their operations, equivalent to 25 per cent of the world's total, CDP said.

## ELECTRIC CARS TO TRIPLE MARKET SHARE IN EUROPE

**Brussels, Oct. 13:** Electric vehicles made up 8% of car sales in Europe in the first half of 2020, putting them on track to triple their market share this year; according to analysis by the NGO Transport & Environment (T&E).

While the novel Coronavirus pandemic has seen overall car sales plummet, sales of electric cars — which T&E defined as both battery and plug-in hybrid models — have increased. This saw electric cars more than triple their market share in the European Economic Area (EEA), compared with the first half of last year, T&E said. Outright sales of such vehicles are expected to roughly double this year, to one million units, it said.

T&E attributed the sales increase to tougher European Union car emissions standards, which took effect this year, and post-pandemic purchase incentives in Germany and France. The NGO expects carmakers to meet the 2020 emissions standards, which would see electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles triple their market share in 2020 to 10% of EEA car sales.

The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) said electric vehicle sales have been boosted by national support schemes to foster economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic but that this trend was not necessarily a long-term one. "It is difficult to make any predictions on future long-term shifts in consumer behaviour from such 'artificial' growth driven by subsidies," ACEA said.

## Natural disaster



A firefighter battles flames in Cordoba, Argentina, Monday, Oct. 12, 2020. The Cordoba province has reported nearly 50,000 hectares in fires since the beginning of the year. — AP

## US should follow China with CO2-neutral target

## China, EU aims to become carbon neutral by 2060, 2050

**Geneva, Oct. 13:** The United States should join the European Union and China in setting ambitious goals to become carbon neutral, the head of the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Tuesday.

President Xi Jinping announced at the U.N. General Assembly last month that China aimed to become carbon neutral by 2060, while the European Union has pledged to achieve such status by 2050. "All in all I think that this announcement is great, since at least European Union countries and China are now sharing common reason, that's very good news. And I

● **XI USED** the U.N. lectern to call for multilateral action on climate change after President Donald Trump called the Paris climate agreement with nearly 200 signatories — a one-sided accord and criticised China for being the world's largest carbon emitter.

hope that also the US will join that club in the near future," Petteri Taalas, WMO Secretary-General, told a briefing in Geneva.

Xi used the U.N. lectern to call for multilateral action on climate change after President Donald Trump called the Paris climate agreement with near-

ly 200 signatories — a one-sided accord and criticised China for being the world's largest carbon emitter. "If we fail with climate mitigation then we would see problems which are of a very different magnitude when it comes to human suffering and also economic losses," Taalas said. "Also in the United States there has been good progress especially the private sector, and several states have been investing in climate-friendly technologies," he added.

Global temperatures will continue to warm over the next five years, and may even temporarily rise to more than 1.5 degrees

Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the WMO said in July. Scientists have set 1.5C (2.7 Fahrenheit) as the ceiling for avoiding catastrophic climate change. Responding to a question from Chinese Central Television, Taalas said: "China is contributing 25% of the global emissions and one of your major challenges is that your energy production is very much based on coal-fired power plants."

But China has made record investments in renewable energy, such as solar and wind energy, and has become a significant exporter of such technology worldwide, he said. — Reuters

## PANDEMIC MIGHT DELAY ENERGY DEMAND RECOVERY TO 2025: IEA

**London, Oct. 13:** A slow economic recovery from the pandemic threatens to delay a full rebound in world energy demand to 2025, the International Energy Agency said on Tuesday.

In its central scenario, a vaccine and therapeutics could mean the global economy rebounds in 2021 and energy demand recovers by 2023, the IEA, which advises Western governments on energy policy, said in its annual World Energy Outlook. But under a "delayed recovery scenario", the timeline is pushed back two years, it said.

In such a case, the IEA predicts "a deeper near-term slump" erodes the growth potential of the economy, high unemployment wears away human capital, and bankruptcies and structural economic changes mean that some physical assets become unproductive as well." The Paris-based IEA sees global energy demand falling by 5% in 2020, CO2 emissions related to energy by 7% and energy investment by 18%.

— Reuters

## \$5 trillion investor group sets tougher portfolio carbon targets

**London, Oct. 13:** Thirty of the world's largest investors managing a combined \$5 trillion (3.8 trillion pounds) said on Tuesday they plan to set targets to lower their portfolio carbon emissions by as much as 29% over the next five years.

All members of the Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance, a group which includes the biggest U.S. pension scheme CalPERS and German insurer Allianz, are aiming to align their portfolios with the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

The move is the most ambitious yet by the influential group, whose members own sizeable stakes in many of the world's top companies, and comes as pressure builds for asset owners to use their financial muscle to push for quicker change. —Reuters

● **ONGOING FLOODING** has killed at least 28 people in Vietnam, and 11 in Cambodia, where almost 25,000 houses and 84,000 hectares of crops have been damaged, according to local media. Vietnamese disaster management authorities said over 130,000 houses have been impacted

## EU plans binding energy standards in green buildings drive: Document

**Brussels, Oct. 13:** The European Commission will propose mandatory minimum energy performance standards for buildings across Europe in a drive to cut emissions and create jobs in the renovation sector, according to a draft policy document seen by Reuters.

The European Union's executive has made its "Renovation Wave" strategy, which is due to be published on Wednesday, a priority in its plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions across the bloc to net zero by 2050. The Commission does not comment on draft documents, which are sub-

ject to change before publication. Energy-guzzling buildings, many of which are heated by fossil fuels, produce more than a third of EU carbon dioxide emissions and account for 40% of the bloc's energy consumption.

Most of today's buildings will still be in use in 2050 — meaning could thwart the EU's green goals unless they are upgraded. "The objective is to at least double the annual energy renovation rate of residential and non-residential buildings by 2030," the draft document said. At the moment, about 11% of existing buildings in the EU are renovated each

year. But most renovations do not address energy performance and the EU's energy renovation rate is stuck at 1%.

A key pillar of the new "Renovation Wave" strategy will be the introduction of mandatory minimum energy performance standards for existing European buildings. The Commission will propose the standards next year, following an analysis to decide when they will be phased in and the specific level of energy savings each building must achieve.

All building types would be covered, according to

the draft. "It's absolutely essential that we have more legally-binding regulatory measures," said Louise Sunderland, senior advisor at the non-profit Regulatory Assistance Project, pointing to energy performance standards in the Netherlands, which have boosted renovation rates for social housing.

The aim is to incentivise building owners to upgrade properties in time to meet the new standards, backed by financial support from sources including the EU's 750 billion euro (\$885 billion) Coronavirus economic recovery fund. —Reuters

## WORLD | RECORD

## Godwit has set a new world record by flying more than 12,000km from Alaska to New Zealand

## Godwit, bird with aerodynamic built of 'jet fighter'

**Brussels, Oct. 13:** A bird said to have the aerodynamic build of a "jet fighter" has been tracked flying more than 12,000km (7,500 miles) from Alaska to New Zealand, setting a new world record for avian non-stop flight.

The bar-tailed godwit set off from south-west Alaska on 16 September and arrived in a bay near Auckland 11 days later, having flown at speeds of up to 55mph.

The male bird, known as 4BBRW in reference to the blue, blue, red and white rings fitted on its legs, also had a 5gm satellite tag harnesses on its lower back to allow scientists to track its progress.

It was one of four to leave together from the Alaskan mudflats where they had been feeding on clams and worms for two months. The male bar-tailed godwit, whose standard weight is between 190gm

and 400gm, can double in size before a long flight but is able to shrink its internal organs to lighten the load. After leaving Alaska, the birds headed south over the Aleutian Islands and on to the Pacific Ocean.

The journey is thought to have been prolonged by strong easterly winds, which pushed the group towards Australia.

The satellite recorded a point-to-point flight of 12,854km but the scientists believe that once rounding errors are taken into account the journey will have been around 12,200km.

The previous longest recorded non-stop flight by a bird, of 11,680km, was recorded in 2007. Dr Jesse Conklin, from the Global Flyway Network, a consortium of scientists studying epic migratory journeys, said: "They seem to have some capability of knowing where they are on the globe. We can't really explain it but they seem to have an onboard map.

"They are flying over open ocean for days and days in the mid-Pacific; there is no land at all. Then they get to New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea where there are quite a few islands and, we might be anthropomorphising, but it really looks like they start spotting land and sort of think: 'Oh, I need to start veering or I will miss New Zealand.'"

It is not certain but it



Bar-tailed Godwit

is believed the birds do not sleep on the journey during which they flap their wings most of the time. "They have an incredibly efficient fuel-to-energy rate," Conklin said.

"They have a lot of things going for them. They are designed like a jet fighter. Long, pointed wings and a really sleek design which gives them a lot of aerodynamic potential." — Agencies

## 40 died, rescuers went missing due to heavy rains

## Indonesia prepares to prevent floods

**Hanoi/Phnom Penh, Oct. 13:** Nearly 40 people have died in Vietnam and Cambodia and scores more were missing, including rescuers, due to prolonged heavy rain and flash flooding as tropical storm Nangka edged towards the Vietnamese coast on Tuesday. A flooded village is seen in Quang Tri province, Vietnam October 12, 2020. Ho Cau/VNA via Reuters.

Heavy rains since early October have caused deadly floods and landslides in several provinces in central Vietnam and displaced thousands of people in western Cambodia, officials and state media said.

The floods are expected to worsen over the coming days, with tropical storm Nangka forecast to dump more rain as it makes landfall in Vietnam on Wednesday. Nangka, packing wind speeds of up to 100 km per hour (62 miles per hour) will trigger heavy rain of up to 400 millimetres in parts of northern and central Vietnam from Wednesday through Friday, its weather agency said.

Ongoing flooding has killed at least 28 people in Vietnam, and 11 in Cambodia, where almost 25,000 houses and 84,000 hectares of crops have been damaged, according to local media. Vietnamese disaster management authorities said over 130,000 houses have been impacted.

Additional 13 people sent to rescue the workers are also missing. The state-run Nhan Dan newspaper reported on Tuesday. Vietnam's Prime Minister, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, has instructed the defence ministry to send more rescue troops to the site of the landslide, according to the government statement.

As of Tuesday morning they were unable to reach the site, the statement added, because of high water levels, heavy rains, and additional landslides.

— Reuters

2021, three leading industry analysts said last week, as the La Niña weather pattern hits edible oil supplies amid lower soybean crushing in Argentina and rising sunflower oil prices.

Indonesia is the world's largest producer of palm oil, which is used in a wide array of products from food to cleaning products.

The Southeast Asian country is also a big producer and exporter of crops such as coffee, cocoa and rubber. A La Niña pattern is characterized by unusually cold temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

BMKG said in a statement posted on its website that the weather pattern is expected to last until around March-April 2021.

BMKG head Dwikorita Karnawati told an online media briefing after meeting Jokowi that the wet weather will likely hit all of Indonesia except Sumatra island, though she said Sumatra typically already had high rain intensity. "Generally, the high (rain) intensity will be evenly spread between November to April," she said.

— Reuters

## Vietnam flood death toll rises to 23

**Hanoi, Oct. 13:** Vietnam's flood death toll rose to at least 23 on Monday and authorities said the incoming storm Nangka would dump more heavy rain on the country in the coming days. The floods have also left at least 14 people missing in Vietnam's central provinces, the government said in a statement.

Most of the victims were washed away by the flood waters, the national disaster management authority said, adding that local authorities had evacuated nearly 46,000 people from the affected areas.

The floods have inundated more than 109,000 houses and 584 hectares of crops and damaged several roads and bridges, the agency added. Separately, a landslide on Monday reportedly buried up to 13 construction workers at a hydropower dam in the central province of Thua Thien Hue. "We

— Reuters

## UN: CLIMATE CHANGE MEANS MORE WEATHER DISASTERS EVERY YEAR

**Geneva, Oct. 13:** In the wake of heat waves, global warming, forest fires, storms, droughts and a rising number of hurricanes, the U.N. weather agency is warning that the number of people who need international humanitarian help could rise 50% by 2030 compared to the 108 million worldwide in 2018.

In a new report released with partners on Tuesday, the World Meteorological Agency says more disasters attributed to weather are taking place each year. It said over 11,000 disasters have been attributed to weather, climate and phenomena like tsunamis that are related to water over the last 50 years.

— AP

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40,625.51
Nifty 50	11,934.50
S&P 500*	3,520.22
Dollar (\$)	73.35
Pound Sterling (\$)	95.61
Euro (\$)	86.45
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	51,989▼133
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.55
IN 10-Yr bond yield*	5.904
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.737
* As of 8:30 PM IST	0.08
	-0.40
	-0.09
	-0.14
	0.09
	0.25
	0.83
	0.005
	-0.038

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## SIP inflows drop for 6th month in September

Investment in mutual funds through SIPs remained lackluster with inflow dropping for the sixth consecutive month to Rs 7,788 crore in September amid a challenging economic environment. The trend is expected to reverse only slowly as investors feel more confident to save more once their own income stream stabilises, said Vidya Bala, co-founder of Prime-investor.in. The industry added 7.37 lakh folios last month.

## Deepak Kochhar sent back to ED custody



A special court in Mumbai remanded Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till Oct. 17. Deepak Kochhar was arrested by the ED in Sept. under the PMLA in the ICICI Bank-Videocon money laundering case. He was remanded to the ED custody till Sept. 19, but it was suspended after he tested positive for coronavirus and was sent to judicial custody.

## EPFO launches WhatsApp helpline service

Retirement fund body EPFO has launched a WhatsApp helpline service for speedy redressal of grievances of its subscribers, the labour ministry said. This facility is in addition to other means of grievance redressal forums which include EPFIGMS portal, CPGRAMS, social media platforms (Facebook & Twitter) and a 24x7 call centre. With WhatsApp, PF subscribers can interact directly with EPFO's regional offices.

## Piaggio offers up to ₹10K benefits on Vespa, Aprilia

Italian automaker Piaggio announced benefits worth up to Rs 10,000 on the purchase of Vespa and Aprilia scooters as part of festive sales offer. The offer entails insurance benefit of up to Rs 7,000, complementary accessories worth upto Rs 4,000 and e-commerce booking benefit of Rs 2,000. The release stated, could be availed by Nov. 16, Piaggio India said. The firm is also offering free service.

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## India's GDP may contract by 10.3% in 2020 IMF projects 8.8% growth next year

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, OCT. 13

The Indian economy is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday.

However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said in its latest World Economic Outlook report.

Released ahead of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the report said global growth would contract by 4.4 per cent this year and bounce back to 5.2 per cent in 2021.

America's economy is projected to contract by 5.8 per cent in 2020 and grow by 3.9 per cent the next year. China is the only country among the major economies to show a positive growth rate of 1.9 per cent in 2020, it said.

The IMF in its report said that revisions to the forecast are particularly large for India, where GDP contracted much more severely than expected in the second quarter. "As a result, the economy is projected to contract by 10.3 per cent in 2020, before rebounding by 8.8 per cent in 2021," it said.

In 2019, India's growth rate was 4.2 per cent.

—PTI



## \$6 trillion wiped off global economy: Unctad

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

The lockdown measures in India could lead to a sharp recession in 2020. Despite a projected rebound in 2021, the contraction registered in 2020 could translate into a permanent income loss for the country, finds the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad).

In the wake of the pandemic shocks, the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3 per cent this year, leaving global output short by over \$6 trillion by the year end of 2020, while economists had expected it to be before the Covid-19 pathogen began to spread, says the Unctad Trade and Development Report 2020.

Development Report 2020.

The UN agency expects South Asia and South-East Asia to contract 4.8 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively, in 2020 and recover 3.9 per cent and 4.3 per cent, respectively, in 2021.

"In the case of India, the baseline scenario is a sharp recession in 2020 as strict lockdown measures to stem the virus' spread brought many productive activities to a halt across the country. Although we expect a rebound in 2021 in line with the growth rates of the Indian economy in recent years, the contraction registered in 2020 is likely to translate into a permanent income loss," finds the report.

## China's stock market tops \$10 trillion

Oct. 13: Chinese domestic equities are worth more than \$10 trillion for the first time since 2015, when a record crash erased half the market's value in months and saddled millions of investors with losses.

The world's second-largest stock market has added \$3.3 trillion since a low in March, helped by Beijing's policies to encourage equity trading, a flurry of new listings and the strengthening yuan. Stocks have been close to the \$10 trillion milestone since July, when China's government acted to tame a speculative rally that had suddenly pushed a gauge of large caps near a 12-year high.

The country's total market capitalisation is now \$10.04 trillion and just shy of the all-time high, according to data compiled by Bloomberg as of October 12. The US has the world's most valuable stock market at \$38.3 trillion.

Chinese shares have rallied since a long holiday break on optimism the government will introduce reforms to turn the region around Shenzhen into a global technology hub and that the ruling Communist Party will introduce policies to stimulate demand when it holds a major meeting later this month. Equities surged over the summer as margin debt climbed at the fastest pace since 2015 and turnover soared.

—Bloomberg

## Covid cover can be renewed or merged into other policy

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

The insurance regulator on Tuesday allowed insurance companies to offer policyholders who have bought Covid-specific insurance covers to either renew, migrate or port their policies.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Tuesday issued revised guidelines in this regard. By the guidelines, 'Corona Kavach' and 'Corona Rakshak' policies of any tenure can be renewed for further terms of three-and-a-half months, six-and-a-half months or nine-and-a-half months, as per the option exercised by the policyholder, subject to the underwriting policy of the insurer.

Both the policies can be renewed till March 31, 2021. Similarly such policyholders can also port to a comprehensive



said the Irdai in a circular issued to non-life and pure health insurance companies.

Inaugurated in July, Corona Kavach is an indemnity plan that will cover hospitalisation expenses. The cost of treatment for any co-morbid condition, including pre-existing co-morbid conditions along with the treatment for Covid-19, will be covered under this policy.

The sum insured in Corona Kavach policy ranges from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh. On the other hand, Corona Rakshak is a fixed benefit plan in which if a policyholder is diagnosed with Covid-19 and hospitalised for three days, a fixed amount (sum insured) will be paid by the insurance companies.

During renewal, policyholders can enhance the sum insured. For any increase in the sum insured, the waiting period shall start afresh only for the enhanced portion of the sum insured, said the regulator.

Renewals may be done before the expiry of the existing policy contract

## Wipro net falls 3.4%; buyback at ₹9,500 cr

New Delhi, Oct. 13: IT services major Wipro on Tuesday posted a 3.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,465.7 crore in the three months ended September and projected revenue growth in the December quarter even as it announced a plan to buyback shares worth up to Rs 9,500 crore.

The Bengaluru-based company, which had a net profit (attributable to equity holders of the company) at Rs 2,552.7 crore in the year-ago period, recorded

almost flat year-on-year revenue growth at Rs 15,114.5 crore in the latest September quarter.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the company's net profit climbed over 3 per cent while revenue was up by little over 1 per cent.

Wipro CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte said the demand environment has improved from the first quarter even though the pace of decision making remains a bit slower on the larger deals.

The buyback proposal, which is subject to shareholders' approval, will involve purchase of up to 23.75 crore equity shares, representing 4.16 per cent of the company's total paid-up equity capital, at Rs 400 per share. The buyback size will be up to Rs 9,500 crore and the price of Rs 400 per scrip is more than 6 per cent higher than the company's closing price of Rs 375.5 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday.

Wipro's rival TCS unveiled a Rs 16,000 crore-share buyback plan last week.—PTI

## Upside seen for beaten down Vedanta stock

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

Vedanta, which failed in its bid to delist from the stock exchanges last week, is back in brokerages' focus, with a positive outlook, as the valuation of the stock, after the sharp slump post-delisting fiasco, is looking attractive.

Vedanta fell more than 15 per cent on Monday from a high of Rs 122 to Rs 94.8 on the BSE, as the company's delisting process got aborted on Friday. But on Tuesday Vedanta gained 2.78 per cent to close at Rs 99.65 on the BSE.

"While a buyback may not be considered in order to make the next attempt at delisting successful, a generous dividend can be expected given the strong cash on the balance sheet and the need of liquidity by promoters. But, any increase in inter company loans will be a negative," Jani added.

Vikas Jain, senior research analyst, Reliance Securities said, "The delisting for Vedanta has failed as the floor price was very low and in the reverse book building it could not get the desired quantity of shares. We believe as the share price has already declined by 40 per cent over the past three days and buyback is being called we could see some bounce back to near-term highs of 120 levels."

## GST: Centre permits 20 states to raise ₹68,825 crore

New Delhi, Oct. 13: The Centre on Tuesday permitted 20 states to raise Rs 68,825 crore through open market borrowings to bridge the GST revenue shortfall.

The decision came a day after the GST Council meeting failed to reach a consensus over the Centre's proposal of states borrowing against future GST collections to make up for the shortfall.

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.

The Department of Expenditure has granted permission to 20 states to raise an additional Rs 68,825 crore through open market borrowings, an official release said.—PTI

## Fiscal impact of festival package to be 0.16-0.2% of GDP: Analysts

SANGEETHA G.  
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

The government measures announced on Monday to boost consumer demand by Rs 1 lakh crore would have a fiscal impact of Rs 31,600 crore to Rs 40,000 crore on the Centre, depending on how they play out. The expenditure will translate into 1.16 per cent to 0.2 per cent of the GDP.

According to analysts, apart from the Rs 25,000-crore additional capital expenditure provided for various infrastructure/capacity building projects, the fiscal impact of the other components in the package is negligible.

Barclays India estimates that the actual fiscal cost of the measures will be Rs 31,600 crore or 0.16 per cent of the GDP. SBI estimates that Rs 40,000 crore is the maximum additional cash outgo for the Centre during the current fiscal, which is around 0.21 per cent and will largely offset the extra cost that may be incurred on the government's balance sheet.

For instance, an employee eligible for business travel will get Rs 36,000 per person. For a family of four this works out to Rs 14,400. The total purchases he has to make works out to Rs 43,200 and this he would pay a GST amount of Rs 1,03,680.

"The scheme is unlikely to work unless the government decides to pay the GST component also over

cash in lieu of Leave Travel Concession and Rs 10,000 festival advance to government employees, with certain riders. Besides, she also announced additional capital spending and Rs 12,000 crore interest-free loan to states.

The government estimates the LTC scheme would cost Rs 5,675 crore for the Centre and Rs 1,900 crore for public sector banks and enterprises.

As the employee has to buy goods and services worth three times the travel fare and one time the leave encashment received, the GST collected at 12 per cent and above will largely offset the extra cost that may be incurred on the government's balance sheet.

For instance, an employee eligible for business travel will get Rs 36,000 per person. For a family of four this works out to Rs 14,400. The total purchases he has to make works out to Rs 43,200 and this he would pay a GST amount of Rs 1,03,680.

"The scheme is unlikely to work unless the government decides to pay the GST component also over

and above the fare entitlement amount as is done by many PSBs. We believe only around 10-15 per cent employees would use the LTC Scheme, says the SBI research report, Ecowrap.

Kruti Shah, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, feels the demand projections are difficult to achieve. "The estimates could be achieved only if consumers behave in the way they are expected to.

While some government employees might opt for it, purchases worth Rs 28,000 crore by private sector employees (as assumed by the government) are very unlikely," she said.

As for the interest-free festival advance of Rs 10,000 for employees, up to a total of Rs 4,000 crore, the money will come back to the government in 10 installments and 6 or 7 per cent interest incurred on this Rs 4,000 crore by the government will have almost nil impact.

"Similarly, the Rs 12,000-crore interest-free 50-year loan to states will have to be repaid and the interest part will not be a major burden on the Centre," said Rahul Bajaria, chief India economist, Barclays.

The Maruti Alto underwent various changes in the last 20 years, becoming a bit more feature-rich with every upgrade.

Launched back in 2000, the car has been the preferred choice of many first-time buyers.

The Alto has been ruling the Indian market by being the best selling car for the past 16 years.

The entry level car benefits from its compact design, easy manoeuvrability, high fuel-efficiency, upgraded safety, comfort features and low cost of acquisition. It today also offers features such as touchscreen SmartPlay infotainment system, ABS with EBD, dual tone interiors and dual airbags, among others.

Maruti Alto is India's first BS6 compliant entry-level car with aerodynamic edge design and latest safety features. It has a certified fuel efficiency of 22.05 km/1 litre for petrol and 31.56 km/kg for CNG.

Alto reached the milestone of 10 lakh sales in 2008 which doubled to 20 lakh units in 2012. This was followed by 30 lakh units in 2016 before reaching 40 lakhs in August 2020.

## SHORT TAKES

## Ronaldo tests Corona positive

**Lisbon:** Cristiano Ronaldo has tested positive for coronavirus, the Portuguese football federation announced on Tuesday. Ronaldo "is asymptomatic" and "will not play against Sweden" in Wednesday's Nations League match, the federation said on its website.

The 35-year-old Juventus forward, who has been voted the world's top player five times, played in Portugal's goalless Nations League draw against France on Sunday.

Ronaldo has scored 101 goals for Portugal and will be a huge absence for his team against Sweden as they aim to hold on to spot in their group. The test result also means

Ronaldo is a doubt for Juventus' Champions League group match with Barcelona on October 28, which was set to pit Ronaldo against his old rival Lionel Messi. — AFP

## Tokyo to hold gymnastics meet

**Tokyo:** Tokyo is planning to hold an international gymnastics meet next month that will exempt non-Japanese athletes from a 14-day quarantine period, an approach that might foreshadow planning for next year's postponed Olympics.

The Japanese Gymnastics Association announced the meet will feature athletes from the United States, Russia, China and Japan. The one-day event is set for November 8 at the Yoyogi National Gymnasium.

The Japanese news agency Kyodo reported that 2,000 fans will be allowed to attend, and it said athletes' travel will be restricted while in the country. Kyodo said the non-Japanese athletes will take a polymerase chain reaction test before they leave home, and will also be tested daily in Japan. — AP

## Wawrinka edges Evans in 1st round

**St. Petersburg:** Stan Wawrinka saved three match points to achieve a comeback win over Dan Evans and reach the second round of the St. Petersburg Open, after the tournament was disrupted by an unnamed player's coronavirus case.

Serving to stay in the match at 5-6 down in the second,

Wawrinka gave Evans three chances to seal the match but saved them all and then won the second-set tiebreaker and deciding set to complete a 3-6,

7-6 (3), 7-5 victory.

Wawrinka next plays Evgeny Donskoy after the Russian wild card beat Egor Gerasimov 6-4, 7-6 (4). Cameron Norrie managed a surprise win where his fellow British player Evans couldn't. Norrie hit 16 aces on his way to a 6-4, 6-3 win over the eighth-seeded Taylor Fritz. — AP

## Alex, Stefan look to extend good run

**Aragon:** Fresh off the best result of the year so far, the Repsol Honda Team land in Spain for the first of two races in Aragon primed for more as Marc Marquez continues his rehabilitation at home. A pair of unforgettable rides in Le Mans saw Alex Marquez charge from 18th to second, taking a debut podium in just his ninth race and his first-time racing in the wet while Stefan Bradl shot through the field to take eighth after starting 21st. The Repsol Honda team arrives back in Spain for the Aragon Grand Prix with renewed vigour. Claiming Honda's 849th premier class podium, Alex Marquez proved to the world why he is a double World Champion and now a factory MotoGP rider.

## Live on TV CRICKET

IPL: Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## FOOTBALL

UEFA Nations League: England vs Denmark from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3, HD; Croatia vs France from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Portugal vs Sweden from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

## WWE NXT

Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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## A KING-SIZE WIN

All-round Chennai beat Sunrisers by 20 runs

**Dubai, Oct. 13:** Chennai Super Kings defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by 20 runs in their IPL match here on Tuesday.

Shane Watson top-scored for the CSK with a 42-run knock while Sandeep Sharma was pick of the bowlers for SRH. The pacer took two wickets and conceded only 19 runs in his four overs.

Kane Williamson scored 57 for SRH while Dwayne Bravo and Karn Sharma took two wickets apiece for CSK.

Earlier, Watson and Ambati Rayudu shared a 81-run stand but Sunrisers Hyderabad did well to restrict Chennai Super Kings to 167 for 6.

Watson's 42 off 38 balls was studded with one four and three maximums, while Rayudu's hit three boundaries and two sixes in his 34-ball 41-run knock. Jadeja (25 not out) and Dhoni (21 off 13 balls) played quick cameos smashing a total of five fours and two sixes between them in a stand of 32 in just 2.4 overs.

SRH bowlers did a commendable job, claiming four wickets for 47 runs in the last six overs. Sandeep Sharma (2/19), Khaleel Ahmed (2/45) and T. Natarajan (2/41) picked two wickets apiece.

Desperate to snap their two-match losing streak, CSK elected to bat. The three-time champions sent young England all-rounder Sam Curran instead of Watson to open the innings, smashing Ahmed for the first boundary of the match in the second over.

Sharma drew first blood for the Sunrisers, remov-

## SCORECARD

**Chennai Super Kings:** S. Curran b S. Sharma 31, F du Plessis c Bairstow b S. Sharma 0, S. Watson c Pandey b Natarajan 42, A. Rayudu c Warner b K. Ahmed 41, M.S. Dhoni c Williamson b Natarajan 21, R. Jadeja (not out) 2, D. Bravo b K. Ahmed 0, D. Chahar (not out) 2. **Extras:** (lb-3, wd-2) 5. **Total:** (For 6 wkts, in 20 overs) 167. **FOW:** 1-10, 2-35, 3-116, 4-120, 5-152, 6-152. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-19-2, K. Ahmed 4-0-45-2, S. Nadeem 4-0-29-0, T. Natarajan 4-0-41-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-30-0. **Sunrisers Hyderabad:** D. Warner (c) & b Curran 9, J. Bairstow b Jadeja 23, M. Pandey run out 4, K. Williamson c Thakur b Sharma 57, P. Garg c Jadeja b Sharma 16, V. Shankar c Jadeja b Bravo 12, Rashid Khan hit wicket b Thakur 14, S. Nadeem c & b Bravo 5, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 1, T. Natarajan (not out) 0. **Extras:** (w-6) 6. **Total:** (for 8 wkts, in 20 overs) 147. **FOW:** 1-23, 2-27, 3-59, 4-99, 5-117, 6-126, 7-146, 8-146. **Bowling:** D. Chahar 4-0-28-0, S. Curran 3-0-18-1, R. Jadeja 3-0-21-1, S. Thakur 2-0-10-1, K. Sharma 4-0-37-2, D. Bravo 3-0-25-2, P. Chawla 1-0-8-0.

ing du Plessis in the beginning of the third over. The South African sneaked one to Jonny Bairstow off the very first ball he faced for a golden duck. Curran was off to a bright start, smashing Ahmed for the first boundary of the match in the second over.

— PTI



Shane Watson of Chennai Super Kings en route to his 42 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. — BCCI

## 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	8	3	5	0	6	+0.009
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.390
Rajasthan Royals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.872
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

## Royals eye revenge against Delhi



Steve Smith brings a nice balance to us. He just bowled one over as he just got out of a lockdown and is just working back into things," Smith had said.

While Stokes will be an important cog in the RR wheel, the team will also have to fix their top order which has been short of runs in the last five matches, leaving too much for the lower-order to get.

Skipper Smith and Sanju Samson have failed to make any significant contribution with the bat since setting the Sharjah ground on fire in their first two matches.

Jos Buttler produced a superb 44-ball 70 against Mumbai Indians but didn't capitalise on the starts in the last two matches.

Delhi, on the other hand, were brought down by Mumbai in their last game and Shreyas Iyer's

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

- Overall: 21
- Rajasthan: 11
- Delhi: 10

## MEETING IN 2019

- Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 6 wickets in Jaipur.
- Delhi beat Rajasthan by 5 wickets at Delhi

## MEETING IN CURRENT EDITION

- Delhi beat Rajasthan by 46 runs at Sharjah.
- Steven Smith will become the 107th player to complete a double century of matches in Twenty20 cricket.
- Rishabh Pant, who has smashed 99 sixes in 60 innings, needs just one more to become the 21st batsman to complete a century of sixes in IPL.
- For the record

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- For the record

men will look to shrug off the odd defeat and get back to the top with a professional display. — PTI

## GAYLE HINTS AT PLAYING AGAINST RCB

**Dubai, Oct. 13:** Senior Kings XI Punjab batsman Chris Gayle has hinted that he may get his first IPL game of the season against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Thursday, having recovered from a bout of food poisoning.

"To all the fans out there, the wait is over. The Universe Boss is back. I know you all have been waiting for such a long time, the wait is over unless something dramatic happens to the Universe Boss again, which I hope not," Gayle said in the short video.

KXIP had earlier posted photos of Gayle returning to the nets on Monday.

"He is fine now and it is likely that he will be playing the game against RCB (on Thursday)," a team source said. — PTI

## It's time for Rahul to take a leaf out of Kohli's book



Hemant Kenkre

## Silly Point

Over the weekend, the Indian Premier League (IPL) highlighted the tale of two captains — Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul. For Kohli, winning the IPL is his last frontier as the glittering crown is the only one missing in his cupboard. He showed his intent, as a captain, in his last innings against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Dubai International Stadium. He was face to face with his predecessor (for India), Mahendra Singh Dhoni, and was well aware of the importance of the success of this match as he navigated his team, Royal Challenger Bangalore (RCB) to a win. Rahul, on the other hand, is in charge of a team that looks like one that's on a downhill race on the sand dunes of the Arabian desert with just one victory in the seven matches they have played so far, even as he continues to get runs.

RCB and victories are two words that, somehow, don't fit into the general thinking of the fan. From

2008, when the IPL kicked off, till the last season the team has flattered to deceive its fans with no silverware on their shelves. Kohli, the only member of the original side, has been judged, as a captain, more for his role in the (mis)fortunes of RCB than for India for the past eight seasons since he took on the leadership.

It just maybe that the match against CSK on Saturday could be a turning point in Kohli's tryst with IPL as the skipper of RCB. Till his unbeaten innings of 72 against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in RCB's fourth IPL fixture, he had not tasted the joy of scoring a fifty in eight innings — a rarity for someone considered one of the world's best in all formats of the game.

RCB and victories are two words that, somehow, don't fit into the general thinking of the fan. From

His 90-run knock against CSK came in trying circumstances, having lost compatriot AB de Villiers for a duck and was left with lesser known partners to build a competitive total.

What we saw was vintage Kohli who shrugged off all the rust accumulated with lack of match practice and emerged as the champion that we know.

Watching his 52-ball innings was like going through a master class of correct batting and the only typical Twenty20 (T20) shot he essayed, a falling sweep extracting maximum runs, came on the first ball of the last over, — the 47th he faced. It was almost like Kohli, the captain, had spoken with Kohli, the batsman.

At the half-way stage of

IPL, RCB is sitting pretty with eight points from six games (as one writes this) and are showing all indications of being a contender to qualify for the final stages of the league. The two teams that have a lot of soul searching to do as the matches progress, CSK and Kings XI Punjab (KXIP), are probably looking for some succour in the desert. They are left with wooden spoons, at this point in time, languishing at the bottom of the table with four and two points respectively.

Their current plight may be self-inflicted given the players they selected.

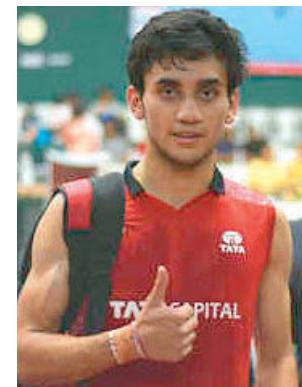
While CSK's problems are obvious, team KXIP's morale must have delved down further after losing a match they should have cantered home with. Like

in the case of RCB and it's skipper, KXIP now faces the same in reverse with Rahul under fire for lack of changing gears. It must be hurting Rahul to have the Orange Cap (for the highest aggregate scorer in the tournament) in his kitbag but not much points in the team kitty.

While Rahul is being criticised for his strike rate of 12.58 for his 74-runs off 58 balls, the real problem facing the team lies elsewhere. The main issue is their dependence of top three batsmen, including an informant Mayank Agarwal and Nicholas Pooran and no one in the middle to build further on a good start. The lack of power coming from the blade of Glenn Maxwell is hurting KXIP much more than Rahul's

## DENMARK OPEN | BADMINTON

## Lakshya off to winning start



**Odense, Oct. 13:** Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen made a successful return to competitive badminton, beating Christo Popov in straight games in the opening round of the \$750,000 Denmark Open, which marked the resumption of the international calendar after a coronavirus-forced break of seven months.

The 19-year-old Indian, who claimed five titles including two Super 100 tournaments last year, produced a clinical performance to outwit Popov 21-9 21-15 to reach the second round.

He will take on the winner of the match between Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus and Belgium's Maxime Moreels.

"I moved quite well, that was the key. In the second game he had a lead but I had made a few mistakes. I was able to cut down on them and find my rhythm," Lakshya, who is currently ranked world no.27, was quoted as saying by Badminton World Federation (BWF).

"I'm very happy to be playing again after seven months and it felt very normal on the court."

Lakshya looked in good