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HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 12 OCTOBER 2020

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WEATHER

Max: 26.8°C
Min: 23.3°C
RH: 81%
Rainfall: 0.7 mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 28/22 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+76,408)	(+1080)
71,14,102	1,09,127
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,717)	(+5)
TS: 2,12,063	1,222
(+5,210)	(+30)
AP: 7,55,727	6,224

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

DEATHS	3,76,42,302
10,79,555	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula
Dasami till 4.31 pm
Star: Ashlesha till 12.24 am
(Tuesday)
Varjyanam: 1.35 pm to 3.08 pm
Durmuhuram: 12.26 noon to
1.13 pm; 2.46 pm to 3.33 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Safar ul Muzaffar 24, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.08 am
Zohar: 12.13 pm
Asar: 4.18 pm
Magrib: 6.01 pm
Isha: 7.11 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.09 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.54 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 1.18 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 2.47 PM

COUNTER POINT



They are planning to campaign with film actresses and news anchors!

IN BRIEF

Non-AC trains over 130kmph to be AC

New Delhi: Trains running on identified routes at a speed of 130 kmph or above on the railway network will have only air-conditioned coaches in the near future as part of the Railways' plans to upgrade the network, an official said on Sunday.

20th Grand Slam title tie



Rafael Nadal celebrates after beating Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in the French Open men's singles final in Paris on Sunday. The 13th Roland Garros title helps Nadal tie with Roger Federer at 20 Grand Slams. Nadal beat World No. 1 Djokovic who has won 17 Grand Slams so far. [Full report on Page 12](#)

2 killed as building falls after heavy rains in Hyd

18-yr-old scheduled to marry next week, relative dead

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

An 18-year-old girl, whose wedding was scheduled next week, was killed when a part of an old residential building she lived in with her family, collapsed on Sunday morning. Also killed in the incident was her sister-in-law.

The building collapsed at about 11.45 am in Moosa Bowli in Hussaini Alam area of the Old City. The walls of the house were weakened after getting soaked in the recent heavy rains that have been lashing the city.

Four others in the house when it collapsed suffered injuries and were treated at the Princess Esra Hospital and the Osmania General Hospital and later discharged.

Anees Begum, the 18-year-old who died in the accident, was scheduled to get married next week and the family was looking forward to the event. The other deceased was identi-



The building at Hussaini Alam in Hyderabad which collapsed on Sunday killing two people after heavy rains is being razed to the ground.

— P. SURENDRA

fied by the police as Farah Begum, 28, Anees Begum's sister-in-law.

The injured were listed as Haji Mohammed Khan (64), Anees Begum's father,

Azmath Khan (28), Master Hussain Khan (2), and Parveen Begum (42).

[Page 2: Building had been given notice for demolition](#)

CM TELLS PEOPLE TO BE ALERT: PG 3

- CHIEF MINISTER K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Sunday asked people in the state to be alert and cautious following IMD warning of heavy rains

Cong, BJP struggle to get strong women nominees

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has strategically cornered the Congress and the BJP by increasing reservations for women in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Council, where elections are due by February next year.

The government's move appears to be giving a tough time to the two Opposition parties to find strong women candidates in the ensuing elections.

The Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation Act, 1955 stipulates 33 per cent reservation in the GHMC Council.

During the 2016 elections, Chandrasekhar Rao strategically allotted 50 per cent seats to women through a government order while reserving the wards.

The ruling party had 79 women corporators in the outgoing GHMC Council and its ally MIM 19.

As the ruling party had more than 50 per cent women, it will be easier for the TRS to find women candidates in the ensuing elections to the civic body.

[Page 2: Party leaders lobby to get seat for wives](#)

Maoists stab TRS leader to death

ANUDEEP
CEREMILLA I DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 11

The CBI on Sunday took over the investigation into the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district and registered an FIR under the relevant Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections.

The case was earlier registered at Chanda Police Station in Hathras on a complaint by the victim's brother.

Talking to reporters, CBI spokesperson, R.K. Gaur, said, "The complainant had alleged that on September 14, the accused tried to strangle his sister in the millet field. The case has been registered by CBI on the request of Uttar Pradesh government and further notification from Government of India".

The extremists struck even before a proper plan could emerge out of this meeting.

The slain ruling party leader has been identified as Maaduri Bheemeswar Rao (50).

Maoists stabbed him several times in his house.

Bheemeswar Rao is survived by his wife Kumari and three children.

Kumari, who is in a state of shock, said they heard a knock on their door after they had gone to sleep for the day.

"When we refused to open the door, they broke it open. They were six. One stood guard outside while the others entered the house. I pleaded with them to spare my husband and not leave me and my children orphaned. They pushed me away and stabbed him repeatedly," Kumari recounted.

In a letter left there, the Vazdu committee of the Maoists accused Bheemeswar of exploiting innocent people by selling fertilisers and pesticides at higher rates.

[Page 2: TRS, BJP leaders told to resign](#)

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Zindagi ke saath bhi, Zindagi ke baad bhi.

MAN VS WILD Big cat that terrorised Mailardevpally people snared

Elusive leopard caught after 4 months

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

A leopard that had triggered panic in the Mailardevpally area near Rajendranagar in May this year was caught in the early hours of Sunday what was set up by forest department officials near the Walamari (Water and

THE LEOPARD, a male aged about six years old, was taken to the Nehru Zoological Park where its health was checked.

IT HAD reportedly killed two calves

Land Management Training Institute). Locals had complained of

a leopard prowling in the area, and the officials had set up the trap cages on Friday night.

It had reportedly killed two calves.

The leopard, a male aged about six years old, was taken to the Nehru Zoological Park where its health was checked.

"We will keep the leopard under observation for two

days. Then we will release it into the wild. It has a few bruises on its forehead, we assume that it might have banged its head against the pillars in the cage to break it," an official from the zoo park, who was a part of the rescue effort, told Deccan Chronicle.

[Page 2: Carcass of calves placed as bait](#)

IN BRIEF

PUB SEIZED
FOR VIOLATING
COVID NORMSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Excise department officials on Sunday seized and sealed a pub — Resign Sky Bar — in the Hite City area for violation of Covid-19 safety norms. In a video released by the department, pub patrons can be seen without masks. In the over-crowded premises, the staff too were not wearing masks and were not following any of the Covid-19 safety protocols.

The department said it sealed the Resign Sky Bar and any restaurant, bar or pub that flouts Covid-19 norms, will be seized and shut down.

TRS AND BJP
LEADERS TOLD
TO RESIGN

From page 1

"Bheemeshwar was using police to harm those who questioned him by branding them as Naxal informers. He was fleecing money in the name of interest from farmers who had run up debts with him," the Maoists' letter said. It warned TRS and BJP leaders of the area to resign or meet a similar fate.

Mulugu superintendent of police Sangram Singh G. Patil, however, maintained that the Naxals had demanded funds from Bheemeshwar. They killed him when he refused to pay. "Maoists are depriving tribals living in the border areas of the fruits of development and welfare programmes of the state government. They are hampering progress by digging up roads and causing inconvenience to people," he said.

JUDGE: MORE
DV CASES IN
LOCKDOWNDC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, OCT. 11

District judge M. Laxman said that the National Women Commission is working for the welfare of women and their rights. Women can get any assistance from the commission if they have any issues.

"Women can get protection and services of a para legal volunteers by approaching the Commission," he said.

The district judge participated in a webinar organised by the Women Commission, National Legal Services Authority (NSLA) and the District Legal Services Authority (DSLAs) and addressed the women.

He said that domestic violence against women has increased during the Covid-19 situation and senior citizens are being neglected in the society. Such cases will be solved by DSLA if they approach it, he said.

'TRUMP FAN'
SUCCUMBS TO
HEART ATTACKANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 11

Bussa Krishna, a diehard fan of United States President Donald Trump, died of a heart attack on Sunday at Konne village of Bachannapeta mandal in Jangaon district.

Trump Krishna, as he was called by the villagers, was said to have been worried on hearing the news that the US President had tested positive for Covid-19. He was praying for the speedy recovery of Trump, his friends said.

Krishna made headlines when he built a six-foot-tall statue of Trump in his house and performed daily prayers including, *abhishekams* to his statue four years back. Krishna had turned his home into a shrine of sorts for the US President.

Agarwal Hosp botches eye op

First surgery doesn't help; woman, 65, loses vision after second operation

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL
DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

A woman lost vision in one of her eyes after undergoing a cataract surgery at a private eye hospital here in the city and after allegedly being kept in the dark about a second surgery performed on her eye, which did nothing to change her condition, her family lodged a complaint with the Punjagutta police charging the hospital and its staff.

According to V. Vijaya, her mother 65-year-old K. Kalavathi underwent a cataract surgery at Agarwal Eye Hospital in Himayatnagar on September 30 and began complaining on October 2 of unbearable pain and burning in the eye on which the surgery was performed. Following this,

Kalavathi was taken to the hospital by her 75-year-old husband K. Venkataiah the next day. Once the staff at the hospital in Himayatnagar checked the woman, the couple was directed to go to the Punjagutta branch of the hospital.

"At Punjagutta, my father was asked to sign a document which he could not read. We learnt only on October 5 that the doctors at the Punjagutta branch performed a second surgery on my mother's eye after which she was sent back home," Vijaya told *Deccan Chronicle* on Sunday.

"We were shocked to learn about the second surgery," she said. "We still do not know what was on the document my father signed," Vijaya added.

The second surgery was

● **KALAVATHI, 65**, in a video message released to the media, said: "When I asked the doctors when I would regain my sight, I was rudely told that it may take three months or six months. They told me 'we are not God to tell you when'."

● **THE FAMILY** has lodged a complaint with the Punjagutta police.

revealed to the family on October 5 when Kalavathi returned to the hospital at Punjagutta for a post-operation check-up. "When the bandages were removed, my mother could not see anything with the eye. When we asked what happened, the doctors told us that there was a lot of infection in the eye and a second surgery was performed," Vijaya said.

Vijaya added, "in the

Kalavathi, in a video message released to the media, said: "When I asked the doctors when I would regain my sight, I was rudely told that it may take three months or six months. They told me 'we are not God to tell you when'."

Immediately, the family went to the Punjagutta police station where it lodged a complaint against the hospital and received an acknowledgement (HYD/PG/HYD/051020/03420).

"After we lodged the complaint, one Harish Trivedi, President, Operations, for Agarwal Eye Hospital, came from Chennai to our house and began negotiating with us. He asked us: 'In case she loses sight permanently, what are you expecting from us?'" Vijaya said.

Vijaya added, "in the

case summary of the hospital, it was written that my mother was discharged the day after the surgery when the fact was she was sent home soon after the operation on October 3."

Vijaya said there was another patient who lost her sight following a cataract operation on that same day at the same Himayatnagar branch of the hospital. When Deccan Chronicle contacted the second family, its members said the patient was receiving treatment at Agarwal Eye Hospital and that they were not willing to speak about the issue.

Kalavathi, who lost her sight in the operated eye, has since been admitted to the government-run Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, where she underwent a surgery, Vijaya said.



A rescue worker carries a copy of the Quran and a box said to contain the family's jewellery from the debris of the building which collapsed on Sunday at Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad.

— P. SURENDRA

Building weak,
owner was told
to demolish it

From page 1

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

The state recorded 1,717 new cases of Covid-19 on Saturday, the state health department reported on Sunday, adding that five more people lost their lives to the disease, taking the total cases so far to 2,12,063, and the fatalities to 1,222.

For the 24-hour period between Friday and Saturday evening, the department, in its Covid-19 bulletin, said that 2,103 persons were declared as recovered from the disease. With this, the number of people who have overcome Covid-19 so far has reached 1,85,128 which is 87.29 per cent of all cases in the state so far.

A total of 46,657 tests were conducted between Friday and Saturday evening and results from 1,093 of these tests were awaited, the bulletin said. While 20,529 persons tested were primary contacts of Covid-19 patients, 5,598 were secondary contacts.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area had 276 new cases, followed by 132 in Ranga Reddy, 131 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, 104 in Karimnagar, 101 in Nalgonda, 87 in Bhadrakri-Kothagudem, and 85 in Siddipet districts.

There were 1,830 patients admitted to government hospitals while this number was 2,674 in private hospitals.

The health department appealed to the people to follow safety measures including wearing face masks, maintaining six feet with any other person around them, keeping their hands clean by washing with soap or using a sanitiser, and avoid stepping out of their homes unless required to do so.

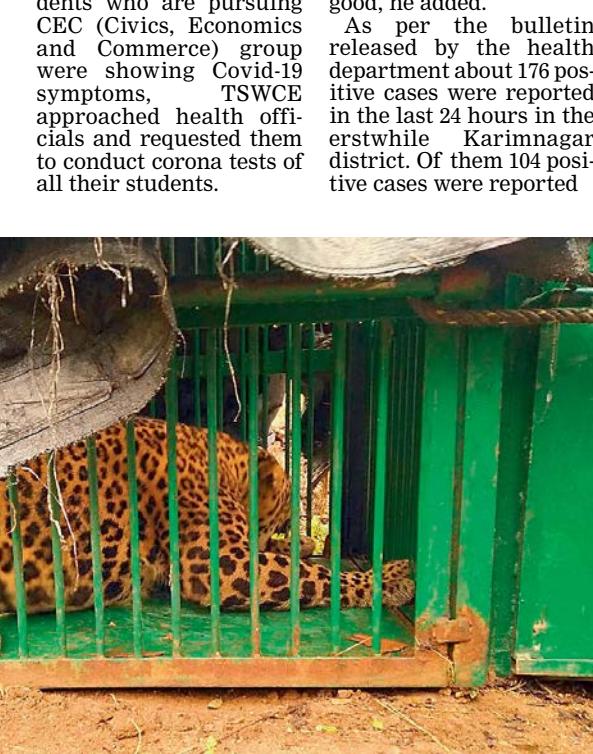
50 in TS school
of excellence
catch Covid-19PULI SHARATH KUMAR I
DC

KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 11

Rapid antigen tests were conducted on 206 persons, including staff members. Overall, 56 tested positive, including 50 students and six staff members. They did not disclose the development in order to avoid parents from getting panicky. They announced that only three students have contracted the Coronavirus and they have been shifted to a quarantine centre.

A total of 206 members of talented students who had been selected from various corners of the state from Class 10 to Intermediate are pursuing their education at TSWCE centre in Alugunoor. The management reopened the school some days back.

Having learnt that some of the intermediate students who are pursuing CEC (Civics, Economics and Commerce) group were showing Covid-19 symptoms, TSWCE approached health officials and requested them to conduct corona tests of all their students.



The leopard that was caught in a cage set up by the forest department at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, early on Friday.

Carcass of calves placed as bait

From page 1

● **JUST A month ago** cages were laid to trap the leopard after a cattle death was reported in the area but in vain, officials said.

months. Just a month ago cages were laid to trap the leopard after a cattle death

was reported in the area but in vain.

Officials of the forest department said that Rajendranagar, the area in which the leopard was

prowling, made for a good habitat.

It was earlier suspected that the leopard may have

Party leaders lobby to get seat for wives

From page 1

Party leaders, those who had a clue about the state government's move of increasing women reservations, began lobbying for party tickets to their spouses. The Mayor's post has already been reserved for women from the Backward Class community, which has sparked lobbying separately.

The Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM), despite

facing difficulty in finding women candidates particularly active women leaders, looked at non-politicians and chose candidates who have been active in social service and also popular in the areas and fielded them. This resulted in the party getting 19 women corporators, including two doctors who are popular in their respective divisions.

Although leaders of the Congress and the Bharatiya

● **ALTHOUGH BJP** and Congress leaders openly claimed that they have strong women base in GHMC limits, they admitted in private that it was not easy for them to find winning women candidates. They opined that they should look to non-politicians in certain wards.

Janata Party openly claimed that they have strong women

base in GHMC limits, they admitted in private that it was not easy for them to find winning women candidates. They firmly opine that they should look at non-politicians in certain wards. They also admit that it would not be difficult to field candidates in 75 wards out of 150 wards, but choosing winning candidates could be a tough proposition.

A senior leader in the Congress pointed out that

the Chief Minister has forced the Opposition parties into a defensive mode so that they could not even oppose or find fault with the state government in providing 50 per cent reservation to women though there are flaws in the procedure adopted by the government in going about it.

If any party came openly against the flaws, it could prove suicidal to them in the GHMC polls, he added.

"We had placed the carcass of the calves in two cage to lure the animal. Once it caught the scent of the carcass, it entered the cage and was caught in it," he added.

This particular leopard has been eluding forest officials for the last five



SHORT TAKES
YOUTH DROWNS WHILE TAKING SELFIE IN A'BAD

Hyderabad, Oct. 11: A youngster who was on a picnic with a group of friends drowned in a waterfall while trying to take a selfie near Khandala village in Adilabad Rural mandal on Saturday.

The incident came to light on Monday. The victim was identified as Akash, 22, of Subhashagar in Adilabad, the Adilabad Rural police said.

Police said Akash was standing on a rock and trying to take the selfie when he slipped and fell into a deep portion of the water. His friends tried to rescue him but in vain. They called the police who deployed expert divers to retrieve the body. A case of suspicious death was reported based on a complaint lodged by the family. Inquiries have been taken up. —INN

APPLICATIONS DATE FOR HOSP MGMT EXTENDED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

The last date for submission of applications for admission to the Masters in Hospital Management programme offered by the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has been extended to October 20, hospital authorities said on Sunday.

NIMS, a university under a special Act of the state government, offers this course to medical and non-medical graduates. Anyone who meets this requirement and does not cross 30 years of age on December 31, 2020, is eligible to apply. For SC/ST students, a three-year age relaxation rule will apply. The two-year programme offers a six-month internship at NIMS.

Prospective students can apply at https://nims.edu.in/nimset/?tab=curr&adm_id=MjM2 along with an application fee of ₹1,100. More details are available with Dr G. Sravanti at 8555839760, K. Anusha at 7794043987, Shipra Chakraborty at 9046484856, Vignan Reddy at 9059544844, and Suresh Aishala at 9160793142, NIMS said. Queries can also be mailed to nimsmh@nims.edu.in.

GEO-SCIENCES RESEARCH IN NGRI 'A MILESTONE'

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

On the occasion of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the city-based National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), a constituent research laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific adviser to the government of India, said that the geo-sciences research in the institute was a milestone.

"The scientists must mix research with industries, as industrial research is the way forward. In this context NGRI is uniquely placed to compile and comprehend the multi-dimensional information for optimal use by academic and research organisations," he said.

Speaking to the gathering, Prof. S.C. Mande, Director-General, CSIR said that he was appreciative of the geo-physical atlas the NGRI has come up with and it was the crest jewel in the crown of CSIR.

SCIENTISTS MUST mix research with industries, as industrial research is the way forward, said Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific adviser to the government of India,

HIGHWAY | COMFORT

Rain fury to continue till Oct. 15

Southwest monsoon withdrawal in mid-October extended by a week

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a fresh heavy rainfall warning for the city, which is valid till October 15.

"There are new systems that are forming in the Bay of Bengal and their outer reaches travel up to the city. Under their effect we will witness some rains," said Dr K. Nagarathna, director, IMD Hyderabad.

In a fresh spate of rains over the city and the state, several areas were left inundated, fortunately, there weren't too many traffic snarls as only the weekend traffic was affected.

The highest rainfall in the city was recorded at Lingampally, measuring 63.5 mm till 9 pm. In the state, the highest rainfall was recorded at Damarajidda, in the Narayanpet district at 102.5 mm.

The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon, that was expected to happen in the second week of October, has been extended by a week, said officials from the local weather department.

THE HIGHEST rainfall in the city was recorded at Lingampally, measuring 63.5 mm till 9 pm. In the state, the highest rainfall was recorded at Damarajidda, in the Narayanpet district at 102.5 mm.



ACCIDENT NOT AT CABLE BRIDGE, SAY POLICE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

A video of a road accident, in which a woman standing by the edge of a road and talking to another person is knocked into the air by a speeding car, was not captured on the cable-stayed bridge on Durgam Cheruvu in Madhapur, the police has said.

In the brief video that has been making the rounds as an accident captured by a CCTV camera on the cable bridge, two women are seen walking against the traffic on the carriage way and stop to talk when a speeding car shoots into view and sideswipes one of them. The person goes flying and cartwheeling over the barricade into what appears to be a pedestrian lane.

Describing the incident being attributed to the cable-stayed bridge location as 'fake news', the Cyberabad Police on its Twitter account, said the accident did not occur on Durgam Cheruvu bridge.

SCIENTISTS MUST mix research with industries, as industrial research is the way forward, said Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific adviser to the government of India,



GHMC's Disaster Rescue Force members flush out rainwater that had flooded the cellar of an apartment in Musheerabad on Sunday, where a Telangana High Court staffer died on Saturday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Very heavy rains, take care: KCR

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Sunday asked people in the state to be alert and cautious following Indian Meteorological Department's warning of heavy to very heavy rains across the state over the next two days.

He instructed Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar to keep the official

machinery on high alert and wanted him to monitor the situation with district collectors, superintendents of police and police commissioners at regular intervals and take necessary relief measures.

Accordingly, the Chief Secretary issued directions to the authorities stating that IMD has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall over isolated parts of the state, especially the erstwhile districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal and Khammam.

While cautioning the state administration that massive flooding and waterlogging are likely to occur in low-lying areas and trees and electric poles falling on roads, he asked the collectors and superintendents of police to ensure that the entire district administration strictly follows the flood

protocol. Stating that reservoirs, tanks and streams may overflow causing inundation of low-lying areas and causeways to overflow, posing threat to traffic and people, he asked the authorities to pay special attention to low-level bridges and causeways. The CM also wanted prohibition of all traffic and pedestrian movements so as to ensure no loss of lives.

UoH students fume over FIR

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

The Cyberabad police on Saturday booked at least 14 students of University of Hyderabad (UoH) for taking part in an anti-CAA rally from the university campus to the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) on February 21 this year.

The notice said that the students may be arrested without a warrant if necessary in relation to a first information report (FIR) that had been filed against them.

The complaint said that

students of the university had illegally gathered at the Manuu campus and conducted a rally showing placards and shouting slogans against the Centre, and gave lectures that were being deemed as provocative and intended to break tranquillity at the university.

Students of the university had illegally gathered at the Manuu campus and conducted a rally showing placards and shouting slogans against the Centre, and gave lectures that were being deemed as provocative and intended to break tranquillity at the university.

The FIR invokes Indian Penal Code Sections 143 (unlawful assembly) and 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) read with Section 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention). Students called it a witch-hunt by the police.

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SHORT TAKES

JAGADISHWAR: KCR ROUTE MAP BEING IMPLEMENTED

Hyderabad, Oct. 11: Energy minister G. Jagadishwar Reddy said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had understood what the people wanted, back in 2001 when he started the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS). The route map, which was drawn up during the statehood movement, was being implemented now, he said.

He was speaking after inaugurating a power substation at Bopparam village in Soan mandal, along with minister A. Indrakaran Reddy.

As part of the road map, the TRS government provided uninterrupted quality control free of charge to the agriculture sector. Jagadishwar Reddy said neither in Gujarat nor in Uttar Pradesh was the government led by BJP providing electricity for free.

Many people had said that if a new state was carved out, Telangana would be in darkness. "Today, we are leading the nation in power usage. In Telangana, a total of 50 welfare schemes are being implemented. K. Chandrashekhar Rao gets the credit," the power minister said.

The driving force of the schemes and developmental activities is the Chief Minister, who has mastered the art of administration. Telangana state is experiencing outstanding development in several ways, he said and listed out several welfare initiatives started by the government.

He said the state had become the nation's rice bowl. The government had purchased 60 lakh tonnes of grains, which was a record. The other states had procured 30 lakh tonnes.

Indrakaran Reddy said the government was taking measures to ensure that the agricultural, domestic and industrial sectors are supplied with quality electricity. A variety of steps have been taken to resolve different problems encountered in the past. The low-voltage problem, for example, was resolved and electricity outages were reduced, he added.

Indrakaran Reddy said that owing to the new agriculture Acts implemented by the Centre, the agrarian community would report losses. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was introducing anti-farmer policies. —INN

COMMISSIONERATE OF POLICE MAN SHOT DEAD

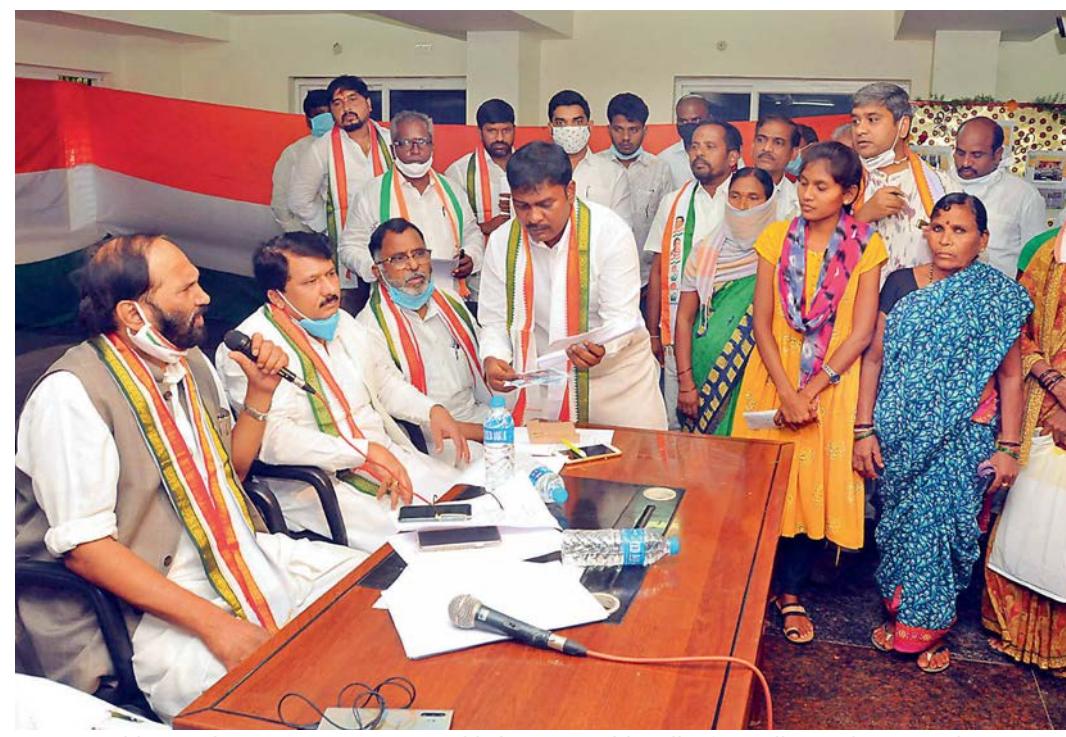
MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 11

An employee of Vijayawada police commissionerate G. Mahesh was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on the Vijayawada bypass road near Nunna on the city outskirts late Saturday night.

Mahesh, a resident of Christurajapuram, and went with two friends Hari and Dinesh to the bypass road. Unidentified persons came there, entered into an altercation with them, shot three bullets killing Mahesh on the spot. The incident sent shock waves in the city.

Mahesh's friend Dinesh said that they left their houses at 4 pm and later went to the bypass road at 10.30 pm. He said that they were seated in their car in front of a dhaba when suddenly two people came there. He said that the two questioned them about their identity and asked why they were talking about girls and women. Dinesh said that they tried to explain them but suddenly one culprit started firing on Mahesh with a pistol and he died on the spot. He said that the culprit shot six rounds and they narrowly escaped. He said that he and Hari pleaded with assailants to leave them. When they demanded their car, they handed over the vehicle.

The culprits escaped from the spot in the car.



TPCC president and MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy interacts with Dalits from all over the state who came to Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday and narrated their woes alleging atrocities being perpetrated against them by officials of the Telangana state government.

— P. SURENDRA

Uttam condemns violence against Dalits, to fight it

Says Congress will provide them legal assistance, jobs

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Scheduled Caste department chairman Preetam.

Family members of a farmer, Narasimha, from Gajwel constituency, who died by suicide, explained how the TRS government forcibly took away their land.

Family members of Rajababu of Mallaram in Bhupalpally district, explained how Rajababu was murdered by TRS leaders.

Uttam Kumar Reddy spoke to the father of a 13-year-old Dalit girl who was set ablaze after she resisted a rape attempt. A total of eight Dalit families who were

subjected to atrocities like attempt to rape, murder, abetment to suicide, grabbing of land or houses, etc., shared their grievances with the Congress leaders.

The TPCC chief distributed ₹50,000 to each of those families; the money was donated by former legislator K. Lakshma Reddy. AICC secretary A. Sampath Kumar, TPCC vice president Dr Mallu Ravi and other leaders were present on the occasion.

Uttam Kumar Reddy promised that the Congress would fight against the atrocities on

Dalits and would not rest until the families of all the victims get justice. He said that the Congress would help the Dalits by providing them legal assistance besides extending help in education, jobs and other financial assistance.

The TPCC president said that Telangana state has turned worse than Uttar Pradesh in terms of atrocities on Dalits. He warned Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao of dire consequences if his government continued to target the Dalit community.

STATE DROPS MOVE TO INTRODUCE NEW GHMC BILL

S.A. ISHAQI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Faced with the challenge of ensuring easy location of their patients by senior doctors and professors at the Osmania General Hospital in the new Quli Qutub Shah block, the hospital authorities have come up with a simple solution: A set of stickers have now been pasted on the walls and pillars of the large halls in which the in-patients are lodged.

It may be recalled that after the closing down of the Heritage Block of the OGH following instances of flooding, it was decided that all patients who would otherwise be lodged in specific rooms kept getting intermingled.

"The professors and senior doctors were having a tough time and would call residents and junior doctors to help find their patients in the melee that the large halls had turned into," a doctor said.

Since the new block

was not divided into different wards, many patients who otherwise would have been lodged in specific rooms kept getting intermingled. Vexed with this problem, the hospital authorities hit upon a solution, of pasting 'ward' stickers in the large halls and segregating patients accordingly. "This has helped all of us and finding patients or finding a bed for a specific patient with a specific health issue, is much more streamlined now," a doctor said.

told Deccan Chronicle.

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SHGS loan limit hiked

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, OCT. 11

been proper. The decision to enhance the loan limit has been taken for strengthening women SHGs and enhancing economic growth in rural areas. Nearly 8,193 self-help groups will be eligible for ₹10 lakh loans in Khammam district. It has been noticed that these groups not only employ themselves but

also provide employment to some others in the district.

There are 24,195 SHGs in the district, including 1,488 eligible for loans below ₹1 lakh, 1,791 eligible for loans up to ₹2 lakh, 2,478 that can take loans till ₹3 lakh and 3,108 self-help groups eligible for loans up to ₹4 lakh.

sources disclosed that the CM has dropped the idea of abolition of standing committees in the GHMC as also the two children norm in the GHMC Act.

Sources pointed out that the CM will introduce the GHMC Amendment Bill instead of the New GHMC Bill 2020 on Tuesday in the Assembly.

The amendments also propose changes to the functioning of ward committees. They will also mandate that each corporator develop 10 per cent greenery in each of the divisions. The principal secretary, municipal administration, will be authorised to take disciplinary action.

Sources said that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had instructed officials to draw up amendments to the 1955 Act by incorporating the provision of reserving 50 per cent seats to women in the GHMC Council and a provision that the reservations will continue to remain in place for two consecutive terms.

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IN BRIEF

Tribal suspected to be 'witch' killed

Srikakulam: Villagers in Srikakulam district murdered a 45-year-old tribal and burnt the body suspecting him to be a 'witch'. The incident took place on Saturday night at Pulaguda tribal village under Kotturu Mandal in Srikakulam district. Around 15 people were suspected to have participated in the murder and burning of the man. The deceased has been identified as V. Nayakamma alias Nayak, a farmer. He was said to be a calm person. The Kotturu police said the villagers suspected Nayakamma was practising witchcraft and was responsible for the death of 30-year-old Ramesh Babu. The police said that Ramesh died of fever 20 days ago.

ONLINE CRICKET BETTING RACKET BUSTED IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 11

Krishna district task force police busted an online cricket betting racket after arresting 18 persons and seizing ₹6.5 lakh cash and electronic gadgets used for organising online IPL cricket betting here on Sunday. SP Ravindranath Babu said that police have been closely monitoring betting activities since the commencement of IPL 2020.

Working on a tip-off, ASP VAkul Jindal alerted the Nuzvid police that online betting was being organised in the town. Police teams, led by DSP B/ Srivinasulu and CI Ramachandra Rao conducted surprise checks in Nuzvid town and arrested M Venkat Rao for organising online betting. The accused revealed that he and others had a sub agent and the key person was M. Venkateswarlu from Prakasam district, who organised the racket through the Sunsex-365 link. Betting was organised through an application developed by one Rohan, and the whole show was run by Venkateswarlu who issues username and password to sub-agents.

TWO STUDENTS DROWN ON WEEKEND TRIP

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, OCT. 11

A weekend pleasure trip turned tragic for a group of students as two of them drowned in a local pond at Durgam Gattu, close to Chandragiri fort in Chittoor district. The bodies of the victims were retrieved by the Chandragiri police early on Sunday.

According to Chandragiri sub-inspector Rama Krishna, the two victims Srikanth Srinivas (27) and Anudeep (23) along with one Nithin (17), all hailing from various parts in Tirupati, went to the pond near the Chandragiri fort for a swim on Saturday afternoon.

The boys thought the water wouldn't be too deep and got inside the water body, but were stranded. Nithin managed to come out of the pond but Srikanth and Anudeep drowned.

Nithin returned home by the evening and informed his parents about the incident.



A child enjoys a horse ride on the sands of the Ramakrishna beach even as thick clouds hover overhead under the impact of an approaching storm, in Visakhapatnam, on Sunday. — K. MURALI KRISHNA

AP coast to get heavy rains

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 11

The low pressure area over the east central and southeast Bay of Bengal concentrated into a depression over west central Bay of Bengal on Sunday and lay centred about 400 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam, 450 km southeast of Kakinada and 490 km east-southeast of Narsapur.

It is very likely to intensify into a deep depression during the next 24 hours and move west-northwest and cross the north Andhra Pradesh coast between Narsapur and Visakhapatnam on Monday evening.

Under its influence, rains are likely in many places in AP, Telangana state and Odisha. Winds reaching up to 50 kmph is likely along and off the coast during this period.

Collectors of the coastal districts held emergency meeting and reviewed preparedness. They issued directions to the fishermen not to venture during this period.

Local cautionary signal number three kept hoisted at Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam, Krishnapatnam and Vadarevu ports.

Low pressure in Bay leads to heavy rain in Kadapa

NAGESWARA RAO
BALLEDI | DC
KADAPA, OCT. 11

Kadapa district was receiving heavy rains since Saturday night due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal.

Heavy downpour is being witnessed in entire Kadapa city, which has led to floods in several areas of the district headquarters. RTC bus stand road, Court road, Ambedkar

junction, Apsara circle, Mrityunjaya Kunta, Bhagyanagar colony, Nakash street, Fakir Palle and several other areas of the city are submerged with rain water. Motorists are facing severe difficulties as roads are knee deep under water.

Yerra Cheruvu in Mydukur has got filled to the brim with rain water. All rivulets and canals are overflowing. All low level areas in Badvel have got submerged. Drains overflowing onto roads are posing a health hazard for people.

All revenue divisions in the district have witnessed heavy rains including Jammalamadugu, Rajampet and Kadapa. Gandi Vanka has caused floods in Gangarapu-vandlapalli, Mahadevpalli and Gotlamita villages in Chakrayapet mandal.

2 motorcyclists rescued from overflowing canal

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, OCT. 11

Two youth riding a motorcycle had a miraculous escape when police and fire personnel rescued them from an overflowing canal near the railway under bridge on Pakala-Damalacheruvu road in Chittoor district during early hours of Sunday. Luckily, a passerby saw them falling and dialled

100. SI Rajasekhar said, "Due to continuous rain for two days, the local canal was overflowing in Pakala mandal. The bike rider lost control and fell into the canal along with the pillion rider. While their bike got washed off, they held on to a rock. On receiving information, police rushed with firemen and rescued them with the help of ropes."

70L students await school opening

MD. ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 11

Majority of students from Class I to VIII in Andhra Pradesh, who had been without studies since the past six months, are eagerly waiting for reopening of their schools. Though online classes had started, majority of the students could not benefit due to lack of mobile phones, computers, tablets or poor internet connectivity.

With intensity of Coronavirus pandemic decreasing since the past few days, students and parents are hopeful that schools will reopen in the coming days. They prefer studying in physical classrooms than online studies.

According to available statistics, nearly 70 lakh students are studying in 62,277 schools, including private ones, across the state. While private schools number 17,141, the rest 45,136 are run by the government. The state government had recently allowed schools to start online

classes for ninth and tenth classes only for clearing doubts and guiding students.

Private schools had taken the lead in starting online classes for students. But the experiment did not yield good results due to various reasons including private schools demanding that fee be paid before joining online classes. Schools also demanded that monthly fees be paid, which turned out to be a huge burden as parents were already struggling to make ends meet because of down turn due to the Coronavirus crisis.

Parents D. Narayana and B. Nagesh say usually children from first to Class X are not given mobiles by parents. But they had to buy it and take internet connection, so that children attend online classes.

Schools also demanded that monthly fees be paid, which turned out to be a huge burden as parents were already struggling to make ends meet because of down turn due to the Coronavirus crisis.

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DECCAN Chronicle

12 OCTOBER 2020

Recovery contingent on curbing Covid-19

After a six-month-long flow of negative news, the Reserve Bank of India's economic forecast has offered a glimmer of hope. While the annual economic growth rate would continue to be in the negative territory with an expected contraction of 9.5 per cent, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said that the Indian economy will post a positive growth of 0.5 per cent in January-March quarter, unless the country witnesses a second wave of Covid-19 cases.

Though a half percentage growth is negligible, it shows that the economy has passed its worst phase. This optimism was also reflected in the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) for September 2020, which rose to 56.8 — its highest mark since January 2012 — supported by acceleration in new orders and production. The services PMI too has almost reached the positive territory in September with 49.8, which is shy of 0.2 points. Since PMI records business expectation, it needs to be seen as to which sector would contribute to this growth.

Public investment, therefore, remains the only way to kick-start the economy. However, the subdued tax collections would make it difficult to shoulder this responsibility. According to the RBI, there has been a 23.7 per cent contraction in gross tax collections.

men hesitant in expanding their operations. Exports, another key component of the Indian economy, are also languishing at low levels. Given the global economic outlook, Indian exports may not see a major revival unless the country can attract some of companies de-risking their operations from Chinese dependence. This, however, may not happen in the short term, as infrastructure in India remains woefully inadequate.

Public investment, therefore, remains the only way to kick-start the economy. However, the subdued tax collections would make it difficult to shoulder this responsibility. According to the RBI, there has been a 23.7 per cent contraction in gross tax collections and a 14.7 per cent plunge in transfer of taxes to states and Union Territories.

A full recovery in the economy, therefore, would be incumbent on how fast the world defeats the coronavirus. Until then, the economic activity will not reach the pre-pandemic levels and the bullishness of stock markets would not reflect the real state of the economy.

Don't buy into US rhetoric

Just days before US deputy secretary of state Stephen Biegun commences a visit to New Delhi on Monday, America's national security adviser Robert O'Brien has observed, "The time has come to accept that dialogue and agreements will not persuade and compel China to change." The remark is in the context of the CCP's (Chinese Communist Party's) territorial aggression" and China's "attempt(ed) to seize control of the Line of Actual Control by force".

Many may agree with the general drift of the US NSA's comment. It will become clearer after Mr Biegun's talks here if, officially, India at this stage would go so far as to withhold any further discussions and consultations — at the military and diplomatic levels — with China in order to make it move back its troops in Ladakh.

The Chinese aggression was evidently a key issue in the meeting of the Quad (US, Japan, Australia, India) foreign ministers in Tokyo earlier this month. The Quad, which began its journey as an informal grouping of liberal democracies of the Indo-Pacific region in 2007 in order to counterbalance China and act as a moderating influence on it, has been active of late. This arises from China's ongoing marked aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific littoral — aimed at territorial expansion — taking on a continental dimension in Ladakh.

The tenor of the US criticism of Xi's China has of late taken on a sharp political and ideological dimension. But India and other Quad members have been more calibrated, calling for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" or FOIP. The situation in Ladakh is likely to loom large at the meeting of "2+2" — the defence and foreign ministers of India and the US — in New Delhi later this month. While being prepared for any military eventuality, it might be prudent not to cancel further talks with the Chinese unless it seems this would make Beijing reverse its militarist stance in Ladakh.

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Kishwar Desai
London Diary

Ill, Boris had a harder time; virus blow to James Bond

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has said that new restrictions appear to be inevitable, which seems to indicate that things are going to get worse before we finally see the New Year. And so it is going to be corona carols for all of us! We can only hope that Santa comes along to stuff the Covid vaccine into our Christmas stockings.

If things were not gloomy enough already, the weather has turned wet and windy. There has been an odd day of sunshine now and then but otherwise we are in a standard English autumn. The political climate is no warmer except a lot of people are angry and fed up. The second coming of Covid has seen thousands of new cases every week. Everyone had thought the lockdown was over in August and we would be back to our usual round of pubs and parties. But now pubs are to be shut again as will restaurants. Nothing is certain and the rules keep changing.

The scientists are definitely quarrelling and they have been fighting for some time. Those advising Boris Johnson want dire lockdowns but others are complaining that we need herd immunity and freedom to mingle. London has escaped the worst so far but there are local lockdowns in the North. In Scotland, as of this weekend, all pubs, restaurants and cafes are shut. But cafes not serving alcohol are allowed to open. So can a pub stay open serving coffee but not Irish coffee? No clarity yet!

The only constant is that like the scientists, the government is also at a loss. They are now not very sure about how they can calculate the precise numbers of those who got the virus. The latest is that the test and trace programme missed out on 50,000 cases because the computer was old as was the Excel spreadsheet and the last few rows were left out. So there are 50,000 people out there who tested positive but cannot be traced because the computer was dysfunctional. The test

and trace programme, according to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson was to be a "Moonshot".

But let us face it, Boris has had a tough time than other heads of state when he got Covid-19. Look at how luxuriously Donald Trump gets treated when he catches the virus — his own four-room suite at Walter Reed hospital with a personal chef and doctors and secret service staff. You have to feel sorry for the British Prime Minister. In 10 Downing Street there are no doctors or staff to look after the Prime Minister. When he had Covid last March, he was alone in a flat at the top of No.11. He was being supplied food pushed through the door, because his then pregnant girlfriend had to isolate elsewhere to be safe. Finally Boris had to check into hospital — but only because he was, by then, seriously unwell. We do not pamper our Prime Minister. If he wants a posh meal at home, he cooks it himself or orders a takeaway. Things are better at

Chequers but there are no chefs or housemaids in 10 Downing Street. The family has to cook, wash the dishes and do their own laundry. Now, I wonder how things are back in India?

James Bond normally comes to the rescue of the British people in distress. But this time he has struck a hard blow. The release of the latest Bond film *No Time to Die* was postponed for six months. We had even heard that cinemas were supposed to open with a bang and Bond. Now Cineworld, a cinema chain which owns 127 theatres, has decided to close them all down. Others may follow suit. It seems as though the great film industry in the UK is going to be badly impacted. How will one survive without eating popcorn and watching action on the big screen?

But some cheering up has been done by the Queen as usual. She has buoyed sinking spirits by honouring the many wonderful doctors and nurses and other "warriors"

who were at the frontline of fighting Covid. Every year she bestows honours on people in June, which is her official birthday month. Due to Covid the date was put back to October. Normally there is intense competition and lobbying by the top people to grab a gong. One is told that there are even agencies you can hire to secure you an honour, though that sounds a bit odd. (What do they do — sidle up to the Queen, and whisper in her ear?) But this time, it is the many ordinary people — NHS nurses, volunteers who donated their time to prepare free meals or encouraged people to exercise daily online — 414 of them have been honoured, out of a total of 1,495. This spirit of helping others is a unique thing about the local culture. It is wonderful that this is being recognised.

Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author. Her latest book, The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani, will be out by November.

Subhani



How farm laws might hurt national security

Manish Tewari

State of the Union

On the 27th of September, 2020, the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, gave assent to the three farm bills, namely, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, thereby paving the way for their notification as law.

These acts unconstitutionally passed by the Rajya Sabha have created great trepidation among the agrarian communities, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh, as also in various other parts of the country. The first two bills are especially troublesome because they have been perceived as the first act in dismantling both the public procurement and the Minimum Support Price regimes. What gives further credence to these concerns is the fact that the debt burden of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the current fiscal has already crossed 3.15 lakh crores and the government has no plans of defraying the debt. The FCI has barely any independent means of servicing this debt and if things continue as such FCI may just fold up. It would be pertinent to underscore that FCI is the principal instrumentality of the Union government for public procurement of agricultural produce in the wake of the Anglo-Sikh Wars never really came to fruition.

In fact, they had to re-militarise it based upon the martial race theory that they conceived. The martial race theory categorised the Dogras, Garhwali, Gujjars, Gorkhas, Jats, Kumaonis, Pathans, Rajputs, Sikhs, Janjuas, Mahars, Kodavas, Gakkars, Ghumman, Khokhar and Yadavs as martial races. As a consequence, very heavy recruitment into the British Indian Army started taking place from undivided Punjab and the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) now in Pakistan from around the 1870.

Throughout World War I, the British recruited heavily from Punjab. About half a million men were recruited from the province. According to certain historians, 50 per cent of these recruits were Punjabi Muslims, 36 per cent

since times immemorial been impregnated with the creed of resisting of aggression and persecution. For 800 long years, from the 11th to 18th century, Punjab saw at least 70 invasions that left the frontier ethos of Indian subcontinent heavily militarised with a culture of resisting exploitation and aggression becoming the dominant social strain. It was better to die honorably than live in ignominy.

However, it was in the nineteenth century especially on the 10 of May 1857 that the 11th and 20th Bengal Native Infantry Regiments in conjunction with the 3rd Light Cavalry rose up against the British Raj. They murdered their European officers and moved towards Delhi that was captured by the sepoys of Meerut within 24 hours and Bahadur Shah Zafar II was proclaimed as the Emperor of Hindustan. This kickstarted the First War of Independence. After the British succeeded in putting down the uprising the British plan to demilitarise Punjab that was supposed to be implemented in the wake of the Anglo-Sikh Wars never really came to fruition.

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Incidentally even today Haryana, which has only 2.2 per cent of India's population, contributes 7.82 per cent to the Armed Forces. Punjab with 2.4 per cent of the National population still contributes 16.6 per cent to the Armed Forces even though these num-

SYL provided the trigger to a festering yet nascent militant movement that soon evolved into full-fledged terrorism consuming the lives of thousands of innocent citizens

The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manish_tewari.

LETTERS MENTAL HEALTH

On the occasion of the World Mental Health Day on October 10, it is pertinent to note that society is getting sick morally, mentally and physically with each passing day and unless it changes its thought process, things will come to a nought in the years to come.

Dr K. Srinivas
Hyderabad

EDUCATION SYSTEM

The education system has become a double-edged sword (*Hiked fees: Case against Clenched fist, DC, Oct. 9*). On one hand we have teachers doing their duty irrespective of whether they are paid or not and on the other we have students, a majority of them unable to pay, hindering their education. School managements are not paying teachers by blaming children for not paying fee. While some managements are in a position to pay, but do not. Some parents don't pay though they can after seeing other children being allowed to attend classes without paying fees.

Blandina Sainikpuri

DHARANI PORTAL

I am a landowner and have not updated details on the Dharani portal as I am getting tax receipts in the name of the owners from whom I purchased 20 years ago. The Dharani updation staff are not accepting previous electricity and water bills on my name. They are not even accepting people who bought houses through notarised document. The change of name on the tax receipt has not been done by Rajendranagar municipality for 80 per cent in our locality. How will the updation be done?

Syed Wasif
Hyderabad

Site for Vizag steel plant selected

VISAKHAPATNAM, Oct. 11. The plant selection committee of the Union Government has approved Gajuvaka-Kanithi-Balacheruvu area for the proposed steel plant in Andhra Pradesh.

According to present indications about 6,000 acres would be earmarked for the plant at Gajuvaka area which lies on the grand trunk road.

The Anglo-American consortium and the Hindustan Steel had also recommended the same site for location of a steel plant.

An intensive study of the area would be made and extensive drilling operation will be conducted to study soil and rock conditions.— PTI



Kishwar Desai
London Diary

Ill, Boris had a harder time; virus blow to James Bond



SHORT TAKES

CONG ALLEGES
K'ATAKA CM'S KIN
HAND IN SCAM

New Delhi, Oct. 11: The Congress on Sunday attacked the BJP over reported allegations of corruption against some family members of Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in connection with a housing project and demanded a time-bound judicial probe into the matter.

When Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah had made the allegations against the Chief Minister in the Karnataka Assembly last month, Yediyurappa had dismissed them as "baseless" and challenged the Congress leader to prove the charges.

Citing media reports, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi on Sunday alleged that the BJP government in Karnataka is "engulfed in the clutches of corruption with dented, tainted leaders ruling the roost".

"If the Chief Minister has the slightest sense of shame, he must resign or be sacked," Singhvi said.

He also questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda over the reported allegations of corruption and kickbacks against the son, son-in-law, and grandson of Yediyurappa.

The matter relates to a ₹662-crore construction of an apartment project in Bengaluru, Singhvi said.

WOMAN DIES AFTER
GIVING BIRTH TO
16TH CHILD IN MP

Damoh (MP), Oct. 11: A 45-year-old woman gave birth to her 16th child in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, but both of them died soon afterwards, a local health worker said on Sunday.

The woman, Sukhrani Ahirwar from Padajir village in the district, delivered a baby boy at home on Saturday, Kailo Bai Vishwakarma, an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), said.

"However, the condition of the woman and her newborn turned critical and they were rushed to a primary health centre, where both of them were pronounced dead," she added.

According to her, Ahirwar had given birth to 15 children earlier, however the family had lost seven of them. District Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Sangeeta Trivedi confirmed the incident.

INDIA, CHINA CORPS
COMMANDERS'
TALKS TODAY

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

Indian and Chinese Corps Commanders are scheduled to hold the 7th round of military talks on Monday where India will again press China to disengage from all friction points in Ladakh and restore the status quo of April 2020.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, foreign affairs minister S. Jaishankar, national security advisor Ajit Doval and Army Chief General M.M. Naravane among others are part of this crucial group.

Last week, the high-powered China Study Group had discussed the agenda for the 7th round of Corps Commanders level meeting on the five month old stand-off between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

PAK VIOLATES
CEASEFIRE IN
POONCH, RAJOURI

Jammu, Oct. 11: Pakistani troops on Sunday shelled mortars in three sectors along the Line of Control in Poonch and Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesperson said. The shelling from across the border in Degwar and Kharai Karmara sectors in Poonch and Rajouri's Sunderbani drew a befitting retaliation by the Indian Army, he said, adding that there was no immediate report of any casualty. Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars in Degwar sector around 6.15 pm. It was followed by firing and artillery shelling in Kharai Karmara at 6.40 pm, the spokesperson said. At 6.45 pm, Pakistani troops targeted forward areas along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri, he said.



Nadda sounds poll bugle in Bihar with Gaya public rally

First public meeting by political party under the shadow of Covid pandemic

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 11

BJP chief J.P. Nadda kick-started the NDA's political campaign in Bihar by addressing a public rally at the historic Gandhi Maidan in Gaya on Sunday. He listed the works done by the NDA government at the Centre and praised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's policies for the development of Bihar.

He also used the occasion to lash out at the Opposition parties, especially the Congress and the RJD, for misleading people and doing caste and religion-based politics.

"Modi believes in showing work to the people but the Congress has been doing politics based on caste and religion for political gains. Remember 'Modi hai to Mumkin hai' and 'Nitish hai to Pradesha gaye badhega' (Modi makes it possible and under the leadership of Nitish Kumar the state will progress). The future of India is secure in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it is important that we should support Nitish Kumar for the progress of Bihar," Nadda said.

Nadda appreciated the Nitish Kumar-led state government for extending help to people during Covid-19 pandemic.

He said, "The Nitish Kumar government took care of the people. Financial assistance was also provided by the state government to those who were stuck outside Bihar."

This was the first public meeting to be organised by a political party under the



BJP national president J.P. Nadda with party leaders and NDA candidates during the first election rally at Gandhi Maidan in Gaya on Sunday.

— PTI

Congress forms committees, Surjewala to head key panel

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

The Congress will hold a meeting of its Central Election Committee on Monday where the last of the candidates to the 70 seats on which it is contesting in the Bihar Assembly polls would be finalised.

The party also formed various panels for the upcoming Assembly polls with party general secretary Randeev Surjewala named chairman of the election management and coordination committee.

The 14-member election

management and coordination committee includes senior leaders like Meira Kumar, Tariq Anwar, Shatrughan Sinha, Kirti Azad, Shakeel Ahmed and Sanjay Nirupam while Mohan Prakash would be the convenor of the panel.

Elections to the 243-member Bihar Assembly will be held in three phases from October 28 to November 7. The counting would take place on November 10.

On Sunday, Congress president Sonia Gandhi also approved the setting up of the publicity committee, Jaeya Mishra was named the co-convenor of the panel.

mittee, media coordination committee, public meeting and logistics committee, legal committee and office management committee for the Bihar elections, a party statement said. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera will head the media coordination committee of which Prem Chand Mishra and Rajesh Rathor would be convenor and co-convenor respectively. While Subodh Kumar has been appointed the convener of the publicity committee, Jaeya Mishra

was named the co-convenor of the panel.

According to a senior

shadow of Covid-19. Besides, Nadda other senior BJP leaders are expected to address public rallies ahead of polls in Bihar.

According to a senior

BJP leader in Patna, the party has prepared a list of its senior leaders which include Union ministers Amit Shah, Smriti Irani, former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and

national general secretary Bhupendra Yadav.

From the state, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Union ministers Nityanand Rai, Giriraj Singh Ashwini

Kumar Choubey, Ravi Shankar Prasad and R.K. Singh along with others have been included in the list of campaigners which the party will release in a phased manner.

— PTI

ASSAM GOVT EXPEDITES BODO PEACE-ACCORD

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, OCT. 11

Assam government has accelerated the process of implementing the peace-accord signed with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) which led to surrender and disbanding of all the armed rebel groups in Western Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

Informing that several key points of the peace-accord have already been implemented, security sources said that the ministry of home affairs has also directed the state government to expedite the process of implementing the accord.

Admitting that withdrawal of cases and rehabilitation of armed cadre would take some more time, security sources said that cases would be withdrawn only after the judicial review of all the cases.

However, the process of rehabilitating the cadres has already started and 1,279 cadres are getting a stipend of ₹6,000 per month.

They will also get a one-time grant of ₹4 lakh each. The one-time grant will be put in fixed deposit accounts for a period of three years and they would be able to withdraw it only if they maintain good conduct during this period.

Requesting people to celebrate the approaching festivals at home with their loved ones instead of going out to fairs and pan-

dals, he said fighting against Covid-19 is everyone's foremost dharma and as the health minister it is his dharma to mitigate the virus and prevent deaths at any cost.

"Extraordinary circumstances must draw extraordinary responses. No religion or God says that you have to celebrate in an ostentatious way, that you have to visit pandals and temples and mosques to pray," Vardhan underlined.

During the fifth episode

of 'Sunday Samavaad', the health minister's virtual interaction with people on social media, Vardhan discussed the possibility of increased Coronavirus transmission during the coming winter season as transmission of respiratory viruses is known to increase during the colder weather.

"These viruses are known to thrive better in the cold weather and low humidity conditions. In view of these, it would not be wrong to assume that

the winter season may see increased rates of transmission of the Coronavirus in the Indian context too," he noted.

He stressed that if people congregate in large numbers to celebrate festivals, "we may be heading for big trouble".

Meanwhile, the number of Coronavirus cases in India increased to 7,053,806 on Sunday after the country recorded 74,383 infections in the last 24 hours. The death toll due to the deadly virus

reached 1,08,334 with 918 fresh fatalities being reported in the said period.

India is expected to become the pandemic's worst-hit country in the coming weeks, surpassing the United States, where more than 77 lakh infections have been reported.

As of now, India is the second worst-hit nation in terms of Covid-19 cases after the US and at the third spot in terms of fatalities globally after the US and Brazil.

— PTI

ASSEMBLY | BYPOLLS

Party orders probe into incident, expels two members for indiscipline

Cong woman protests 'rapist' nominee, thrashed

Deoria (UP), Oct. 11: A Congress worker was roughed up by her colleagues at a party meet in Deoria after she alleged that a "rapist" had been given the ticket for the Assembly by-election, prompting the party to order a probe into the incident and expel two members for "indiscipline".

National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma said she has written to Uttar

Pradesh director general of police seeking strict action against the accused.

The woman, Tara Yadav, lodged a police complaint against four office-bearers of the party, including the district president, for allegedly beating and molesting her.

Yadav was protesting over the party nominating Mukund Bhaskar Mani for the November 3 by-polls, accusing him of being a rapist, a charge denied by

him. As she hurled a bouquet towards Sachin Naik, angry workers allegedly roughed up Yadav and whisked her out of the meeting venue, the eyewitnesses claimed.

"A police complaint has been received. The matter is being probed. However, no case has been registered so far," SHO Kotwali Chandrabhan Singh said.

Yadav, who claimed to be associated with the party for four years, said he

was only questioning the choice of candidate and never expected that the party members would react in such a manner.

"You have given the tick-

et to a rapist, and this has tarnished the image of Congress. You could have given the ticket to someone else. As I said this, I was pushed by someone from behind. Can I not even put forth my point of view. These people want to destroy the Congress and

end it," Yadav said.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the UP Congress said, "In the context of by-polls to the Deoria Assembly constituency, a meeting was held at the party office in Deoria on October 10. In this meeting, Deendayal Yadav and Ajay Kumar Sainthwar indulged in indiscipline, and have been expelled from the party with immediate effect."

— PTI

CBI takes over Hathras probe, registers FIR

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI/HATHRAS,
OCT. 11

The CBI on Sunday took over the investigation into the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district and registered an FIR under the relevant Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections.

The case was earlier registered at Chandpa Police Station in Hathras on a complaint by the victim's brother.

Talking to reporters, CBI spokesperson, R.K. Gaur, said, "The complainant had alleged that on September 14, the accused tried to strangle his sister in the millet field. The case has been registered by CBI on the request of Uttar Pradesh government and further notification from government of India".

The 19-year-old woman died of severe assault injuries at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on September 29. She was allegedly gang-raped on September 14 by four upper caste men whom she named in her dying declaration.

Victim's family alleged that the police hurriedly conducted her last rites without their presence or permission, while local police officers said the cremation was carried out as per the wishes of the family. The incident sparked furious protests and demonstrations against the police and the Uttar Pradesh government across the country.

The victim's family members will appear before the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court amid tight security on Monday. The court will record the version of the victim's family members in the case.

It had on October 1 asked the woman's parents to come to apprise it of their version of the incident. The hearing is likely to be held in person.

THACKERAY SHIFTS METRO CAR SHED FROM AAREY

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, OCT. 11

In a major decision, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has announced that the metro car shed project at Aarey Colony has been shifted to Kanjurmarg in Mumbai.

"I had opposed the metro car shed at Aarey. The project will now be relocated to Kanjurmarg. The plot belongs to the government and it will be available at zero cost. No cost will be incurred for the purpose," Thackeray said in a webcast on Sunday.

Despite stiff opposition from the Shiv Sena and environmentalists, the earlier Devendra Fadnavis-led government had decided to build a metro car shed at Aarey Colony, which is called the green lungs of Mumbai city. The citizens and green activists had protested the project citing the felling of trees and perceived damage to the environment in Aarey due to the project.

Spread over 2000 acres, the Aarey Colony is one of the few green spaces left in Mumbai. The Maharashtra government, on September 3, had declared 600 acre of Aarey land as a reserve forest.

"The government has now revised the forest area to 800 acre. Biodiversity in Aarey needs to be conserved and protected. Nowhere is there an 800-acre jungle in an urban set up. Mumbai has a natural forest cover. There will be no infringement on rights of tribals in the Aarey forest," said the CM.

Thackeray earlier had also directed the state home department to withdraw cases registered against the protesters last year for opposing the felling of trees at Aarey Colony.

The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRL) had chopped more than 2,600 trees at Aarey colony on October 25 last year to construct the ₹32,000 crore underground Colaba-Bandra-Seepz Metro corridor.



IN BRIEF
FLOODING IN CAMBODIA KILLS 11

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Oct. 11: Flooding in Cambodia has killed at least 11 people since the beginning of the month, a disaster official said on Sunday. Seasonal rains were made worse by a tropical storm, which caused flash floods in several provinces last week, said Khun Sokha, a spokesman for the National Committee for Disaster Management. Among the 11 dead, 10 have reportedly drowned in floodwaters and one was killed by lightning, he said. Several hundred families have been evacuated to higher ground, he said. On Friday, Prime Minister Hun Sen ordered local authorities to mobilise assistance to those affected.

FOREST FIRES IN LEBANON, SYRIA KILL 3

Damascus, Oct. 11: Forest fires in Syria and neighbouring Lebanon have killed three people and burned swathes of land since Thursday, state media and officials said. Syrian state television on Saturday morning broadcast scenes from the affected areas, where firefighters were working to extinguish the blazes. It said hundreds of hectares had burned in the countryside of Syria's coastal Latakia and Tartus provinces, and in the central Homs province. The health ministry said three people had died in Latakia province since Friday as a result of the fires, and that 70 people were taken to hospital suffering breathing difficulties. Dozens of fires were burning, including "45 in Latakia and 33 in Tartus", Syria's Agriculture Minister Mohammed Hassan Qatana told a radio station late Friday. The Latakia fire brigade said they were "facing the largest series of fires seen in Latakia province in years". Official news agency SANA said fire burned homes in Banias, in Tartus province.

In neighbouring Lebanon, there have been more than 100 fires across the country since Thursday, according to George Abu Musa, head of operations for the country's civil defence. "The situation is crazy, there are fires everywhere," Abu Musa told AFP. "We have mobilised 80 percent of our personnel and almost all our centres in Lebanon," he said.

N-PROJECT IN ROMANIA: U.S. OUSTS CHINA

Bucharest, Oct. 11: Washington's energy ministry said that the US would dislodge China as financier for two new reactors at Romania's only nuclear power plant. Romanian Energy Minister Virgil Popescu and US counterpart Dan Brouillet had initialled a "draft intergovernmental Agreement to cooperate on the expansion and modernisation" of Cernavoda in Romania's southeast, the US Department of Energy said in a statement. Bucharest will gain access to "US expertise and technology", while a "multinational team" will take on the work of building the new reactors and refurbishing one of the existing ones, it added. "Now we have a great clean American company, AECom, leading this \$8 billion project, with assistance from clean Romanian, Canadian and French companies," Washington's envoy to Romania, Adrian Zuckerman said at the signing event. The deal would "unshackle" Romania from China's "malign influence", Zuckerman said, adding that "the communist party's control of every Chinese company, domestically and abroad, poses an existential danger". Bucharest in June broke off its agreement with China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN) on the two new reactors, as distrust of Chinese investments in Europe grows. CGN had been the only company to bid when Bucharest put the project out to tender in 2014. It has since then been added to a US blacklist of companies Washington accuses of trying to steal technology for military applications. Romania then pledged to find a new partner among its EU or NATO allies for the Cernavoda project, which it has struggled for almost a decade to get off the ground. Six European companies — GDF Suez, Iberdrola, CEZ, RWE, Enel and ArcelorMittal — stepped back from the project one by one.



An aerial view of flood waters from Hurricane Delta surrounding structures destroyed by Hurricane Laura in Creole, Louisiana on Saturday. — AFP

Delta: Louisianans left reeling, out of power

Weakens to a tropical depression as it moved inland

Lake Charles, Oct. 11: Weary residents of coastal Louisiana began cleaning up on Saturday from wind and water damage inflicted by Hurricane Delta to their already storm-battered region, even as it weakened and moved northeast. Delta made landfall near the town of Creole in Cameron Parish early Friday evening as a Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, packing sustained winds of 100 miles per hour.

Though not as powerful as August's Hurricane Laura, a Category 4 storm that tore homes and businesses apart, Delta toppled trees and power poles, leaving hundreds of thousands of Gulf Coast residents without power.

The storm weakened to a tropical depression as it moved inland to western Mississippi, according to the National Hurricane Center, but still carried heavy rains.

Sylvia Pastrano, 65, said the roof of her Lake Charles, Louisiana home leaked from Delta's rains

● **SOME 3,000** National Guard troops had been called up to distribute relief supplies, clear roads, maintain security and conduct search and rescue operations, Governor John Bel Edwards said.

after being initially damaged by Laura. She positioned three trash cans over her bed to catch the water. "We were debating whether to leave or not but my husband has got orthopedic issues and I do too and we're just too exhausted to even get up and evacuate," Pastrano said. "Last night it was terrifying, the whistling and whistling."

Delta brought widespread flooding of streets and riverbanks, mostly in southwest Louisiana, tracking the path of destruction left by Laura but causing damage over a larger swath of the Gulf Coast.

"Even if it wasn't quite as powerful as Hurricane Laura, it was much bigger," Governor John Bel Edwards told a briefing in Baton Rouge.

Some 3,000 National Guard troops had been called up to distribute relief supplies, clear roads, maintain security and conduct search and rescue operations, the governor said.

While no deaths have so far been linked to Delta, Edwards said storm-related fatalities often occur in accidents such as falls, during clean-up operations, or from carbon monoxide poisoning from residents using home generators.

About 600,000 of the state's electric customers, 25% of the total, were without power at midday, Edwards said. But restoration was progressing faster than it did after Laura because Delta's winds were less damaging to the infrastructure, he said.

With the sun shining brightly, Frederick Hannie, 35, surveyed the water damage to his gym, CrossFit Lake Charles, which had already sustained wind and roof damage from Laura. Between two hurricanes and the Coronavirus pandemic, Hannie said, "it definitely takes a little financial gymnastics" to run a business this year. As Delta made its way over the Gulf of Mexico on Friday, energy companies cut back US oil production by about 92%, or 1.7 million barrels per day - the most since 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

Williams told a briefing in Baton Rouge.

Some 3,000 National Guard troops had been called up to distribute relief supplies, clear roads, maintain security and conduct search and rescue operations, the governor said.

Williams, who had just gotten his power back about a week and a half ago after the outage left by Laura, said he rode out the storm at his home.

With the sun shining

brightly, Frederick Hannie, 35, surveyed the water damage to his gym, CrossFit Lake Charles, which had already sustained wind and roof damage from Laura. Between two hurricanes and the Coronavirus pandemic, Hannie said, "it definitely takes a little financial

gymnastics" to run a business this year. As Delta made its way over the Gulf of Mexico on Friday, energy companies cut back US oil production by about 92%, or 1.7 million barrels per day - the most since 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

— Reuters

Deforestation in Amazon falls for 3rd straight month

Brasilia, Oct. 11: Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest fell in September for the third straight month compared to a year ago, government data showed on Friday, but destruction remains far higher than before President Jair Bolsonaro took office in 2019.

Environmental advocates blame right-wing Bolsonaro, who has rolled back environmental enforcement and called for mining and farming protected areas of the Amazon, for emboldening illegal loggers, ranchers and miners to destroy the forest.

Bolsonaro says his aim is to lift the region out of poverty and that the amount of forest still standing shows Brazil is a model for conservation.

Experts were investigating whether this was linked to "spills of some toxic substances", regional governor Vladimir Solodov said in a statement. The 38-year-old governor said that inspectors on Tuesday would look at two military testing sites on Kamchatka that could be responsible. "There are concerns; we will fully examine this tomorrow," he said.

The water pollution came to light late last month after local surfers reported stinging eyes and said the water had changed colour and developed an odour. Solodov said surfers suffered mild burns to their cornneas. He added that divers had confirmed the deaths of sea creatures and pollution appeared to be spread over a wide area. Tests on water of a river flowing into the bay showed it did not surpass legal limits. Environmental inspectors and experts from a fisheries and oceanography research centre were set to continue tests. — AFP

square kilometres and now they are reported in the thousands.

"Everything that brought us to this scenario of environmental chaos, of uncontrolled deforestation and crime taking hold in the Amazon continues to exist," he told Reuters.

Environmental advocates blame right-wing Bolsonaro, who has rolled back environmental enforcement and called for mining and farming protected areas of the Amazon, for emboldening illegal loggers, ranchers and miners to destroy the forest.

Bolsonaro says his aim is to lift the region out of poverty and that the amount of forest still standing shows Brazil is a model for conservation.

Last week, US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden called for a world effort to offer \$20 billion to end Amazon deforestation and threatened Brazil with unspecified "economic consequ-

ences" if it did not "stop tearing down the forest".

In response, Bolsonaro blasted Biden as making cowardly threats to Brazil's sovereignty.

Despite the consecutive months of falling deforestation, Brazil's official deforestation measure for 2020 is expected to show a rise. Deforestation is measured annually by how much forest has been cleared as of the end of July, as compared to the previous August. Those months have less cloud cover that interferes with the satellite images. For that period, deforestation rose 34.6% to 9,216 square kilometres, the preliminary data show.

The final data is generally far higher than the preliminary figures. Brazil's Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM) estimates the final deforestation figure will be above 14,000 square kilometres.

— Reuters

Duke Energy for solar, wind facilities

Boston, Oct. 11: Top US utility Duke Energy Corp plans billions of dollars of new spending this decade as it ramps up efforts to slash greenhouse gas emissions, executives told Reuters.

The move comes amid growing pressure from Democratic politicians and activist investors for power producers to reduce their hefty contribution to climate change.

"If you're going to pursue the more aggressive carbon-reduction targets, you're going to retire coal earlier, you're going to be replacing it earlier with renewables, batteries, sto-

rage etcetera," said Duke Chief Financial Officer Steve Young in an interview. "That pushes up the capital profile."

According to Young and an investor presentation, Duke will boost projected capital spending by \$2 billion to \$58 billion for the period from 2020 to 2024, and projects a capital plan "in the range of \$65 billion to \$75 billion" for the following five years. Neither the near-term spending increase, nor the longer-term projection have been previously reported.

Duke said the increased spending will cover efforts to cut greenhouse gas

emissions by retiring old coal plants and replacing them with more solar and wind facilities, with the exact targets tied to forthcoming regulatory decisions.

Other power utilities have embraced similar strategies as the cost of renewable generation falls. But the outlook from Charlotte, North Carolina-based Duke, the largest

regulated US utility, also stands out because it has given public officials and other stakeholders a large say on how quickly to move away from fossil fuels. Duke has outlined various fuel-mix scenarios in recent "integrated resource plans" filed to regulators in North and South Carolina, but did not make a recommendation on which to pursue.

The omission was unusual for a large utility since a faster move will require more spending, but Young said the approach should help build public support. Duke will make a similar filing in Indiana, he said.

Shares in Duke were up less than 1% at \$93.61 at midday. Chief Executive Lynn Good told investors on a webcast that Duke will add a climate goal to its executive compensation plan in 2021 "just to ensure that we are making the progress that we need to make" in areas like advocacy and public policy.

Asked about reports that Duke had rebuffed acquisition interest from NextEra Energy Inc, the world's largest generator of renewable energy, Young said "we can't comment on rumors".

In August Duke took a \$1.6 billion charge for the cancellation of a natural gas pipeline.

Young said the move did not affect Duke's broader strategy but will probably lead to changes in the locations of new plants.

Duke has set a target of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Faster technical advances would be required to meet the 2035 timeframe proposed by US presidential candidate Joe Biden, Young said. For the period through 2024, Duke's efforts should allow earnings per share to grow "at the upper end" of its current forecast of 4% to 6%, the company said.

— Reuters

HSBC targets net zero carbon emissions by '50

London, Oct. 11: HSBC will target net zero carbon emissions across its entire customer base by 2050 at the latest, and provide between \$750 billion and \$1 trillion in financing to help clients make the transition, Chief Executive Noel Quinn told Reuters.

The pledge is the strongest statement by Europe's biggest bank on climate change to date, although it met with criticism from some environmental groups for not taking more immediate action to curb its fossil fuel financing.

"Covid has been a wake-up call to us all, including me personally. We have seen how fragile the global economy is to a major event, in this case a health event, and it brings home the reality of what a major climate event could do," Quinn told Reuters in a video interview.

HSBC aims to achieve net zero emissions in its own operations by 2030, he added.

While other UK banks such as NatWest NWG.L have already set similar net zero goals, HSBC's aim to achieve it across its huge Asia-focused client base is one of the most significant pledges made by a global lender to date. However, the bank will be closely watched for how quickly and fully it pursues its new goals, which are mainly stated as aims rather than hard commitments.

It will also face scrutiny on whether it has allowed

itself leeway to continue financing some fossil fuel-linked clients.

HSBC has come under increasing pressure from activists, shareholders and politicians who say it is contributing to climate change by financing environmentally harmful projects.

"What we have given the market is an ambition that our total financing by 2050 will be net zero, that is a far bigger prize or goal than picking a sub-segment of our portfolio and saying 'I am not going to bank you' because that's not what the world needs," he said.

"That industry or that customer may then just go to Bank X, Bank Y or Bank Z. They won't have changed their business model." Critics have said HSBC lagged peers in responding to the climate

challenge and risked losing out to rivals such as BNP Paribas BNPP.PA that are ahead on setting carbon reduction targets.

This week, Wall Street heavyweight JPMorgan JPM.N became the latest bank to expand investment in clean energy and work towards net zero emissions by 2050, in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate.

With many Asian clients directly connected to or reliant on the coal sector - from which emissions are a leading contributor to global warming — HSBC is in a relatively tougher position.

It gave no detail on plans to tighten its policy on lending to the coal industry — still a key driver of many Asian economies — in a move likely to anger campaigners.

Instead, the bank said it would apply "a climate lens" to financing decisions and would also continue to take into account "the unique conditions for our clients across developed and developing economies". Several pressure groups said they were disappointed the bank was not taking more immediate action.

"The very bare minimum would be to immediately exclude all companies with coal expansion plans and require others to adopt a coal exit strategy, as BNP Paribas and many more serious banks have already done," said Lucie Pinson, founder and executive director.

— Reuters

CLIMATE +VE GOAL: SAILGP LOOKS BEYOND WIND POWER



San Francisco, Oct. 11: Prince William issued an urgent plea Saturday for a global effort to resolve the climate crisis by the end of this decade so that "we won't have to sacrifice everything we enjoy." The prince was speaking as part of a free streamed TED event aimed at unifying people to face the threats of climate change. Speakers range from Pope Francis to actor Chris Hemsworth and former US vice president Al Gore.

The remarks from William, the duke of Cambridge, came in a pre-recorded 18-minute video, part of which was released early on YouTube.

"The shared goals of our generation are clear — together we must protect and restore nature, clean our air, revive our oceans, build a waste-free world and fix our climate," he said.

The 38-year-old prince recently helped launch the Earthshot prize, providing a cash award for people, companies, organisations, governments, cities or even countries that propose workable solutions to climate change.

The prince joined forces with Sir David Attenborough, the respected broadcaster and natural historian, in launching what they hoped would become a "Nobel Prize for environmentalism". Laying out the global challenge in his TED remarks, the prince said, "We must strive to do all of this in a decade."

"If we achieve these goals, by 2030 our lives won't be worse and we won't have to sacrifice everything we enjoy. Instead, the way we live will be healthier, cleaner, smarter and better for all."

— PRINCE WILLIAM
Duke of Cambridge

Other participants include UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, Mexican activist Xiyi Bastida and actors Priyanka Chopra, Jane Fonda, Don Cheadle and Mark Ruffalo.

Saturday's programme, dubbed Countdown, featured the blend of arts, ideas and innovation seen as the hallmarks of TED events.

Hundreds of TEDx mini-events were also taking place around the world in an effort to encourage local action for the environment.

The six-hour main program began in California at 8:00 am (1500 GMT) on YouTube's TED channel. In a TED first, it was being aired free of charge.

— AFP

cancellation of a natural gas pipeline.

Young said the move did not affect Duke's broader strategy but will probably lead to changes in the locations of new plants.

Duke has set a target of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Faster technical advances would be required to meet the 2035 timeframe proposed by US presidential candidate Joe Biden, Young said.

For the period through 2024, Duke's efforts should allow earnings per share to grow "at the upper end" of its current forecast of 4% to 6%, the company said.

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quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40,509.49
Nifty 50	11,914.20
S&P 500*	3,477.13
Dollar (\$)	73.14
Pound Sterling (\$)	94.67
Euro (\$)	86.31
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	51,558.236
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.82
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.937
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.769

* As of Friday/Saturday

FPIs invest ₹5,245 crore into equities in Oct.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have invested Rs 1,086 crore on a net basis so far in October in Indian markets, tracking encouraging factors including improved GST collection, acceleration in economic activity and positive global cues. Depositories data shows FPIs pumped in a net Rs 5,245 crore into equities and withdrew Rs 4,159 crore from the debt market during October 1-9.

Cello re-enters stationery biz after 5 years



After selling its stationery business to France's BIC five years ago, the Cello Group is re-entering the category and plans to launch products in the local market. In Dec. 2015, BIC Group acquired Cello Pens for Rs 540 crore. "We have just started stationery business with a different brand name (Uno-max)... here was a non-compete (agreement)... so we couldn't do same products portfolio," Gaurav P. Rathod, MD, Cello Group, said.

Snapdeal on-boards over 5,000 mfg-sellers

Snapdeal has added over 5,000 manufacturer-sellers on its platform so far this year, most of them in the September quarter, exceeding the target it had set for itself earlier in the year, a company official said. Adding new sellers will help the e-tailer to ramp up its Diwali sales plans as direct shipment to buyers help manufacturers move stocks faster to customers. The marketplace has over 5 lakh registered sellers.

H&M to expand physical stores in India

Swedish apparel retailer H&M will continue to expand its physical stores in India although it is closing down 250 stores globally, betting on the long-term potential of the country. H&M, which opened its first store in India in 2015, has 48 outlets in 24 cities but may not open as many stores in the next five years, as it also focuses on enhancing its digital presence, according to H&M India's country manager Janne Einola.

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₹20-crore entry capital recommended Panel for low base for microinsurers

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, OCT. 11

At a time when millions of Indians, especially in the informal sector, have lost their livelihoods to the Covid-19 pandemic, a panel set up by the insurance regulator has recommended a steep cut in the entry level capital requirement for floating a standalone microinsurance company to help accelerate the expansion of this segment. The panel wants the threshold be cut to Rs 20 crore, from the current requirement of Rs 100 crore for microinsurance companies.

Stating that India would need to allow multiple players in the field if it wants to substantially increase insurance penetration, the panel has suggested that microinsurance companies, as well as cooperative and mutual insurers, should be allowed to act as composite insurers to transact both life and non-life business through a single entity. "Their portfolios should have a balance of both life and non-life business," said the panel.

However, the changes would require amendments to the Insurance Act, 1938 to bring the standalone microinsurance business under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (Irdai) purview. This will include defining microinsurance, microinsurers, reducing the capital requirement and/or giving powers to insurance



regulator to decide on capital requirements for standalone microinsurance companies.

However, amending the Insurance Act, 1938, may require time. In the immediate term, the central government may be approached to issue rules under Section 24(2)(c) read with Section 14(2)(q) of Irdai Act, 1999, giving the Irdai powers to put in place a regulatory framework for floating micro insures.

Such an approach was adopted by the government to allow insurers in special economic zones (SEZs) when there was no specific power with the Irdai for regulating entities in SEZs said, the Irdai-appointed committee in its report.

"India too will need to improve access for multiple players if it wants to substantially increase insurance penetration. This is all the more urgent in the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic when millions of Indians, especially in the informal sector, have lost their livelihoods, are now leading more insecure lives and

are falling back into poverty," said the report.

The committee has also suggested that a risk-based capital (RBC) approach should be adopted to enable the progressive growth of the microinsurance business while maintaining the highest prudent standards.

Referring to the low insurance penetration, the report said, "Dedicated standalone microinsurance institutions can close this gap by making insurance affordable and available to low-income families, thereby providing a measure of risk mitigation and security. The committee therefore recommends that the government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India license such businesses which can cater to the low-income segment."

The Irdai had constituted the committee in February 2020 consisting of members from NGOs, independent consultants and experts working in financial inclusion and regulatory fields.

GST COUNCIL TO MEET AGAIN TODAY TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES

New Delhi, Oct. 11: The GST Council in its meeting on Monday is likely to discuss the suggestion of non-BJP ruled states of setting up a ministerial panel to develop consensus on the issue of compensation, sources said.

The Council, chaired by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state finance ministers, will for the third time in a row discuss the issue of funding the shortfall of goods and services tax (GST) revenue of states.

While some opposition ruled states are demanding that a Group of Ministers be set up to arrive at a decision on the mechanism for funding the compensation shortfall, BJP-ruled states, which have already opted for the borrowing option given by the Centre, are of the view that they should be given a go-ahead so that they can get money quickly.

The 43rd meeting of the council will discuss the single agenda of the way forward, sources said. In its previous meeting last week, the council had decided to extend the surcharge on taxes on luxury goods such as cars and tobacco products beyond June 2022, but failed to reach a consensus on ways to compensate states for loss of tax revenue.

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

Oil PSUs asked to build 50,000 houses for renting



New Delhi, Oct. 11: The petroleum ministry has asked oil PSUs such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to build 50,000 houses for renting to migrant workers as part of the government plan to develop affordable rental housing after millions of labourers fled cities for villages amidst the coronavirus lockdown.

The ministry wants IOC and other public sector undertakings (PSUs) under its administrative control such as Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Gail India Ltd and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to build the housing units on their land, three officials who attended a meeting on the subject said.

The meeting, they said, was chaired by oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan who asked the PSUs to come up with plans to build the housing units at the earliest.

The ministry had on October 5 tweeted about the meeting, saying Pradhan "held a meeting with officials of MoPNG and PSUs to review the efforts made by PSUs in providing houses on rent to migrants and urban poor working on oil & gas projects under the affordable rental housing scheme of @MOHUA_India."

MoPNG is the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, while MoHUA is the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

"The Affordable Rental Housing Complexes, a sub-scheme of #PMAY

aims to provide ease-of-living to urban poor and migrant workers in need of affordable housing near their work sites as a result of the #Covid19 induced reverse migration," the ministry had tweeted without giving details.

Under diktat from the ministry, the PSUs have started looking for land within or near their installations for the housing project, the officials said.

However, some of the PSUs officials found little merit in the move.

They said operating units such as refineries rarely have spare land and they often struggle to house new units or staff.

Also, the new projects such as pipelines are in remote areas where migrant workers may not be willing to go.

Those working on oil and gas projects are often housed in temporary housing units near the project sites and it may be difficult to get them into rented units, they said.

The government had in July approved a plan to develop affordable rental housing for migrant workers after millions of labourers fled cities for

The plan, announced initially in May as part of a coronavirus stimulus package and approved by the Cabinet in July, will offer subsidised loans, tax incentives and additional floor space allowances to developers.

No government agency has a database of the total number of migrant workers in India. The government had recently informed the Supreme Court that approximately one crore migrant workers had returned home in Shramik Special trains, buses and on foot since the lockdown began on March 25. —PTI

Sail to produce HH rails for high-speed lines

SANGEETHA G.

CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Lockdown and unlock restrictions have affected completion of capacity expansion projects to the extent that the value of projects commissioned in the past two quarters are a fraction of those completed in the pre-Covid quarters.

HH rails are special rails used in high-speed freight corridors and metro rail projects. Such rails are manufactured using the head hardening technology to bear about 50 per cent higher pressure compared to normal rails.

Sail has set up facilities for production of HH rails at the new Universal Rail Mill (URM) at its Bhilai Steel Plant in Chhattisgarh, and the cold trials for the same have already been completed, Chaudhary said.

"Though the commissioning of the facility has got delayed on account of Covid-19 pandemic, the company is planning to commence commercial production of the head hardened rails during the current financial year as per the requirement of Indian Railways," he said.

He said the company meets the requirement as and when any order is received from the Railways.

Volumes declined 4 per cent last month, but a 4.6

Rs 1.6 lakh crore per quarter in 2018-19, says CMIE's CapEx service that tracks project execution.

Most projects completed in the September 2020 quarter were in the infrastructure sector. Rail and road transport claimed the biggest share among all sectors. These two together accounted for 43 per cent of the total completed projects. The transport infrastructure services sector accounted for 35 per cent of the total value of commissioned projects.

Government projects accounted for 63 per cent of all commissioning of projects in the September

quarter. In the last three quarters, government projects accounted for over 60 per cent of all commissioning, with the private sector going slow.

"Private sector projects could take much longer to revert to aggressive completion of projects. While the logistical reasons for slowing down of project completions may be getting over, the problem of depleted demand will linger and will remain a hindrance to project completions," says CMIE.

If the lockdown was not a good period to implement a project, it was also not a

good time to decide about abandoning a project. Hence, compared to the past, the number of projects getting abandoned during the nine-month period till September 30 remains modest. Projects worth Rs 77,500 crore were abandoned during the nine-month period. In the past five-six years, such a number had averaged Rs 1.52 lakh crore per nine-month period.

While implementation of projects worth Rs 9.9 lakh crore was stalled during the first nine months of 2020 till September 30, projects worth Rs 9.2 lakh crore have been revived.

Action-packed week ahead for stock market

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, OCT. 11

This is billed to be an action packed week for the stock market. UTI AMC and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders will debut on the bourses on Monday. The day could also see the market's full response to the RBI's policy decisions on Friday.

Tech majors Wipro, Infosys, and HCL Technologies will announce their results on October 13, 14 & 16, respectively. The Supreme Court will hear the matter of loan moratorium and interest waiver on Tuesday, October 13.

Macroeconomic data release of IIP, CPI and WPI inflation numbers are also scheduled on Monday & Wednesday.

US stimulus packages and upcoming presidential debates will also be closely watched for cues.

Experts believe the market is poised to scale higher due to improving macroeconomic scenario, the pick-up in industrial activity and gradual return to normalcy with Covid-19 cases flattening.

Last week, Tata Steel informed the stock exchanges about highest-ever quarterly deliveries of 5.05 million tonnes of steel in the quarter, a jump of 72

per cent quarter-on-quarter, and 22 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of FY20, signalling a continued pick-up in demand for steel. JSW Steel also reported a jump in its crude steel production for the second quarter, and also in its capacity utilisation as the company produced 3.85 million tonnes of steel in the quarter.

The bull party may continue in the market, with the RBI policy measures favouring heavyweight financials and IT sector majors expected to announce good numbers.

HDFC Bank will be kicking off the earnings season for banks on Saturday.

Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking, said, "We feel the recent buoyancy in the banking, financials and IT sectors will continue to support the market's performance in the coming weeks."

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Price rise helps pharma mkt in Sept.

SANGEETHA G.

CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Despite having a higher base, the pharma market clocked 4.5 per cent growth in September.

Volumes were lower, but prices largely compensated for the same. The pharmaceutical market had registered 11.9 per cent growth in September last year.

From 2.2 per cent decline in August, the market had made consid-

erable recovery in September. Anti-infectives therapy showed a good recovery of 1.4 per cent in September against 11 per cent year-on-year decline in August. There has been a healthy uptick in Covid-related medicine.

Cardiac drugs grew by 17 per cent, vitamins, minerals & nutrients by 16.3 per cent and anti-diabetic therapy posted growth of 6.5 per cent last month.

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SHORT TAKES

Hatton leads PGA championship

London: England's Tyrrell Hatton takes a three-shot lead into the final round of the PGA Championship after a dominant display on Saturday.

Hatton shot 69 in the third round and that was enough to move him ahead of Denmark's JB Hansen and France's Victor Perez at Wentworth.

British Open champion Shane Lowry, Tommy Fleetwood, Patrick Reed and David Horsey are four strokes behind the leader.

Lowy had shared the halfway lead with Matt Fitzpatrick, but the final group were a combined six over par.

Hatton grew up not far from Wentworth and often came to one of the European Tour's flagship events as a spectator, while he went into the final round in 2016 a shot off the lead before finishing seventh.

"It's been a goal of mine to hopefully win this tournament so it would be very special," Hatton said. — AFP

Wolff feasts on eagles at US golf

Los Angeles: US Open runner-up Matthew Wolff made three eagles in a five-hole span but it was Patrick Cantlay and Martin Laird who shared the lead after Saturday's third round of the PGA Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Scotsman Laird, chasing his first win since the 2013 Texas Open, and American Cantlay each fired six-under 65s to set the pace on 20-under 193 after 54 holes at TPC of Summerlin in suburban Las Vegas.

Laird's round was highlighted by a 50-foot eagle putt at the par-five ninth. He hit all 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens in regulation.

"It got a little tricky in spells. The wind was kind of swirling on the front nine. I hit the ball nicely, got the ball in the fairway a lot, which is what you've got to do around here. If you get it in the fairway you can be aggressive," Laird said. — AFP

Mixed day for girls at Asian chess

Chennai: The Indian women's chess team endured mixed fortunes, winning the first two matches before being upstaged by Iran which pushed them to eighth spot after three rounds of the Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Championship on Sunday.

The team led by Mary Ann Gomes started with a 4-0 rout of Syria before edging Mongolia 2.5-1.5.

In the third round, the top-seeded Indians went down 1.5-2.5 to sixth-ranked Iran despite R. Vaishali (Elo rating 2149) winning on the top board against Saraswat Khademalsharieh, the highest rated player in the event at 2393. Bhakti Kulkarni and P. V. Nandhidhaa lost against Mobina Alinasab while Padmini Rout drew with Anousha Mahdian enabling Iran to pull off an upset.

In the second round game against Mongolia, India won narrowly. — PTI

Alex conquers 1st MotoGP podium

Le Mans, France: The Repsol Honda Team achieved their best result of the season to date, Alex Marquez stunning with second place from 18th on the grid as Stefan Bradl makes it a double top ten.

It was another cold start to the day in France for round 10 of the MotoGP World Championship. Forecasts had predicted it to stay dry throughout, but the French sky had other ideas just moments before the lights went out. A delayed start due to rain on the grid saw the race declared wet and had the entire field switch to wet tyres, the race distance reduced by one lap.

Alex shot forward from 18th on the grid and made up eight places in just a few laps. The gap to eventual race-winner Petrucci proved too big as Alex crossed the line in front of a delighted Repsol Honda Team.

Live on TV

CRICKET
IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

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

WWE RAW
Bouts from 5.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

Royals in the pink

Tewatia, Parag snap Rajasthan's 4-match losing streak

Dubai, Oct. 11: Rahul Tewatia's uncanny ability to win tricky games rescued Rajasthan Royals yet again as they eked out a five-wicket victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad to snap their four-match losing streak in the IPL, here on Sunday.

Tewatia, who became a household name with five sixes in an over against Kings XI Punjab, smashed an unbeaten 45 off 28 balls as Royals overhauled the 159-run target with a ball to spare.

Along with Riyan Parag (42 not out off 26 balls), Tewatia won the game in 'Royals' style keeping Steve Smith's men in the mix after they were reduced to 78 for 5 in 12 overs.

With two needed off two balls, Parag hit Khaleel Ahmed for a six over extra cover and broke into an impromptu 'Bihu jig'. They added 85 runs for the sixth wicket in eight overs when their illustrious international stars flattered to deceive.

Tewatia brought back memories of the Sharjah night but this time it was Rashid Khan who was at receiving end in the 18th over as the left-hander struck three consecutive boundaries.

With 22 needed off two overs, Tewatia launched into T. Natarajan, who lost his length trying to bowl yorkers, for a four and a six over short fine leg that swung the match in favour of Royals.

Earlier, Manish Pandey struck an impressive half-century but Rajasthan Royals restricted Sunrisers Hyderabad to 158 for 4 in stipulated overs.

— PTI



Rahul Tewatia (left) and Riyan Parag of the Rajasthan Royals during their Indian Premier League match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday. — BCCI

SCORECARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner b Archer 48, Jonny Bairstow c Samson b Kartik Tyagi 16, Manish Pandey c Tewatia b Unadkat 54, Kane Williamson (not out) 22, Priyam Garg run out (Archer/Butler) 15. **Extras:** (nb-1, w-2) 3. **Total:** (for 4 wkts, in 20 overs) 158.
FoW: 1-23, 2-96, 3-122, 4-158.
Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-25-1, Shreyas Gopal 4-0-31-0, Kartik Tyagi 3-0-29-1, Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-31-1, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-35-0, Ben Stokes 1-0-7-0.
Rajasthan Royals: Ben Stokes b Ahmed 5, Jos Buttler c Bairstow b Ahmed 16, Steven Smith run out 5, Sanju Samson c Bairstow b Rashid 26, Robin Uthappa lbw b Rashid 18, Riyan Parag (not out) 42, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 45. **Extras:** (lb-4 w-2) 6. **Total:** (for 5 wkts, in 19.5 overs) 163.
FoW: 1-7, 2-25, 3-26, 4-63, 5-78.
Bowling: S. Sharma 4-0-32-1, Khaleel Ahmed 3.5-0-37-2, T. Natarajan 4-1-32-0, A. Sharma 1-0-11-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-25-2, Vijay Shankar 3-0-22-0.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	7	5	2	0	10	+1.327
Delhi Capitals	7	5	2	0	10	+1.038
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	4	2	0	8	+0.017
Royal Challengers Bangalore	6	4	2	0	8	-0.820
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	3	4	0	6	+0.153
Rajasthan Royals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.872
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	0	4	-0.588
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

Quinton, Surya script MI win

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw c Krunal Pandya b Boult 4, Shikhar Dhawan (not out) 69, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Krunal Pandya 15, Shreyas Iyer c Boult b Krunal Pandya 42, Marcus Stoinis run out 13, Alex Carey (not out) 14. **Extras:** (w-5) 5.
Total: (for 4 wkts, in 20 overs) 162.
FoW: 1-4, 2-24, 3-109, 4-130.
Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-25-1, James Pattinson 3-0-37-0, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-26-0, Krunal Pandya 4-0-26-2, Kieron Pollard 1-0-10-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-27-0.
Mumbai Indians: R. Sharma (c) c Rabada b Ar Patel 5, Q de Kock s b Ashwin 53, S. Yadav c Iyer b Rabada 53, Ishan Kishan c A. Patel b Rabada 28, H. Pandya c Carey b Stoinis 0, K. Pollard (not out) 11, K. Pandya (not out) 12. **Extras:** (w-4) 4. **Total:** (for 5 wkts, in 19.4 overs) 166.
FoW: 1-31, 2-77, 3-130, 4-130, 5-152.
Bowling: K. Rabada 4-0-28-2, A. Nortje 4-0-28-0, A. Patel 3-0-24-1, R. Ashwin 4-0-35-1, H. Patel 2-0-20-0, M. Stoinis 2.4-0-31-1.

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 11: Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals by five wickets in an Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan scored unbeaten 69, while skipper Shreyas Iyer made 42 as DC scored 162 for four.

For MI, Krunal Pandya picked up two wickets giving away 26 runs.

Later chasing the target, Quinton de Kock and Suryakumar Yadav scored 53 each to guide MI home with two balls to spare.

Earlier, Dhawan gave himself enough time to play sheet anchor's role even as MI bowlers did a decent job in the slog overs to not let the batsmen play too many big

shots.

Dhawan's unbeaten 69-run knock came off 52 balls with six fours and a six, while Iyer's 33-ball 42

had five shots to the fence.

After Prithvi Shaw (4) was snared early by Trent Boult and Ajinkya

Rahane too following him back in the dug out soon, there were no free runs for the Capitals in the beginning after electing to bat.

Rahane, playing his first game of the season, was trapped in front of the wicket by Krunal Pandya, introduced timely by MI skipper Rohit Sharma, considering that the India Test vice-captain struggles against left-arm spinners.

With in-form Iyer and Dhawan at the crease, the boundaries came here and there. It kept the scoreboard ticking at a decent run-rate.

Iyer's trademark along the ground-strokes, played with straight bat, were effective and a treat to watch.

CSK's batting main worry for Dhoni

Dubai, Oct. 11: Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni says batting has become his team's major worry in an IPL campaign thrown haywire by "too many holes in the ship".

Rahane, playing his first game of the season, was trapped in front of the wicket by Krunal Pandya, introduced timely by MI skipper Rohit Sharma, considering that the India Test vice-captain struggles against left-arm spinners.

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Iyer's trademark along the ground-strokes, played with straight bat, were effective and a treat to watch.

— PTI

Nitin turns tables on top seeds to wrest State sailing honours

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

came in from the back and finished overall third to get the boys silver.

Amongst junior girls Lakshmi Chandram dominated with some excellent sailing to finish second overall, just a point behind Nitin and clinched the gold for girls followed by Lalitha Majhi at silver.

Preethi Kongari who was ahead by a significant margin at the qualifiers stage had a terrible day and was pushed down to overall fifth and a bronze amongst girls.

Jaikiran Bolli of the Sweareens also lost out to the MJPT boys despite some brilliant sailing at the qualifiers but managed to get the boys bronze.

The novices fleet was dominated by the boys with Bhanuprakash of MJPT leading followed by Kevin

Raj, Brothers Saathwik and Shravan Dhoki from Hyderabad closely followed in that order.

The novice girls were led by Deekshita, Rithika and Bushra all of Udbhaba School Rasopurpa.

THE STANDINGS

Juniors Overall: 1. Nitin Naik Kethavat (12 points), 2. Lakshmi Chandram (13), 3. Mallesh Gadham (17).

Junior Girls: 1. Lakshmi Chandram (13 points), 2. Lalitha Majhi (18), 3. Preethi Kongari (19).

Junior Boys: 1. Nitin Naik Kethavat (12 points), 2. Mallesh Gadham (17), 3. Jaikiran Bolli (21).

Novice Girls: 1. Deekshita Komaraveli (32 points), 2. Bushra Minej (33), 3. Rithika Mudugani (33).

Novice Boys: 1. Bhanuprakash (17 points), 2. Kevin Raj (23), 3. Satvik Dhiki (30), 4. Shravan Dhoki (31).



Sailors in action at the Telangana State Sailing Championships at Hussain Sagar in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Knights fret over Narine chucking

Sharjah, Oct. 11: Kolkata Knight Riders will have a lot on their plate when they take on a resurgent Royal Challengers Bangalore in an IPL match here on Monday with their lethal weapon Sunil Narine blunted by a chucking complaint and fitness clouds hovering over enforcer Andre Russell.

Narine, who have had multiple complaints of suspect action against him, is again in trouble after on-field umpires' report post KKR's thrilling two-run win against Kings XI Punjab in which the spinner played a massive role.

Not only KXIP, the match against CSK also witnessed Narine's entry after 10 overs, stifling Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men. It seemed that the spinner was getting his mojo back and could have been a handful for Virat Kohli's in-form men.

However, the first warning (a second one would bar him from bowling) from the IPL authorities is certain to ring alarm bells in the KKR camp as he was supposed to be Dinesh Karthik's 'go-to' man in pressure situations.

It has been learnt that Narine has a problem with a few deliveries, especially the one that breaks back into a right-hander where there is believed to be an elbow flex beyond permissible limit.

With his batting also not exactly clicking, how KKR fits him in the playing XI will be interesting, knowing that another offence could end his tournament as a bowler.

The two sides have won four of their six games with KKR ahead of RCB on net run rate but inconsistency in batting has been an issue for both the teams.

KKR are placed third in the standings and the two-time champions will be going all out for a victory at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium after registering two back-to-back wins against Chennai Super

SHORT TAKES

Chennaiyin side rope in Isma

Chennai: Two-time champions Chennaiyin FC on Sunday announced the signing of Portuguese attacker Esmal Goncalves, who has the experience of playing in the UEFA Champions League, on a free transfer for the 2020-21 ISL season.

The 29-year-old, better known as Isma, is capable of playing anywhere across the forward line and is set for his maiden stint in India.

"It feels great to join Chennaiyin FC, a club that represents a city with rich culture and a wonderful fanbase," Isma was quoted in a media release.

With UEFA Champions League, Europa League and AFC Asian Champions League experience, Isma is well-versed in operating across the front line, highlighted by his record of netting 75 goals in almost 250 career appearances.

Isma's youth career included stints with Boavista in Portugal and Nice in France. He went on to make his senior team bow for the latter in 2011. — AFP

Bio-bubble football will be challenging

New Delhi: Former Liverpool and England striker Robbie Fowler said Saturday that preparing new club East Bengal for their first season in the Indian Super League during the Coronavirus pandemic will be a supreme challenge.

Fowler has made India the latest stop of his much travelled career after he gave up as manager of Australia's Brisbane Roar this year.

All 11 ISL teams are currently confined to separate bio bubbles before the start of the league expected to start in November behind closed doors.

"It's a new club with a hundred-year-old heart. I and the staff around me will give everything to make the club successful," Fowler told reporters from his home in Liverpool.

"No doubt, it will be a challenge for football in the world to get going again in such situations and circumstances, we need to adapt. We will be sensible in our approach. We are here to do our work whether we are in a bubble or not," he added. — AFP

Bruyne tips Eng to shine at Euros

London: Belgium midfielder Kevin De Bruyne has tipped England as one of the leading contenders to win Euro 2020 and the 2022 World Cup.

De Bruyne will get a close look at England on Sunday when Belgium visit Wembley for a Nations League clash.

But the Manchester City midfielder already knows plenty about the players in Gareth Southgate's squad after spending the last five years in the Premier League. England reached the World Cup semifinals in 2018 and De Bruyne — voted the Premier League's Player of the Year last season — expects them to have an even stronger run at the next two major tournaments.

"I think they should be very excited. It is a very young team with a lot of potential and I think they should aim to win the next Euros and World Cup. I think they have that potential," De Bruyne said. — AFP

Leverkusen lose Santiago to injury

Berlin: Bayer Leverkusen said Saturday they expect to be without new signing Santiago Arias for six months after his horror injury when the right-back broke his leg in Colombia's 3-0 win over Venezuela during a 2022 World Cup qualifier.

Arias fractured his left fibula and tore ankle ligaments during Friday's win in Barranquilla. Bundesliga side Leverkusen and Atletico have agreed his surgery will take place in Madrid next week, once Arias can fly.

"We are very sorry for this serious injury and it affects us all. Santiago came to us with great ambitions, this is a heavy blow for him," said Leverkusen sports director Simon Rolfes.

"Like Atletico Madrid, we will do everything possible to support Santiago in his recovery. After the operation, he will be in good hands with us in Leverkusen for his rehabilitation," he further added. — AFP

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THE KING OF CLAY

Nadal routs Djoker for 13th French Open title



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates after defeating Serbia's Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in the men's singles final of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on Sunday. — AP

Swiatek heralds a new era



Iga Swiatek of Poland poses with the French Open women's singles trophy during a photo call on the rooftop of Galeries Lafayette on Sunday. — AP

Paris, Oct. 11: The women's game is in the throes of a youthful revolution as Iga Swiatek was crowned its latest first-time Grand Slam champion.

More worrying for the world number one — Nadal improved to 111-0 when winning the first set of best-of-five matches on clay in his career.

It was the first opening set 'bagel' in a Roland Garros final since 2004 when Gaston Gaudio recovered to defeat Argentine compatriot Guillermo Coria in five sets.

Djokovic finally got on the board with a service hold in the first game of the second set but Nadal maintained his relentless push, going to a double break for 4-1 as even the Serb's usual deft touches on the drop shot deserted him. Nadal wrapped up a two-set lead with his unforced error count at just six to Djokovic's 30. — AFP

Roland Garros means everything to me. I spent most of the most important moments of my tennis career here. The love story I have with this court and city is unbelievable.

— RAFAEL NADAL
after winning the French Open

Slam crowns at the 2017 Australian Open, the likes of Simona Halep, Sloane Stephens and the now-retired Caroline Wozniacki have all gone to land a breakthrough major.

Her Melbourne triumph followed Bianca Andreescu's breakout performance at last year's US Open, the Canadian taking home the title on her main draw debut in New York.

Since Serena Williams collected the last of her 23

at the time.

Kenin, Andreescu and

Swiatek have accounted

for three with Naomi

Osaka grabbing three

titles of her own, and top-

ranked Ashleigh Barty triumphing at the 2019 French Open.

The average age of

champions in that time is

21.5. By comparison, the

average age of the eight

previous Slam winners was 27.4.

"For sure it's inspiring. I

know that there are no

limits. Even though you're really young and you're an underdog, you can do a lot in a sport like

tennis," said Swiatek.

Multiple Grand Slam

winner Mats Wilander

compared Swiatek's game

to that of Novak Djokovic,

while greats of the past

such as Rod Laver and

Chris Evert believe the

young Pole is just getting

started.

"I think she is there to

be a Grand Slam champi-

on, multiple times. I gen-

uinely believe that Iga can

be the one," Wilander told

Eurosport.

Laver hailed Swiatek's "

"nerveless performance"

in what was only her sec-

ond tour-level final and

tweeted it was "the first of

many majors to come".

Evert, who won seven

times in Paris, wrote:

"What a sterling two

weeks of brilliant tennis.

Many, many more GS

Titles to come." She also

paid tribute to a "great

year" for Kenin, 16-2 at

Slams in 2020.

"I think it's great. A new

generation coming up. It's

always good to see young-

sters taking over and play-

ing great tennis," said

Kenin. Former US Open

finalist Pam Shriver

believes Swiatek and

Kenin could become the

leading faces of the next

generation. — AFP

Germany, Spain carve out wins in Nations League

Paris, Oct. 11: Mikel Oyarzabal pounced on a horror slip by Swiss captain Granit Xhaka to seal a 1-0 victory for Spain in the Nations League on Saturday.

The night's other League A' Group 4 match saw Germany beat Ukraine 2-1 in Kiev.

At the Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano in Madrid, usually home of Real Madrid's second string side, Real Sociedad striker Oyarzabal struck in the 14th minute.

The Swiss boldly tried to play out from the back, but Xhaka slipped as he sought to collect goalkeeper Yann Sommer's pass.

Mikel Merino pounced and threaded the ball through to clubmate Oyarzabal, who finished superbly past Sommer. There was a golden opportunity for Oyarzabal to double his tally in the 52nd minute.

Switzerland again struggled to clear their lines, Jesus Navas fizzed a cross-shot into the area which Sommer could only push into the path of Oyarzabal.

In Kiev, Germany picked up a first win in their Nations League group with a workman-like 2-1 away victory over the Ukrainians.

Defender Matthias Ginter gave Germany a first-half lead, then Leon Goretzka capitalised on a horrible mistake by the Ukraine goalkeeper before Ruslan Malinovskyi converted a late penalty for the hosts.

In League D' action, the Faroe Islands were held to a 1-1 draw at home against Latvia and Andorra fought out a goalless draw in Group 1, while Gibraltar edged Liechtenstein 1-0 in Group 2. — AFP



Matthias Ginter (centre) of Germany celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the UEFA Nations League football match against Ukraine at the Olympiyskiy stadium in Kiev on Saturday. Germany won 2-1. — AFP



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (left) of Britain receives a helmet of former German driver Michael Schumacher from his son Mick Schumacher (right) as a gift after winning the Eifel Grand Prix to equal Schumacher's record of 91 wins in Formula One at the Nuerburgring racetrack in Nuerburg, Germany, on Sunday. — AP

Hamilton equals Schumi's record

Nurburgring (Germany), Oct. 11: Lewis Hamilton equalled Michael Schumacher's record of 91 Formula One wins on Sunday when he guided his Mercedes to a narrow, if measured, victory at a frantic Eifel Grand Prix.

Taking full advantage of team-mate and pole-sitter Valtteri Bottas' early retirement with engine problems, the runaway series leader and six-time champion drove a well-judged race to claim his seventh victory from 11 contests this year.

"What a result," he said on the Mercedes team radio after taking the chequered flag clear of Max Verstappen for Red Bull with Renault's Daniel Ricciardo in third.

Schumacher's 21-year-old son Mick, a rising star and leader of the F2 series, presented Hamilton with a red helmet from his father's career collection.

"Congratulations on a great achievement," said Schumacher junior.

"It's such an honour," said a surprised Hamilton as many of the 20,000 fans scattered around the circuit gave the Englishman a standing ovation.

"When you grow up watching someone that you idolise as a driver, week in and week out, year on year, and to see his dominance, I didn't imagine that I would ever be here. It's an incredible honour."

— LEWIS HAMILTON
after equalising Michael Schumacher's record of 91 Formula One wins



Lewis Hamilton throws the trophy in the air on Sunday. — AFP

Racing Point. For Hulkenberg, it was a remarkable result coming only 24 hours after he had jumped into the cockpit of Lance Stroll's car after a late call to action while he was in a cafe in Cologne.

Roman Grosjean, with an injured finger, was ninth for Haas ahead of Antonio Giovinazzi and Alfa Romeo.

It was Mercedes' first win at the Nurburgring since Juan-Manuel Fangio triumphed at the daunting Nordschleife circuit in 1954.

Hamilton gained the lead into Turn One at the start, but Bottas, from his 14th pole position, switched back to regain the initiative in Turn Two. — AFP

TS football coach Tony passes away

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 11

Football coach and vice-president of the Telangana Football Association S. Tony passed away in Secunderabad early on Sunday. He was 69 and is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters.

His last rites were performed on Sunday evening.

The affable Tony played for the Andhra Pradesh Police team and later joined IDL from where he took voluntary retirement back in 1975.

Tony was also the founder of Shastri Soccer Club at Trimulgherry, which was established in 1963. He also maintained the Sasi Senior Football Club and Sachdev Sports Football Club.

He produced many international and national footballers from the Secunderabad Cantonment area.

Tony was also the coach of St Andrews School team which was champion of the 7th, 8th and 9th editions of the Jaya Rao Memorial Inter-School football tournament at Bolaram grounds.

The Telangana football Association conducted an online condolence meeting at 11.30 am which was attended by all the TFA office bearers, referees and

senior players. A two-minute silence was also observed during the class for referees and coaches at Gymkhana Grounds.

Former Indian captain Victor Amalraj expressed condolences to the bereaved family members.

The Hyderabad Globe Football Club too paid rich tributes to Tony. "Tony anna provided a solid platform for footballers from the twin cities and produced many players. His services given as a player, coach, referee and administrator will always be remembered. My deepest condolences to the bereaved