

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 4 OCTOBER 2020



**NATION | 7**  
**Tejashwi Yadav is CM  
face of grand alliance**



**SPORTS | 10**  
**Virat Kohli leads  
Bangalore to big win**

**TABLOID**  
**The new, trim  
Indian wedding**



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**WEATHER**

**Max:** 33.2°C  
**Min:** 24.3°C  
**RH:** 52%  
**Rainfall:** Nil

**Forecast:** Cloudy sky. Thundershowers likely. Max/Min temp. 33/24 °C

**COVID-19  
COUNT**

| CASES     | DEATHS   |
|-----------|----------|
| (+75,748) | (+939)   |
| 65,47,413 | 1,01,812 |

*covid19india.org*

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS**

| (+1,718)     | (+8)  |
|--------------|-------|
| TS: 1,97,327 | 1,153 |
| (+6,224)     | (+41) |
| AP: 7,13,014 | 5,941 |

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

3,50,37,210

**DEATHS**

10,35,993

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES **213**

*worldometers.info/coronavirus*

**ASTROGUIDE**

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula Vidiya till 7.27 am  
**Star:** Ashwini till 11.51 am  
**Variyam:** 7.21 am to 9.09 am  
10.41 pm to 12.29 am (Monday)  
**Durmuhurtam:** 4.24 pm to 5.12 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 4.30 pm to 6 pm  
**HUIJI CALENDAR**  
**Safar ul Muzaffar 16, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 5:07 am  
**Zohar:** 12:15 pm  
**Asar:** 4:23 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6:08 pm  
**Isha:** 7:17 pm  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.07 AM**  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.02 PM**  
**MOONSET 7.46 PM**  
**MOONRISE 7.03 AM**

**COUNTER POINT**

**BRIEF**

**Customs seizes gold worth ₹9cr**

**Hyderabad:** In what is one of the biggest seizures of contraband gold ever in the city, customs officials at the Shamshabad airport on Saturday seized 21 kg of gold valued at around ₹9 crore in the open market. It was learnt that the gold was seized from the cargo terminal area. Investigations were still on as to where the gold was brought from and its destination, though initial reports said the gold was flown in from a West Asian country and was to be shipped to Mumbai. No official word on the seizure or the details were available till late in the evening.

**Billions of bullion shifted by road**

**The Hague:** This really was the gold standard of road trips. The Netherlands' central bank transported its Dutch-based stock of gold — 14,000 bars and about 1,000 boxes of gold coins — from its headquarters in Amsterdam to a safe in the nearby city of Haarlem in a closely guarded operation that ended on Saturday, the bank said. Along with the bullion worth \$11.7 billion, the bank also shifted bills worth another \$5.3 billion in the operation that was led by the Royal Dutch Military Police. It was shifted about 20 km with a police helicopter hovering overhead.



An army convoy passes through the Atal Tunnel after its inauguration, on the Manali-Leh route on Saturday. — PTI

## Amid border tension, PM opens Atal tunnel in HP

**PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 3**

At a time of heightened tensions with China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the strategically important all-weather Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh, which connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley and will reduce the road distance to Leh by 46 km and travel time by four to five hours.

The Atal Tunnel, which is the world's longest highway tunnel, is part of government effort to improve connectivity to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) so that forces and ammunition reach the forward areas faster. The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas at an altitude

of 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) above sea level.

The 9.02 km long tunnel built by Border Roads Organisation can be used around the year. Earlier the valley was cut off for about six months each year owing to heavy snowfall. The tunnel reduces the road distance by 46 kms between Manali and Leh and the time by about 4 to 5 hours.

Launching an attack on the Congress, the Prime Minister said that country had seen a time when defence interests were compromised and cited the delay in buying modern fighter aircraft (Rafale) for the Air Force, the plan to put indigenous aircraft Tejas in cold storage, the lack of modern rifles for the armed forces, and not strengthening ordnance factories.

The Prime Minister said that the construction of the Atal tunnel was delayed once the Atal Behari Vajpayee government went out of power.

“Atalji laid the foundation stone of approach road of this tunnel in 2002. Once his government went out of power, this job was most likely forgotten. Till 2013-2014, progress was made only on 1.5 km. Experts say that if the pace of progress had continued at the same rate then the tunnel would have been completed by 2040. After 2014, the project progressed with unprecedented pace. Every problem which BRO faced was removed. Earlier 300 metres of the tunnel was being constructed but after 2014 it increased to 1,400 metre per year,” said Modi.

## SIT clears 25 cops linked to gangster

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3**

Twenty-five police officials, from the rank of constable to deputy superintendent of police, whose names had come up as possible associates of gangster Nayeem, do not face any charges whatsoever, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has said.

The SIT was set up to probe Nayeem's activities and complicity of police officials and politicians in the rackets run by him.

The information that not a single case has been registered on police officials whose names figured in the investigations was revealed in an RTI reply provided by the SIT to the Forum For Good Governance. The SIT has said in its reply that “no police officer is cited as accused in any case.”

Forum secretary M. Padmanabha Reddy, in a

● **THE SIT** was formed to probe Nayeem's activities and complicity of cops, politicians in his rackets

representation to Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday, said “though 25 police officers were said to have been associated with Nayeem and his criminal activities, no action has been taken against them.”

The Nayeem case, Padmanabha Reddy said, is not a “simple case of a gangster. It is a case of a deadly combination of police, politicians and the gangster coming together and committing atrocities on innocent people.” It is a case of grabbing of lands that belonged to the people and murdering those who resisted the group's activities, he said.

■ **Page 4: Governor urged to ensure CBI probe**

## Trump given experimental drug, flown to military hosp

**Washington, Oct. 3:** US President Donald Trump, who was shifted to a military hospital after being tested positive for Covid-19, is undergoing remdesivir therapy and is doing well, White House physician Dr Sean Conley said.

Trump, 74, was flown to Walter Reed Military Medical Centre in Bethesda, a Maryland suburb of Washington DC, on Friday. He wore a mask and walked up to the helicopter from the White House. He was administered supplemental oxygen at the White House hours after being diagnosed with Covid-19 and before being flown to the hospital.

Dr Conley said that as a precautionary measure the President had received a single eight-gram dose of an experimental drug, Regeneron's polyclonal antibody cocktail. He com-



US President Donald Trump gestures as he walks to Marine One prior to departure from White House on Friday. — AFP

pleted the infusion without incident.

“He is not requiring any supplemental oxygen, but in consultation with specialists we have elected to initiate remdesivir therapy. He has completed his first dose and is resting comfortably,” Dr Conley

said. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump, 50, were tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday. While the President was taken to the military hospital, the First Lady stayed back at the White House.

A person familiar with US President Donald Trump's Covid-19 illness said some of his vital signs over the past 24 hours were very concerning but they have improved since he was admitted to a military hospital.

It contradicted Trump's doctors, who said during a press conference Saturday that the President was doing very well and felt as though he could walk out of the hospital. They said he had not been on oxygen on Saturday or when he was with their medical team Friday, and that his symptoms were subsiding.

— Agencies

infection have led many people to shift to online video consultations. This has created a major impact on small medical establishments as for mild illnesses and follow-ups for co-morbid conditions like diabetes, hypertension and other conditions, there are video consultations which are safer and cheaper.

Dr C.R.K. Prasad, senior member of the Telangana Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association, says “Small hospitals were

■ **Page 4: Even small surgery needs big protocols**

Hospitals as sources of

## New GHMC Bill drops 2-kid norm

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3**

Chief Minister K. Chandrababhai Naidu is likely to call an Assembly session soon to introduce the New Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Bill, in which he intends to make changes to the existing GHMC Act.

The GHMC elections are due by February next.

Sources close to the government pointed out that the monsoon session of the Assembly, which was adjourned sine die due to the discovery of Covid-19 cases, had not yet been prorogued. This allows the government to reconvene the session to get the new legislation passed, instead of issuing an ordinance.

Sources said that crucial provisions under the new Bill are abolition of the clause which debars can-

didates having more than two children from contesting the elections.

This debarring is specified in Section 21(B) of the GHMC Act, and finds no mention in the draft of the new Bill which is under the scrutiny of the law department.

The new Bill contemplates a provision that reservation of wards will stretch to two consecutive terms, sources said. Under the draft Bill, the government also proposed the abolition of standing committees in the GHMC.

Sources said that stringent provisions of the New Municipalities Act of 2019, with regard to disqualification of elected members for not performing and disciplinary action against civic officials, will be incorporated in the proposed legislation.

## Gandhis meet Hathras victim's kin, to fight on

UP orders CBI probe, family wants judicial investigation

**SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 3**

In what could be their ‘Belchi’ moment, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday capped a day-long struggle by meeting the family of the 19-year old Dalit girl in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, who was allegedly gangraped and later died at Delhi's Safdurjung hospital. The victim was cremated without the family's permission on the night of her death.

In the morning, the UP police turned the Noida-Delhi border at the DND flyover into a virtual fortress. Hundreds of workers from the Congress' frontal organisations like Mahila Congress, around 35 MPs and top Congress leaders assembled at the border.

At around noon, Priyanka Gandhi drove her brother to the spot and an argument ensued with the police.

There were many skirmishes between Congress workers and police, followed by a mild lathi-charge.

Priyanka Gandhi was seen jumping in to save a Congress worker. The visual shared widely on social media by the party could haunt the Yogi Adityanath government and possibly the BJP.

There were comparisons of Saturday's visit with the 1977 visit of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on foot and on an elephant to Bihar's Belchi,



Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi meet the family members of a 19-year-old Dalit woman who died after being allegedly raped two weeks ago, at Bulgadi village in Hathras on Saturday. — PTI

the site of a Dalit massacre. The incident is largely credited with having brought Mrs Gandhi, who was out of power then, to the political forefront again.

At the DND flyover, the Gandhis were informed that they could proceed to Hathras in a small group. The Gandhis left along with senior leaders K.C. Venugopal, Mukul Wasnik and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary.

However, a cavalcade followed.

During the nearly 45-minute long meeting of the Gandhis with the family, Priyanka sat with the mother and aunts of the victim and consoled them while Rahul spoke with the brothers and the father.

Mr Gandhi asked the family whether they want-

ed a CBI probe to which the kin said they would prefer a judicial investigation instead.

Mr Gandhi said, “no power on earth” can stop the voice of this family. Later, on Twitter, he said the Uttar Pradesh government will not be able to have its way as the entire country has now risen for justice to “this daughter of the nation”.

Minutes after the Gandhis wrapped up their visit, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recommended a CBI probe into the incident.

Before that, Uttar Pradesh additional chief secretary (home) Awanish Awasthi and Director General of Police H.C. Awasthi met the family. The authorities also allowed the media to enter the village.

### VALMIKIS PROTEST POLICE ACTION IN HATHRAS

**Agra (UP), Oct. 3:** Scores of Valmiki community members who were protesting against the Hathras incident clashed with the police here on Saturday. The protesters pelted stones at the policemen and official vehicles.

Police was deployed at the clash site outside a municipal corporation office in Kothi Meena Bazaar area, officials said. Some visuals showed Valmiki members reached the municipal corporation office and pelted stones at the garbage collection vehicles at around 12 noon. — PTI



## TRS leader could be the comeback man

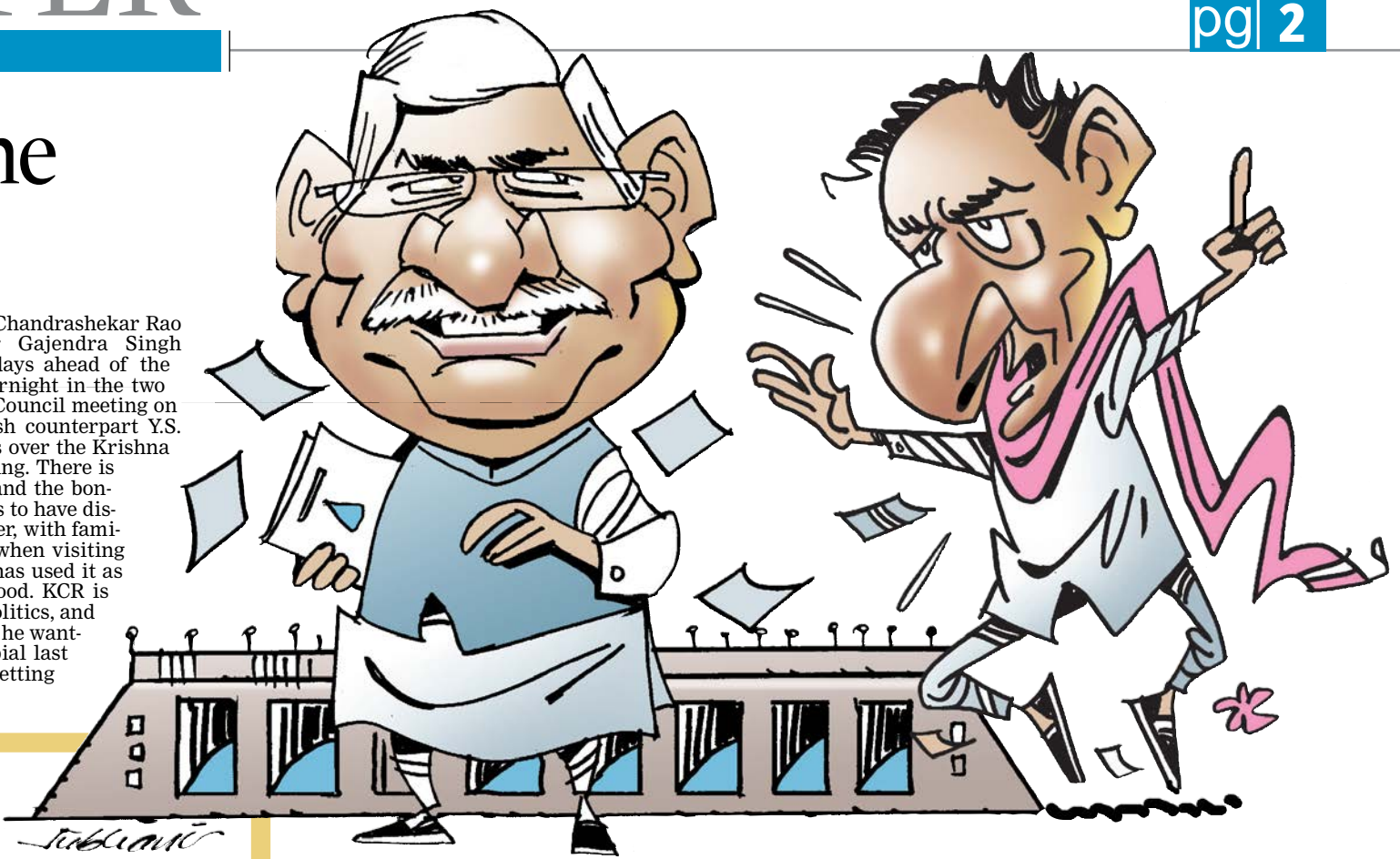
The sudden surfacing of a former deputy chief minister, who was putting in only occasional appearances after the 2018 Assembly elections, is being seen as significant in the TRS ranks. In the 2018 elections, he had sought the party ticket for his daughter but did not have his way. Now, for the election to the Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam graduates' constituency of the Legislative Council, the ruling party is in search of a strong candidate. Though the seat is in the kitty of the ruling party, TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao is keeping all options open: The party is wary after suffering defeat in the Karimnagar-Medak-Adilabad graduates' seat. In this context, the former deputy chief minister met the TRS working president and interacted with him for a while. TRS cadres feel that KTR may field the former deputy CM for the forthcoming poll. Confidants of the former deputy CM say that he has laid down a condition, that his daughter should get a ticket in the 2023 Assembly elections if the party wants to field him for the MLC poll.

## KCR keeps the water boiling

The six-page letter that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao wrote to Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday night, just three days ahead of the Apex Council meet, has built up curiosity overnight in the two Telugu states. The Centre has called the Apex Council meeting on October 6 where KCR and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will discuss their disputes over the Krishna and Godavari river waters, with Singh overseeing. There is wonder that things have come to such a pass and the bonhomie between the two Chief Ministers appears to have dissipated so quickly: They have had lunch together, with family in tow, and each received a warm welcome when visiting the other. Water is a sensitive issue, and KCR has used it as one of the main pillars in his fight for statehood. KCR is seen as a veteran in politics, especially water politics, and observers are trying to figure out what message he wanted to send by writing the letter at the proverbial last minute before the Apex Council meeting and setting out tough terms.

## KCR quickly rewards a prodigal

Senior bureaucrat V. Seshadri has created a record of sorts by getting a posting within a short period after coming to the Telangana state cadre from the Prime Minister's Office. Usually, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao takes his own sweet time to give postings to AIS officers coming back from Central deputation. The officers while their time away, waiting to catch the eye of the big man. But Seshadri was busy from day one after returning from Delhi, assisting the CM and the Chief Secretary in formulating the new Revenue Act. So impressed was he with the officer that KCR took him as his secretary in the Chief Minister's Office. Everyone knows of the integrity and efficiency of Seshadri and are of the view that the CM has made his intention clear to not allow any wrongdoing, knowingly or unknowingly, at least in departments to be allotted to this soft-spoken yet tough officer who is also a stickler for rules.



## Inside track of Jagan-Shah meeting

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent meeting with Union home minister Amit Shah has become a hot topic of debate in political circles. Contrary to public pronouncements that the CM had discussed many issues concerning the state, sources said his main agenda was to tell his side of the story in the ongoing tussle with the High Court. Also on the agenda was to explain to the No. 2 man at the Centre the insider trading of land in Amaravati and a few other issues concerning a powerful man in the judiciary. Grapevine has it that the CM made use of the services of an advocate, son of a former SC judge from the state, in building up his case. The advocate was called to the Shah-CM meeting but only for a brief moment. After documentary evidence collected against the powerful figure was handed over, the invitee had to leave. The curious moments continued even after Jagan left for Tirupati. The same evening, sources say, a YSRC parliamentarian who aspires to become No. 2 in the state hosted a dinner for his fellow MP from the state who had switched loyalties to the BJP and a young and a flamboyant leader from Rayalaseema who contested the last Lok Sabha polls on a TD ticket. The sad part is that while the young politician is having a gala time with ruling party leaders in Delhi, his close relatives are languishing in jail in cases which they alleged were foisted out of political vendetta.



## LEISURE

### BRIDGE | Susanna Gross

| Dealer North | Neither vulnerable |
|--------------|--------------------|
| ♠ A Q 4      | ♠ J 9 8 2          |
| ♥ A Q 10 7   | ♥ K J 5            |
| ♦ 2          | ♦ A K 7 5 3        |
| ♣ K Q J 9 8  | ♣ 4                |
| ♠ 10 7 6 5 3 | ♠ 9 6              |
| ♥ 9 6        | ♥ 10 9             |
| ♦ 10 9       | ♦ A 10 7 5         |
| ♣ A 10 7 5   | ♣ K                |
|              | ♥ 8 4 3 2          |
|              | ♦ Q J 8 6 4        |
|              | ♣ 6 3 2            |
| West         | North              |
|              | East               |
|              | South              |

The Alt Invitational is a prestigious online teams tournament held every fortnight or so, packed with world-class players. It's not easy to secure a place, but my friend Jonathan Harris managed it for the first time last week. Things didn't start well for his 11-strong team, and by Thursday morning, after four days of play, it seemed impossible they would qualify for the quarterfinals. As it happens, I spent Thursday afternoon playing rubber bridge with two of the team, Steve Root and Niall Igoe (with a client of ours who doesn't like playing online). As Steve and I travelled home in the same direction, he got an urgent text: they were through! He needed to be ready to play in 20 minutes.

The rest unfolded like a dream. Few expected Team Harris to beat the all-star Team Donner, but they made light work of it. The next day, they played the semis against the brilliant Peter Fredin and his team, and triumphed again. And in the final they met the mighty Team Zhao — and ended up champions. What a debut! Congratulations to the whole team, and particularly the four who played the final: Steve, Niall, Marusa Gold and Todor Tiholov. On this deal, Steve was North.

East led the ♠2, won in dummy. Steve did well to play a club to the ♠9, followed by the ♣K (East throwing a diamond). West won and returned a spade. Steve now ran the clubs, carefully watching East's discards. East came down to ♠J9 ♥KJ, ♦AK. He should have thrown a winning diamond and kept the ♥5, but that was hard to do. Steve cashed the ♥A, and played the ♥10 to East's ♥K. East cashed the ♦AK — but that was it for the defence.

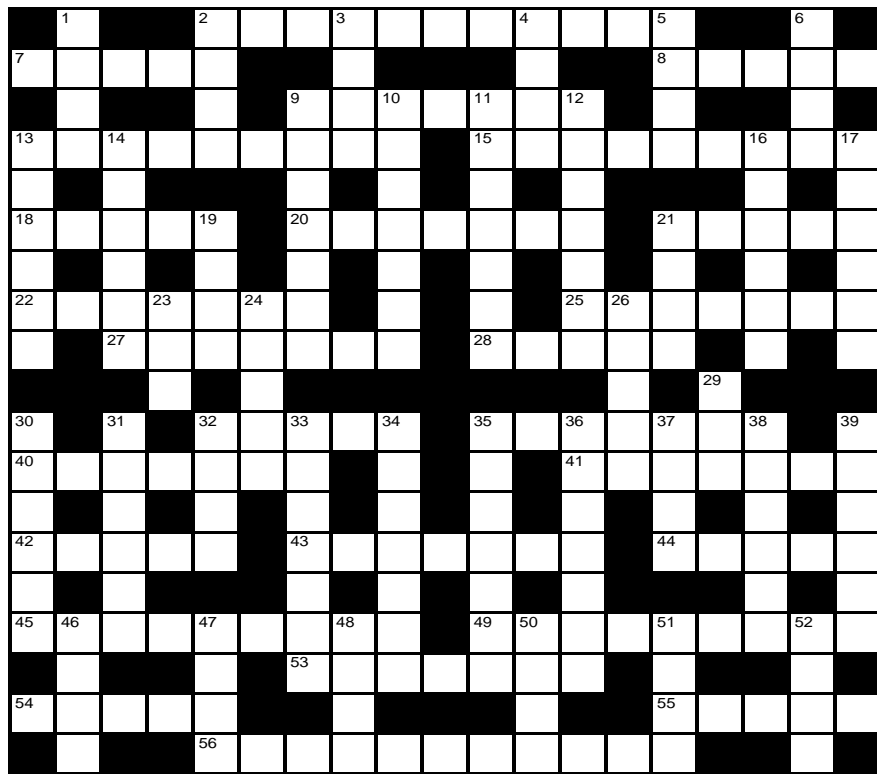
## SUNDAY CROSSWORD — 954

### ACROSS:

- 2 A light medium-dry sherry (11)
- 7 Trunk of a young fir tree (5)
- 8 Forbidden (5)
- 9 Got one's own back (colloq) (7)
- 13 Associated on very friendly terms (9)
- 15 Speak; utter (8)
- 18 Approaches (5)
- 20 Pertaining to curved courses of planets (7)
- 21 Customs; practice (5)
- 22 Combine with water (7)
- 25 Scheduled in sequence, informally speaking? (7)
- 27 Seats for monarchs (7)
- 28 Ancient language (5)
- 32 Staircase post (5)
- 35 Planned, plotted or concluded (7)
- 40 American state (7)
- 41 Deer horns (7)
- 42 Former Force India driver (5)
- 43 Reassemble (7)
- 44 Parasite (5)
- 45 Pull the shutters for the day? (5,4)
- 49 Doodled (3)
- 53 In the correct manner? (7)
- 54 \_\_\_ forth: begin or start a journey? (5)
- 55 Vegetables similar to onions (5)
- 56 Went faster or speeded up (11)

### DOWN:

- 1 Sandwich content (4)
- 2 Jason's vessel (4)
- 3 Part of a church — "Evan" changed? (4)
- 4 Right to hold another's property till debt is paid (4)
- 5 Ear-related (4)
- 6 Under \_\_\_: in the way? (4)
- 9 Belly (7)
- 10 Things fit to eat? (7)
- 11 Affectedly polite? (7)
- 12 Least bright? (7)
- 13 Largest of Japan's four main islands (6)
- 14 Peace Nobelist of '71 (6)
- 16 Modified (5)
- 17 Puts right (6)
- 19 Joust (4)
- 21 Atop or over (4)
- 23 Greek letter (3)
- 24 Tribal symbol (5)
- 26 Compare (5)
- 29 Come together (3)
- 30 Astronomical distance of 3.26 light years (6)



### SOLUTION FOR CROSSWORD - 952

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | A | R | O | R | E | C | R | I | B | S | O | F | F | E | R | S |
| O | L | A | S | A | G | N | A | E | L | A | U | E | B | I |   |   |
| L | E | S | A | G | N | A | E | L | A | U | E | B | I |   |   |   |
| E | N | V | A | C | A | T | I | N | G |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| T | H | A | R | B | H | A | J | A | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| R | A | A | B | A | J | A | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| O | U | T | S | P | O | K | E | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| W | I |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| C | O | N | T | E | S | T | A | R | S | O | N | I | S | T |   |   |
| D | N | I | P | E | M | P | A | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| R | E | T | C | H | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | S | B | E | T | W | O | L | O | P | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| C | O | U | R | T | I | E | R |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| H | E | T | E | W | T | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| M | O | D | I | S | H |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | N | G | S | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | G | E | N | T | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

### WIN A PRIZE

Here's your chance to win a cash prize of ₹200 each. All you need to do is rush in your completed crossword entry to us by Wednesday with your full name and address. Mark the envelope to:

Sunday Crossword-954  
Sunday Magazine, 36, S.D. Road, Secbad-03

### WINNERS OF CROSSWORD 952

M Nikhil  
Hyderabad  
S.D Toorkey  
Secunderabad

### CROSSWORD JIGSAW

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | E | G | L | E | R | S | E | L | E | N | E |
| A | A | A | O | R | T | A | L | L | S |   |   |
| O | N | W | A | R | D | E | R | O | D | E | S |
| L | I | A | N | E | P | A | L | E | A |   |   |
| I | L | I | A | O | L | D | A | R | M | Y |   |
| N | I | N | N | Y | E | A | R | S | I | S |   |
| M | G | E | T | A | W | A | Y | T |   |   |   |
| C | E | R | E | S | T | H | A | T | E | D |   |
| I | Y | A | R | R | E | V | N | E | R | O |   |
| T | I | T | V | I | D | E | O | N | E | C |   |
| I | R | O | N | E | D | R | A | T | T | L | E |
| E | O | E | G | E | S | T | E | N |   |   |   |
| S | E | N | A | R | Y | E | S | P | R | I | T |

### STRIKE OUT

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | U | R | C | A | T | E | N | O | D | D | Y |
| I | U | P | N | A | G | E | I |   |   |   |   |
| N | O | R | T | H | E | R |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | C | A | O | A | E | E | L |   |   |   |   |
| C | L | A | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| F | C | L | A | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| R | E | A | G | A | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| A | R |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| C | U | T | D | O | W | N |   |   |   |   |   |
| T | D | C | B | R | O | T |   |   |   |   |   |
| I | N | E | P | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| O | C | A | W | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| N | J | O | R | D |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| D | D | U | D | G | E | O | N |   |   |   |   |

Answer for last week's

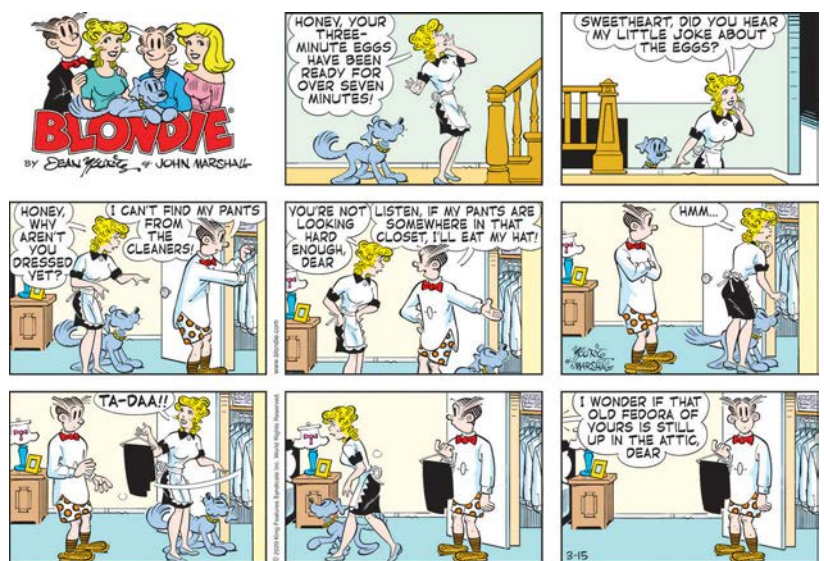
### PHANTOM



### GARFIELD



### BLONDIE





## SHORT TAKES



Lt. Gen. T.S.A. Narayanan,  
Commandant of Military  
College of EME.

## CORPS OF EME GETS NEW COL. COMMANDANT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

Lt. Gen. T.S.A. Narayanan, Commandant of Military College of EME, Secunderabad, took over as 69th Colonel Commandant of the Corps of EME. He laid a wreath at the EME war memorial, Secunderabad, to pay homage to the soldiers who laid down their life for the nation.

Lt. Gen. Narayanan, exhorting all ranks of the Corps of EME to uphold the values and highest traditions of the Army and pledged his support to them. In a career spanning 37 years, Lt. Gen. Narayanan, has held varied regimental, command, instructional and staff appointments.

As Commandant of MCEME, he has reviewed the training philosophy, paying way for establishing new norms for conduct of online training especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## FREE COACHING OPPORTUNITY FOR CS EXAMS

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The minorities welfare department has invited online applications from candidates for free coaching for the civil services examinations from Monday.

The department has been sponsoring 100 students belonging to the minority communities every year to avail coaching in reputed institutions. The department reserves 33.3 per cent seats for women.

Director, minorities welfare, Shah Nawaz Qasim said the candidates can submit online applications between October 5 and 15.

The screening test will be conducted on October 23 at the minority schools of the TS Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) at district headquarters. The result will be declared on October 28.

He said the test will consist of 100 objective type questions. Graduate students are eligible for coaching and their family income should not exceed ₹2 lakh per annum. Candidates can apply on the TMREIS website <http://tmreis.telangana.gov.in>.

## 20 Japanese firms at IIT-H job meet

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) hosted the third edition of Japan Day on Friday, co-organised by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). The event saw 20 Japanese companies from the IT services, deep tech, healthcare and marketing sectors among others interacting with 436 IIT-H students.

JETRO Director-

General Takashi Suzuki praised Indian talent, saying that it was of global standards and that it is important in the digital transformation and creation of new global business models.

Dr Pradeep Kumar Yemula, faculty-in-charge for the Office of Career Services at IIT-H, said: "For the previous academic year 2019-20 we had 10 Japanese companies participating in placements and providing 31 job offers in Japan to our students. This year we are targeting to double these figures to over 60 offers."

## 2 CRICKET BETTING RACKETS BUSTED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

On Saturday, the Cyberabad and Rachakonda police busted two cricket betting rackets, arrested five people and seized ₹9.04 lakh and assortment of mobile phones from them.

In the first case, Durga Ram Kumar and a punter, P Narender, were arrested by the Malkajgiri Special Operations Team (SOT) which seized ₹3.44 lakh

and three mobile phones from them. Ram Kumar was running the racket under the guidance of Dinesh, a bookie from Rajasthan.

The Shamshabad SOT on Friday evening Mahendra Kumar Soni of Ramkote, Rajesh Masnaji Surya Vamshi Siddiamer Bazaar, and Kuldeep Singh of Jummerat Bazaar and seized from them ₹5.6 lakh, five mobile phones, a calculator and two motorcycles. Three others are absconding.

## Back in limelight



Visitors enjoy the beauty of Chowmohalla palace which reopened on Saturday. The palace was closed down for about seven months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

— R. PAVAN

## Actors, technicians to face 20% income cut

Theatre Owners Association gears up to reopen cinema halls

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The Telugu movie industry which has been feeling the pinch with the prolonged Covid-19 shutdown that threw its finances into turmoil, has decided to cut the remuneration received by actors and technicians by 20 per cent.

The Movie Artists Association (MAA) and the Active Telugu Film Producers Guild on Saturday announced that both groups have agreed to the reduction on the pre-lockdown rates. The Guild said with many unknowns lying ahead, there was a need to resume work by taking decisions that will ensure that the Telugu movie industry can sustain itself till the situation normalises.

Though the government is opening up various sectors of the econ-

omy including movie theatres, questions remain on theatre occupancy, a zero foreign theatrical market, and decrease in revenue realization on account of the impact of Covid-19 on all sections of society.

"After fruitful discussions with the MAA, we have been able to arrive at an understanding that will set the tone and help us lift ourselves from the situation in the near future," the Guild said in its announcement.

It said that artists whose remuneration is ₹20,000 or less per day will not face any cuts.

With respect to technicians, those drawing more than ₹5 lakh per film will face the 20 per cent cut in remuneration on par with others.

Meanwhile, though the Centre has said that movie theatres can reopen from October 15, with the Telangana state government yet to give its go-ahead, the Telangana Theatre Owners Association (TTOA) on Saturday said its members were gearing up for the reopening.

"Like most industries, cinema and theatre industry suffered huge losses and single screen theatres accumulated losses of at least ₹2 lakh per month in the past seven months. We do not expect to immediately get into a profit-making mode once the theatres are reopened. What we hope for is to minimise the ongoing losses," Vijayender Reddy, TTOA secretary, said.

The association members met on Saturday to discuss the way forward, and the safety and security protocols to be followed, once the state government gives the go-ahead for reopening of the cinemas.

Theatre owners assured that every Covid-19 safety protocol will be followed and urged the state government to allow them to function at 50 per cent of their seating capacity as allowed by the Centre.

Balagovind Raj Tadla, who owns two theatres at RTC crossroads, told *Deccan Chronicle* that the government should balance between people's health and its economy. "The reopening of the theatres will lead to restarting employment for many. The OTT platforms are a threat to cinema theatres and the government's nod to reopen cinemas will help us," he said.

## 3 SEISMOGRAPHS INSTALLED IN BORABANDA

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The National Geophysical Research Institute has installed three seismographs in Borabanda to study the underground seismic activity which on Friday night sent tremors of fear among residents.

The seismographs were installed at Natco School, Saibababanagar community hall, and in NRR Puram.

Deputy Mayor Baba Fasiuddin on Saturday toured the area along with NGRI scientists and assured the residents that there was no threat from earthquakes. The residents were informed that the NGRI will study the causes for the sounds coming from the ground. Fasiuddin reminded that back in 2016 and 2017, similar sounds were heard from under the ground. There is no reason to be fearful, the Deputy Mayor urged the residents, assuring them that the phenomenon will be studied and answers found.

## 50 PLASMA DONORS FELICITATED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

Nearly 50 plasma donors, who are part of a group of 800 recovered Covid-19 patients marshalled by the Telangana Plasma Donors Association, were on Saturday felicitated for their role in helping other patients recover.

Addressing the "Thank You Plasma Angels" programme organised by the TPDA, which was started by Congress leader Gudur Narayana Reddy, a Covid-19 survivor, himself, Apollo Hospitals joint managing director Dr Sangita Reddy said the plasma donors reflected the spirit of humanity, which should be used to build a better world.

Sunshine Hospitals chairman A.V. Gurava Reddy said the efforts of plasma donors were laudable during the pandemic, and appreciated the TPDA's efforts in bringing them together. He cautioned people not to let their guard down and continue taking precautions to prevent the spread of the disease.

He said TPDA was started as the government did not come forward to take up plasma treatment. He said with plasma therapy considered one of the ways to treat Covid-19 patients, he decided to bring together plasma donors to help fellow human beings. He thanked all the donors who have come forward to donate plasma.

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## After 7 months, zoo to reopen on October 6

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The Nehru Zoological Park (NZP) is all set to re-open from October 6, seven months after it was closed down due to the lockdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the run up to its reopening, zoo authorities on Saturday said strict Covid-19 protocols will be in place and encouraged visitors to book their tickets online on the zoo website [www.nehruzoopark.in](http://www.nehruzoopark.in) beginning October 6.

NZP officials said that while most of the zoo would be open to visitors, closed exhibits, such as the nocturnal animal house, aquarium, fossil museum, and the natural history museum, will continue to be closed until further notice.

All visitors will have to wear face masks and undergo mandatory thermal screening. Anyone exhibiting fever or symptoms of cold will not be allowed into the zoo. Also, every visitor will have to step through a disinfectant section at the entrance.

Physical distancing will be enforced, the zoo authorities said, both at the ticket

counters and elsewhere. While people can bring their own picnic lunches, they can enjoy their meals or snacks at specific areas designated as eating places.

All public utilities such as drinking water points, toilets and ticket booking counters will be sanitised twice a day, zoo officials said. While visitors aged under 10 years and over 65 years have been advised not to visit the zoo as part of the standard Covid-19 safety protocols, battery-operated vehicles, popular with the elderly and children, will run at only 50 per cent of their normal occupancy.

However, a family can either book an entire vehicle on an exclusive basis or a family can occupy all the seats. Guesthouse booking is not allowed.

Visitors have been advised against touching barricades and other surfaces to minimise the chances of spread and contamination and move along designated pathways only.

Spitting in the zoo's premises is strictly prohibited and is punishable with a fine of ₹1,000 in accordance with Section 484 of GHMC Act. 1955, zoo authorities said.

## TS reports 1,718 new Covid cases

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

There were 1,718 new cases of Covid-19 and eight deaths due to the disease in the state on Friday, according to the health department bulletin issued on Saturday. The caseload stands at 1,97,327 cases and the toll at 1,153 deaths.

A total of 49,084 samples were taken for testing as against the average of 53,000 which was noted on weekdays. A total of 31,53,626 samples have been tested in Telangana state so far.

With further unlocking and people not being able to stay put at home, it has become extremely important to follow the protocols of masking

and physical distancing. There are many violations noted from time to time and the government authorities are continuously warning that basics of hand washing, cough etiquette and masks must be followed strictly.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) recorded 285 new Covid-19 positive

cases, Ranga Reddy district 129, Medchal-Malkajgiri 115, Karimnagar 105 and Nalgonda district recorded 103 new cases on Friday.

The cases in other districts are low that is because testing facilities are limited or there are mild cases which are being given home treatment.

## DO YOU OWN A PLOT IN UNAUTHORIZED LAYOUT?

### LAST & FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO REGULARIZE

## GREAT CHANCE TO REGULARIZE ALL UNAPPROVED LAYOUTS

The Government of Telangana announces Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS) in Rural and Urban areas for regularizing unauthorized Plots & Layouts.

**If not regularized under LRS scheme, the unauthorized Plot will not get the following approvals/facilities:**

- No Registration
- No Building Permission
- No Water Connection
- No Electricity

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

All existing unapproved sub-division of plots, existing unapproved layouts or ventures where

- The plots have been sold through a Registered Sale Deed
- Unauthorized layouts developed, provided at least 10% of plots are sold through Registered Deed
- Plots registered on or before 26.08.2020

**EASY TO APPLY:**

Applicant should file an online application or at mee-seva center in the prescribed format for regularization of the Plot/Layout before the competent authority by 15-10-2020 for all such Plots / Layouts, which are unapproved unauthorized and not covered under the prohibitory category.

**PROHIBITORY CATEGORY:**

Plots falling in Government lands / ULC surplus / Endowment / Waqf Lands and falling in FTL of tanks are not eligible for regularization.

**LAST DATE FOR REGULARIZATION:**

## OCTOBER 15, 2020

**APPLICATION FEES PAYABLE:**

**FOR INDIVIDUAL PLOTS:**

## RS.1,000/-

**ALONG WITH APPLICATION**

**FOR LAYOUT DEVELOPERS:**

## RS.10,000/-

**IF APPLIED FOR THE ENTIRE LAYOUT**

**ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS REGISTERED, THE ENTIRE REGULARIZATION CHARGES SHOULD BE PAID BY 31/01/2021**

**The applicants can file online application in a simple way through:**

- Common web portal
- Mee-Seva Center
- A smart phone based mobile app as developed for this purpose

**Details of the Scheme & Regularization Charges are available at:**

<http://lrs.telangana.gov.in/>

**Helpline Numbers:**

**For Clarifications call between 10 AM and 6 PM**

- For Plots in HMDA: 1800 - 4258838
- For Plots in GHMC: 040 - 2111 1111

**e-mail: [support-lrs@telangana.gov.in](mailto:support-lrs@telangana.gov.in)**

**Download LRS 2020 Mobile App from**

GET IT ON Google Play

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cgg.gov.in.lrs\\_2020](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cgg.gov.in.lrs_2020)

**Utilize this last & final opportunity - Get your plot regularized**



## SHORT TAKES

COPS BUST FLESH  
TRADE RACKET,  
COUPLE HELDSANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

A couple was arrested by the Rachakonda anti-human trafficking unit for pushing a Bangladeshi woman into prostitution, at Lecturers Colony in Hayatnagar on Friday. The organisers, the husband-wife duo of Uyyala Yadaiah and Chittamma, were apprehended. Police said one Imran from Bangladesh had brought a 26-year-old woman from the neighbouring country, promising her work as a domestic help in India. He handed her over to Rahul who led the victim to Hyderabad.

According to the police, Rahul forced the victim into prostitution. She was sent the house of Yadaiah and Chittamma, where the whole operation used to take place.

The police raided the house and rescued the woman. K. Chandra Shekhar, inspector of the anti-human trafficking unit, Rachakonda, and Hayatnagar inspector M. Surender conducted the joint operation.

NIZAMABAD ZILLA  
PARISHAD WINS  
DDUPSPNARENDER PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 3

The Nizamabad Zilla Parishad has won the Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP) for 2018-2019. The national award recognises the best-administered village panchayats. Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar presented the award online.

The award that carries a memento and a cash prize of ₹50 lakh was handed over to Nizamabad Zilla Parishad chairman Dadannagari Vittal Rao. After receiving the award, Vittal Rao met Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao in Hyderabad on Friday. The CM appreciated the achievement.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, zilla parishad chief executive officer Govind expressed joy on receiving the national award. He said, "We bagged the award due to the collective efforts of the elected representatives and the officials."

Nizamabad is the only district in Telangana state to be awarded the award.

EVEN SMALL  
SURGERY NEEDS  
BIG PROTOCOLS

From page 1

"Even the smallest of surgeries requires a list of protocols to be followed which, for small hospitals, are draining. In these times, it is not possible for them to continue and they are shutting down," Dr Prasad said.

Their patients are now being referred to medium and corporate hospitals for surgeries and follow-ups are carried out by their treating doctors.

The shift to online diagnosis, treatment and follow-up is not a temporary phase and many are of the opinion that it will continue in the future too. With patients able and willing to connect to their doctors from home, their costs of travel, waiting time and other risks are reduced. The only problem is that the cost of surgery will see a rise as there will be only medium and corporate hospitals services which will be too high for the lower middle class and the poor who frequented smaller hospitals.

Dr Sanjiv Singh Yadav, secretary of the Telangana Indian Medical Association, says "Emergency surgeries are the only ones which are happening as electives are reduced. For any elective surgery, the procedure is long and tedious and it has to now be planned ensuring that patient and healthcare workers are safe. This has reduced the numbers."

These changes in the health sector are unfolding with the unlocking and many of them see that the long term impact will make it difficult for small hospitals to re-establish themselves again.

● **DR SANJIV SINGH** Yadav, secretary of the Telangana Indian Medical Association, says "Emergency surgeries are the only ones which are happening as electives are reduced. For any elective surgery, the procedure is long and tedious and it has to now be planned ensuring that patient and healthcare workers are safe. This has reduced the numbers."

KCR says he resisted pressure  
to back 3 farm Bills in House

Sources said CM feels the legislations will benefit private players

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday told some of his ministers and legislators that the BJP government at the Centre had put a lot of pressure on him to support the contentious farm Bills passed in the Rajya Sabha recently but he had resisted it, sources said.

He was speaking informally with ministers and MLAs from Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy, Mahbubnagar, Warangal, Khammam and Hyderabad districts at

Pragathi Bhavan.

Sources said that the CM told them that despite the pressure he did not vote with the NDA as he felt that the legislations were detrimental to the farmers.

Sources said that Rao also told the ministers and MLAs that the BJP leadership had brought pressure on him to support the proposed Electricity Bill. The Bill will benefit private players to sell electricity to the state governments.

Sources said Rao had called the ministers and MLAs to get feedback on the New Revenue Act, proposed digitalisation

of property records, the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) which is facing opposition from the BJP, and the government's stand on the Electricity Bill.

He will be meeting with other leaders in the coming days.

The CM told the leaders to highlight the benefits of the New Revenue Act, the LRS and regularisation of sada binama (agreements written on plain paper) land transactions and convince them to cooperate with the government to bring a transparent and corruption-free revenue administration.

While referring to the elections to two Legislative Council graduate seats, Rao asked the leaders not to get confused by the propaganda of Opposition that graduates and unemployed are against the TRS.

He asked the leaders to take an active role in enrolling voters for the graduates elections and forward updates to the party office regularly, sources revealed.

Rao is said to have told them that since the launching of the TRS, the youth of the state have been with the TRS and they will continue to remain so. The Chief

Minister termed the BJP as a "bakvas party" that would never emerge as alternative to the TRS, sources added.

Rao said that the BJP was only interested in dethroning Opposition governments in the states, they don't show any interest in the welfare of the people, sources said.

The Chief Minister reportedly told the ministers and MLAs that internal surveys of the party showed that the TRS would win 104 divisions in the GHMC elections and the Dubbaka byelection with a large margin.

Kavitha as MLC  
poll nominee  
perks up TRSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti is trying hard to regain its footing in the erstwhile Nizamabad district. The candidature of former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha for the MLC local body polls has changed political dynamics in the district. The local TRS leadership has swung back into action on the ground. The party is also all set to welcome leaders from Opposition parties.

Though the victory of Kavitha is imminent in the MLC polls with the TRS having the backing of 505 of 824 voters from various local bodies in the

erstwhile Nizamabad district, party leaders are aiming to win the seat for her with an even bigger majority.

Among the remaining elected representatives, 140 are from the Congress, 84 from BJP, 28 from the MIM, a TRS ally, and another 66 are independents.

Since the day MLC elections were announced, over 100 mandal and zilla parishad

members and corporators belonging to Opposition parties in the district have joined the TRS in the presence of minister Prashant Reddy. With this, the strength of TRS among MLC voters has crossed 600.

Polling for MLC elections is scheduled on October 9. Counting of votes will be on October 12.

Ruling party cadres are asserting that Kavitha is sure to win with over two-thirds of majority in the MLC election. They feel her active presence in district politics thereafter will change political equations in the Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency. Party leaders are pointing out that even prior to her tenure as MP from Nizamabad, Kavitha had established herself well among the cadres in Nizamabad. She also has a strong support from women in the district.

TRS cadres feel her growing social media presence and work carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic will help her regain foothold in the district.

TRS takes bypoll  
voters to campsNARENDER  
PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 3

With the October 9 byelections to the Nizamabad MLC round the corner, the great bazaar of 'securing' the vote-bank is set to gather steam.

Shifting of voters to camps began on Saturday. TRS legislators initiated steps to shift voters to undisclosed places. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's daughter, former MP K. Kavitha, is a contestant and the ruling party leaders are taking utmost care to ensure her victory.

Bodhan MLA Shakil Amer arranged special buses to shift MPCTC, ZPTC members and municipal councillors. Interestingly, women voters accompanied their families on the tour. Nizamabad Rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan

also shifted voters to camps.

In the ensuing byelection, the 824 voters include MPCTC, ZPTC members, municipal councilors and corporators.

High-end accommodation, food and entertainment will be provided to the voters during the camp, TRS sources said.

Officially TRS has around 500 voters in undivided Nizamabad district, but elected representatives from Congress and BJP are to support Kavitha, whose voters' tally has crossed 600 on Saturday. The shifting of voters is in strict compliance with the Covid-19 protocol. The voters will reach their respective polling stations on October 9.

On the other hand, district administration in Nizamabad and Kamareddy is making arrangements for the polls.

28-YEAR-OLD MAN ARRESTED FOR  
ATTEMPT TO SNATCH GOLD CHAINBALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

A 28-year-old man, identified as G. Ravi Kumar of Yarpal, was arrested by the Neredmet police for attempting to snatch a gold chain, worth approximately ₹1.5 lakh, off a woman's neck.

According to the police, Kumar, who lost his job due to the Covid-19 lockdown, tried to earn quick money by borrowing from friends

and placing bets on the ongoing IPL cricket matches. He quickly ran up debts of ₹10 lakh, and was under pressure to repay the money.

With no cash, Kumar decided to try his hand at chain snatching. On Saturday, he followed a 52-year-old woman, identified by the police as R. Indira of Defence Colony in Neredmet, and snatched the gold chain she was wearing.

## POLICE TO TAKE UP SEARCH OPERATIONS


Hyderabad: Search operations will be taken up in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district as the movement of Maoists and their affiliated organisations was detected there and on the borders of Chhattisgarh, police said on Saturday. The police forces of Bhadradri-Kothagudem and Mulugu districts of Telangana state and Chhattisgarh would take up the search operations, a police release said. Three Maoists, including two women, were killed in an exchange of fire between the ultras and police in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district, bordering Chhattisgarh, on September 23. —PTI

TRS, BJP EYE  
ADILABAD RURAL  
ZPTC SEATPILLALAMARRI  
SRINIVAS | DC  
ADILABAD, OCT. 3

The TRS and BJP are eyeing the Adilabad Rural ZPTC (zilla parishad territorial committee) seat which fell vacant after the demise of vice-chairman Are Rajanna of the TRS recently due to Covid. The TRS had defeated the BJP in the race to the Adilabad ZP chairman post last year. Adilabad MP Soyam Bapurao of the BJP and TRS MLA Jogu Ramanna are visiting tribal areas in Adilabad Rural mandal, where the Adivasi population is high, to strengthen support for their parties.


Adilabad has 17 ZPTCs of which the TRS won nine, BJP five and Congress three. Rathod Janardhan of the TRS got 10 votes in the ZP chairman election, nine of the TRS and one of the Congress. His BJP rival Mesram Gangubai got seven votes, including two from the Congress.

...because I Live, you will live also. In 14-19




**Prabhudas Battula (Retd BHEL)**  
DOB: 28-11-1938 Promoted to Glory on 29-09-2020  
Cortege will start at Betheda Prayer House, Near MIDC Office, Mayur Nagar, R C Puram. On 4-10-2020 at 2:00 PM and Burial at LIG, R C Puram cemetery at 4:00 PM  
Inherited by: Tabitha Glory, Prashant (Daughter & Son in Law), Peter Samuel, Rekha (Son & Daughter in Law), Grand Children: Sharon, Priscilla & Sarah  
Contact: 9819407280, 7095197371

**SAD DEMISE**




**RASHEED HUSSAIN**  
DOD: 02-10-2020  
Your life was a blessing and will be missed forever.  
Wife: Sabiha Begum, Sons: Sadiq Hussain, Zahid Hussain, Rahmath Hussain, Daughters: Najma Begum, Nishat Begum  
Contact: 9885079880, 27505796  
(S/2021/D00673)

**10th DAY CEREMONY**



**JIJAVARAPU RAMESH**  
DOB: 17-01-1946 DOD: 24-09-2020  
We are performing 10th Day Ceremony today 04-10-2020 at our residence 10-1-613/B, East Marredpally, Sec-bad.  
Ph: 9296052454, 8885514522  
By Wife: VEENA VATHI, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grand Sons, Grand Daughters  
(S/2021/D00674)

**OBITUARY**




**ANDRE FERTNIG**  
With deepest sorrow we inform the sad and sudden demise of our friend Andre Fertnig on 3/10/2020. His gentle nature and smiling face is now a memory which we shall cherish. "May his soul rest in peace."  
Inserted by: Bank Colony Friends, Motilal Nehru Nagar, Begumpet

**13 DAY CEREMONY**




**CH. NARSIMHA MURTHY**  
DOB: 15.06.1932 - DOD: 23.09.2020  
Lunch Follows @ 12pm  
#47 MIGH VNC, behind Ganesh temple, Vijaynagar colony, Hyderabad  
Inserted by:- Wife: CH. Satyavathi, Sons: CH. Ramkrishna, CH. Venkateswarlu, CH. Ramchander Rao, CH. Durga Prasad Rao, Daughter-in-law: Sai Swaroopa, Daughters: Vijaya Nirmala W/o. Srinivas & Venkat Ramana

**75th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**




**T. RAMESH**  
04.10.1945 - 25.08.2010  
Reserve Bank of India, Bombay (Retd.)  
RUPALA : JEEVAN & SURENDER  
TATELU: RAJKUMAR, DAYANAND & CHANDU  
P.J. SURI, VINCENT  
Ph: 040-27532744, 9849431998  
(CA-3429)

**13 DAY CEREMONY**




**CH. NARSIMHA MURTHY**  
DOB: 15.06.1932 - DOD: 23.09.2020  
Lunch Follows @ 12pm  
#47 MIGH Vijaynagar colony.  
Inserted by:- Wife, Sons, Daughter-in-law & Daughters.  
Ph: 9849333394

**SHRADHANJALI**




**HARSHAD M. SHAH**  
Expired on 03.10.2020  
May his soul rest in peace  
**SHAH PARIWAR**  
(M) : 9848216400

**IN LOVING MEMORY**  
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Ps 23:6



**SAGADAM SHANTI KUMAR**  
Retd. A.C.T.O.  
His love, laughter & affection will be missed forever.  
DOB: 31-03-1949 DOD: 09-08-2020  
Inserted by Wife: Vijayalaxmi Mettu Children and Grand Children

**3rd Death Anniversary**  
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever -Psalm 23:6



**Shri. M. ARJUNA RAO**  
Retd. Sr. Accounts officer  
Postal & Audit Accounts  
Inserted by: Family Members

**4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Romans 6:23



**JOSE PAUL (KICHU)**  
Dear Kichu  
Our ray of sunshine came and went. A beautiful treasure only lent, In God's keeping quietly sleeps. This child we loved but could not keep. Miss you, Parents and only Brother  
**P.A. Paul, Karuna Paul, Arun Paul and Late Murphy**

**REMEMBERING 31st DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF**  
"The memory of the just is blessed." Prov. 10:7



**Mrs. KOMMU NAVANEETHAM**  
W/o Mr. Akula Thomas George  
Inserted by: Children & Grand Children  
9949950133



## SHORT TAKES

MAN'S BODY  
FOUND AFTER 3  
DAYS IN RIVULETDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 3

The body of one Sarath Kumar Reddy, who was washed away three days ago in the Kamalapuram Pageru rivulet, was found on Saturday.

Sharath was going on a motorcycle with his wife Ishwarya to Pedda Cheppali in Kamalapuram mandal when the vehicle was washed away by the Pageru rivulet which was flooded with rainwater. Ishwarya was rescued by locals but Sarath was washed away. Fire and police were searching for him since then.

7 FROM CBI TEAM  
TEST POSITIVE  
FOR COVID-19NAGESWARA RAO  
BALLEDA I DC  
KADAPA, OCT. 3

Out of the 15 members of a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team, seven have reported Covid-19 positive. For the past 15 days, the team has been investigating the death of former minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

The team has been staying at the Kadapa Central Prison guest house and interrogating suspects. On Tuesday, two officers fell ill and underwent a Covid test. One of them was diagnosed positive. The rest of the team then underwent tests of whom six reported positive. Following this, the investigation has been put on hold.

CM JAGAN'S  
FATHER-IN-LAW  
PASSES AWAYDC CORRESPONDENT  
KADAPA, OCT. 3

Eminent pediatrician Dr E.C. Gangi Reddy, the father-in-law of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, passed away in Hyderabad early on Saturday. The last rites were performed in his native Pulivendula where his body was taken by about 1 pm.

Dr Reddy, father of Y.S. Bharati, was undergoing treatment at a superspecialty hospital at Hyderabad.

The CM arrived at Pulivendula from Vijayawada by 1.40 pm and paid floral tributes to Gangi Reddy along with his wife and family members. Later, he joined the funeral procession. After the funeral, the Chief Minister left for Vijayawada via Kadapa.

RINL SUPPLIES  
8,500 MT STEEL  
FOR ATAL TUNNELDC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 3

RINL-Vizag Steel said it had supplied a major share of TMT requirements, approximately 8,500 MT of Vizag Steel TMT bars, for the Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

The 9.02-km tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley, ensuring connectivity throughout the year. The valley was earlier cut-off for about six months every year by heavy snowfall.

The tunnel reduces the road distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km and the travel time by about five hours. Chairman and Managing Director P.K. Rath congratulated RINL for the achievement. RINL has the highest share amongst all steel suppliers in the TMT section, he said.

8 kids among 11 fall sick  
after eating sweets in EG

Trader from Rekapalem booked for selling food items without licence

VADREVU SRINIVAS I DC  
KAKINADA, OCT. 3

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has booked a case against T. Ramachandra, a trader from Rekapalem, on charges of selling food items without having a licence and seized 100 grams of sweetmeats (teepi gavvalu) from him. Eleven persons, including eight children, had consumed the sweets at Pulusumamidi in Vara Rajapuram mandal of East Godavari and fell ill, said FSSAI assistant controller B. Srinivas.

Food inspector Kalyana Chakravarthi inspected the shop and seized the sweetmeats. Samples would be sent to an accredited food lab at Jawahar Lal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada. Action will be taken after getting the reports.

Chakravarthi in his report said the trader was selling sweetmeats and other eatables along with books and groceries. He had no trade or food licence. Chakravarthi said that a meeting was held in VR Puram with traders to create awareness among on food laws and securing licences.

All the children and adults were discharged from the hospital after

Open special food stores  
for tribals, say activistsDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 3

The food poisoning incident in East Godavari revealed the availability of cheap and low-quality food items, including groceries and others in agency areas.

People in the agency areas are forced to buy these items because of their low income and non-availability of quality food stuffs at affordable prices. The main villages and shandy markets have small kiosks selling low-quality food items.

"The Guthi Koya community are mostly illiterate and financially backward and they can't

their recovery, said tahsildar Sridhar. Dr A. Chaitanya, medical officer at the primary health centre in Rekapalli, said that when three girls were admitted with vomiting; they said they had consumed rosogullas.

Dr Chaitanya said the others, suffering from the same symptoms, were brought to the PHC and given treatment but a five-year-old was admit-

● **THE PEOPLE** of Chinturu suffering from swollen legs due to adulterated food items. Cheap edible oil leads to health problems among the tribal people.

afford to buy branded food items," said VR Puram sub-inspector B. Venkatesh.

Social activists suggested that the government open special stores in agencies for provision of quality food at reasonable prices. "There are some Girijan Cooperative stores in some of the areas. The government should extend those stores or set

up special stores to sell essential commodities, including food items, to the tribal people at subsidised rates," said Rights Watch (Andhra Pradesh) president Balu Akkisa.

The people of Chinturu suffering from swollen legs due to adulterated food items. Cheap edible oil leads to health problems among the tribal people. Akkisa said that there were more products, available in the agency area, which are procured by the tribal people and the government should take steps to provide reasonably priced food items to them.

complaint, after getting lab test reports, then a case is registered.

Deputy Chief Minister Alla Kalikrishna Srinivas, the health minister, inquired about the condition of the children and instructed collector D. Muralidhar Reddy to provide them good medical treatment. He said that steps should be taken so that such incidents are not repeated.

TTD launches site  
to solve virus woesDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 3

The Telugu Desam has started a website, www.apfightscorona.com, to gather information on the people's problems due to Covid-19 and seek to resolve them.

TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu said that though Unlock 4.0 has begun, the number of Covid-19 cases in AP continues to increase rapidly. He said that TD wants to ensure that no AP citizen suffers from the ill-effects of the virus and had started the website to raise problems on the platform.

The public who lost work opportunities, need medicines and who require ambulance services may look up and seek help from this website, said Naidu, claiming that the need for this forum was felt even more because of the failure of the government in resolving the grievances

TS BISCUIT MAKER  
IN TROUBLE AS 3  
MINORS DIEDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 3

Allagadda police are awaiting the Forensic Science Lab (FSL) report on the death of a boy and two girls, who died allegedly after eating 'Rose Mango' biscuits. The food inspector, who sent samples for analysis, has submitted a report that the biscuits did not contain any harmful substances.

Three children in the 6-8 years age-group fell ill after eating biscuits at Chinthakommadinne village in Allagadda mandal on September 13. Within a few minutes, Hussain Basha (6) died before he could be shifted to a local hospital and his sister Hussain Bee (4) died the next day at Kurnool government general hospital.

The third one succumbed on Wednesday while she was undergoing treatment.

The biscuits, the alleged cause of death, are manufactured by Veeramani Industries located in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana state, said Allagadda DSP Pothu Raju.

## AP RECORDS 6,224 NEW COVID CASES

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN I DC  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 3

Andhra Pradesh has registered 6,224 new Coronavirus cases, raising the overall tally to 7,13,014, apart from 41 deaths of infected patients during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 5,941.

State health authorities, in their Covid-19 bulletin issued here on Saturday, reported that out of 72,861 samples tested, 6,224 individuals have been found to be infected with Coronavirus. Out of a total number of 60,21,395 samples tested so far in the state, 6,51,791 patients have been discharged after recovery, while

● **AMONG DAILY** new Covid-19 positive cases, West Godavari has topped with the highest number of 890 cases.

55,282 patients are undergoing medical treatment at various hospitals.

Among daily new Covid-19 positive cases, West Godavari has topped with the highest number of 890 cases, followed by 827 in Chittoor; 824 in East Godavari, 619 in Prakasam, 558 in Nellore, 491 each in Guntur and Kadapa, 392 in Krishna, 282 in Anantapur, 225 each in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Kurnool, and 175 in Srikakulam.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**MUSI RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
"e" Procurement Notice No: 27/SE/MRDCKL/2020-21, Dated: 03.10.2020.  
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for one (1) work with an estimated cost of Rs.195.00 Lakhs. (1) Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place portal <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>, 05.10.2020 from 3.00 PM onwards. (2) The last date and time of receipt of bids on or before 12.10.2020 up to 3.00 PM. (3) Technical Bid Opening 12.10.2020 at 3.30 PM. (4) Price Bid Opening 12.10.2020 at 4.00 pm. (5) Further details can be seen at e-procurement marketplace i.e., "www.tender.telangana.gov.in".  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, MRDCL, Hyderabad  
R.O.No: 965-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

**Karimnagar Smart City Corporation Limited**  
**Karimnagar, Telangana**  
KSCCL intends to call EOI for the following projects under Smart Cities Mission and the details shall be available at [www.karimnagarcorporation.telangana.gov.in](http://www.karimnagarcorporation.telangana.gov.in)  
(i) Designing, Setting up, Operating & Maintaining of all Components Involved in Intelligent Traffic Management system at various locations in Karimnagar under Smart City Mission.  
Eoi No. 32/KSCCL/2020-21  
S. No Description Date  
1 Detailed Eoi doc, Download Start date 05.10.2020, 12 PM  
2 Last date for submission 19.10.2020, 5 PM  
R.O No: 5622-PP/CL/Advt/1/2020-21 Sd/- Managing Director, KSCCL

**Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation**  
NT No. Date Name of the Work Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs Start Date & Time Date of Receipt of Bids Name & Address of EE  
22/DB/EE/Awal Circle/GHMC Laying of CC Road, SW drain, Precast Slabs in Awad Circle-27, GHMC 74.20 08.10.2020 04:00 PM 12.10.2020 04:30 PM Executive Engineer, Awad Circle-27, GHMC  
Further details can be seen at e-Procurement @ [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in).  
R.O No: 5629-PP/CL/Advt/1/2020-21 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Awad Circle-27, GHMC

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT**  
"e-Procurement Tender Notice"  
Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) State Roads, CRIN/NT No.257/HB/DCE/R/DEE-4/AEE-2/2020 Dt.01.10.2020  
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for one Bridge work in Mahabubnagar District (3rd call) under Plan (MDR) Scheme in (R&B) Department vide NT No. 257/HB/DCE/R/DEE-4/AEE-2/2020, Dt.01.10.2020. Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place i.e., <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 05.10.2020 at 3.00PM onwards. The last date of tenders is on or before 20.10.2020 up to 3.30PM. Further details can be seen at e-procurement marketplace i.e., <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>.  
Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) State Roads&CRN  
DIPR No.556-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

**National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency**  
(Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India)  
5th Floor, 15-NBCC Tower, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110065  
Advertisement No. - NRIDA/NQM/01/2020  
Empanelment of National Quality Monitors (NQMs) for inspection of Road and Bridge Projects under PMGSY  
National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), under Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), provides technical and managerial support to States and UTs for implementing the Programme.  
NRIDA proposes to empanel senior civil engineers, retired from Central/ State Government Departments/ Organisations, Public sector undertakings (PSUs) and serving/ retired faculty members of Government engineering colleges/IITs/NITs/Government research institutes, etc. who have worked/ consulted in the field of roads/ bridges construction, to work as National Quality Monitors (NQMs). The NQMs shall be required to carry out field inspection of roads and bridge projects spread over 2-3 districts in a State, in a span of 10-12 days in a month.  
The details of eligibility and selection criteria, application format, guidelines for inspection, honorarium and travelling allowances admissible to NQMs etc. may be seen at [www.pmgys.nic.in](http://www.pmgys.nic.in) under advertisement/circular tab, in vacancies section.  
The application shall be sent only through e-mail on [NQMSELECTION2@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NQMSELECTION2@GMAIL.COM). Interested candidates should send their fully recommended application, complete with all documents in one consolidated pdf file (not more than 10 MB size) in the prescribed format so as to reach by 31st October 2020, the last date of application.  
Davp 35104/11/0003/2021

## Knock down



GVMC staff demolishes a portion of the house belonging to former MP Sabbam Hari at Seethammadhara in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. According to GVMC official a huge portion of Public Park was occupied while constructing the house earlier.

— P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

3 firms sign project deal  
for Machilipatnam portN. VAMSI SRINIVAS I DC  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 3

In a significant development, major corporates Megha, Ramky and Navayuga have signed a tripartite agreement on the Machilipatnam port.

Representatives of the three companies signed the agreement on Friday and decided to pursue the project. Sources in know of the development confirmed to *Deccan Chronicle* that the agreement was signed and Megha would have a controlling stake while Navayuga would have a 26 per cent share.

The development comes after Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy recently directed the infrastruc-

ture department to float tenders under the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode for the port which has been in limbo for almost two decades. The YSRC government had cancelled the concession agreement with Navayuga on the Machilipatnam port as the company had failed to take up construction since 2008. Navayuga challenged the government's decision in the AP High Court, which allowed the state government to float fresh tenders but put a condition that the final award should be done subject to the outcome of its verdict.

Following the tripartite agreement, the consortium will have two

options, one being that the consortium will propose to the state government to revive the concession agreement with Navayuga and allow the consortium to take up construction at the earliest. The second option would be that Navayuga would withdraw the case, paying way to the government to float the EPC tenders and the consortium would bag the contract.

"Navayuga retaining 26 per cent indicates that the consortium would attempt the first option of reviving the concession agreement, according to which the original concessionaire should hold a minimum stake of 26 per cent during the construction period," sources pointed out.

CENTRE VOWS  
SUPPORT ON  
BALAJI RESERVOIRAVINASH P.  
SUBRAMANYAM I DC  
TIRUPATI, OCT. 3

Union minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that the Centre will extend support and assistance in the construction of the Balaji reservoir to meet the drinking water needs of the ever-increasing number of pilgrims in Tirumala.

Paying a visit to the Papavanasanam dam in Tirumala along with irrigation minister P. Anil Kumar, Shekhawat had darshan of Lord Venkateswara at the Tirumala temple, where he was accorded a warm welcome by TTD chairperson Y.V. Subba Reddy and additional executive officer A.V. Dharma Reddy upon his arrival.

TTD SE-II Nageswara Rao and EE, water works Srihari updated Shekhawat on the current status of all five projects in Tirumala and the need for the Balaji reservoir to meet the water needs of pilgrims. They brought to Shekhawat's notice that the water being drawn from major sources like Papavanasanam, Kumaradhara, Pasupudhara, Akasaganga and Gogarbhram was not sufficient.

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
Track Machine Unit  
E-TENDER NOTICE No: TMC/LTM/OT/2020-21/02  
Dated: 01.10.2020  
OPEN TENDER NOTICE  
Principal Chief Engineer invites the e-tender for supply of Spares as under:  
S.No.1. Tender No. TMC/LTM/OT/2020-21/02: Item: Supply of two varieties of pumps for Harsco make TRT; Quantity: 2 Varieties; Date of Opening: 23.10.2020  
S.No.2. Tender No. TMC/LTM/OT/2020-21/02: Item: Supply of Digital Ultrasonic testing equipment for welded rail joints; Quantity: 04 Numbers; Date of Opening: 23.10.2020  
S.No.3. Tender No. SR/HQTM/CAMC 01/2020-21/2021: Item: AMC for the supply of spares for CUMMINS make engines of Track Machines for the years 2020-21 & 2021-22; Quantity: Set of spares; Date of Opening: 23.10.2020  
S.No.4. Tender No. SR/HQTM/CAMC 02/2020-21/2021: Item: AMC for the supply of spares for DEUTZ make engines of BCM Machines for the years 2020-21 & 2021-22; Quantity: Set of spares; Date of Opening: 23.10.2020  
Conditions for Bidders: 1. The above tenders for the procurement of Spares for Large Track Machines are uploaded on IREPS website, i.e., [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with opening date on 23.10.2020 at 15:00 hours. Firms who decide to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain Class-III digital certificates (if not already obtained) from certified agencies authorized under Government of India IT Act 2000, whose addresses are available on the website [www.cca.gov.in](http://www.cca.gov.in). Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted. 2. Rates to be quoted with corresponding HSN code and applicable percentage of GST. 3. Payment of Earnest money deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available on the website.  
Deputy Chief Engineer, Track Machines, Royapuram, Chennai  
for and on behalf of the President of India  
Follow us on [twitter.com/GMSRailway](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
CHENNAI - 600 023  
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES  
No. E-09/2020  
Firms are requested to login to <https://www.ireps.gov.in> → login → E.Tender → goods & services (new) and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Closing time for all tenders 14:30 hours.  
Sl. No. Tender No. Description Due date  
1 GEM/2020/806629 GOODS TRANSPORT SERVICE 05.10.20  
2 01205001 AUTOMATIC AXLE BOX TEMPERATURE 12.10.20  
3 44200015 STRIKER CASTING WEAR PLATE 14.10.20  
4 GEM/2020/804867 HIRING OF SANITATION SERVICE 14.10.20  
5 04200956A BALL JOINT TRACTION LEVER 15.10.20  
6 04200957A BALL JOINT ROLL LINK 15.10.20  
7 04200997A HIGH TENSILE TIGHT LOCK CBC 15.10.20  
8 44200488 LOCKING PLATE FOR CARTRIDGE BEARING 15.10.20  
9 44200605A DOORWAY CROSS BAR PRESSING ASSEMBLY 15.10.20  
10 04200529A BATTERY BOX 16.10.20  
11 04200980A UNDER SLUNG WATER TANK 16.10.20  
12 04200961 YAW DAMPER 19.10.20  
13 11200574A BRUSH LESS DC RLY CARRIAGE FAN 400MM 20.10.20  
14 26205018 SMOOTHING REACTOR TYPE SL-30 TO CLW 20.10.20  
15 21200846A 660 MM LENGTH AIR BRAKE HOSE COUPLING 21.10.20  
16 26202697 SUB KIT POH-2A (UNCOMMON ITEMS) 21.10.20  
17 44200237 KNUCKLE PIVOT PIN WITH WASHER 21.10.20  
18 44201055A DISTRIBUTOR VALVE 21.10.20  
19 04200944A CONTROL ARM UPPER 22.10.20  
20 04200960 AXLE BOX PIVOT BUSH 22.10.20  
21 04200968A SECONDARY SPRING OUTER 22.10.20  
22 04201166A N2 BOARD FOR WSP SYSTEM 22.10.20  
23 04201175A CPU BOARD FOR WSP SYSTEM 22.10.20  
24 26201167 BLOWER MOTOR COMPLETE WITHOUT 22.10.20  
25 44200507 KIT FOR CONSTANT CONTACT POLYURETHANE 22.10.20  
26 01200144 ACETYLENE GAS DISSOLVED IN CYLINDERS 26.10.20  
27 15201005 AC SHUNT SIGNAL (LED) WITH INBUILT 27.10.20  
Principal Chief Materials Manager  
Follow us on [twitter.com/GMSRailway](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)

## Krishna sharing tops council agenda

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI I DC  
KURNOOL, OCT. 3

Sharing of Krishna river waters, a contentious issue between Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh, would be on top of the agenda during the Apex Council meeting on October 6, the second since September 16, 2016, under the provisions of AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. Telangana state is objecting to the Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme (RLIS) that takes waters to Nellore through Rayalaseema from the Pothreddypadu head regulator. It has a carrying capacity of 44,000 cusecs and the AP government floated tenders for the proj-

ect and finalised packages at a cost of ₹23,000 crore.

Affirming the stand taken by AP, the Centre has said at the National Green Tribunal hearings that the RLIS does not require a fresh environmental clearance as it was not a new project and does not involve any addition in culturable command area.

The Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change has also said that the RLIS was neither an irrigation project nor was a power-generation component involved. Therefore, it does not require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) notification.

Irrigation engineers are preparing arguments for

presentation before the Council. Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) of Andhra Pradesh government Narayana Reddy said, "our arguments are sound and we will put up a bright show at the meeting." Narayana Reddy told *Deccan Chronicle*, "technically we have a robust argument and our engineers are fine-tuning it. Telangana state's objections are rebuttable and lack solid ground."

On Telangana state Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao seeking management of the Srisailem dam that falls in Andhra Pradesh, he said "We cannot speak on political statements. That dem-

and itself shows that they have no arguable ground on the projects being taken up by us on using the Krishna river waters"

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in a letter dated August 7, had asked the Chief Ministers of both states not to go ahead with projects on Krishna and Godavari rivers, which are being objected to.

The seven projects objected to by Andhra Pradesh include Kaleshwaram, Godavari lift irrigation scheme phase 3, Seetarama, Tupakulagudem, Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project, barges on the Lower Penganga river, and the Ramappa Lake to Pakhal Lake diversion.



DECCAN  
Chronicle

4 OCTOBER 2020



Shreya Sen-Handley

Off the beaten track

## A Kolkata 'Kumroween' &amp; other Covid sacrifices

I could murder a malpoa right now. And that potoler dolma I've been drooling over in my dreams, the shorshe illish that dance in my peripheral vision, disappearing like chimera (or Nemo) when I look them in the eye. Some nights I wake in a chom chom sweat, and dig around my kitchen cupboards to find my dalmut hoard sadly depleted. Nor can Tesco's mango chutney fill the yawning achaar-shaped chasm in my gut. And when I think of mishti doi — oh boi. I melt into a puddle of yearning. My dwindling pile of panchphoron too, in its steel tiffin box, is not to be sneezed at (what will I have left then?).

It's been more than a year since we last travelled to Kolkata, the city of my birth, of my parents and oldest friends, of the spices, sweets, books and great memories I bring back yearly, and our stocks are all but gone. Cold turkey they call this sudden, enforced withdrawal, but it's kosha mangsho for me. As merry as our Sherwood curry may be, there are jhaals, jhols and ombols that can't be concocted outside Bengal. Not without an infusion of its tangy winter smog, monsoon winds that roll from the Bay, and Rabindrasangeet saturating the air no matter what the weather. Sniff as hard I might, I can smell none of this now.

Sure sign of Covid you say, but these notun gurer cravings and maacher muthia longings are symptoms of homesickness instead. Evading the former has unfortunately required the renunciation of the akash, batash, and barir ranna of Kolkata this year. Abetted by inept, often unfeeling governments, the Coronavirus has harvested death and deprivation everywhere. In Bengal alone so far there are a staggering 216,000 cases, and nearly 5,000 deaths, with Kolkata accounting for 70 per cent of it.

But just for a moment, shall we dwell on the lesser tragedies? Like the suspension of flights to Kolkata from much of Britain and the hijacking of my annual trip home. Since moving to Britain two decades ago, I have returned home for the harvest every year. Of a very different crop usually; the diurnal glide of crisp blue skies and mellow sun, long addas over favourite foods, slow, smoky evenings with family and friends, and pilgrimages to fondly remembered haunts. Including the biggest and brightest of festivals.

This pandemic has put paid to even that. It has hijacked not just my homecoming but mighty Durga's too. Kolkata's Durga Puja is an extravaganza so massive, so magnificent, so, er, mingly, it can only be a shadow of itself this socially-distanced year. The ocean of humanity that swamps the resplendent pandals and eye-popping illuminations won't be welcoming the Mother Goddess with their customary rapture this year, because they will, hopefully, stay home to prevent further dissemination of the killer virus. Which is as it should be. But because it is indeed the high point of the year for many and in these dismal times, a tonic for the soul, some puja organisers have been exploring alternatives, from virtual pujas to portable ones. Bearing the Devi round in a bedecked palanquin in Jodhpur Park, for people to see from the safety of their homes, is one such I gather. As if Corona Devi, flexing her spiky muscles to demonstrate her might, instructed the good folks of Kolkata — "Koro na!" But Kolkata peeps replied (cching Durga), "OK tata, but y' know? Ashche bochor abar hobe!"

The high point of our trip back however is quite another tradition. Timing it so the bulk of our visit is post-puja; quiet and contemplative after the fervour and din, we finish every trip with the tiny, homegrown celebration we've come to know as 'Kumroween'. It all started with October being the best time for us to visit India, but the kids didn't want to miss the trick or treating of an English Halloween. So we devised our own little fusion festival, a best-of-both-worlds hybrid that was all treats and no trick, incorporating an array of Bengali delicacies and bonhomie, with fancy dress, eerie party balloons and trim (on which we had fun scrawling a scary range of faces), and the pièce de résistance - a glowing Jack o' Lantern carved from an almost invariably misshapen kumro. Thus 'Kumroween', an invariably misshapen but always entertaining tradition was born. Over the years, patched together Gupis and Baghas have rubbed shoulders with Professor Lupin and Harry Potter, a cobbled Captain Hook has sung along with affable, unthreatening crocs, whilst pleasantly plump skeletons tucked into kochuri, aloor dom, and goja. Most of all, it has given us the opportunity to gather our family and friends round, to say hello, thank you, and au revoir, so quickly do our fortnights in Kolkata fly. Two splendid weeks of breaking bread, or indeed luchi, with family, catchup addas with friends lasting half the day, and storytime and play for our children with their beloved but rarely-seen Dida and Dadu, coalescing one last time on spooky, sparkling, slightly sad Kumroween night.

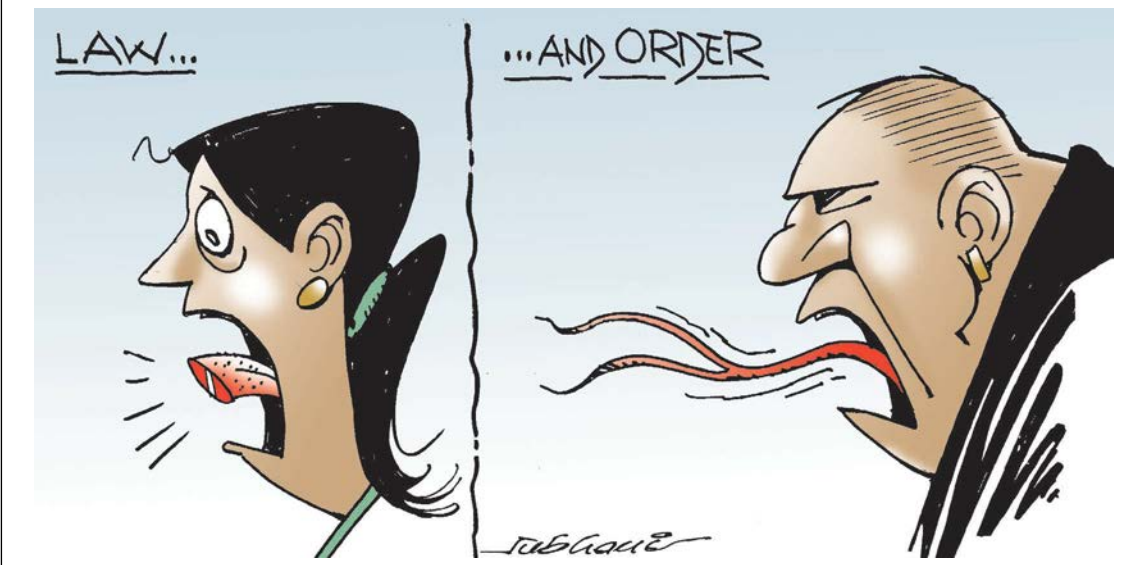
There can be no Kumroween this year. No festivities of any sort for us in Kolkata. In fact, no trip at all. Just sadness and long distance anxiety as every day brings the names and images of people we once knew, or knew of, who have succumbed to the marauding bug. With more to come. But malpoa, madugga, Mababa, and my mother city; you are on my mind. And if it is OK tata for this year, horn please, because ashche bochor abar hobe.

*Shreya Sen-Handley is the author of the recently published Strange: Stories, the award-winning Memoirs of My Body, and a forthcoming book of travel misadventures. Her Twitter and Insta handle is @shreyasenan.*



The writer's children celebrate Halloween in Kolkata.  
— STEPHEN HANDLEY

Subhani



## Napping media awakes, puts Yogi on the spot



Pavan K. Varna

Chanakya's View

The horrific Hathras rape outrage raises some deeply disturbing questions. First and foremost, is the role of the UP government and police. Why was the victim's body taken away forcibly from her home and cremated against her family's will in the dead of night? The family wanted to perform the last rites in the morning and then cremate her. But her parents and brothers were locked in their house.

Quite apart from the legal propriety of cremating the body when another autopsy was clearly warranted, there is a shocking insensitivity to this episode. The family of the young Dalit girl was in trauma. They had just lost a daughter to one of the most brutal rape incidents seen in recent times. To take away the dead body against the family's will, lock up family members, and forcibly carry out the cremation at 2:30 am, shows an unpardonable callousness to basic human emotions.

Why was the UP sarkar in such a tearing hurry? Quite clearly, there must be a reason. If it thought that with her cremation the matter may quickly die a natural death, the outcome was just the opposite. Thanks to the media, most of them brave young women, the entire nation was sickened by the pitiless, cruel and high-handed behaviour of the police. The visuals of the mother wailing at not being able to even see the face of her dead daughter were appalling.

The UP government seemed to have only one priority, which was to

claim that the girl was not gangraped. The state police cited the report of the Forensic Science Lab in Agra, which apparently said that no trace of semen was found. Surely, the police would know that the absence of semen is no proof that rape did not take place. Moreover, as against the forensic report, there is the dying declaration of the girl herself where she says that she was raped. Is this not proof enough? In the light of the victim's confirmation of rape, why was the body not subjected to a fresh examination by a panel that would include a senior gynaecologist? Was this the reason why the body was cremated in such unseemly haste?

There is also the visual of the district magistrate of Hathras obviously trying to intimidate the victim's family. The media will go away in a day or two, he can be heard telling the family; only the police will remain, so it would be better if you change your statement. This raises the question of why the UP police want to whitewash this gruesome incident. Who is UP chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, trying to protect? Is there a caste angle to this dastardly crime, which has something to do with the fact

**Why was the UP sarkar in such a tearing hurry? Quite clearly, there must be a reason. If it thought that with her cremation the matter may quickly die a natural death, the outcome was just the opposite.**

**Who is the Yogi trying to protect? Is there a caste angle to this dastardly crime, which has something to do with the fact that the four accused are allegedly of the dominant Thakur caste, the same caste as the UP CM?**

that the four accused who have been arrested are allegedly of the dominant Thakur caste, which is the same caste as the UP CM?

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), nearly 10 Dalit women are raped every day, with UP recording the largest number, 14.7 per cent of India's total. No doubt, UP is the most populous state in the country, but the fact remains that even nationwide — again as per NCRB data — crimes against Dalits have increased by 47 per cent in the period between 2014 and 2018. The rivalry between the BJP and the Congress has triggered a "competitive rape politics" where a rape in Rajasthan — a Congress ruled state — is being compared to the Hathras incident. This is deeply shameful. Both incidents were heinous and gruesome. But Yogi Adityanath, who dresses in saffron and calls himself a Yogi, must answer for the condemnable manner in which his administration and police acted in Hathras. Even now the victim's family is being barricaded by the police, their phones are being illegally tapped, and journalists or politicians of Opposition parties are not being allowed to meet them freely. Why?

The brutal Nirbhaya rape led to national outrage because it happened in the capital of the Republic. But the Nirbhaya of Hathras was not that fortunate. She was fatally assaulted on September 14, and — as per her own state-

ment — raped, her neck broken and her tongue cut. But national media hardly took any real notice of this shocking incident, until her death on September 29. On electronic media we were presented frenzied accounts of which actresses allegedly smoked hash, Rhea Chakraborty's bail application, and Kangana Ranaut's verbal tantrums. If the media had paused from its breathless chase of Bollywood actresses and focused on this case, perhaps the victim would have got better medical attention, and her life could have been saved.

The minimum that should be done now is to immediately suspend the Hathras DM. The Superintendent of Police (SP) has been suspended. The accused should be tried through a fast-track court in a time bound manner, and if found guilty, hanged like the Nirbhaya perpetrators. There is a demand that an investigation into the rape and murder should be entrusted to the CBI. But, a "caged parrot" may not be the solution. What this case needs is a time bound inquiry by a Supreme Court designated judge, which must also fix responsibility for the highly suspect role played by the UP government and the police. It would be good if the UP CM is asked a few questions, not only by his political opponents, but in a judicial process.

*The writer, an author, is a former diplomat and in politics*

**What this case needs is a time bound inquiry by a Supreme Court designated judge, which must also fix responsibility for the highly suspect role played by the UP government and the police**

## LETTERS

## WILL INDIA FORGET?

The government and administration believe that by suspending a few cops, the media and the weak Opposition could be easily diverted to another issue to protect culprits (*Amid protests on Hathras, 4 cops suspended, DC, Oct. 3*). The whole country knows that the DM and SDM wrote this script to defeat Babu on his 151st birth anniversary as his killer's soul waits to be a national icon.

**Naresh Sohanraj**  
Secunderabad

Stopping Rahul, Priyanka and the media from meeting the family of the Hathras rape victim and burning the body of victim late at night reminds us of suppression against whoever raises their voice against injustice. Suspension of cops is only an eyewash. If the state government is sincere, the home minister should quit, taking responsibility for the police action.

**T. Kailash Ditya**  
Hyderabad

## CITY DRAINAGE

The GHMC taking up big-budget work to cover open drains is just not enough. It is silent about nalas which are unprotected. When there are heavy rains the roads are flooded, with water from these nalas endangering people. I suggest that these drains have a minimum of 3.5-foot-high walls constructed all along on both sides to prevent inundation of roads and low-lying areas. This is mandatory for the city and has been ignored all these years.

**K. Nagendra Rao**  
Hyderabad

## CHEATING JUDICIARY

Many lawyers and litigants are misleading courts and fraudulently getting orders by filing false affidavits, suppressing truth by taking advantage of legal loopholes (*Dammalapati kin cheats APHC, DC, Oct. 2*). If justice is done by awarding marks, based on question/answer, attending hearings and imposing huge fine and jail for cheating judiciary, many false cases can be reduced.

**John Samuel**  
Secunderabad

## Foundation laid for fertilizer project

BY M.P. Rabindranath  
"Chronicle" staff reporter

HYDERABAD, October 3  
A giant step that would transform Andhra Pradesh's agrarian economy into one of the modern economy was witnessed yesterday as the Union Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals, Dr. Triguna Sen laid the foundation for the Ramagundam Fertilizer Project.

The banks of Godavari — the site of the project-presented a glittering sight with thousands of people pouring in to witness the realisation of the Rs. 71 crore project that would in course of time change the face of Karimnagar district — may be even Telangana and its impoverished masses.

The project when commissioned will save the country annually Rs. 36 crores in foreign exchange by reduction of fertilizer imports and Rs. 120 crores by replacement of imported foodgrains.

50 YEARS AGO IN  
DECCAN  
Chronicle

## Hope alive for those shown the door in BJP reshuffle

## Great expectations

The BJP organisational reshuffle has not disappointed anyone. It seems all those shown the door are hoping for "better" options. The party's former vice-president, Vinay Sahasrabudhde, is said to be angling for a Union Cabinet berth. Mr Sahasrabudhde is currently head of ICCR, enjoying a Cabinet rank. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would accommodate him as the country's education minister. Another axed vice-president, Prabhat Jha, is hoping to get a gubernatorial assignment. Ram Madhav, who was a party general secretary and a player in the north-eastern states and Jammu & Kashmir, is aspiring to head the party in his home state Andhra Pradesh.

## Swamy's allegation

Subramanian Swamy filing yet another complaint against Congress president Sonia Gandhi for allegedly giving "wrong"

information on her educational qualification is not news. In a letter addressed to the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Mr Swamy observed, "In our country, the educational qualification is highly valued and obtained after much effort. Hence our culture has given such high value to educational qualifications." Mr Swamy's focus on obtaining a higher educational qualification is being viewed with a lot of interest. Some cynics wonder why Mr Swamy, an astute politician, currently unhappy with the BJP leadership for its failure to "discipline" in-house Swamy-baiter Amit Malviya, has written this. Mr Malviya heads the BJP IT cell and weeks before the BJP organisational reshuffle, Mr Swamy had boasted that Mr Malviya would be removed. Nothing happened.

The controversy around Sonia's educational qualification was first raked up in 1999 when the Congress president reportedly attributed her English language course obtained in Cambridge to the University of Cambridge. Sonia had apologised, pointing that it was a "typing mistake".



By WAQYANAWIS

## Man of many bosses

He has been described as an 'eighth wonder' of the world. Uttar Pradesh's senior bureaucrat Navneet Sahgal has a knack of bouncing back. The former principal secretary to chief minister Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav, has now become head of the information and public relations department under

chief minister Yogi Adityanath after the Hathras gangrape outrage. Yogi, struggling to counter adverse media coverage, had no choice but to think of Mr Sahgal as his Man Friday. Mr Sahgal also holds the distinction of serving as personal secretary to Union minister Akhilesh Das who had belonged to the Congress during Manmohan Singh era. In a state where bureaucrats get marked over their alleged political affiliation, Mr Sahgal, currently additional chief secretary, is proving to be an exception. Exceptional.

## Midnight 'news' alerts

Journalists covering the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) are both intrigued and annoyed for getting WhatsApp messages on almost a daily basis post-midnight. The message, attributing information to a prominent LJP leader, makes sensational claims such as LJP walking out of NDA or fighting all Bihar Assembly seats independently. While it disturbs the sleep of many scribes, mornings usher in business as usual within the NDA.

## Abandoned Kamal Nath

All is not well between former Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath and senior party leader Digvijaya Singh. At one point when the Congress was in power for 15 months from December 2018 to March 2020, the Nath-Diggy jodi was a *bada bhai-chhota bhai* pair. But now that crucial Assembly by-polls have been announced in 28 seats, Digvijaya is not to be seen.

Kamal Nath, at 72, is fighting a lone and grim battle to regain a foothold in MP politics. Chances of dislodging Shivraj Singh Chouhan regime are slim as the BJP needs to win barely one third of the seats going to polls while the Congress would need almost all of them: the 20 out of 28 seats for Congress is seen as a figure that would rattle everyone in the BJP from Bhopal to New Delhi. The Nov. 10 verdict is keenly awaited when results of these bypolls would be declared along with the Bihar Assembly outcome.

*The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power*



SHORT TAKES

### RJD MP MOVES SC AGAINST NEW FARM LAWS

New Delhi, Oct. 3: RJD MP Manoj Jha has moved the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the newly enacted three agriculture laws, saying they are “discriminatory and manifestly arbitrary” and will expose marginal farmers to exploitation by big corporates.

Parliament has recently passed the three Bills - the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020. These have come into effect from September 27 after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent.

Jha, a Rajya Sabha member of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), has filed the plea in the top court through lawyer Fauzia Shakil.

Besides Jha, Congress Lok Sabha member from Kerala TN Prathapan and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Rajya Sabha member from Tamil Nadu Tiruchi Siva had moved the top court against the farm laws.

### BSP ANNOUNCES 2ND LIST OF 10 CANDIDATES

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 3

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday announced its second list of 10 candidates for the November 3 by elections in 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

Former minister Mahendra Singh Boudh who has recently joined BSP after resigning from Congress has figured in the second list of candidates of the party and has been given ticket for the Bhandar (SC) Assembly seat.

The BSP has earlier announced the first list of eight candidates for the assembly by-polls.

“BSP has decided to field candidates in all the 28 Assembly seats that are going to by-elections in MP on November 3. The party will go alone in the ensuing assembly by-elections”, state party president Ramakant Pippal said.

### KERALA RECORDS OVER 7,000 CORONA CASES

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT. 3

Kerala on Saturday recorded 7,834 cases of Covid-19 taking the total number of cases so far to 21,333 even as 4,476 persons recovered from disease during the last 24 hours.

Of the total cases, 1,39,620 patients have recovered and 80,818 are under treatment in various hospitals across the state. Of the fresh cases, 6,850 contracted the infection through contact, the source of infection among 648 is yet to be known, 95 health care workers got infected, 49 came from abroad while 187 from other states.

The state also reported 22 more deaths taking the official death toll to 813.

### COVID RECOVERIES SURGE TO 54,27,706

New Delhi, Oct. 3: India's Covid-19 death toll crossed one lakh and the infection tally climbed to 64,73,544, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 54 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 83.84 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 64,73,544 with 79,476 new infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,00,842 with the virus claiming 1,069 lives in a span of 24 hours, data updated at 8 am showed.

The total recoveries have surged to 54,27,706, while there are 9,44,996 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 14.60 per cent of the total caseload, the data showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate was recorded at 1.56 per cent.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28.

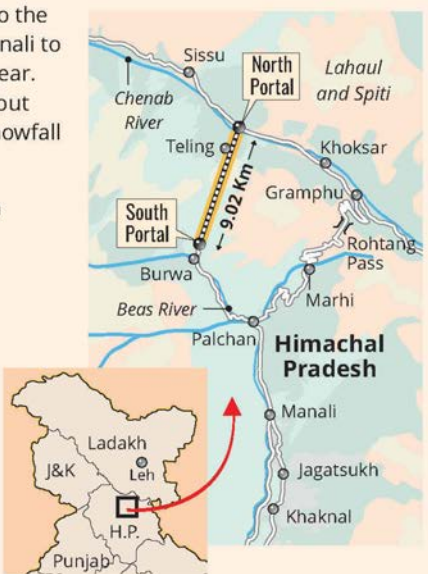
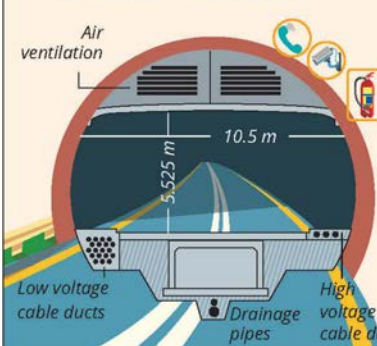
### Atal Tunnel Inaugurated by PM Modi

The 9.02 km long tunnel, dedicated to the nation on Oct 3, 2020, will connect Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.

Earlier the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall

#### Key Facts

- The project was announced by the then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in June 2000
- Built by Border Roads Organisation at a cost of ₹ 3,200 crore, it is the world's longest highway tunnel
- It reduces the road distance by 46 km between Manali and Leh and the time by about four to five hours
- Constructed with ultra-modern specifications at an altitude of 3000 metres from the Mean Sea Level
- Single tube double lane tunnel with a roadway of 8 metres and an overhead clearance of 5.525 metres



- It is 10.5-metre wide and has a 3.6 x 2.25 metres fire-proof emergency egress tunnel built into the main tunnel itself
- Designed for traffic density of 3000 cars and 1,500 trucks per day with max speed of 80 km/hr
- The tunnel has ample safety features built into it, which include telephone connections, fire hydrant mechanisms and auto incident detection system with CCTV cameras

KBK Infographics

## Dream of Atal's friend comes true after opening of tunnel

Tholang (HP), Oct. 3: The decades-long dream of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's friend, Arjun Gopal, came true on Saturday with the inauguration of Atal Tunnel at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh.

Amar Singh and Ram Dev, sons of Arjun Gopal alias Tshidawa, said their father had suggested the construction of the tunnel to the former prime minister.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the strategically important all-weather Atal Tunnel, which reduces the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km and the travel time by four to five hours.

Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world, and the 9.02 km long tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. The valley was earlier cut off for about six months every year due to heavy snowfall.

The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur

● **AMAR SINGH** and **Ram Dev**, sons of Arjun Gopal alias Tshidawa, said their father had suggested the construction of the tunnel to the former prime minister.

had earlier said, Vajpayee got the idea for constructing the tunnel on a suggestion from his friend Arjun Gopal of Tashi Dohbe village in Lahaul.

Talking to PTI in their native village Tholang in Lahaul-Spiti district, Amar Singh (75) said his father met Vajpayee in 1998 in Delhi, seeking the construction of the strategically significant tunnel beneath Rohtang Pass for the benefit of the residents of Lahaul-Spiti district.

My father passed away in 2008. Today, his decades-long dream came true and my joy knows no bound, he said.

Singh, who retired as state deputy director (education), said the former prime minister and his father came close during an officers' training camp (OTC) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in 1942 in Gujarat's Vadodara.

When Vajpayee became the prime minister in 1998, my father met him

through a prominent RSS activist Chaman Lal, he said.

Singh said Lahaul-Spiti-Pangi Janjaati Sewa Samiti' was formed with Gopal as its founder president to pursue the construction of the tunnel.

He said Vajpayee sent copies of the memorandum submitted to him for construction of the tunnel to defence, finance and surface transport ministries.

Following initial objection by the defence ministry, the Union government gave its approval for constructing the tunnel in 2000, Singh claimed, adding that Vajpayee himself announced about the project during a public meeting at Keylong in June, 2000.

Gopal's other son, Ram Dev (61), a retired officer of the state information department, said the economy of Lahaul-Spiti district would see a drastic change after the opening of the tunnel. He also travelled in a Himachal Road Transport Corporation bus which was flagged off by Modi from north portal in Lahaul to south portal in Manali of Kullu district. Residents of the tribal district also hailed the construction of the tunnel. — PTI

### TEJASHWI YADAV IS CM FACE OF GRAND ALLIANCE

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, OCT. 3

The opposition Mahagathbandhan in Bihar on Saturday announced seat-sharing formula for the upcoming assembly elections amid high drama.

Congress in-charge for Bihar assembly elections Avinash Pandey announced Tejashwi Yadav as the CM face of the grand alliance.

As per the seat-sharing formula in the opposition coalition, the RJD will be contesting on 144 seats, the Congress 70 and Left parties 29 seats. “Two smaller partners JMM and Vikasheel Insan Party (VIP) will be getting seats from the RJD quota”, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said while making a formal announcement in Patna on Saturday.

Upset over being ignored by the grand alliance leaders, VIP Chief Mukesh Sahani walked out of the event and hinted that he may quit the opposition coalition.

Mukesh Sahani had joined the RJD-led grand alliance just before the Lok Sabha polls in 2019 and he was expecting “sizeable seat share” to contest in the assembly elections.

Reports suggest that he also wanted the grand alliance to declare him as a deputy CM candidate.

“I will announce my next move after meeting party leaders. I feel cheated”, VIP Chief Mukesh Sahani said.

The grand alliance in Bihar comprises RJD, Congress, VIP and three left parties (CPI-ML, CPI and CPM).

Two of RJD's prominent allies Jitan Ram Manjhi and Upendra Kushwaha had earlier left the grand alliance due to differences over leadership and seat-sharing pact.

Political analysts claim that Manjhi's exit was a jolt for Tejashwi Yadav who has been trying to strengthen his party's structure and voter's base in Bihar in the absence of his father.

### BIHAR BSP PRESIDENT QUILTS PARTY

Patna, Oct. 3: The BSP of Mayawati which is part of a three-party alliance headed by Upendra Kushwaha of RLSP for Bihar polls, suffered a setback on Saturday when its state unit president Bharat Bind quit and joined RJD.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav gave membership of the party to the BSP leader.

Yadav released a picture admitting Bind into the party on his twitter and also the party's social media platform.

Yadav, the younger son of RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, wrote on his twitter handle that the Bahujan Samaj Party Bihar president joined them to lend support in making a new Bihar and remove anti-youth NDA.

After being spurned by the NDA and discarded by the RJD-helmed Mahagathbandhan, Kushwaha has forged an alliance with the BSP and a non-descript Janatantrik Party (Socialist) for the Bihar elections. — PTI

## MP gangrape victim ends life

### Cops had not registered victim's FIR

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 3

An alleged gangrape victim in a Madhya Pradesh village committed suicide over non-registration of FIR in the case by police.

The 33-year-old woman, who was allegedly gangraped in her village of Gotgoria under Narasinghapur district on September 28, was found hanging in her house on Friday, police said on Saturday.

Her husband said she took the extreme step when police refused to file an FIR in the case, besides harassing her relatives for asking to register an FIR in the incident.

Two police officers were arrested for not registering a case in the incident.

In-charge of Gotgoria police outpost Misrilal Koddape and in-charge of Chacheli police station Anil Singh were arrested for lapses in registering the case. They were booked under section 166-A (non-recording of information) of Indian Penal Code.

Besides, three other people were arrested on charges of rape and two others arrested for instigating suicide (of the victim), Narasinghpur district superintendent of police Ajey Singh said.

The deceased's husband told the police that his wife was gangraped by three local villagers, Parsu, Arvind and Anil, when she was cutting standing crops in a farm land on September 28.

She narrated the incident to the family members when she returned home. Later, the family members took her to the Gotgoria police outpost to lodge a complaint on the night of the fateful day.

Gotgoria police, however, said an FIR would be registered after her medical examination.

However, the complaint was not registered by Gotgoria police on September 29 also.

They then approached Chichli police station to lodge the complaint.

Later, instead of registering the case, the deceased's husband and her brother-in-law were locked up in the police station, her husband said.

The harassment by the police provoked her to end life, he added.

## Didi: BJP is the biggest pandemic of the country

Kolkata, Oct. 3: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Saturday took out a protest rally in the city against the Hathras alleged gangrape case and launched a scathing attack against the BJP, which is in power in Uttar Pradesh, calling it the “biggest pandemic” torturing Dalits the most and running a “dictatorship” in the country.

Banerjee said she would stand by the Dalit community till the end as her caste is “humanity” and she does not believe in differentiation on the grounds of caste and religion.

● **THE WEST BENGAL** Chief Minister said she would stand by the Dalit community till the end as her caste is “humanity” and she does not believe in differentiation on the grounds of caste and religion.

darkness, but we will lead them towards the light,” she said, addressing the rally.

Continuing her tirade against the saffron camp, Banerjee said, “The country is going through super autocracy as democracy has been murdered by BJP.

“Dictatorship is going on across the country. Instead of government for the people, it is running a government against the people, the Dalits and the farmers. This is super autocracy,” she said.

Referring to the TMC delegation being stopped by the Uttar Pradesh police from meeting the victim's family at Hathras on Friday, Banerjee said she felt like “running to UP and standing by the family of the victims”.

She said, “My heart is in Hathras. I feel like running to that village and standing by the Dalit family in their fight against injustice. Our representatives went to Hathras but were stopped a km from the village.

— PTI



TMC Supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee participates in a rally to protest over the death of Hathras victim in Kolkata on Saturday. — PTI

## India reiterates no first use of nuclear weapons

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 3

India on Saturday reiterated its nuclear doctrine of “No First Use” against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. India also reiterated its “long-standing and unwavering commitment to universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons”.

New Delhi's position was reiterated by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla at the “High-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of

● **INDIA'S REITERATION** of its nuclear doctrine is significant, as it comes at a time when the armed forces are on alert at the borders, both at the LoC with Pakistan and the LAC with China.

Nuclear Weapons”.

India's reiteration of its nuclear doctrine is significant, as it comes at a time when the armed forces are on alert at the borders, both at the LoC with Pakistan and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, and also in readiness for any contingency to face a “two-front war”, an euphemism for a hypothetical Sino-Pakistani joint attack on India. Both

these neighbours also possess nuclear weapons.

Shringla said, “India espouses the policy of “No First Use” against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. India reiterates its unwavering commitment to universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, in line with the Final Document of the First Special Session of the UNGA on disarmament.” He added, “We believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an multilateral framework.”

### SALUTING | THE BRAVE

### Memorial located in eastern Ladakh mentions the heroics of the ‘Gallants of Galwan’

## Army builds memorial for soldiers killed in Galwan Valley

New Delhi, Oct. 3: The Indian Army has built a memorial for its 20 personnel who were killed while valiantly fighting Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on June 15, official sources said on Saturday.

The memorial, located at Post 120 in eastern Ladakh and inaugurated earlier this week, mentions the heroics of the ‘Gallants of Galwan’ under operation ‘Snow Leopard’ and the

way they evicted the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops from the area while inflicting “heavy casualties” on them in “hand-to-hand combat”.

China is yet to disclose the number of its soldiers killed and injured in the clash though it officially admitted to have suffered casualties.

According to an American intelligence report, the number of

casualties on the Chinese side was 35.

Post 120 lies along the Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) road. The names of all the 20 Indian Army personnel were inscribed at the unit-level memorial.

Colonel B. Santosh Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, was among the Indian Army personnel killed in the clash that had significantly escalated the border tension between the two coun-

tries with India calling it “a premeditated and planned action by China”.

The Chinese soldiers used stones, nail-studded sticks, iron rods and clubs in carrying out brutal attacks on Indian soldiers after they protested the erection of a surveillance post by China around patrolling point 14 in Galwan Valley.

Giving a brief account of Operation ‘Snow Leopard’, the Army mentioned in a

plaque at the memorial that Colonel Babu led the ‘Quick Reaction Force’ of 16 Bihar Regiment and attached troops tasked to evict a group of Chinese troops from the general area in ‘Y nala’ (a junction) and stop them from moving further to Patrolling Point 14.

“The column successfully evicted the PLA OP from Y Nala and reached PP14 where a fierce skirmish broke out between

the IA (Indian Army) and PLA troops. Col B Santosh Babu led from the front and his troops fought gallantly in hand-to-hand combat, causing heavy casualties to the PLA. In the ensuing fight twenty ‘Gallants of Galwan’ achieved martyrdom,” the Army wrote.

The list of 20 personnel in the memorial included three naib subedars, three havildars and 12 sepoy. The defence ministry has

also started the process to inscribe the names of Colonel Babu and other soldiers at the National War Memorial in Delhi.

During a visit to Lukung forward post in eastern Ladakh on July 17, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh personally conveyed his appreciation and compliments to the troops from the Bihar regiment for displaying exemplary grit and courage in fighting the Chinese troops.



## IN BRIEF

**Reunification: German anniv**

**Berlin, Oct. 3:** Germany is marking the 30th anniversary of its reunification on Saturday, drawing a generally positive picture of the progress made in knitting together east and west amid celebrations that are low-key because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Germany was reunited on October 3, 1990, after four decades of Cold War division. East Germany joined the western federal republic less than a year after the east's Communist rulers — under pressure from growing protests — opened the Berlin Wall and the rest of the highly fortified border between the two states. While much progress has been made since then, economic and other differences between the west and the less-prosperous east still persist.

**Sudan, rebels seal peace deal**

**Juba:** Sudan's transitional authorities and a rebel alliance signed on Saturday a peace deal initialed in August that aims to put an end to the country's decades-long civil wars, in a televised ceremony marking the agreement. "The next biggest challenge is to work with all local and international partners to preach the agreement and its benefits," Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok tweeted on Friday upon his arrival at Juba, the capital of South Sudan. Reaching a negotiated settlement with rebels in Sudan's far-flung provinces has been a crucial goal for the transitional government, which assumed power after a popular uprising led the military to overthrow President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. Sudanese civilian leaders hope the deal will allow them to revive the country's battered economy by slashing military spending, which takes up much of the national budget.

**Afghan car bomb attack: 15 killed**

**Jalalabad:** At least 15 people were killed and more than 30 others wounded in a car bomb attack that targeted a government building in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, officials said. The explosion occurred at an administrative building that also housed some military facilities in the Ghani Khel district of Nangarhar province, the governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani said. "The car bomb detonated at the entrance of the district headquarters building. Several armed attackers tried to enter the building after the attack but were killed by security forces," he said. Provincial police spokesman Farid Khan confirmed the details. He said most of the victims were Afghan security force members but several civilians were also among the dead. No one had so far claimed responsibility for the attack but Khan blamed the Taliban. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in the region.

**RICK MORANIS PUNCHED IN ATTACK**

**Los Angeles, Oct. 3:** "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" star Rick Moranis was assaulted in an apparently random street attack in New York.

The 67-year-old actor was punched in the face by a random passer-by when he was walking on Central Park West near 70th Street, reported *New York Post*. A CCTV video footage, released by the police, showed a man dressed in black hoodie with a backpack on his shoulder punch Moranis with a closed fist directly into the face. Afterwards, the actor fell to the ground and the suspect nonchalantly walked away.

Moranis, who suffered pain in his head, back and right hip, went to a local hospital to be evaluated, police said. He later filed a complaint with the police. In a statement, Moranis' spokesperson said that the actor is doing "fine".

"Rick Moranis was assaulted on the Upper West Side yesterday. He is fine but grateful for everyone's thoughts and well wishes," the representative said. Moranis rose to prominence with his work on Canadian comedy sketch series "Second City Television".

He later became one of the most sought-after comic stars in the 1980s and 1990s.

His film credits include 1984's "Ghostbusters" and its 1989 sequel, "Spaceballs", "Parenthood" and "The Flintstones" remake.



A demonstrator holds up a placard reading "Fake news Trump tested positive" to protest against masks and virus restrictions during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic in Konstanz, southern Germany, on Saturday. — AFP

# Cavalier WH approach to Covid catches up with Don

## Jinping wishes Trump, Melania speedy recovery

**Washington, Oct. 3:** Masks were rarely spotted in the West Wing. Crowds of people gathered shoulder to shoulder on the White House South Lawn. And Air Force One streaked across the sky from one massive campaign rally to another. With ready access to testing and the best public health minds at his disposal, President Donald Trump and first lady Melania who have tested positive for Coronavirus. In a message to Trump, Xi, 67, said that after learning President Trump and Melania have tested positive for Covid-19, he and his wife Peng Liyuan extend sympathy to them and wish them a speedy recovery, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported.

Leaders and prominent figures from around the world on Friday sent their best wishes to Trump and his wife. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind wished Trump and the first lady a quick recovery. "Wishing my friend @POTUS @realDonaldTrump and @FLOTUS a quick

**Beijing, Oct. 3:** Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday sent a message of sympathy to President Donald Trump and his wife Melania, wishing they would recover from the COVID-19 illness, state media reported. "He sincerely hoped that they would recover as soon as possible," the Korean Central News Agency reported.

sident Ram Nath Kovind wished Trump and the first lady a quick recovery. "Wishing my friend @POTUS @realDonaldTrump and @FLOTUS a quick

recovery and good health," Modi tweeted.

"Our prayers and best wishes are with you during this time," Kovind said.

In a message posted on his official web page, Russian President Vladimir Putin wished Trump well, saying: "I am sure that your inherent vitality, good spirits and optimism will help you cope with the dangerous virus."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, also sent well wishes. "My best wishes to President Trump and the First Lady. Hope they both have a speedy recovery from Coronavirus," Johnson tweeted. — PTI

## 2 US SENATORS, TRUMP EX-AIDE TEST VIRUS +VE

**Washington, Oct. 3:** Two US Senators, a former adviser to President Donald Trump, his campaign manager and three White House journalists have tested positive for Covid-19, joining several officials working at the presidential palace to have contracted the infection. Republican Senators Thom Tillis from North Carolina, and Mike Lee from Utah confirmed they have been tested positive for Coronavirus.

"Over the last few months, I've been routinely tested for Covid-19, including testing negative last Saturday, but tonight my rapid antigen test came back positive," Tillis said. Hope Hicks, 31, is the closest aide of the President to have tested positive. Former White House counsellor Kellyanne Conway also announced on Twitter that she has been tested positive. Trump Campaign Manager Bill Stepien tested positive as well. The White House Correspondents Association confirmed that three member journalists have tested positive. — PTI

## PENCE-HARRIS DEBATE ON

**Washington, Oct. 3:** The vice presidential debate between Mike Pence and Kamala Harris next week will go on as scheduled after President Donald Trump tested positive for the Coronavirus on Friday. An official with the Commission on Presidential Debates confirmed that no changes are anticipated to the Wednesday night debate in Salt Lake City. Both Pence and Harris underwent tests for the Coronavirus on Friday and tested negative. Pence's physician said in a memo that the vice president was not considered a "close contact" of anyone infected with Covid-19. — AP

# Trump's age, health woes may make Prez more ill

**Washington, Oct. 3:** President Donald Trump has several strikes against him — age, obesity, elevated cholesterol and being male — that could put him at greater risk of becoming seriously ill from the Coronavirus infection he disclosed early Friday.

Here's what experts say about Trump's outlook and next steps. SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS: Infection causes mild or no symptoms in about 80 per cent of cases. About 15 per cent of people become seriously ill and 5 per cent get critical-

ads of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over everything from the risks associated with opening schools to the timetable for a potential vaccine.

Those on the White House staff dared not break with the president, who wanted to embody a nation on the way back, not

one fixated with health guidelines that would remind a nervous public about the virus rather than an economic resurgence. Experts urged the widespread use of masks, including CDC Director Robert Redfield, who testified before Congress last month that face coverings could be a more effective safeguard than a vaccine.

one fixated with health guidelines that would remind a nervous public about the virus rather than an economic resurgence. Experts urged the widespread use of masks, including CDC Director Robert Redfield, who testified before Congress last month that face coverings could be a more effective safeguard than a vaccine. — AP

times develops but complications in virtually every organ of the body have been reported. Doctors also increasingly recognize that some people have long-lasting symptoms. TRUMP'S RISKS

Older age, being male and having any other health problems increase the chance of severe illness, and Trump has those. At 74, "his age would be the primary risk factor," said Dr. David Banach, an infectious diseases physician at the University of Connecticut's health system. — AP

Trump has eschewed their use, telling aides that he didn't like how he looked in them and that it sent a message to the public that he was worried about his health. He has worn masks only sporadically and politicised their use, saying he didn't need them because he was tested and most people he saw were kept six feet away. — AP

# Azerbaijan Prez criticises mediators; fighting rages on

**Baku, Oct. 3:** Heavy fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan continued Saturday in their conflict over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, while Azerbaijan's president criticised the international mediators who have tried for decades to resolve the dispute. Fighting that started September 27 is the worst to afflict Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas since the 1994 end of a war that left the region in Azerbaijan under the control of ethnic Armenian local forces backed by Armenia.

Shushan Stepanian, a spokeswoman for the Armenian Defence Ministry, said that "intensive fighting is taking place along the entire front line," and claimed that Armenian forces had shot down three planes. Azerbaijan's defence ministry did not respond to the claim of planes being shot down, but said Armenian forces had shelled civilian territory within Azerbaijan, including the city of Terter. Nagorno-Karabakh officials have said more than 150 servicemen on their side have been killed so far. Azerbaijani authorities haven't given details on their military casual-

ties but said 19 civilians have been killed and 55 more wounded. Nagorno-Karabakh was a designated autonomous region within Azerbaijan during the Soviet era. It claimed independence from Azerbaijan in 1991, about three months before the Soviet Union's collapse. Full-scale war that broke out in 1992 killed an estimated 30,000 people. By the time it ended in 1994, Armenian forces not only held Nagorno-Karabakh itself but substantial areas outside the territory's formal borders. Several United Nations Security Council resolutions have called for withdrawal from those areas, which the Armenian forces have disregarded. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said in a television interview that the forces must withdraw from those areas before fighting can stop.

In the interview with al-Jazeera, a transcript of which was distributed Saturday by the presidential press office, Aliyev criticised the so-called Minsk Group of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has tried to mediate a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. — AP

# Belarus: No foreign media credentials

**Kyiv, Oct. 3:** Belarus, rocked by weeks of protests against its authoritarian president and Western condemnation over a crackdown on dissent, on Friday rescinded the accreditation of all journalists working for foreign news outlets and said they must apply for new ones in a process that could take a week or more.

The action was the latest by Belarusian authorities against journalists and news media amid the wave of large protests that have occurred almost daily since the country's authoritarian president won a sixth term in a disputed Aug. 9 election. "In the current situation, we are forced to exercise our sovereign right and apply the necessary protective measures, including in the form of new provisions of the regulations," the Belarus Foreign Ministry said in a statement announcing the move. The ministry said that journalists working for foreign media can apply for new credentials beginning Monday; temporary accreditation applications will be considered within five days, and permanent within 30 days. The largest protests against President Alexander Lukashenko have taken place on Sundays. Earlier this week, authorities in Belarus suspended for three months the credentials of the popular independent news website tut.by, which has covered the protests. Some credentialled foreign journalists were deported in August, and the credentials of two Belarusian nationals working for AP were revoked. — AP

# Take legal step to bring Nawaz: Imran

**Islamabad, Oct. 3:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked his party leaders to devise a legal strategy to bring back former premier Nawaz Sharif from the United Kingdom as in the absence of an extradition treaty between the two countries it would be difficult to get him extradited, according to a media report.

Presiding over the first meeting of a committee recently formed to counter the Opposition, Prime Minister Khan on Friday asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders to foil all moves of the Opposition aimed at destabilising the government and "maliciously" the Army, the *Dawn News* reported. The government had earlier sent a request to the British government for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader's repatriation to ensure that he faces the corruption cases pending against him in the courts. Sharif has been living in London since November last year when he was allowed to go there for medical treatment. A source privy to the meeting told *Dawn* that the prime minister was committed to bringing back Sharif from London and directed the committee members to devise a legal strategy because in the absence of an extradition treaty between Pakistan and the UK, it would become difficult to get him extradited. — PTI

## NEW | STUDY Killings of at least 30 transgender or non-gender conforming people documented in 2020

# Sexual, gender minorities more likely to be crime victims

**Phoenix, Oct. 3:** The first study of its kind found that people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or gender non-conforming are nearly four times as likely to be victims of violent crime than those outside such communities.

Although other research has long shown that LGBTQ people and gender minorities are disproportionately affected by crime, the study published in *Science Advances*, a multidisciplinary journal, on Friday looked at data that has only been collected since 2016, making for the

first comprehensive and national study to examine the issue. It found that members of such communities, referred to as sexual and gender minorities, experienced a rate of 71.1 violent victimisations per 1,000 persons a year, compared with 19.2 per 1,000 a year among non-sexual and gender minorities. But it was the fact that sexual and gender minorities are victims of such a variety of crimes at such disparate rates — and who they're victimised by — that surprised researchers, said lead author Andrew R. Flores, an assistant profes-

sor at American University. For example, researchers found that such a population is much more likely to be victimised by someone they know well than a person who is a non-sexual and gender minority.

The fact that sexual and gender minorities are victimised by people close to them at such higher rates "does kind of raise questions hopefully future research can address about the nature of these incidents and the nature of these relationships," Flores said. "There are certain socialisations that goes in that. I think many people are so-

● **THE STUDY** also found that sexual and gender minorities are burglarized at twice the rate of other households, and that they're more likely to be victims of other types of property theft.

cialised and have a certain disdain for trans and queer people," said Tori Cooper of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a national organisation that advocates for the LGBTQ community. Cooper is the director of community engagement for the organisatio-

n's Transgender Justice Initiative. A survey of more than 12,000 LGBTQ teens around the country released in 2018 by the Human Rights Campaign found that 67% report they've heard family members make negative comments about LGBTQ people. Cooper said transgender people are particularly vulnerable, especially by partners or people close to them.

The HRC has documented the killings of at least 30 transgender or non-gender conforming people in 2020 alone. The majority were Black and Latina transgender women. "The-

re's an incalculable amount of transphobia ... that plays into these relationships," Cooper said. The new study didn't have a large enough sample of surveys by transgender people to come to a conclusion about their specific victimization rates, but Flores said other research has shown they are particularly vulnerable.

The study also found that sexual and gender minorities are burglarised at twice the rate of other households, and that they're more likely to be victims of other types of property theft. The study is based

on a national crime survey conducted by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, which until 2016 had not asked respondents about their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Trump administration, without seeking public comment, announced that it was moving the sexual orientation and gender identity questions from the general demographic section of its national crime survey to a part of the survey only pertaining to victims. This will limit what researchers can learn about crime disparities. — AP



IN BRIEF

**STORM GAMMA  
HEADED FOR  
MEXICO, U.S.**

**Jacksonville, Oct. 3:** Tropical Storm Gamma was located near latitude 19.4 North, longitude 86.9 West. Gamma is moving toward the northwest near 9 mph, and this motion should continue at a slower forward speed today. A turn toward the north is expected on Sunday, followed by a turn to the west or west-southwest Sunday night or Monday.

On the forecast track, the center of Gamma should move inland over the northeastern Yucatan Peninsula later today, and be near the north coast of the Yucatan Peninsula on Sunday. Reports from an Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft indicate that maximum sustained winds have increased to near 50 mph with higher gusts. Additional strengthening is expected before Gamma makes landfall on the Yucatan Peninsula.

**UN: FLOODING  
DEVASTATES  
SUDAN FARMS**

**Khartoum, Oct. 3:** Record floods in Sudan have affected nearly one third of cultivated land and about three million people from agricultural households, worsening already acute levels of food insecurity, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said.

The floods have added to hardship in Sudan, already struggling with an economic crisis and one of the world's highest rates of inflation when the coronavirus pandemic hit.

About 2.2 million hectares of cropland has been flooded and 108,000 head of livestock lost, according to an Food and Agriculture Organisation assessment. Some 1.1 million tonnes of grain was destroyed in planted areas, most of it sorghum, a staple in Sudan, said Dominique Burgeon, a senior Food and Agriculture Organisation official.

Women from some of nearly 600,000 affected agricultural households told the Food and Agriculture Organisation they were cutting down to one small meal per day after their sorghum was washed away just before harvest, he said.

Commercial crops, including bananas and mangos, have also been badly hit. The floods have also destroyed or damaged tens of thousands of homes and left more than 100 people dead. They have affected about 150,000 refugees and displaced people, the United Nations refugee agency has said.

"It's a severe situation that needs mobilisation and support from the international community," Burgeon said.

The United Nations estimates that 9.6 million people face acute food insecurity in Sudan, the highest number on record. Locust swarms that have devastated crops in the Horn of Africa this year also still threaten the country, the Food and Agriculture Organisation says.

**TIDE: VENETIAN  
FLOOD BARRIERS  
FOR 1ST TIME**

**Milan, Oct. 3:** Controversial and long-delayed underwater barriers to protect Venice from its notorious high tides were being deployed for the first time on Saturday, against a forecast of 130-centimetre (51-inch) flood.

Authorities prepared the system for deployment during the flooding season after the lagoon city was inundated with the worst tides in 53 years last November. An increased frequency of high water brought on by climate change has added urgency to the completion of the project.

While the 78 barriers have all been installed, some infrastructure is still being completed. Eventually, the system will be deployed when tides of 110 cm (43 inches) are forecast, but while work is still underway the project's special commissioners have set a threshold of 130 cm. Flood waters are forecast to reach that level around midday, which without the barriers would flood about half of the city. This will be the first real-world test of the system.

In view of the forecast, port authorities have banned shipping traffic through the three access points where the barriers are installed until 4:30 pm. The system of movable underwater barriers, dubbed Moses, has been beset by corruption, cost overruns and delays.

Projected at 1.8 billion euros (\$2 billion) and meant to be completed by 2011, the project has so far cost 5.5 billion euros and is running more than a decade behind schedule.

**Trump concedes  
human role in  
climate change**

**Washington, Oct. 3:** President Donald Trump publicly acknowledged that humans bear some blame for climate change, but scientists say the president still isn't dealing with the reality of our primary role.

Trump gave one of his fullest accountings yet of what scientists say is an escalating climate crisis threatening every aspect of life. Trump also pushed back on scientific findings that his environmental rollbacks would increase climate-damaging pollution. The climate change exchange represented a rare microburst of policy discussion from Trump in a loud, nerve-abrading debate. And it ever so lightly nailed down the position of the Republican president on climate change.

"It is a sad statement about the President's history on climate change, but it is a major development to see him clearly acknowledge a role of greenhouse gases from human emissions," said Chris Field, director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University.

"It's still outright denial of the science, in addition to denial of the devastating impacts," such as the record wildfires once again forcing evacuations

**SC TAKES UP  
ENERGY FIRMS'  
CLIMATE APPEAL**

**Washington, Oct. 3:** The US Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal by energy companies including BP PLC, Chevron Corp, Exxon Mobil Corp and Royal Dutch Shell PLC contesting a lawsuit by the city of Baltimore seeking damages for the impact of global climate change. The justices will weigh whether the lawsuit must be heard in state court as the city would prefer or in federal court, which corporate defendants generally view as a more favourable venue. The suit targets 21 US and foreign energy companies that extract, produce, distribute or sell fossil fuels. The outcome could affect around a dozen similar lawsuits by US states, cities and counties. — Reuters

in the Western U.S., said Michael Mann, a Pennsylvania State University climate researcher and a veteran in scientists' battle to make ordinary people and leaders face facts on global warming. — AP



Between Jan. and Aug., temperatures reached between 2 and 3 degrees Celsius on the peninsula. — AFP

**Antarctic at warmest  
in decades: Study**

**Santiago, Oct. 3:** The year 2020 is the hottest in the Antarctic Peninsula in the past three decades, a study by the University of Santiago de Chile out Friday found.

Between January and August, temperatures reached between 2 and 3 degrees Celsius (35.6 and 37.4 degrees Fahrenheit) on the peninsula, which is the northernmost part of mainland Antarctica, according to researchers at the Chilean Air Force's Frei Base on King George Island.

Those temperatures are "more than 2 degrees Celsius over typical values," climatologist Raul Cordero said in a statement released by the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH).

"In the far northern tip of the Antarctic

Peninsula, the average maximum temperature so far this year has been above 0 degrees. This had not happened for 31 years," Cordero added.

He called that fact "alarming," since it could indicate that the rapid rate of ocean warming observed in the area at the end of the 20th century is resuming.

The high Southern Hemisphere winter temperatures are in contrast, however, with those registered between August and September, which reached -16.8 degrees Celsius, the lowest since 1970.

The Antarctic Peninsula is the northernmost part of Antarctica, where there are scientific and military bases from several countries, including Argentina, Chile and Britain. — AFP



Residents of the Oakmont Gardens senior home gather in a bus for evacuation as the Shady Fire approaches in Santa Rosa California. — AP

**California fire crews deploy  
water-dropping helicopters**

**Calistoga, California, Oct. 3:** California fire crews deploying water-dropping helicopters made a defensive stand on Friday against flames raging in the foothills of the Napa Valley wine region as forecasts called for a return of dangerous high winds and hot weather this weekend.

More than 2,500 firefighters were battling the Glass Fire, which broke out last Sunday near the resort community of Calistoga, some 75 miles (120 km) north of San Francisco, and has already destroyed 248 homes or other structures. Among them were the stately Chateau Boswell Winery north of Napa, and a farmhouse at the landmark Castello di Amorosa winery, where the castle-like main building survived.

Thick smoke poured over deserted Napa Valley communities that would typically be bustling with visitors for the grape harvest. "Everyone is hunkered down, it's very, very quiet," said Kari Corte, who works at the Ghost Block Estates Winery out-

side Oakville. She was in her home in Zinfandel, the fire burning less than three miles to the north.

"I've got my bags packed and I'm ready to go," Corte said, recalling that in 2017 she had been forced to flee the town of Atlas Peak community during another bad fire year for the wine country.

At some wineries employees stood guard over buildings and crops with bulldozers and water tankers, hoping to serve as a desperate last line of defense if flames made a run out of the foothills.

The Newton Vineyard winery went up in flames on Wednesday, according to a Reuters photographer, who said he saw rivulets of red wine mixed with ash flowing down its main access road.

Vintners in the area fear the smoke has spoiled much of this year's vintage. Roughly 52,000 residents were under evacuation orders at least through the weekend, with the fire at only 5% containment, according to the California Department of Forestry

and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire. The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings for high winds over the next two days.

Rain storms are forecast for the region at the end of next week and firefighters hope they could keep the blaze from entering populated areas again until the showers came.

"It's going to be a big fire-fight for us in the next 36 hours," Cal Fire operations section chief Mark Brunton said on Thursday. Resources were stretched due to the high number of fires burning across the state, he said.

Some 200 miles (320 km) to the north, crews have made significant progress against the Zogg Fire in the foothills of the Cascade mountain range. Containment had reached 46% as of Friday afternoon, up from 26% a day earlier.

Four people have been killed in the Zogg fire, which has also has destroyed nearly 150 buildings near the town of Redding. No casualties have been reported in the Glass Fire. Overall, at least 30 people

**BOLIVIA STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN  
FIRES SCORCHING FARMS, FORESTS**

**La Paz, Oct. 3:** Bolivian firefighters, members of the military and citizens fighting to protect their homes were battling to contain flames that have ripped through more than a million hectares (2.5 million acres) of farmland and forests, officials said on Wednesday.

There are more than 26 active fires in Bolivia's agriculture areas of Santa Cruz and Beni, the government said. Recent rains, however, helped quell potential fires to 1,377, down from 3,128, officials said.

"The firefighters of the armed forces continue, the volunteer firefighters continue and today three helicopters will be incorporated to support the areas where the heat sources are

most intense," said Defence Minister Fernando López, adding that officials now largely have the flames under control.

About 1.1 million hectares (2.7 million acres) have been burned, according to the government, but environmental group Friends of Nature Foundation estimated the fire-affected area at 2.3 million hectares (5.7 million acres) since the start of the year.

The fires so far have not outpaced last year's fire season, the worst in Bolivia's history. Regional neighbours Argentina and Brazil are struggling to contain fires that threaten to reach historic levels amid drought and dry weather. — Reuters

have died since mid-August in a devastating string of wildfires across the U.S. West that have been stoked by bouts of

extreme heat, winds and dry-lightning storms that scientists attribute to climate change. — Reuters

**Bacterial disease behind elephant deaths**

**Harare, Oct. 3:** Zimbabwe suspects a bacterial disease called haemorrhagic septicaemia is behind the recent deaths of more than 30 elephants but is doing further tests to make sure, the parks authority said.

The elephant deaths, which began in late August, come soon after hundreds of elephants died in neighbouring Botswana in mysterious circumstances.

Officials in Botswana were initially at a loss to explain the elephant deaths there but have

since blamed toxins produced by another type of bacterium. Experts say Botswana and Zimbabwe could be home to roughly half of the continent's 400,000 elephants, often targeted by poachers.

Elephants in Botswana and parts of Zimbabwe are at historically high levels, but elsewhere on the continent — especially in forested areas — many populations are severely depleted, said Chris Thouless, head of research at Save the Elephants.

Which bacteria could be behind elephant deaths in Zimbabwe and Botswana? "Higher populations equal greater risk from infectious diseases," Thouless said, adding that climate change could put pressure on elephant populations as water supplies diminish and temperatures rise, potentially increasing the probability of pathogen outbreaks.

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority Director-General Fulton Mangwanya told a parliamentary committee on Monday that so far 34

dead elephants had been counted. "It is unlikely that this disease alone will have any serious overall impact on the survival of the elephant population," he said. "The northwest regions of Zimbabwe have an over-abundance of elephants and this outbreak of disease is probably a manifestation of that, ... particularly in the hot, dry season elephants are stressed by competition for water and food resources."

Post mortems on some of the dead elephants showed inflamed livers and other

organs, Mangwanya said. The elephants were found lying on their stomachs, suggesting a sudden death. Vernon Booth, a Zimbabwe-based wildlife management consultant, said it was difficult to put a number on Zimbabwe's current elephant population. He estimated it could be close to 90,000, up from 82,000 in 2014 when the last national survey was conducted, assuming that roughly 2,000-3,000 have died each year from all causes. — Reuters

**National Grid aims for net zero emissions in US by 2050**

**London, Oct. 3:** Britain's National Grid NGLNG-G.N pledged to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in its US operations by 2050, including from operations and emissions resulting from the sale of electricity and gas.

The energy company, which serves more than 20 million customers through its networks in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, said it has identified 10 areas to focus on, including reducing demand through energy efficiency and demand response, decarbonising the gas network through use of renewable natural gas and hydrogen, reducing methane emissions and investing in large-scale carbon management.

Amid public pressure for climate action, companies, sectors and countries have trumpeted new pledges, from setting net-zero emissions targets to declaring carbon neutrality. — Reuters

**UK PLANS TO BRING FORWARD BAN  
ON FOSSIL FUEL VEHICLES TO 2030**

**London, Oct. 3:** The UK is poised to bring forward its ban on new fossil fuel vehicles from 2040 to 2030 to help speed up the rollout of electric vehicles across British roads. Boris Johnson is expected to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles this autumn with the announcement, one of a string of new clean energy policies to help trigger a green economic recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. The government had hoped to set out the plans as early as this week, according to sources in the energy and transport industries, but the announcement will be delayed until later this year as it focuses on tackling the rising number of Coronavirus cases.

The government has previously consulted on

plans to bring forward the deadline on sales of new polluting vehicles from 2040 to 2035. It is now expected to take a more ambitious stance following assurances that the UK's infrastructure will be ready to cope with the shift to electric cars.

The decision to end the sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030 would put the UK ahead of France, which has a 2040 ban in the pipeline, and in line with Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands. Norway will bring in a ban in 2025. The plan, which is backed by the government's official advisers at the Committee on Climate Change, is likely to emerge alongside the national plans to become a carbon-neutral economy by the middle of the century. — Agencies

**World's richest 1% cause double  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of poorest 50%**

**Stockholm, Oct. 3:** The wealthiest 1% of the world's population were responsible for the emission of more than twice as much carbon dioxide as the poorer half of the world from 1990 to 2015, according to new research. Carbon dioxide emissions rose by 60% over the 25-year period, but the increase in emissions from the richest 1% was three times greater than the increase in emissions from the poorest half.

The report, compiled by Oxfam and the Stockholm Environment Institute, warned that rampant over-consumption and the rich world's addiction to high-carbon transport are exhausting the world's "carbon

**EU TALK: EASTERN STATES SCEPTICAL  
OF DEEPER GREENHOUSE GAS CUTS**

**Brussels, Oct. 3:** Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary expressed scepticism ahead of talks over the EU's new target for sharper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions this decade, setting the stage for negotiations over the bloc's environmental goals.

The EU's executive commission wants to cut greenhouse gases by at least 55% from 1990 levels this decade, a more ambitious target than the 40% cut it has planned. Experts say the bigger cut is the minimum needed to meet a longer term goal of climate neutrality by 2050. — Reuters

mission wants to cut greenhouse gases by at least 55% from 1990 levels this decade, a more ambitious target than the 40% cut it has planned. Experts say the bigger cut is the minimum needed to meet a longer term goal of climate neutrality by 2050.

We have still failed to improve the lives of billions, said Tim Gore, head of policy, advocacy and research at Oxfam International. "The global carbon budget has been

squandered to expand the consumption of the already rich, rather than to improve humanity," he told the Guardian. "A finite amount of carbon can be added to the atmosphere if we want to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis. We need to ensure that carbon is used for the best." The richest 10% of the global population, comprising about 630 million people, were responsible for about 52% of global emissions over the 25-year period, the study showed. Globally, the richest 10% are those with incomes above about \$35,000 (£27,000) a year, and the richest 1% are people earning more than about \$100,000. — Agencies



## SHORT TAKES

## IPL player reports corrupt approach

**New Delhi:** A cricketer, competing in the Indian Premier League in the UAE, has "reported a corrupt approach", putting BCCI's anti-corruption unit (ACU) on a high alert. The 13th edition of the IPL in being held in the UAE in a bio-secure environment, which has significantly reduced the chance for persons with dubious credentials approaching the player directly. The threat though still remains by and large due to the online network of corruptors. BCCI ACU chief Ajit Singh confirmed the development to PTI. "Yes (a player has reported approach)," Singh, the former DGP of Rajasthan Police confirmed the news. "We are tracking him. It will take some time," he said when asked if the alleged corruptor or "person of interest" has been nabbed. As per anti-corruption protocols, the name of the player (Indian or overseas) or franchise is not revealed for confidentiality purposes. — PTI

## Tsitsipas through to fourth round

**Paris:** Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced to the fourth round of the French Open on Saturday after his opponent Aljaz Bedene retired with an ankle injury while trailing 6-1, 6-2, 3-1. Slovenian Bedene, who defeated Tsitsipas in straight sets when they met at Rotterdam earlier this year, first called for the physiotherapist on Court Suzanne Lenglen to get treatment on his right ankle after going down 5-0 in the opening set. After returning to court Bedene won the first game to get on the scoreboard and then got his ankle strapped before the start of the second set. Tsitsipas, the reigning ATP Finals champion, kept his focus and went about his business smoothly, hitting 28 winners and breaking the 56th-ranked Bedene's serve five times before he decided he could no longer continue. — Agencies

## Neymar sizzles in PSG's big win

**Paris:** Neymar scored his first goals of the season to help Paris Saint-Germain make up some lost ground in the French league with a 6-1 rout of visiting Angers. PSG moved up to second in the sixth round after winning four games straight. The defending champions started with two defeats. Kylian Mbappe, who also scored, had the first big chance at Parc des Princes in the fifth minute saved by the quick reacting Angers goalkeeper Paul Bernardoni. But the home side did not have to wait long for the breakthrough, a fine goal from Alessandro Florenzi in the seventh minute. The Italian defender lifted the ball over an opponent with his fist touch, then lobbed it over another defender inside the far post with his next. — AP

## Union Berlin rout Mainz 4-0

**Berlin:** Former Germany striker Max Kruse launched Union Berlin to a 4-0 rout of Mainz for their biggest ever Bundesliga win and their first of the season. Finland forward Joel Pohjanpalo also scored, just seconds after coming on for his debut, to wrap up an unhappy start for new Mainz coach Jan-Moritz Lichte. Former assistant coach Lichte took over Mainz on an interim basis on Monday when the club fired Achim Beierlorzer after losing their first two games and players boycotted a training session in support of a demoted player, Adam Szalai. — AP

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 3.30 pm; Kings XI Punjab vs Chennai Super Kings from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## TENNIS

**French Open:** Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Leicester City vs West Ham from 4.30 pm; Arsenal vs Sheffield United from 6.30 pm; Manchester United vs Tottenham Hotspur from 9 pm; Aston Villa vs Liverpool from 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

**Italian League:** Atalanta vs Cagliari from 4 pm; Lazio vs Inter Milan from 4.30 pm; AC Milan vs Spezia from 6.30 pm; Juventus vs Napoli from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

## BASKETBALL

**NBA Finals (Game 3 of best-of-7):** Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 5 am (Monday) on Sony Six, HD

## DELHI DHAMAKA

## Shreyas leads from front as DC down KKR in run-feast

**Sharjah, Oct. 3:** Shreyas Iyer showed his class with a captain's knock and pacer Anrich Nortje honoured his skipper's heroics by bowling a splendid penultimate over in Delhi Capitals' 18-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders in a thrilling IPL match here on Saturday.

Iyer's (88 no off 38 balls) magnificent power-hitting after Prithvi Shaw's opening act propelled Delhi Capitals to an impressive 228 for four after being put into bat first by Dinesh Karthik.

If Iyer and Shaw weren't not enough, Rishabh Pant (38 off 17 balls) dusted off his rustiness with a quickfire knock.

The target was difficult but not impossible but Delhi produced the best effort by a pace bowling unit on a placid track with KKR finishing at 210 for 8.

Harshal Patel, as Ishant Sharma's replacement, did well enough to finish with 2 for 34 in 4 overs while the ever-improving Nortje (3/33 in 4 overs) was also

## SCORECARD

**Delhi Capitals:** P. Shaw c Shubman Gill b Nagarkoti 66, S. Dhawan c Morgan b Varun 26, S. Iyer (not out) 88, R. Pant c Shivam Mavi b Russell 38, M. Stoinis c Varun b Russell 1, S. Hetmyer (not out) 7. **Extras (w 2) 2. Total (for four wickets in 20 overs) 228.** **FoW:** 1-56, 2-129, 3-201, 4-221. **Bowling:** Cummins 4-0-49-0, S. Mavi 3-0-40-0, C. Varun 4-0-49-1, S. Narine 2-0-26-0, A. Russell 4-0-29-2, K. Nagarkoti 3-0-35-1.

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** Shubman Gill c Pant b Mishra 28, S. Narine b Nortje 3, N.

Rana c sub (AR Patel) b HV Patel 58, A. Russell c Nortje b Rabada 13, D. Karthik c Dhawan b HV Patel 6, E. Morgan c Hetmyer b Nortje 44, P. Cummins c HV Patel b Nortje 5, R. Tripathi b Stoinis 36, K. Nagarkoti (not out) 3, Shivam Mavi (not out) 1. **Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 2, w 5) 13. Total (for eight wickets in 20 overs) 210.** **FoW:** 1-8, 2-72, 3-94, 4-117, 5-117, 6-122, 7-200, 8-207. **Bowling:** K. Rabada 4-0-51-1, Nortje 4-0-33-3, R. Ashwin 2-0-26-0, M. Stoinis 4-0-46-1, H. Patel 4-0-34-2, A. Mishra 2-0-14-1.

impressive.

However, it was Kagiso Rabada (1/51 in 4 overs), who dismissed the dangerous Andre Russell (13) cheaply, was taken to task by Eoin Morgan (44 from 18 balls) and Rahul Tripathi (36 off 16 balls) in

the 18th over that got KKR 23 runs.

With 31 to get from 12 balls, Nortje bowled a superb 19th over getting rid of Morgan and only giving five runs in the process.

With 26 needed off the last over,



| SHREYAS IYER |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|
| R            | B  | 6s | 4s |
| 88           | 38 | 6  | 7  |

Delhi skipper Shreyas Iyer in action against KKR. — BCCI

## Upbeat Sunrisers take on MI

**Sharjah, Oct. 3:** Boasting an explosive batting line-up that complements their effective death bowling, Mumbai Indians will have their nose ahead in the IPL match against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday.

To add to SRH's worry, doubts remained over lead seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's participation in the match. Bhuvneshwar picked up an injury on Friday night and was unable to complete his final over in the game against Chennai Super Kings. He walked off the field with the help of the team physio.

In the event the experienced seamer misses out, table-toppers Mumbai will fancy their chances more at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, whose boundaries are much shorter than Dubai and Abu Dhabi and have been a paradise for power-hitters.

The defending champions, having humbled a strong Kings XI Punjab in their last game, are unlikely to make any



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Priyam Garg (left) and Abhishek Sharma. — BCCI

changes to the winning combination. Skipper Rohit Sharma is in sublime form and he can pummel any attack into submission on his day. Rohit has scored 170 runs from four games this season.

While the poor form of Quinton De Kock is worrisome, the prolific Suryakumar Yadav would be more than keen to convert his starts. The

biggest positive for the defending champions is that their middle-order has finally delivered with Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard launching into opposition attacks with their big-hitting prowess. Young Kishan has been the find for MI, after his blistering yet responsible knock against Royal Challengers Bangalore. — PTI

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 13
- SRH won: 7
- Mumbai: 6

## MEETING IN 2019

- Mumbai beat Sunrisers by 40 runs at Hyderabad.
- Mumbai beat Sunrisers in Super Over at Mumbai.

## FOR THE RECORD

- David Warner holds the record for the most number of 50+ scores in IPL. He has made 48 fifty plus scores (four hundreds and 44 fifties) in 130 innings.

- Trent Boult who has played 99 matches since 2009 will complete his century of matches in T20.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

**Hopefully, this year shows these kids what they're capable of.**

— DAVID WARNER  
SRH captain on performance of youngsters Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma

## CHENNAI SEEK TURNAROUND IN CLASH OF KINGS

**Dubai, Oct. 3:** Hit hard by a start that least defines them, Chennai Super Kings would be desperate to find answers to their predicament when they take on Kings XI Punjab in an IPL match here on Sunday.

So used to be on top of their game in the previous editions, sitting at the bottom of the points table now with three losses in four matches is an unknown territory for the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side.

Nothing has worked for them despite having the resources. They even made three changes to their playing XI against Sunrisers Hyderabad but neither comeback of Ambati Rayudu nor the presence of Dwayne Bravo could lift the gloom. A misfiring top-order, save Fav du Plessis, combined with inadequate run-flow in the middle overs and the habit of leaving way too much for the climax, proved to be their bane.

— PTI



## Kohli back in form, RCB win

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 3:** Captain Virat Kohli roared back to form with an unbeaten 72 and stitched a 99-run stand with Devdutt Padikkal (63) to power Royal Challengers Bangalore to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Saturday.

This was after wrist spinner Yuzvendra Chahal snared three wickets in an impressive bowling show that helped them restrict RR to 154 for 6.

Kohli's knock came off 53 balls with seven fours and two sixes. It was RCB's third win in four matches.

Padikkal yet again produced an impressive innings before he was dismissed by Jofra Archer in the 16th over, after hitting six fours and one six.

Padikkal allowed his captain to get in and settle down before Kohli produced some of his trademark shots later on to accelerate.

The RCB needed 31 runs after Padikkal's dismissal and another in-form batsman AB de Villiers (12 not out) ensured that his side reached the target with five balls to spare.

Having failed to score big in his earlier three innings

## SCORECARD

**Rajasthan Royals:** Jos Buttler c Padikkal b Saini 22, Steve Smith b Udana 5, Sanju Samson c & b Chahal 4, Robin Uthappa c Udana 4, Chahal 17, Mahipal Lomror c Padikkal b Chahal 47, Riyan Parag c Finch b Udana 16, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 24, Jofra Archer (not out) 16. **Extras (LB-1, NB-1, W-1) 3. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs) 154.** **FoW:** 1-27, 2-31, 3-31, 4-70, 5-105, 6-114. **Bowling:** I. Udana 4-0-41-2, Washington 4-0-20-0, N. Saini 4-1-37-1, Y. Chahal 4-0-24-3, A. Zampa 3-0-27-0, S. Dube 1-0-4-0.

**Royal Challengers Bangalore:** Devdutt Padikkal b Archer 63, Aaron Finch lbw b Gopal 8, Virat Kohli (not out) 72, AB de Villiers (not out) 12. **Extras (B-1, W-2) 5. Total (for 2 wickets in 19.1 overs) 158.** **FoW:** 1-25, 2-124.

**Bowling:** J. Archer 4-0-18-1, J. Unadkat 3-0-31-0, S. Gopal 4-0-27-1, T. Curran 3-1-0-40-0, R. Tewatia 4-0-28-0, R. Parag 1-0-13-0.

(14, 1, 3), Kohli took time to settle down and scored mostly in ones and twos initially.

Padikkal continued his good form with another 54 runs knock.

Earlier, Chahal returned with figures of 3/24 from his four overs to restrict RR to 154 for 6. — PTI

## IPL POINTS TABLE

| Teams                       | P | W | L | N/R | Pts | NRR    |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|--------|
| Delhi Capitals              | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0   | 6   | +0.588 |
| Royal Challengers Bangalore | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0   | 6   | -0.954 |
| Mumbai Indians              | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0   | 4   | +1.094 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad         | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0   | 4   | -0.084 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders       | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0   | 4   | -0.121 |
| Rajasthan Royals            | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0   | 4   | -0.317 |
| Kings XI Punjab             | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0   | 2   | +0.521 |
| Chennai Super Kings         | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0   | 2   | -0.719 |

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

## NUMBERS GAME — CSK vs KXIP

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 22
- CSK won: 13
- Punjab won: 9

## MEETING IN 2019

- Chennai Super Kings defeated Kings XI Punjab by 22 runs at Chennai.
- Kings XI Punjab beat Chennai Super Kings by six wickets at Mohali

## FOR THE RECORD

- Mohammed Shami who has taken eight wickets at an average of 14.75 in four innings is the joint highest wicket-taker this edition.

- M.S. Dhoni who has smashed 299 sixes in 287 innings of 321 matches needs just one more to become the 21st batsman to complete a triple century of sixes in T20 cricket

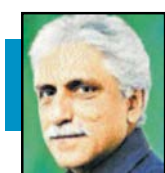
— S. PERVEZ QAISER

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## Young guns manifest the richness of Indian cricket



Ayaz Memon  
Over The Top

**I**nsane hitting by batsmen, especially in the death overs, has been one of the major talking points of the IPL's second week. Power-hitters like Rohit, Rahul and Samson from the top order, and Pollard and Hardik Pandya as finishers, have peppered the grounds with sixes galore.

Then there is Rahul Tewatia, who hit five sixes in an over to transform defeat into victory for Rajasthan over Punjab, making a Himalayan tar-

get of 223 look like a stroll in the park. And Watson, Warner, Russell, Bairstow, Morgan and Pant — who binge on sixes — haven't yet got into full throttle!

Interestingly, while flat pitches, fast outfielders and small grounds (Sharjah) have enabled several scores of 200+ plus already, apart from two stirring Super Over finishes, bowlers haven't exactly been rendered inconsequential.

Shami, Cummins, Rabada among pacemen

and Chahal and Rashid among spinners have been quite superb. If they've sometimes still finished on the losing side, it is because their batsmen failed them.

For India's superstars, it's been a mixed bag so far. Rohit has hit splendid form and, after losing the first match, has inspired Mumbai to the top of the table as much with his batting as tactical nous in crunch situations.

M.S. Dhoni was able to lift his batting form against Sunrisers yet is still short of the vigour of old that would help him win matches off his own bat. His problems are compounded by the fact that CSK are also bottom of the points table currently.

That RCB were able to

clinch a thrilling Super Over climax against Mumbai Indians, and he hit the winning shot, is only small redemption for Virat Kohli. He's otherwise had three batting failures in a row, and despite two victories, RCB still look undercooked.

The highlight of the past week for me, however has been the performance of young Indian players, manifesting the richness of cricket talent in the country as well as the role played by the IPL in exposing them to the world.

Take the match between CSK and SRH on Friday. While Warner and Rashid played big roles in the team's success, it was the rollicking partnership between 19-year-old Priyam Garg and 20-year-

old Abhishek Sharma which turned things around.

All looked lost when Warner and Williamson were dismissed off successive deliveries before Garg and Sharma played with great intrepidity to break CSK's stranglehold. SRH's young bowlers Natarajan, Khaleel and Samad played their part splendidly too.

This is not an isolated example where India's youngsters have shone. KKR, who have invested in Shubman Gill, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Shivam Mavi and Varun Chakravarthy have started reaping rewards already.

Gill is becoming widely regarded as India's best young batsman. Coach Ravi Shastri, who I spoke to, thinks very highly of

him and sees him as someone who should be a "regular fixture for India in all formats."

Leg spinners Ravi Bishnoi (Punjab) and Rahul Chahar (Mumbai) have caught the eye too even if they haven't claimed as many wickets as Chahal or Rashid.

Getting into a slightly older age group, there is Navdeep Saini, Sanju Samson, Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer who are also serving their teams with great efficiency, some of them with excellence.

A bulk of these players have come from the under-19 teams, but the IPL showcases their talent to India's selectors, coaches and captain whose business it is to track performances of

players, especially youngsters. The importance of the IPL in fast-tracking players into the Indian team is evident from what's happened in the past 12 years: R. Ashwin, Rahane, Jadeja, Rahul, even Rohit and Kohli to an extent have benefited from playing in the league.

Of course, not everybody who has excelled in the IPL has made it to the India team or been able to sustain a place, as the examples of Paul Valthaty, Manpreet Gony, Pawan Negi and several others highlight.

Having got the platform and the attention, it is still up to the player to make the most of the opportunity. An India career does not come free, whatever the earnings in the IPL.