

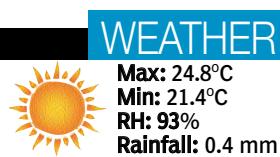
DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 15 OCTOBER 2020

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**WEATHER**

Max: 24.8°C
Min: 21.4°C
RH: 93%
Rainfall: 0.4 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 28/21 °C

IN BRIEF
Enforce interest waiver soon: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday said the Centre should implement "as soon as possible" interest waiver on loans of up to ₹2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the pandemic, saying the common man's Diwali is in the government's hands. The apex court sought know from the Centre if the benefit of loan interest waiver for borrowers of up to ₹2 crore during the moratorium period has "percolated" to the common man.

Sobha Naidu passes away

Hyderabad: Renowned Kuchipudi exponent Sobha Naidu, a recipient of Padma Shri and numerous other awards, passed away here on Wednesday. Naidu, who was in her sixties, was undergoing treatment at a private hospital and the end came around 1 am on Wednesday, sources close to her said. Sobha Naidu's major achievements include choreography and presentation of ballets.

■ Full report on Page 5

INSIDE

■ CITY... PAGE 4
Centre faults TS for failed RTE

30 killed in TS; rain pounds Hyd

19 confirmed dead in GHMC area, 5 yet to be traced; gates of irrigation projects lifted due to heavy inflows

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT 14

The incessant rain has claimed the lives of at least 30 people in various districts, including Hyderabad, since Tuesday.

Greater Hyderabad limits alone, 19 were confirmed dead while five are yet to be traced.

Many streams and rivers, particularly the Musi river, are in full spate, even as tanks started overflowing due to heavy inflows. Authorities in almost all the projects in the state lifted the gates following heavy inflows.

The government has placed the entire administration on high alert and initiated relief and rescue measures across the state. Two helicopters were kept on standby while boats were deployed to evacuate people stranded in low-lying areas that were inundated.

Officials breached the bund of the Musi project near Rudhrapuram in a bid to save the medium irrigation project in Suryapet district after inflows increased to 1.83 lakh cusecs in the early hours of Wednesday.

On Tuesday night, nine persons, including three children, died at Ghousenagar in Bandlaguda of Hyderabad Old City, when a boundary wall collapsed on two asbestos-roofed houses adjacent to the wall. Eight members of a family, including two children and two women, were washed away when Palle Chervut at Falaknuma overflowed in the midnight of Tuesday.



Residents of Saroornagar look at cars that got piled up in front of their houses on Wednesday after they drifted away from another colony in the floodwaters following incessant rains.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Lake bed colonies devastated

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Out of the eight, the bodies of two women were found at Falaknuma bridge on Wednesday.

A three-year-old drowned in the cellar of an apartment in Dilsukhnagar on Wednesday. The cellar was inundated. The rain also claimed the life of a postman in the city.

Three persons died in erstwhile Nizamabad district and three more, including an 11-year-old boy, were washed away in floods in Yadadri-Bhongir district on Wednesday.

Rainwater entered into the houses in Nadeem colony, Ahmed Colony, Balareddy nagar, Rahil Colony, Niraja Colony, Nizam Colony, Hakeempet kunta, Chabra enclave,

Virat nagar, Virasat nagar and parts of MD lines and Golconda areas.

Colonies which came upon the catchment area of lakes were most adversely affected by the recent rains. Half of the Tolichowki area is still submerged.

These areas flood whenever there are heavy rains.

Most colonies in the area are on the banks or catchment areas of lakes and ponds.

There is no proper channel to discharge stormwa-

ter which flows from the upper areas like Banjara Hills.

The civic body could not find a solution to drain the stormwater in two decades.

One of the reasons for this is the choked and incomplete drains.

Residents had to suffer immensely due to continuing rain and subsequent water-logging.

■ Page 2: Many people still confined to their homes

Heaviest rains in city since 1903

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Tuesday's rain, that went on well into the night, was the highest Hyderabad has received in the last 117 years, the Indian Meteorological Department officials said on Wednesday. The record for the highest 24-hour rainfall in the city was on October 6, 1903 when it had received 117.1 mm of rainfall. On Tuesday, the city had received 191.8 mm of rainfall.

While direct human misery was widespread, people suffering from the impact of the rain also suffered from a deteriorating communication network with at least a fourth of the mobile phone network suffering outages because of the power cuts in the city. Cellphone connectivity was spotty for many on Tuesday.

Leaders of political parties and ministers were out in strength on inspection visits with large teams of officials in tow in many parts of the city as they tried to assure the people that the government was doing everything it can to provide them with relief.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation said on Wednesday that till about evening, nearly 7,800 people were shifted from flooded homes

DOWNPOUR LEAVES HYD POWERLESS

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Heavy winds, the relentless rain, uprooting of trees and damaged electricity poles on Tuesday led to a massive disruption of power supply across the city for over 24 hours, leading to blackouts in many parts of Hyderabad city well into Wednesday night.

According to TSSPDCL officials, heavy rain and winds damaged 686 feeders, of which power supply has been restored in 671 feeders. Restoring power supply from the rest of the 15 feeders will be finished shortly, TSSPDCL CMD, G. Raghu Reddy, said on Wednesday evening.

■ Page 2: Sub stations flooded leading to blackout

across the city to rescue centres set up in community and function halls in different localities.

The IMD has only four monitoring stations in the city.

■ Page 2: More rains in city compound misery


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SHORT TAKES

**TS RECORDS
1,446 NEW COVID
CASES, 8 DEATHS**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

There have been 1,446 new cases and eight deaths due to Coronavirus in Telangana. With this, the total number of cases has reached 2,16,238, while the death toll has risen to 1,241. Total recoveries are 1,91,269.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has recorded 252 of the new cases. Ranga Reddy accounted for 135 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 131, and Karimnagar 74 cases. These districts have been constantly recording a high number of cases, indicating how the virus has been rampant in these districts.

Despite heavy rains, 40,056 samples were collected to test for Covid-19.

Government has been constantly advising people to continue wearing masks in a proper manner and avoid unnecessary travel, as these are the best measures to avoid contracting Coronavirus.

**COAL PRODUCTION
GETS HALTED IN
TELANGANA**

From Page 1

One person entered a watery grave while trying to cross the overflowing weir of Rathoni tank in Khammam on Tuesday night.

A 40-year-old farmer was electrocuted when he accidentally came into contact with a live wire while switching on an electric motor in his field at Rebenapalli village, Dandpalli mandal on Wednesday.

An 11-year-old boy was washed away in Peddavagu, a rivulet, when he and his friends were picnicking at a religious structure near Kaghaznagar town on Wednesday.

An old couple and their grandson died when their house collapsed in Kummera village of Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday night.

A 14-year-old boy was washed away in the flood waters of Peddachervu in Bhongir and his body was fished out by the authorities with the help of a JCB and locals.

Coal production was halted in the Singareni mines across the state and road connectivity was snapped on several arterial roads, including the Hyderabad-Vijayawada national highway.

**SUB STATIONS
FLOODED LEADING
TO BLACKOUT**

From Page 1

The primary reasons for the large-scale blackouts were because of flooding in the 15 33/11 KV sub-stations, forcing the electricity authorities to shut them down to prevent any accidents due to the water, in some cases reaching up to the transformers in the sub-stations.

Banjara Hills, Saroor Nagar, S.R. Nagar, Ibrahim Bagh, Medchal, Charminar were among the worst-affected areas, TSSPDCL officials said. During the 24 hours, on Tuesday and Wednesday, officials said their control room received around 12,000 complaints. Other areas of the city affected more than others include Mehdipatnam, Malakpet, Punjagutta, Indira Park, Ameerpet and Sainikpuri.

"A total of 189 section-wise disaster management wings, comprising 25 members each, are working on resolving the issues," Reddy said. Meanwhile, authorities have advised people to be vigilant about power poles, transformers and wires around which where rain water has accumulated. TSSPDCL should be notified immediately if wires are found cut on roads or buildings anywhere.

Fluctuations in voltage, or power outages must be reported to the special control room 7382072104, 7382072106, 7382072106, 7382072106, along with 1912/100 /Local fuse off call office.

BANJARA HILLS,
Saroor Nagar, S.R. Nagar,
Ibrahim Bagh, Medchal,
Charminar were among the
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Malakpet, Punjagutta, Indira
Park, Ameerpet and Sainikpuri.



People throng the Himayatsagar reservoir where the gates were opened on Wednesday following heavy inflows from the catchment areas.



Water gushes out of the Hussainsagar lake as its gates were opened following incessant rains in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The full tank level was crossed on Tuesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

13 gates of Himayatsagar opened

Inflows have been playing hide and seek but reached the FRL on Tuesday midnight, says official

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Thirteen of the seventeen gates of the Himayatsagar reservoir in Hyderabad were opened as the influx of water continued due to heavy rains on Wednesday morning. The decision was taken on Tuesday midnight as the water level touched full reservoir level (FRL) at 1763.50 feet.

Four gates were opened at midnight, after the evacuation of people from the low-lying areas around. According to Hyderabad metropolitan water supply and sewerage board (HMWSSB) officials, with increasing trends, the inflow into the reservoir is 21,450 cusecs and outflow is 22,145 cusecs.

Water from the Himayatsagar reservoir was released into the Musi river. The inflows in the reservoir had gradually reduced by afternoon and seven gates were closed.

Authorities have been releasing 10,290 cusecs through six gates by lifting it six feet from the reservoir. The total water storage capacity of Himayatsagar is 2.97 TMC, and till 7.30 am, the full reservoir level was maintained.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, water board officials monitoring the Himayatsagar said that they have been preparing to open the gates for 15 days. He said that the inflows have been playing hide and seek but finally reached the FRL on Tuesday midnight. The official said that the HMWSSB has alerted revenue, police and the

GHMC has been releasing highly contaminated water into the downstream areas. Taking the opportunity, industries in upstream areas have been releasing untreated water and the pungent smell combined with froth is evidence, said officials.

THE HUSSAINSAGAR too reached beyond its full tank level (FTL) at 513.700 feet on Tuesday, and GHMC irrigation wing officials said that it has still a few meters to reach the maximum water level of 514.91 feet.

Greater Hyderabad municipal corporation (GHMC) officials prior to the release of water and if downstream areas still had people in them, it would not be the board's responsibility.

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The Hussainsagar too reached beyond its full tank level (FTL) at 513.700 feet on Tuesday, and GHMC irrigation wing officials said that it has still a few meters to reach the maximum water level (MWL) of 514.91 feet. Currently, the lake reached 513.700 feet and half a meter rise in the water level would be a matter of concern.

Officials said that if the rain continues, it would have to lift the sluice apart from rehabilitating residents living in the low-lying areas. The corporation has already lifted the vent and sluice gates on Tuesday afternoon to avoid sudden floods in the low-lying areas.

However, officials speak of submergence of low-lying areas for at least two days though they claim that there will be no need for panic and the corporation has been maintaining FTL on any given day and excess water is leaving from the sluice and diversion nala near Marriott hotel. Officials said there was no danger but residents would be alerted and requested to shift to nearby rehabilitation centres once the level crosses 514.91 feet.

The lake has two outflow points: one at the hotel and the other at the GHMC head office. The 21 channels that lead to the vent near the hotel end up in the surplus nala that winds its way over 5.5 kms to Golnaka.

Release of a large quantity of water could endanger people, especially those living along the canal in Ambedkar Nagar, Sabarmati Nagar, Arundhatinagar, Subash Chandrapur, Domalguda, Bapujinagar, parts of Himayatnagar, Dattanagar, Sriramnagar, Satyanagar, Ratnanager, Shivanandnagar and Gangannagar. The situation would depend up on the inflows from Kukatpally nala and other upstream lakes which were encroached upon.

In Chikotti Gardens, links to several localities were cut off due to major inundation. The Brindavan society, consisting of approximately 100 flats, was submerged in over 10-foot-high stormwater on Wednesday morning, with cars in its cellar completely overrun by water. The road to Holy Trinity church in the same area was also cut off. The church was also surrounded by high water levels after the heavy rains.

RAINS SUBMERGE LOCALITIES, FLOOD EATRIES

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Localities submerged, stores and restaurants inundated, lakes overflowing - such were the scenes in central Hyderabad in the areas of Begumpet, Ameerpet, Panjagutta after over 24 hours of heavy rains that the city witnessed on Wednesday.

The underground parking area of Chutneys restaurant in Begumpet was completely submerged till its 12-foot-high roof on Wednesday morning. The owners had to shut down operations for a day to pump out water. However, no further damages were reported.

Several houses in low-lying areas of West Marredpally were also affected and were seen pumping out storm water that had collected overnight. Residents in several areas, living on the ground floor, had to vacate to upper floors for safety.

In Chikotti Gardens, links to several localities were cut off due to major inundation. The Brindavan society, consisting of approximately 100 flats, was submerged in over 10-foot-high stormwater on Wednesday morning, with cars in its cellar completely overrun by water. The road to Holy Trinity church in the same area was also cut off. The church was also surrounded by high water levels after the heavy rains.



After the heavy rains, police and NDRF teams rescue driver of a washed away lorry in Peddamerpet on Wednesday.

Truck gets washed away, driver rescued

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The force of the floods following the incessant rains that gripped Telangana state on Tuesday left some motorists and vehicle drivers struggling for their lives as they attempted to cross the inundated sections of the roads.

A lorry was washed away by the force of water as its driver attempted to negotiate the road near Peddamerpet lake. The heavy goods vehicle, that was pushed off the road by the surging water, turned on its side with its driver

stuck inside the vehicle. People watching the scene dialled 100 even as a patrol van from the Hayathnagar police station that was nearby, rushed to the scene. Police officials managed to get the lorry driver identified as 35-year-old Yasa Ramreddy, a resident of Nalgonda district, out of the vehicle to safety.

Ramreddy had just completed a run unloading sand at Koheda village and was driving on the road towards Peddamerpet when the flood water pushed it off the road, the police explained.

3-YEAR-OLD DROWNS IN APARTMENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

A three-year-old boy drowned in an apartment's cellar in Kodanarammangar on Wednesday morning. Saroornagar police inspector said, "The boy, Aditya Sai of Sahitha Apartments, had gone down at 9.15 am but suddenly found himself in neck deep water. When he started shouting his mother tried to pull him out. However, he had swallowed lot of water."

The boy was taken to a hospital where they declared him dead.

People still confined to their homes

From Page 1

Residents of many houses in Al-Hasnat colony near the house of Indian cricketer, Mohammed Siraj, remained confined to their houses as the entire lane was submerged in rain and drain water for two days. Residents of these colonies have no water to drink or anything to eat.

Even when the rain stopped, there was no trace of reduction as the stormwater found no way to flow. Several residents of these colonies had to move out of their homes to lakes."

House wall crashes, woman escapes

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

A wall of a house adjacent to the historic Akkanna Madanna Temple at Hari Bowli collapsed on Wednesday following incessant rains. A woman passing by had a narrow escape.

The CCTV camera footage of the incident which had gone viral on social medias shows the women who escaped unhurt appeared to be in a state of shock.

More rains across city compound misery

From Page 1

Even as the city breathed a sigh of relief for much of the day on Wednesday after the pounding it received from heavy and incessant rain on Tuesday and the subsequent flood that ravaged large parts of Hyderabad and power outage, the night brought with it another round of steady rain across the city raising prospects of further misery to the people.

The rain, at times, was accompanied by gusty winds, with officials reporting that Hayathnagar witnessed wind speeds of up to 65.1 kmph or 35.15 knots.

With widespread destruc-

tion in terms of flooding of residential areas that left people desperately in need of help, the State Government called for help, a call that Indian Army promptly responded to deploying its columns along with boats and medical teams into service in Bandlaguda, one of the worst hit areas.

Even as the state government ordered that all educational institutions shut down and also stop their

online classes for two days, and told offices to close down to avoid people coming onto the roads, many of them flooded, the Nehru Zoological Park too suffered its share of the damage from overflows from Mir Alam Tank adjacent to it, flooding the zoo.

The zoo said it would remain closed on Thursday as it tries to mop up the dirty and highly polluted water from the tank, but assured that all the animals were safe.

Meanwhile, the IMD said that for Thursday and Friday, Telangana can expect to experience some light to moderate rain or thunder showers at a few places over the state. The deep depression that first formed over Bay of Bengal in the east and moved over the peninsula to settle over Hyderabad by Tuesday night, has since moved on towards Maharashtra, the IMD added.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON DATABASE
FOR DBT SCHEMES IN UTTAR PRADESH**

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH, LUCKNOW**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON DATABASE
FOR DBT SCHEMES IN UTTAR PRADESH**

The Department of Planning, Government of Uttar Pradesh invites EOI from reputed software and system integrator firms/institutions for Integrating Beneficiary Centralized Advanced Analytics and Machine Learning Based Common/Unified Database Solution for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Schemes to improve public service delivery through DBT Schemes of various departments in Uttar Pradesh. This proof of concept will be carried out End to End by the shortlisted bidder at their own costs.

The document can be downloaded from the website <https://etender.up.nic.in>. The response to this EOI is to be submitted on or before 05.11.2020 at the website <https://etender.up.nic.in>.

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Website: <https://etender.up.nic.in> | e-bid Reference: 21 /7-331/J.N.P./2019

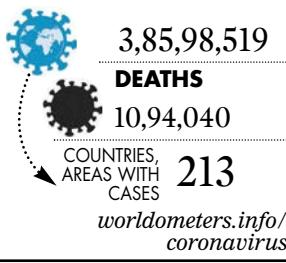
COVID-19 COUNT

CASES (+64,786)	DEATHS (+655)
73,01,870	1,11,272
covid19inindia.org	

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,446)	(+8)
TS: 2,16,238	1,241
(+3,892)	(+28)
AP: 7,67,465	6,319

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula
Trayodasi till 8.31 am; Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula Chaturdasi till 4.52 am (Friday)
Star: Uttaraphalguni till 5.54 pm
Varjyanam: 1.16 am to 2.40 am (Friday)
Durmuhurtam: 10.05 am to 10.52 am; 2.45 pm to 3.31 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
HILRI CALENDAR
Safar ul Muzaffar 27, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.08 am
Zohar: 12.12 pm
Asar: 4.16 pm
Maghrrib: 5.59 pm
Isha: 7.08 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.09 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.54 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 4.25 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 5.02 PM

COUNTER POINT

Flashback



What negligence...
We will make life jacket
compulsory for all citizens!

Subhani, who began CounterPoint on December 11, 1992 and took only one break from work in his entire career, is on personal leave of bereavement.
We present some of his best cartoons of rib-tickling wisdom published on Page 1 and on the Edit Page till he returns.

PM assures all help to CM

Hyderabad: PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday assured CM K. Chandrashekhar Rao of all assistance from the Centre in relief work to tide over the devastation caused due to the incessant rain in the state. "My thoughts are with those affected by the heavy rains," the Prime Minister tweeted.

Rescue teams swing into action

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Teams of the Greater Hyderabad municipal corporation (GHMC), the tourism department and the Hyderabad metropolitan water supply and sewerage board (HMWS&SB) and social activists are busy evacuating residents trapped in flooded colonies. The doors of masjids and schools have been opened to provide shelter to people.

The administration has roped in different teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), GHMC's and the tourism department's disaster response forces, along with boats, to carry out rescue operations in the waterlogged areas in Tolichowki as these areas are facing an increased threat of water stagnation. Thousands of people in these areas have been hit by the waterlogging. AIMIM president, Asaduddin Owaisi, and his legislator brother, Akbaruddin Owaisi, have taken charge of rescue operations. Both leaders have been inspecting the rescue and rehabilitation work being carried out by government agencies and volunteers since last night. The party's MLAs and corporators are also on the field, helping the needy who are stuck in flooded waters.

Minister for municipal administration and urban

development, K.T. Rama Rao, home minister, Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Ahmed Balala, MLA Malakpet, Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri, MLA Yakutpura, chief secretary, Somesh Kumar, DGP Telangana, Mahender Reddy and the Owaisis inspected the rain-hammered areas of Bandlaguda, Ghazi-E-Millat colony, Malakpet and Yakutpura. They interacted with the people and assured them of immediate relief measures.

Power cuts disrupt work from home

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Work from home was badly affected on Tuesday night as power disruptions meant that Wi-Fi networks and functioning of mobile towers was also affected.

70 per cent of employees in the information technology sector complained of inability to log in and also bubbling effect as the networks were not clear.

On Wednesday morning too those who had to login at nine o'clock could not as there was no power for 16 to 18 hours in most areas and

backup power was also not functional.

Those working from home saw this as the most disruption in the last six months as they had a smooth functioning so far due to continuous power supply and constant back up charging.

K.V. Sudarshan, from Kukatpally, said, "There was no power in our area from 6 pm on Tuesday and at 11 p.m. even the back-up batteries gave way. I am on the night shift and could not log in. Power restoration is still not complete and am not sure if we can log in again today." With many of the buildi-

ngs and colonies flooded, there was waterlogging till afternoon. It was only in the evening that normalcy was restored but not completely as people had to remove silt and muck from homes. In many areas, huge trees fell and that also created problems in restoring power supply.

Achyuth Narayana Bhagi, an IT company employee says, "The last two days have been hell for us as work from home was badly affected. We were aware of the weather bureau alerts but did not anticipate it to be so bad. Yesterday morning

onwards, electric supply

was an issue and by mid-

night most of us were out of

all our back-up power.

Messages on social media

were also not going as the

basic network minimum

speed to connect was not

there."

With the power now

restored in the evening, there is hope that the night shift will be functional.

But some areas are still under water and employees from those areas are not able to connect to their offices or even send messages as mobiles have no charge.

Explaining the current floods, a senior GHMC official said that the Kirloskar committee report, the city development plan report prepared by the erstwhile MCH,

Voyants consultancy's detailed project report on re-modelling and widening of nalas in GHMC area and umpteen other studies and surveys have already gathered dust.

In the meantime, encroachments on nalas have multiplied. According to a committee report approved by the then state government, as many as 28,000 encroachments have grown on the city's nalas.

But since the five years, their numbers have multiplied and reached more than 30,000.

The Kirloskar committee's report said that the storm water drains, constructed during the Nizam's era, were planned for a population of five lakh and a municipal area of 54 sq kms. As of now, the GHMC comprises an area of 625 sq kms with a population of almost 1.2 crore.

Most of the new settlements and colonies outside the core area of Hyderabad (old municipal corporation area) and on the peripheries are living examples of unplanned urban growth

and unregulated planning control. After battling for years, the corporation has finally decided to clear 47 critical bottlenecks at the cost of Rs 230 crore, where 80 structures were identified. However, due to lack of political will, the project has been moving at a snail's pace. Though parts of the city get flooded every year whenever there is a little extra rainfall, successive governments never addressed the urban flooding issue.

As a result of rapid and uncontrolled urban growth and the consequent changes of land use, the functioning of the network of urban lakes in Hyderabad city has deteriorated rapidly. Lakes have been encroached upon and polluted and linkages have been blocked.

Consequently, many parts of the city were inundated and damaged due to the insufficient carrying capacity of the existing storm water drains during the current incessant rains.

No help, citizens turn bravehearts

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The torrential rain that wreaked havoc in Hyderabad and its suburbs in the last 24 hours claimed several lives and threw normal life out of gear. Hyderabad received unprecedented rainfall in the last 24 hours. The intensity of the rainfall increased after 6 pm and went on battering the city all through the night.

The entire city was soaked to the bone. Several incidents of property loss were reported. Residents complained that despite calling emergency numbers, disaster response teams including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) field level staff, did not respond in time at all.

Narrating his painful saga, K. David, 23, a resident of Tatti Annaram in Bandlaguda, said he had alerted DRF teams and GHMC officials at Tuesday midnight when the water level reached beyond five. He said despite continuous reminders to the DRF teams, he did not receive any help until five am. David said that he, along with 55 year old father, Pradeep, his 47-year-old mother, Madhurima, and his sister, Theresa, were waiting on the terrace in the pouring rain as flood water entered into their house.

"We have been standing for four hours in the pouring rain waiting. Vexed by official apathy, I rescued my family by shifting to my uncle's place. I asked my family members to walk holding the compound wall as much as they could and I swam for a few metres until the water level reached below knee level. I swam with my dog for at least for 1.5 km. When I checked my residence on Wednesday evening, my house was still completely submerged. If we had waited, all of my family members, along with my dog, would be dead," he said narrating the horrific ordeal.

In another incident Radhesh Pillai, President, Amaravati colony welfare association, New Bowenpally, said that over the past 24 hours, floodwaters are reverse flowing into Amaravati colony residences through two ft dia and one ft dia drainage pipe lines connected (against section 218 of Cantonments Act 2006) to Hasmathpet rain water drainage canal and because SCB did not re-erect the rain water retainer wall to the mini-

mum five ft above colony ground level nor were drainage pipeline manholes erected to the minimum four ft height to prevent flood waters entering Amaravati colony.

"We request the CEO, SCB to immediately raise the height of the retainer wall and erect 4 ft high manholes on two ft dia and one ft dia drainage pipe lines and eliminate the annual monsoon floods drowning Amaravati colony and creating water pollution/property loss," said Pillai.

Several areas in the city have been inundated and water levels reached above five feet which submerged several colonies. Houses in many low-lying areas have been submerged in the rain water. Several colonies including Mohammad Guda, Prakash Nagar, Abids, Hayathnagar, Banjara Hills, Panjagutta, Madhapur, Mehdipatnam, Ameerpet, Malakpet, Begumpet, Alwal, Bowenpally, Ganganagar, Barkatpura, Hastingapuram, Shalivahan Nagar, Moosarambagh, Babu Jagjivan Ram Nagar, Srinagar Colony, Ashok Nagar, Kavadiguda, Lower Tank Bund, Shivam Road, Raj Bhavan Road and others were submerged in rain water. The GHMC's disaster response team and the traffic police from three commissioners (Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda) were on the field to pump out water from waterlogged areas and pave way for vehicular movement.

Singapore township area on the outskirts of the city received the maximum of 30.6 cm of rain in a span of 12 hours till 10 pm. The South Hastingapuram area received 28.3 cm of rain till 1 am. The other areas of the city reported rainfall ranging from 11.5 cm to 20.5 cm. Several low-lying areas in Begum Bazar, Khairatabad, Begumpet, Tolichowki, Shaikpet, Mehdipatnam, Cherlapally, Mallapur, Moula Ali were completely submerged. Stormwater

entered several residential apartments in Somajiguda, Errum Manzil, Khairatabad and Vijayanagar Colony. For rescue and relief measures, disaster response force teams of the GHMC were pressed into service to rescue people in the waterlogged areas of Ameerpet, Nagole, Abids, Mehdipatnam and so on.

A physician died of electrocution when he was trying to drain out water from his clinic in Banjara Hills on Wednesday morning.

Career Chronicle

WANTED

Openings in a reputed Company at Hyderabad

FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS – 3 POSTS B. Tech / M. Tech in Food Technology with 5 to 7 years' experience in QC/QA and Development of Ready Mixes, Cake Mixes and Flour based products. Knowledge and experience in analytical methods and Good Laboratory Practices is desirable. Knowledge in Production operations is an added advantage. Should possess good communication skills.

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER – 1 POST Graduates in Food Tech / Science from reputed institute having 3-4 years' experience in analytical, Chemical and other related tests of food products.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS – 2 POSTS Graduates with B. Tech / AMIE Diploma holders – Electrical from a reputed Institute with 3 to 4 years' experience in manufacturing industry with knowledge of handling HT & LT switch gear, Electronic equipment and a bit of instrumentation.

PACKING MACHINE OPERATOR – 2 POSTS Candidates with ITI / Engineering having 3 to 4 years' experience in operation of FFS packing machines.

Eligible candidates may send their CVs along with recent passport picture to dharwiafoods@gmail.com remuneration will be as per the industry norms.

Short-listed candidates will be informed by mail / phone to attend personal interview.

IN BRIEF

Kishan visits flood affected areas

Hyderabad: Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday visited the flood-affected areas of Malikarjuna Nagar, Bapu Nagar, Prem Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Shanti Nagar and Ratanagar in Amravati Assembly constituency. He was accompanied by BJP OBC Morcha national president Dr. K. Laxman, MLC Ramachandra Rao and district president Gautam Rao. Kishan Reddy stated that he has held discussions with Union home minister Amit Shah on rescue operations following which NDRF teams and military teams are being deployed in the affected areas. He appealed to the BJP cadres to take part in relief operations and help people of several colonies who have been affected with flood waters and are struggling for meeting their regular needs. The Union minister advised the state government to take precautions in view of rains and deal with the seasonal flu cases.

TS failed to alert on impact: Uttam

Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president and MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday demanded taking up rescue operations in the low lying areas flooded with waters. He expressed condolences to the families of those who died in the floods and demanded the government to give ex gratia immediately.

The Congress leader said that the state government should have alerted the people about the impact of the extremely heavy rains that the State had experienced in over a century. The TPCC chief advised the State government to ensure effective coordination with GHMC, Power, HMWS, Disaster management and other wings which is under emergency at flood times for relief actions and distribution of essentials.

15 PASSENGERS RESCUED IN WARANGAL

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 14

Four persons who tried to cross an overflowing stream over the Chitakodur reservoir in a car were washed away on Tuesday midnight in Jangaon.

Luckily for the inmates, the car got stuck between some trees and came to a halt in the flowing water.

The locals informed the police on seeing the headlights of the vehicle and hearing the screams of those inside and a rescue operation was launched.

Efforts to rescue them with the help of a rope failed. Later, the local disaster management team too reached the site and after five hours of combined efforts throughout the night, managed to rescue all four persons in the car.

They were identified as Reddobaina Naresh, Reddobaina Kanakaraju, Putta Ravi, Ventala Venkatesh, residents of Sundaraiah Nagar in Wadlkonda village. West zone deputy commissioner of police, B. Sreenivas Reddy, monitored the rescue operation. He said that the four persons were going from Vadlkonda village to Jangaon town in the car.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client intends to purchase the below described property (the Schedule Property) from its current owner Sri G. Srikanth Reddy, S/o Mr. G. Surendra Reddy for valid consideration and the said negotiations have reached the final stage of culmination.

SCHEDULED PROPERTY: House bearing No. 8-2-293/82/A/439 and 439/1 consisting of Ground, First and Second Floors on Plot No. 439 measuring 1281 Square Yards as Survey Nos 403/1 (Old) 120 New Survey Nos 103/1 and 102/1 of Mateluk Village in the approved area of The Jubilee Hills Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., situated at Road No. 20, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500 033.

BOUNDED BY: NORTH: Plot No. 440, SOUTH: Plot No. 438, EAST: 50 Feet Wide Road No 20, WEST: Open Space. Therefore, any/all persons who claim any right, title or interest whatsoever in the Schedule Property in any manner including by way of Agreement of Sale or Sale Deed, Power of Attorney, any court case against the Schedule Property may make objections/claims in writing with supportive documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no objections for purchases of the Schedule Property by my client and the same would not be completed without reference to such claim/objection. Objections/Claims received thereafter are not binding on my client.

Sd/- DHARMENDRA PRASAD Advocate
1-10-98/42, Bhagirath Apartments, Chikot Gardens, Begumpet, Hyderabad 500016
Mobile No: 9866572247

Centre faults TS for failed RTE

TS tells HC it didn't get information on expenses it has to bear

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 14:-

The Union government accused the Telangana State government of non-implementation of Right To Education (RTE) Act in the state, and referred to it not submitting the details of the eligible students for free education under the RTE Act.

The Centre on Wednesday submitted to the High Court that it was ready to bear 60 per cent of the expenses to the

admissions for the poor students as per the RTE Act, which mandates all the private schools to reserve 25 per cent of the seats for children between the age 6 to 14 years who come from economically weaker sections. The expenses for these seats should be borne by both Union and State government in the ratio of 60:40.

The division Bench headed by Chief Justice Raghuendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B.

Vijayesh Reddy was dealing with the long pending batch of petitions related to non-implementation of RTE Act in Telangana. Though the Act came into effect on 1 April 2010, throughout the country in Telangana it was not implemented. Petitioners urged the Court to direct the Union and State government to take necessary action into this issue, forthwith.

N a m a v a r a p u Rajeshwara Rao, assistant solicitor general, on

behalf of the Union government told the court that Telangana government has been delaying the submission of details of the eligible students to it since 2018, so that it could not have been sanctioned any amount as part of its share to the expenses of imparting free education to the eligible students under RTE Act. However, Telangana government strongly opposed the allegations of the Union.

A. Sanjeev Kumar, spe-

cial counsel for the State submitted that despite of State's repeated requests, it never got any communication from the Union on the expenses, which it has to bear.

The court directed the Telangana government to submit the communications forwarded to the Union and also asked for the details of eligible students as early as possible, so that from the next academic year onwards that the Act would be imple-

BJP's Dubbaka nominee



M. Raghunandan Rao, BJP's candidate for the Dubbaka bypoll files his nomination papers on Wednesday at the Dubbaka Returning Office in the presence of state party chief and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar and former MP, bypoll incharge A.P. Jithender Reddy.

Council approves women quota

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Telangana Legislative Council on Wednesday passed four Bills which were cleared by the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

The four Bills include the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Amendment Bill 2020 which was intended to provide 50 per cent reservation to women in GHMC council and the Indian Stamp (Telangana Amendment) Bill 2020 which was aimed at making the

surety of bail, responsible for bringing back the accused to court on said date for trial.

IT and Municipal Minister K.T. Rama Rao introduced the GHMC Amendment Bill 2020, Legislative Affairs Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy moved the Indian Stamp (TS Amendment) Bill 2020 and the Telangana Agricultural Land Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes (Amendment) Bill, 2020 while law minister A Indr-

akaran Reddy tabled the Code of Criminal Procedure (Telangana Amendment) Bill 2020.

During the discussion on the GHMC Bill 2020, Rama Rao slammed the Opposition parties for making misleading statements and creating apprehensions among people for political mileage with regard to quota to BCs. Replying to the discussion on the Bill in the Council, he made it clear that the 50 per cent reservation for women will not impact the BC reservation.

RAINS DAMAGE PADDY CROPS IN NIZAMABAD

NARENDER PULLORI | DC
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 14

Heavy rains damaged crops in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts for the last two days.

Paddy and soyabean crops were devastated. Harvested paddy was water-logged in different parts of both districts. In a few villages, paddy was damaged due to water-logging and sand casting. Farmers harvested the paddy as the Vanakalam (kharif) season is ending.

Agriculture officials carried out an instant survey on crop damage. They identified that crops in 1,561 acres were damaged in Nizamabad.

TRS anti-BC quota in GHMC polls: Jeevan

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy criticised the Telangana government for discriminating against Backward Classes when it comes to giving reservations in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Bill 2020.

He pointed out that the government has reserved two seats for Scheduled Tribes and 10 seats for Scheduled Castes, with these two reservations coming to only eight per cent. But the government has been discriminato-

ry when it comes to Backward Classes.

"Not only has it limited quota for BCs, but also unreserved 13 of the seats belonging to backward sections. Further, though minorities comprise 25 per cent of the population in GHMC, no seats have been reserved for them," Jeevan Reddy pointed out.

He accused CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao and municipal minister K.T. Rama Rao of cheating backward classes in the matter. He said if the government really cares for BCs, they should have added another eight per cent quota to exist-

ing 33 percent seats for BCs. The Congress MLC said while the entire country is dealing with BCs in one way, the TS Chief Minister is taking a different track. He maintained that if KCR so wishes, he can implement 42 per cent reservations for BCs in Telangana.

The senior Congress leader said, "CM has said if need be, he will fight with God. But even God has no right to change the reservation pattern for backward classes. The entire population of Hyderabad should now wage a fight to ensure 33 per cent quota for

Netherlands horticulture crops are being cultivated very successfully. One should visit these places to learn about the techniques, marketing methods and their rich experiences. We should follow the best practices. Send officials to Indian Institute of Horticulture Research in Bangalore for training," he added.

Emphasising the need to expand the horticulture department he said the state government is ready to appoint one horticulture extension officer for every mandal. He asked the officers to prepare proposals.

"In Maharashtra, Karnataka and Haryana and

300-acre at Kongara Kalan to sell the crops

Horticulture gets CM boost

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has desired a qualitative change in cultivation of horticulture crops and asked authorities to prepare a comprehensive horticulture cultivation policy.

He announced setting up of a major market

which will be on the lines of Azadpur Market in Delhi, in Kongara Kalan village spread over 300 acres for selling horticulture products.

At a review meeting with officials of the horticulture department

here on Wednesday, Rao asked them to bring a qualitative change in cultivation of horticulture crops, training officers and strengthening the department. He said that since Telangana is blessed with a wide variety of soil, good rainfall and skilled farmers, such advantages should be utilised to optimal levels. He stressed the need to bring in revolutionary changes in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, flowers and other horticulture crops. Rao assured that all necessary steps needed to strengthen the depart-

ment would be taken by the government. He pointed out that despite having sufficient water, suitable soil and good rainfall, Telangana is still importing vegetables, fruits, flowers, spices, and oil seeds. "This situation should change. Telangana should become self-sufficient in horticulture crops. It should develop in such a way that it should be able to export to other regions, including abroad, after meeting the demand within the state," he said.

"In Maharashtra, Kar-

KTR convenes emergency meet

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

In light of heavy rains in the city, Municipal Administration and Urban Development minister K.T. Rama Rao on convened an emergency meeting on Wednesday morning with officials from various government agencies at Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) headquarters to take stock of the situation in the city.

The minister instructed GHMC Mayor Bonchu Rammohan, deputy Mayor Baba Fasihuddin, MLAs, and other elected representatives and officials to be stationed at relief camps. Rama Rao asked the TSSPCCL officials to coordinate with MAUD and Police Depts to ensure power is restored at the earliest.

available in the field and continuously monitor and coordinate relief measures.

He requested DGP Mahender Reddy and all Police Commissioners of Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Rachakonda to proactively monitor inundated areas/roads and ensure appropriate traffic diversions are in place. He asked the officials to ensure food, water, and other essentials are available at relief shelters. He also wanted doctors from Basthi Dawkhana to be stationed at relief camps.

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IN BRIEF
OU postpones examinations

Hyderabad: Osmania University on Wednesday announced that B. A. and B. Sc (CBCS) 6th Semester Main Examinations, scheduled for October 14, will now be held on October 18 (Sunday). The time and center for examination will remain the same, the university said in an official statement.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES TO REMAIN CLOSED

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The state government has announced that schools, colleges and other non-essential services will remain closed. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University as well as Osmania University have also directed principals of constituent and affiliated colleges to postpone all under graduate and post graduate regular and supplementary exams until October 16.

The university authorities said examinations from October 16 onwards will be conducted as per the time table. The schedule of the postponed examinations will be announced later.

Several schools on Wednesday declared that they will not be taking online classes owing to major power cuts throughout the city. Schools like Pallavi Model School, Glendale Academy, ABODE Montessori and Multiple Intelligence School, and Chirec International School, among others, announced that the school will remain closed on October 14 and October 15 due to the prevailing weather conditions and subsequent government directions.

PRESIDENT CALLS GUV OVER HEAVY RAINS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

President Ram Nath Kovind made a telephonic call to Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan Wednesday evening to enquire about the heavy rains and flood situation and the rescue and relief measures in the state. He expressed concern about the loss of life and damages to property.

According to Raj Bhavan, the Governor informed the President that rescue and relief measures were in full swing in all rain-affected areas in the state and the State machinery was in full preparedness to meet every eventuality.

Dr Soundararajan also informed that she has convened a meeting with all district units of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and urged them to take an active part in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts to supplement government's efforts.

The President wanted the government machinery to be on high alert and help the affected people on a priority

THE RAJ Bhavan informed the President that rescue and relief measures were in full swing in all rain-affected areas in the state

RADIO CHANNELS FALL SILENT AFTER RAINS

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Following the wrath of the rain on Tuesday, private radio stations across the city went silent and listeners were greeted by static on Wednesday, a welcome relief from the mindless chatter on most radio channels.

"The station has its output tower in L.B. Nagar, and after the rainfall, there was a power loss in these towers, so our radio station went silent from 9 pm on Tuesday. We are working on getting the transmission back to normal," said a source from a private radio channel.

Similarly, professionals from other radio channels too said that they were off-air from Tuesday night onwards.

"The heavy downpour had forced our tech-teams to cut the live play of music. They have told us that the station would be up and running once the rains clear out," said a source from the programming team of another station.

Prime Properties 'hid' key data on 119 acres

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

D. Nagender's name in Kukatpally land-grab

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Acehibc Private Limited and Prime Properties have suppressed crucial facts in the Joint Development Agreement pertaining to 119 acres of disputed property in Kukatpally. The Supreme Court red-flagged development of the property till the ownership of the land is settled.

In order to project that Prime Properties as the rightful owner of the land, the two parties prominently referred to a civil court decree which they said was confirmed by the erstwhile AP High Court through an order passed in CRP No 6697 of 2004 on March 20, 2009.

But Chalamalasetty Anil Kumar and Kolli Mahesh, the prominent figures in energy sector, who also own Acehibc, conveniently kept under wraps that the same order was subsequently recalled by Telangana HC declaring that the court had previously committed "an error manifest" and "mistakenly entertained the case" (filed by Prime Properties). Significantly, Justice D.V.S.S. Somayajulu, who recalled the previous order, observed that a deliberate suppression of facts (by Prime) led to the previous order.

Further, Justice Somayajulu said the HC had earlier decided on issues of title and ordered pos-

session without a trial or

detailed inquiry disregarding the rules of natural justice." He apprehended that the order, if not recalled, would result in exploitation.

Rajesh Tiwari, then Special Chief Secretary, Revenue, categorically told the HC that the enter-

taining the JDA by the sub-registrar is in contravention of Section 17 and 19 of TS Land

Reforms Act.

Meanwhile, Anil Kumar's foray into the property and spending crores of rupees on it even before the ownership was settled has surprised financial circles.

Data available with the Registrar of Companies revealed that Acehibc raised more than ₹500 crore from various financial institutions. "The

global funding agencies put faith in Anil and Mahesh keeping their proven performance in promoting green energy and related projects.

They have chosen to develop concrete jungle as part of diversification, that too, by muscling their way into disputed properties," said a financial expert on condition of anonymity.



People walk past a tree that got uprooted in East Maredpally on Wednesday after heavy rains.

TCS opens NQT to all corporates

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Wednesday threw open its National Qualifier Test (NQT) to all corporates, with an aim to help job seekers and potential employers.

The NQT will be a common gateway test for several participating corporates for their fresher recruitment programmes.

This standardised test will be conducted on TCS iON TM platform and will provide candidates access to multiple corporates, while helping corporates get an in-depth understanding of applicants' cognitive abilities, and reduce evaluation overheads, the organisation announced.

The test will act as a single window for job opportunities across leading organisations in IT, BFSI, manufacturing, pharma, and FMCG sectors, including TCS.

free, will be held from October 24-26. Registrations are open until October 17. Candidates can take the test multiple times to improve their scores.

The test will focus on general abilities covering verbal, numerical and reasoning abilities to arrive at the normalized NQT Score that corporates can evaluate. A subject NQT, focused on programming is also being planned, keeping in mind the huge demand for this skill in the IT industry.

"With the launch of the unique NQT, we are giving millions of young job-seekers an opportunity to work for India's top corporations. This high-quality standardized test will provide subscribing corporates with a well-rounded evaluation of candidates' abilities, and access to quality talent across the nation at speed and scale," said Venuguswamy Ramaswamy, Global Head, TCS iON.

Candidates can take the test from their homes.

Candidates, who do not have access to the infrastructure at home, can take the test from a TCS iON centre.

The NQT will be conducted every quarter and the score will be valid for two years. The first test, which will be available for

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

With up to two years of job experience, as well as students from any stream, currently enrolled in pre-final/ final year of undergraduate or postgraduate programmes, can apply for the test.

THE TEST will act as a single window for job opportunities across leading organisations in IT, BFSI, manufacturing, pharma, and FMCG sectors, including TCS.

HC NOT TO DIRECT TS TO CONTAIN RAIN DAMAGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday said it was not inclined to direct the State government as regards the rain and flood relief activities in prevailing situation because of incessant rains that are lashing Hyderabad.

A counsel urged the Bench headed to take the matter as a suo-moto plea and direct the government to take necessary action. The bench refused the request and said that the governments will do whatever best it can.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Open E-Tender No.: TRS-DNR-MEMU-OT-01-18-19, The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway Danapur invites online (E-Tendering) open tender from the reputed firms/contractors which have valid electrical contractors license from any state/Central Govt. licensing board or behalf of the President of India for the following work:

1. Name of its work with its location : Outsourcing of maintenance activity of MEMU Car Shed; Jhajha for a period of two (02) years. Place - Jhajha - Dist - Jamui (Bihar). 2. Approx. cost of the work : ₹1,71,64,928/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy One Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Nine Hundred twenty Eight Only). Cost of tender document - ₹5,000/-, 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹2,35,800/- (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Only). 4. Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender : 19.10.2020 to 02.11.2020 at 12:00 Hrs. and 02.11.2020 at 12:30 Hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from here the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website : <http://www.reps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEE(OP)/E.C. Railway/ Danapur. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website required.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP)/ ECR/Danapur
PR/0754/SPJ/EOPN/T/20-21/44

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Serilingampally Zone: GHMC Mail: sev.ghmc@gmail.com Cell No. 7995077950

Procurement Notice		Name & Address of Officer	Cell No.
NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount (₹CV Rs. in Lakhs)	Date & Time for Receipt of Bids

NIT No. 23/SE-SLPZ/GHMC Sanitation Comprehensive O&M of Sanitation structures in Circle-19-Circle-20-Circle-21, Date: 13.10.2020 SLPZ, GHMC (3 items)

1774.40 Lakhs 14.10.2020 3:00 PM

1774.40 Lakhs 15.10.2020 3:00 PM

RO No: 5976/PP/CL/Advt/1/2020-21 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Serilingampally Zone: GHMC

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001

Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813

Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 288/P-3/EMP-W-1173 dt. 07.10.2020 & Tender ID: 2020_POWER_54538 1

Scope of Work: Breakdown / Preventive maintenance & Overhauling of Bowl Mills (i.e. XRP-803 and HP-803). Raw Coal Feeders, mill reject system & its auxiliaries, preventive/ breakdown maintenance of Coal pipes, removal cleaning of mills reject, raw coal/coal dust from mills & R.C. Feeders areas, & transportation of mill reject, coal dust, spilled coal/reject, stone etc. Including various locations in CHP to coal handling plant area, for four units i.e.4x210MW(Unit no. 3 to 6) of BHCL make at GGSSTP, Ropar

Time period: One Year

EMD: Rs. 6,05,000/-fixed

Date & time up to which tender shall be received : 17.11.2020 & 11:00 AM

Date & time of opening of tender : 24.11.2020 & 11:30 AM

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.

Note:

1) In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and/or e-procurement system Government of Punjab. Contact No. +91-(172)-2970263/284. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.

2) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website: eproc.punjab.gov.in

RPT-43/2020
RO : I/89850

Dy. CE/Monitoring,
GGSSTP, Rupnagar

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty. (Nos./ Sets)	EMD (₹)
1.	14201073C	Chopped Strand MAT.	1000 Kg.	NIL
2.	1420164	1) Acetylene Gas Dissolved, 2) Oxygen Gas Compressed.	27769 CUM 51732 CUM	19,95,90/-
3.	14200500	Transportation of Railway Material from RWF Bangalore to RCF/Kapurthala	750 MT	69,300/-
4.	14201168	Fire Retardant Rubber Based Adhesive for Pasting of PVC with Plywood/Aluminum/ Stainless Steel	655 Sets	61,060/-
5.	04201027	70AH, 110V Vrla Monoblock Lead ACID Maintenance free set with 8MDLS of 12V each Precharged Battery	691 Sets	11,96,120/-
6.	02201271	Five Types of Thin Walled Flex Elast. Cable in 25 SCMM	19300 MTR	88,790/-
7.	02201211	Set of Panel for EOG AC Garib Rath Coaches	273 Nos.	20,00,000/-
8.	05201412	Set of Console	1222 Set	2,18,710/-
9.	05201401	Set of Side Buffer Ass'y. (Helical Spring Type) (LH&RH) for LHB Coach	246 Set	7,16,350/-

1. For details and making On-line tenders, visit Website <http://ireps.gov.in>. Drawings / specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class IIIB digital signature certificate required for on-line tenders, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>. 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. Tenders No. 1 to 4 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and St. No. 5 to 8 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact REPS heldesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF heldesk at 011-2373658.

DECCAN Chronicle

15 OCTOBER 2020

Koshyari's conduct is beyond the pale

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray earlier this week asking him to order the reopening of temples, closed on account of the Covid threat, in the upcoming festival season is a singularly unfortunate development. The governor was expected to be more mindful of his constitutional role. At the very least, he was expected to eschew political partisanship. It hasn't gone unnoticed that Mr Koshyari's letter coincides with the state BJP's agitation for the opening of temples, oblivious to the critical situation Maharashtra faces on the fight against the new coronavirus. Maharashtra is the country's worst hit state on account of the virus in spite of the state government's spirited effort to combat the deadly foe.

It was expected that the Governor would urge the government to adopt a calibrated and cautious approach in the face of representations from sections of society to let temples be open to devotees when important religious festivals, where participation is typically at a mass level, are held. But he has done the opposite. He has chosen to be sarcastic in his letter and ask whether the CM has turned "secular", forsaking "Hindutva" that he and his party Shiv Sena proclaim. In fact, Mr Koshyari has no business subscribing to or supporting a political or ideological creed in official communications. In our Constitution, the role assigned to the governor is to ensure that a state is being governed according to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, in the absence of which the elected government can be dismissed and Central rule imposed for a limited period.

In the present case it is the governor — the gatekeeper of the Constitution in a state — who appears to be in violation. Replying to his letter, the CM was right to remind Raj Bhavan that the occupant of the gubernatorial office has taken his oath on the Constitution, of which "secularism" is an intrinsic part. The tone of Mr Koshyari's letter appears to strongly hint that he himself has no truck with "secularism". Holding such views in an official document, which the letter doubtless is, the incumbent has cast himself beyond the pale of constitutional propriety and offers himself as a poor role model.

In offending constitutional values, the Governor offends the people of the state and deserves to be withdrawn. It's a pity he has elected to emulate the poor example set by his counterpart in West Bengal. Looking at the broader picture, it appears that some governors in states run by non-BJP parties — Kerala and West Bengal come to mind, besides Maharashtra — have adopted the policy of needing their state governments. Such an outlook is unlikely to yield a harmonious relationship between the state and the Centre. NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar, one of India's most accomplished politicians, has complained to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the unbecoming nature of the governor's letter to the CM. A thoughtful reply is in order.

An unfortunate climbdown

Titan stumbled, when its very prominent jewellery brand was arm-twisted into pulling an ad that depicted a happy Hindu-Muslim married home. Like all media, visuals in an advertisement play a huge role in shaping our society. This made this ad — which subtly encouraged viewers to exercise progressive values — both attractive and important. However, it received backlash from those who subscribe to a certain ideological view. Quite unaccountably to freethinkers and progress-loving people, the Hindutva brigade raised the bogey of "love jihad" and opposed this ad.

Their stance militates against who we are as a nation and who we aspire to be. It must be remembered that a composite social culture as well as secularism are important Indian values. The Indian nationalism today is not the nationalism of a particular religious, caste or linguistic community but a nationalism of all the people of India. No one community is privileged by our Constitution, and this is vouched for by the existence of the Special Marriage Act, 1954. It provides for a special form of marriage for the people of India, irrespective of faith. Not only inter-faith couples, anyone who wishes to opt for such a marriage can get married under this law.

Hence, much as BJP minister Himanta Biswa Sarma would like to carry out a crackdown against "love jihad" in Assam, after the Assembly election there in 2021, inter-faith marriages are constitutionally endorsed. It is unlawful to bully, haranguer or heckle anyone on this account, and forcing a written apology from the owner of a Tanishq store in Gandhidham amounts to that.

"Cancel culture" is the favourite catch-all used by the Indian right wing today to cry foul against what it sees as liberal and leftist injustices and hypocrisies. This particular type of Hindutva "cancel culture", however, badly hurts the image of the country and its soft power around the world.

The government should make every effort to find out who the trolls are and bring them to book. Sometimes they can defeat even stout-hearted people. Still, we have the wonderful examples of Parle and Bajaj Group who have come out openly and said they will not be cowed by similar threats. These are good examples to follow.

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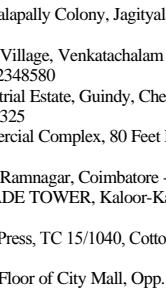
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Subhani

Flashback



'Auction theory' Nobel: But do people benefit?



Mohan Guruswamy

Of all Nobel Prize disciplines, it is probably Economics after Medicine that touches the everyday life of mankind. The medical advances that won Nobels were truly pathbreaking and contributed to the saving and betterment of millions of lives. In 1900, the world's life expectancy was 30 years. A hundred years later, in 2000, it had risen to 68. In 2020 it is 72. That we live longer and healthier lives now is primarily owed to the advances in Medicine. This contribution is reflected in the roster of Nobel Prize winners. The very first prize in 1901 went to Adolf von Behring for his work relating to serum therapy for diphtheria — then a major universal killer. The following year it was awarded to Ronald Ross in uncovering the mysteries of malaria while working in a small dispensary in Secunderabad. The world population in 1900 was 1.6 billion and an estimated 5.5 million died that year of malaria. The world population in 2020 is inching towards eight billion and last year it is estimated that 440,000 people died due to malaria. It gives you an idea about how much we owe to the work of Sir Ronald Ross. Similarly, there were the discoveries of Penicillin, Streptomycin and Insulin that altered longevity and the quality of life. The discoveries of blood groups, immunological responses, DNA, cholesterol and fatty acid metabolism were rewarded. The only great discovery that eluded Nobel recognition was that of the polio vaccine by Jonas Salk.

But the Nobel Prizes for Economics can claim no such roster. All the great thinkers and pathbreakers like Adam Smith,

John Stuart Mill, David Ricardo, Alfred Marshall and others belonged to an earlier age. Even the greatest like Lord Keynes and Joseph Schumpeter whose philosophies still drive modern economics preceded the age of Nobel economics. A few like Paul Samuelson, Simon Kuznets, Kenneth Arrow, Wassily Leontief and Friedrich Hayek straddled the earlier era. But then it's a relatively recent prize, having been instituted only in 1968 by the Swedish central bank. But with the great semiinal works and discoveries already been done, the new pathways to greatness is increasingly due to more esoteric work and research. For instance, in 2017, Rosbash, Young and Hall got the medicine Nobel for "the molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm" and Ratcliffe, Semenza and Kaelin won it for "how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability". Likewise, we see a similar tendency in economics on the small, rather than the seminal, and the esoteric rather than the extensive development of knowledge. The pursuit of truths takes us from the main veins into the capillaries of knowledge.

The 2020 Economics prize was awarded to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson of Stanford University "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats". It is as if a medical researcher was getting a Nobel for work, say, in an aspect of Otolaryngology such as the act of swallowing. It is important, but how widespread are problems related to swallowing? Auction theory is like that. It is an applied branch of economics which deals with how auction markets and people act in them. We in

India know something about auctions, mainly due to the exertions of Vinod Rai, the RSS, India Against Corruption, Subramanian Swamy, S. Gurumurthy and that great preceptor, Baba Ramdev. They didn't know or care to know that "auction theory" is not just about how much the State got, but also about how much did the people get! In 2010, according to Vinod Rai's asinine projections, the difference between the money collected and that mandated to be collected was estimated at ₹1.76 lakh crores, or \$25 billion, based on 2010 3G and broadband spectrum auction prices. The number crunchers in the CBI did even better. In the chargesheet it filed on April 2, 2011 the loss was pegged at ₹3.1 lakh crores, or \$43 billion. It caused a political upheaval. Inspired by such visions, the Narendra Modi government expected India's largest spectrum sale in 2016 to fetch it ₹5.63 lakh crores. Instead it got only ₹65.790 crores.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences release states that this year's laureates, Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson, have studied how auctions work and have used their insights to design new auction formats for goods and services that are difficult to sell in a traditional way, such as radio frequencies. Robert Wilson developed the theory for auctions of objects with a common value — a value which is uncertain beforehand but, in the end, is the same for everyone. Examples include the future value of radio frequencies or the volume of minerals in a particular area. Wilson also showed why rational bidders tend

With the great seminal works and discoveries already been done, the new pathways to greatness is increasingly due to more esoteric work and research

The winners last year, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, won it ironically enough for their study in eastern Odisha of a scheme to replace openfire cooking used by the world's poorest people with more efficient, less polluting stoves. The duo studied the reasons for its flop. The planners had flopped in their conceptions. I don't think Narendra Modi's genius factored the more mundane considerations when his government launched its colossal public toilets scheme, which we now know is also a spectacular flop. Open defecation is once again rampant. It's little wonder that Mr Modi has given the duo a big avoid. But he has also by and large given Vinod Rai the avoid, probably now realising how farcical his determination of auction value for 2G spectrum was?

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, holds senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

LETTERS

POWER COMPLAINTS

The number 1912 and other call centres for electricity complaints do not respond when power fails. They rarely answer after a long wait after a recorded message and disconnect saying 'Thanks for calling'. They never receive or record complaints or give complaint number.

J.K. Suresh
Secunderabad

BEGUMPET FLYOVER

In the name of beautification, a huge sum of public money was spent to construct islands in the middle of a nala under Begumpet flyover, thereby reducing its free flow by 60 per cent. As a result, Fatehnagar, Balkampet and Begumpet areas got inundated. This nala beautification is nothing but corruption and senseless work. The water has overflowed above the islands and crossing the bridges causing a huge loss of money.

Devendra K. Shah
Hyderabad

COPS, TRANSCO

I appreciate the efforts of Transco and police department to help citizens in the rain. The Transco team restored power to Banjara Hills area within two hours. The police were on roads trying to make sure citizens are safe and clearing and opening manholes for the water to drain from the roads. Thanks to GHMC for wrong planning and clogging of water everywhere. Was it the job of police or the GHMC?

Shahbaz Husain
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Valmiki stamp released

PATNA, OCT. 14.

A special commemorative stamp in honour of poet Valmiki, author of the great epic, 'Ramayana', was released here today.

The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha, who released the stamp, described Valmiki as "a great poet" of old days. He recalled how Valmiki, who was a bandit in his early life, repented his action when it was pointed out to him that he alone would have to answer for his misdeeds as none of his family members who were partaking in his earning would share his misfortunes.

Shruti Lakhtakia

A new mantra? Seek, and you shall find; ask, it will be given

A lot has been written about the Narendra Modi government's move to do away with Question Hour during the recently concluded Monsoon Session of Parliament. The value of Question Hour, as an institution that offers the opportunity to question the government, to demand accountability, and to undertake scrutiny, is immense. A total of over 20,000 questions have been asked and answered by governments in the 14th, 15th and 16th Lok Sabhas, averaging more than 13,000 questions a year. Scandals have been uncovered, and several valuable resources about the functioning of the government have been made available that would have otherwise been difficult to obtain and access.

Question Hour is definitely an invaluable institution, central to democratic functioning, and must be reinstated at the earliest. But is that enough?

"The answers you get depend on the questions you ask", said American physicist and philosopher Thomas Kuhn. The scope of our questions determines the potential impact of the answers, and this is as true in politics as in research. A preliminary

analysis reveals that a large share of the questions during Parliament's Question Hour seek data that should have been systematically, regularly and easily available in the first place. This is hugely inefficient and wasteful of the limited time available for questioning, and duplicates the efforts of ministries and departments to make data available.

Two main types of questions can be taken up during Question Hour — each day, about 20 "starred" questions are randomly selected to be answered orally, and nearly 230 "unstarred" questions receive written replies. The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha lay out 23 conditions that must be satisfied for a question to be admissible in the House. Very broad questions "raising larger issues of policy" are not allowed, neither are narrow questions pertaining to the "minor details of administration and day-to-day working of the government". Questions related to data and information are generally addressed in unstarred questions.

Yet, despite this, several starred questions raised during the Question

Hour are to do with data that should otherwise be provided in the normal course of events. Analysing the text of all the starred questions asked in the month of February 2020 during the third session of the current Lok Sabha, revealed that nearly 25 per cent of the 140 questions asked during this time pertained to data requests.

For example, on just one day of House business, February 11, 2020, MPs asked for information on the statewide production and consumption of fish, the number of incidents of illegal child trafficking, the total state-wise and year-wise funds released for various schemes and programmes of the ministry of panchayati raj over the past two years, and the number of rural families who shifted from Below the Poverty Line (BPL) to Above the Poverty Line (APL), and vice-versa, state and district-wise.

These are pertinent questions, central to designing and implementing relevant policies. However, it is worth considering whether such questions need to be raised in Parliament for their answers to be made available. Is that time not better spent discussing the government's

plans to implement those relevant policies or its performance on their execution and implementation? To use its time better, the government should conduct a detailed analysis looking at the kinds of data that are often requested in starred and unstarred questions, and should make arrangements to release this information in a systematic, structured, and regular manner as a part of its open data initiative, so that minimal time and effort is put into seeking this information. This will not only benefit the MPs and other policymakers, but also those working in industry, research, academia, the media and the non-profit sector.

It is possible that the facts are being sought not as inputs in data-driven policymaking, but instead for the purpose of signalling that the MPs are concerned about their constituencies in specific states, or to initiate debate and demand accountability. However, given that followups to starred questions are limited, generating such debate is quite unlikely. It is also possible that the data in question is already available, but the MPs do not have the time or resources

required to obtain and compile this information. In that case, it is even more important to give systematic support for policy analysis to MPs.

Ultimately, the output of Parliament will depend upon the quality of the discussion that is undertaken within its chambers. The spirit of Question Hour, as envisioned by the Lok Sabha itself, is to be a mechanism for the government's accountability.

It is an opportunity to understand and discuss how the government is working on the ground, and to scrutinise the functioning and performance of elected representatives by other elected representatives. We can make better use of this opportunity by focusing on these activities, rather than seeking statistics that should be available and accessible in the first place. When, eventually, Question Hour returns to Parliament, this is the higher standard that we should hold it accountable to.

The writer is a graduate of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a PhD student at Oxford University

SHORT TAKES

CABINET CLEARS SPL PACKAGE FOR J&K

New Delhi, Oct. 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hailed the Union cabinet's decision to approve a special package of ₹520 crore for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, saying it will further 'ease of living' for the people there.

Modi also said the STARS project, which was also approved by the cabinet, strengthens the efforts to transform the education sector.

The Cabinet has approved a special package of ₹520 crore for the two UTs for a period of five years till financial year 2023-24 and decided to ensure funding of DAY-NRLM in J&K and Ladakh on a demand-driven basis without linking allocation with poverty ratio during this extended period, the rural development ministry said in a statement.

"The cabinet decision will further 'ease of living' for the people of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh," the PM tweeted. The cabinet also approved the STARS project under the new National Education Policy to support states in strengthening the school education system.

SC HITS OUT AT CENTRE ON MORATORIUM

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

The Supreme Court on Wednesday hit out at the Centre for taking inordinate time in implementing its decision to waive the interest on interest on loans upto ₹2 crore for six months of the Covid moratorium period, from March 1 to August 31, describing it as "unfair" and saying, the "common man's Diwali in government's hands".

The court told the government to inform it of the steps taken by it and the banks to implement the decision to waive the compound interest on loans upto ₹2 crore for eight categories of borrowers, including individuals and small industries. "You have taken a decision, please implement it," the court told the government.

The Centre had on October 2 informed the SC of its decision to waive interest on interest (or compound interest) on loans upto ₹2 crore and had said that it will finalise the modalities by November 15.

Making it clear that it will brook no further delay, Justice Ashok Bhushan, heading a three-judge bench also comprising Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah, fixed next date of hearing. "We are listing the matter after vacation on November 2. By then you tell us the modalities of the implementation (of the decision), orders and circulars," Justice Bhushan said.

LEFT-CONG TALKS ON SEAT-SHARING FOR BENGAL SOON

Kolkata, Oct. 14: Talks between the Left and the Congress over sharing of seats for the 2021 West Bengal assembly elections will begin next week, their leaders said on Wednesday.

The Left and the Congress have hit the roads together over the last one year on several issues, opposing the TMC government in the state and the BJP-led government at the Centre.

"Now, this is the time to take forward this alliance to its logical conclusion, and that is sharing of seats for the elections. The preliminary talks will begin next week," state Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said.

"The TMC and the BJP are trying to polarise the state on communal lines, and it is the duty of the Left and the Congress to provide a third alternative," he said.

The two sides want to begin the talks as early October for the elections likely to be held in April-May next year to avoid last-minute hiccups, he said.

"The talks are being started now so that there are no problems at the last moment. We struck a seat-sharing deal for the 2016 assembly elections but it was half-baked. During the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, we couldn't stitch an alliance as the talks failed at the last moment," Chowdhury said.

The Left-Congress tie-up bagged 76 seats in the 294-member assembly in 2016.

Senior Congress leader and MP Pradip Bhattacharya is the chairman of the newly-formed coordination committee.

Farmers boycott meet as no minister present

Farmers' representatives tear copies of new farm laws

New Delhi, Oct. 14:

Farmers' organisations from Punjab on Wednesday boycotted a meeting called by the Union agriculture ministry to resolve their concerns over new farm laws, and accused the government of playing double standards by calling us here and ministers holding virtual meetings in Punjab. There was no proper response," Darshan Pal, member of the coordination committee of 29 farmers' organisations, said after the meeting.

The meeting was convened at the Krishi Bhawan amid police security to avoid any protest.

Representatives from 29 farmers' organisations, including Joginder Singh-led Bharati Kisan Union, were miffed at the absence of Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Minister of State for Agriculture in the meeting.

The meeting was convened at the Krishi Bhawan amid police security to avoid any protest.

More than 30 representatives, who had come in a bus, were mostly senior citizens but had not even worn face masks despite the Coronavirus pandemic.

"No proper discussion took place. Neither Union agriculture minister nor junior ministers were present to hear our concerns. We asked why the minister is not meeting us, why the government is playing double standards by calling us here and ministers holding virtual meetings in Punjab. There was no proper response," Darshan Pal, member of the coordination committee of 29 farmers' organisations, said after the meeting.

"We knew the secretary had no authority and there is no point discussing it with him. We decided to boycott," he added.

Bharati Kisan Union State President Joginder Singh in a representative made to the government has demanded repeal of the recent farm laws, legally ensure minimum support price (MSP) for crops, implementation of recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission among others.

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana and other states are protesting against new farm laws which they feel will lead to procurement in the hands of corporates and the end of MSP.

Meanwhile, the central ministers are reaching out farmers, scientists and agri professionals in Punjab to clear misgivings about farm laws.

thought the agriculture minister would be there, but only the secretary was present."

The secretary tried to explain that the new laws are good and will yield good results in future, he said.

"We knew the secretary had no authority and there is no point discussing it with him. We decided to boycott," he added.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh here. The meeting was held through a video conferencing, according to a government statement.

The Chief Minister had earlier announced that his government will fight the anti-federal and vicious farm laws tooth and nail through legislative, legal and other routes.

A few days ago, the CM had said he would call a special session of the assembly to bring in necessary amendments to state laws to negate the dangerous impact of the central laws.

— PTI

PUNJAB SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION PLANNED

Chandigarh, Oct. 14:

The Punjab government has decided to convene a special session of the state assembly on October 19 to bring in a legislation to counter the Centre's farm laws.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh here. The meeting was held through a video conferencing, according to a government statement.

The Chief Minister had earlier announced that his government will fight the anti-federal and vicious farm laws tooth and nail through legislative, legal and other routes.

Meanwhile, the central ministers are reaching out farmers, scientists and agri professionals in Punjab to clear misgivings about farm laws.

— PTI



ARMY CHIEF TO VISIT NEPAL NEXT MONTH

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

At a time when relations with Nepal have deteriorated in recent months, Indian Army chief General M.M. Naravane will visit the country in November, said sources on Wednesday.

This will be the first high profile visit by an Indian official to Nepal since the diplomatic relations have soured. According to sources the visit comes at the invitation of Nepal's government. "The visit was planned earlier but was postponed due to lockdown in both countries owing to Covid-19 pandemic," said a senior official. The dates of the visit are being finalised and is likely to be in the first week of November.

During the visit, Gen Naravane will also be conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepali Army" by President Vidya Devi Bhandari.

● ADEQUATE SUPPLIES

of arms, ammunition, food, winter clothing and other essential items have already reached forward locations along the sensitive border to deal with any potential threat from China during the coming winter months.

of "winter deployment" has been completed well in time and onset of the winter season.

Though this exercise is conducted every year however, sources added, that this time the "scale and magnitude of the deployment" was much more as compared to any previous occasion in recent times.

The entire massive mobilisation of ensuring that all supplies in terms to men and material reach every important location along the Indo-China border was carried out in close co-ordination with both Air Force and Army by the Home Ministry.

In view of the ongoing tension in the Ladakh sector, which has been continuing since May, it was decided by the security establishment in the Capital during the summer months itself to start preparing for the "winter deployment".

"This advance planning has helped us to ensure that our borders remain well-protected even during the coming winter season. Our forces are fully prepared and well equipped to deal with any misadventure from China firmly," the official said.

Arms, ammo, winter clothing reach forces

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

The Union Home Ministry has completed the winter deployment for security forces along the entire India-China border stretching right from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

Sources said adequate supplies of arms, ammunition, food, winter clothing and other essential items have already reached forward locations along the sensitive border to deal with any potential threat from China during the coming winter months.

This will be the first high profile visit by an Indian official to Nepal since the diplomatic relations have soured. According to sources the visit comes at the invitation of Nepal's government.

"The visit was planned earlier but was postponed due to lockdown in both countries owing to Covid-19 pandemic," said a senior official. The dates of the visit are being finalised and is likely to be in the first week of November.

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● THE LETTER

said that such social media posts questions the loyalty of all serving and retired Muslim soldiers. Further, it helps the enemy by striking at the morale of India's soldiers to degrade their operational capability.

● THE LETTER signed by 120 veterans including former chief of the Indian navy Admiral (retd) Laxminarayan Ramdas.

It pointed out that even earlier, at partition in 1947, when his Baluch Regiment went to Pakistan, Brigadier Mohammad Usman chose to remain in the Indian Army.

"He was approached personally by Jinnah to move to Pakistan, but he refused. He fought the Pakistani invasion in Kashmir was the senior-most officer killed in action in July 1948, and was posthumously awarded Mahavir Chakra for his gallantry," it said.

The veterans said that this falsehood is being spread by forces inimical to the country and its Armed Forces and will adversely affect morale and national security.

The letter said that Indian soldiers fight shoulder-to-shoulder as a team at every level of all military functioning and operations regardless of the religion, language, and caste.

The letter said that such social media posts questions the loyalty of all serving and retired Muslim soldiers. Further, it helps the enemy by striking at the morale of India's Parachute Regiment to degrade their operational capability.

The letter demanded an investigation on the antecedents of individuals who have made 'Muslim Regiment' posts.

"Identify and charge individuals who have made 'Muslim Regiment' posts for anti-national activities. Issue warning to the social media providers (Facebook and Twitter) who have enabled 'Muslim Regiment' posts," it added.



RJD leader and candidate from Raghpur constituency Tejashwi Yadav with his elder brother Tej Pratap flashes the victory sign after filing nomination papers for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections in Hajipur district on

— PTI

Tejashwi files papers, promises 10L jobs if voted back to power

Sharad Yadav's daughter Subhashini joins Congress

NAYEER AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 14

Ahead of RJD releasing manifesto for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections, the NDA has alleged that all promises being made by the opposition are a bundle of lies and "jungle raj will return" in the state if RJD-led grand alliance forms a government in Bihar.

The statement came after RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav filed his nomination from Raghpur assembly seat on Wednesday and hinted that he would be releasing his party's manifesto later this week.

The RJD has been holding Nitish Kumar-led NDA government responsible for unemployment, law and order scenario and failure in controlling flood and Covid crisis in Bihar.

"He (Nitish Kumar) never talks about the unemployment rate in Bihar which is 46.6 per cent. He should also say what their double engine government did during the last 15 years. They keep raising baseless issues to divert attention from the real agenda", Tejashwi Yadav said.

After Tejashwi Yadav filed his nomination from Raghpur, he said that people of the state are not happy with the policies of the state government and would give a resounding victory to the grand alliance during the assembly elections.

"People of the state have made up their mind to spare the Pala seat for Jose K Mani faction.

● SUBHASHINI YADAV, a social worker, said she is taking the responsibility of carrying on the fight of the 'Mahagathbandhan' in Bihar, as her father has always supported it.

I thank Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for giving me this opportunity. Sharad Yadav is not actively taking part in the Bihar elections, as he is not well. He has always supported the 'Mahagathbandhan'. It is my responsibility to take this fight forward and to take Bihar to greater heights," she said.

"This is my old home and I am happy to be back to my old home," he said.

Bihar Congress chief Madan Mohan Jha and AICC Secretary for Congress in Bihar Devendra Yadav welcomed the leaders into the party fold.

LJP, said it was a homecoming for him as he had earlier extended support to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1984 when he was a member of the Lok Sabha. "I feel honoured to have joined the Congress," he said.

In 1980, Pandey won the Bihar Vidhan Sabha election as an independent candidate and then won the 1984 Parliamentary elections from Gopalganj in the state.

"This is my old home and I am happy to be back to my old home," he said.

Bihar Congress chief Madan Mohan Jha and AICC Secretary for Congress in Bihar Devendra Yadav welcomed the leaders into the party fold.

The election in Raghpur constituency is the second phase of polls on November 3.

Political observers are of the view that winning Raghpur would not be easy for Tejashwi who has been pitted against his old rival and BJP candidate Satish Yadav.

Tejashwi had won the seat in 2015 by defeating the BJP candidate by a margin of 22,733 votes.

According to observers, division of Yadav vote

base could cause trouble for the RJD as Satish Yadav who is considered equally strong has been fielded by the BJP this year. In 2010, Satish Yadav had shot to fame by defeating former Bihar CM Rabri Devi from the seat by a margin of 13,000 votes.

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

According to observers, division of Yadav vote

SHORT TAKES

CORONAVIRUS
RECOVERIES
CROSS 63L-MARKDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

India's overall cases of Coronavirus reached 72,39 lakh on Wednesday after 63,509 new infections were detected in a day. The Covid-19 death toll reached 1,10,586 with the virus claiming 730 lives in the last 24 hours. India is just behind the US in terms of the highest number of cases in the world. The US has close to 81 lakh total cases till now.

The number of people who have recovered from Covid-19 has crossed 63 lakh taking the recovery rate to 87.05 per cent while for the sixth consecutive day now the active cases have remained below 9 lakh.

There are 8.27 lakh active cases of Covid-19 infection in the country which comprises 11.42 per cent of the total case-load. The case fatality rate was recorded at 1.53 per cent.

Union health ministry officials said India is registering new recoveries more than the new cases consistently in the recent days, as a result, the active cases are steadily declining and comprise only 11.42% of the total positive cases of the country. "74,632 Covid cases have recovered and discharged in the last 24 hours whereas the new confirmed cases stand at 63,509. Higher number of recoveries has aided the national Recovery Rate to further improve to 87.05%," officials said.

BIEGUN STRESSES
ON INDIA-US
PARTNERSHIPDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

Ahead of the Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue at the Foreign and Defence ministerial level that could take place towards the end of this month before the United States Presidential elections, US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E. Biegun—who completed a three-day visit to India on Wednesday—"underscored the importance of the US-India partnership, particularly in advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific" and also "emphasized" the importance of the four-nation Quad "toward a region protected and made prosperous in equal measure by strong and peaceful nations in the Indo-Pacific", a veiled reference to the Chinese military threat in the region.

Interestingly, Mr. Biegun also met Bhutanese Ambassador to India Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel to "reaffirm the United States' close relationship with the people of Bhutan". China has a territorial dispute with Bhutan too which is a decades-old close friend of India. The US official will now visit Bangladesh.

Mr. Biegun had also held an important meeting with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla earlier on Tuesday in which they had "reviewed the entire gamut of engagements under the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, including political, security and defense, economic, commercial, technology and people-to-people contacts".

SENTENCING
OF DILIP RAY
ON OCT. 26AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 14

The CBI special court, New Delhi, on Wednesday reserved its verdict on the quantum of punishment against former union minister Dilip Ray and others who were convicted in the coal block allocation case, till October 26.

On October 6, the court had convicted Ray, two former senior officials of the union coal ministry — Pradip Kumar Banerjee and Nitay Nand Gautam — and director of Castron Technologies Ltd (CTL) Mahendra Kumar Agarwalla and Castron Mining Ltd (CML) in the case pertaining to allocation of 105.153 hectares of abandoned coal mining area in Brahmadiha coal block in Giridih district of Jharkhand to CTL in 1999.

Special Judge (CBI), Bharat Parashar held Ray guilty of offences like cheating, criminal conspiracy and breach of trust.

The CBI had framed charges against Ray and others under sections sections 120-B and 120-B/409/420 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 13 (1) (c) and 13 (1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.



Former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and president of People's Democratic Party Mehbooba Mufti interacts with J&K National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and leader Omar Abdullah at her residence in Srinagar on Wednesday. — PTI

Mufti, Abdullahs to put up joint front

Signatories of the 'Gupkar Declaration' to meet on Thursday to discuss future strategy

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 14

(NC), PDP, Peoples Conference, Awami National Conference, CPIM and Congress issued a joint statement here saying that they are "wholly bound" by the 'Gupkar Declaration' and "will unwaveringly adhere to it."

Earlier the NC's political affairs committee had authorised its president Farooq Abdullah "to widen the acceptance of the 'Gupkar Declaration' among all the sections in Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh".

The signatories of the declaration are scheduled to meet at Farooq Abdullah's residence here on Thursday afternoon to discuss their future strategy. Mufti, who could not attend the last meeting, will also participate in the deliberations, the PDP and NC sources said.

This will be the third meeting of the political parties which are part of 'Gupkar Declaration'.

Omar Abdullah tweeted, "My father & I called on @MehboobaMufti Sahiba this afternoon to enquire about her well-being after her release from detention.

She has kindly accepted Farooq Sb's invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories tomorrow

afternoon". (sic)

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

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

Soon after her release from a 14-month-long detention on Tuesday night, Mufti had in an audio message put on her Twitter handle sought restoration of J&K's pre-August 5, 2019 constitutional position and resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Last month, the leaders of National Conference

and Senior Congress leader Karan Singh on Wednesday said National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah's remarks on restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir were "totally unacceptable" and could provoke "unrealistic expectations" among the people of Kashmir.

"Farooq and his son Omar Abdullah met Mufti and discussed how to carry forward the Gupkar Agenda, which is the agenda of anti-national elements and an agenda of Pakistan. The people of J&K had nothing to do with this agenda," the Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief said in a statement here this evening.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have already "thrown this agenda to the dustbin".

"They want to save themselves and hide their sins (under this agenda). They are making conspiracies and those who are behind conspiracies cannot save themselves," he said.

In a related development, the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal held a protest against National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here against his alleged statement that Article 370 would be restored with the help of China.

Amid chants of "desh ke gaddaro ko, goli maro saalo ko" (shoot the traitors), dozens of RBD activists led by their leader Rakesh Bajrang appeared at the Residency Road here and tried to move towards the headquarters of the National Conference.

However, policemen who were posted in strength foiled their attempt and pushed them back.

"Our protest is against the National Conference president Farooq Abdullah for his recent statement that Article 370 would be restored with the help of China. Jammu

belongs to nationalist people and we will not tolerate such kind of statements, Bajrang told reporters. — PTI

BJP WARNS ABDULLAH AFTER MEET WITH MUFTI

Jammu, Oct. 14: Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina reacted sharply to the meeting between NC president Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday and warned them of "serious consequences" for conspiring to "bleed Kashmir".

"Farooq and his son Omar Abdullah met Mufti and discussed how to carry forward the Gupkar Agenda, which is the agenda of anti-national elements and an agenda of Pakistan. The people of J&K had nothing to do with this agenda," the Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief said in a statement here this evening.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have already "thrown this agenda to the dustbin".

"They want to save themselves and hide their sins (under this agenda). They are making conspiracies and those who are behind conspiracies cannot save themselves," he said.

Raina said the people in J&K want peace and development and upholding of the communal harmony.

"Over the past 70 years, Article 370 has done great injustice with Pakistani refugees, Gujar and Bakarwali communities, Valmiki and Gorkha communities, women and nationalists and also gave birth to terrorism and separatism in Jammu and Kashmir," the BJP leader said, adding that the Article has become a history and can never be restored. — PTI

SHIVRAJ FLAYS KAMAL NATH FOR 'CALLING HIM NAMES'

RABINDRA NATH
CHOURHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 14

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday took a dig at his predecessor and Congress veteran Kamal Nath for "calling him names", even as Chouhan launched a no-holds-barred attack against him while campaigning for his party for the November 3 by-elections in 28 Assembly constituencies in the state.

Chouhan has accused Nath of getting personal while criticising him at his election meetings.

"I am a 5-time MP, 5-time MLA and 4-time Chief Minister. Is it appropriate to call me names? Nath calls me an accomplished actor in real life", Chouhan said.

Nath had earlier poked fun at Chouhan for kneeling down before people in his election meetings, saying that the Chief Minister was a very good actor in real life and can even beat the likes of Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan in acting.

He had earlier also taken a jibe at Chouhan for going on a spree of laying foundation stones for various projects ahead of the November 3 Assembly by-elections, saying "the Chief Minister carries a coconut with him wherever he goes and cracks it whenever he gets the opportunity".

"Nath sees wrong in whatever I do. I exhort him to advise me what to do, whether to stand or sit. I will certainly accede to his suggestion", Chouhan said.

SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE STILL CRITICAL

Kolkata, Oct. 14: The health condition of veteran actor Soumitra Chatterjee continued to be "critical" on Wednesday, though his parameters are normal, doctors attending to the thespian said.

The 85-year-old Dadasaheb Phalke awardee is in a "confusional state" but his fever has subsided, they said.

"He is stable but critical. He had slept well last night. All of his parameters are normal but sodium-level is high. We are keeping a close watch on his health condition," they said.

Intermittent non-invasive ventilator support is being provided to the veteran actor whose oxygen saturation has improved, the doctors said. He is likely to undergo another Covid-19 test during the day, they said.

"Chatterjee is still in a confusional state which is progressive in nature with Covid-related encephalopathy and metabolic encephalopathy. He continues to be restless, arousable and has mild agitation and involuntary limb movements but no focal or generalised seizure event occurred," they said. — PTI

15-year-old Dalit gangrape victim ends life in Chitrakoot

UP GOVT. URGES SC TO MONITOR CBI PROBE INTO HATHRAS GANGRAPE

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Mittal said.

The family members alleged that the girl ended her life as her complaint was not registered by the police, who said that the victim's kin had not given any application to lodge an FIR.

The SP said the post-mortem did not confirm rape and the samples would now be sent to a Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL).

The victim's body will be cremated in the village, where elaborate security arrangements have been made.

The victim's father alleged that after raping his daughter, the accused left her with her hands and legs tied and the police brought her home, but did not register an FIR.

The incident comes close on the heels of a 19-year-old Dalit woman succumb-

to her injuries after allegedly being gangraped in a Delhi hospital.

In an affidavit filed in pursuance to the top court's order to provide security to the victim's family and witnesses, the state government has said the family has been given a 3-layered security and assured the court that it is committed to give full security to the family.

As per sources, the victim was rescued by a team of the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate police from an abandoned poultry farm at Gatirotupatna in Cuttack city, 40 km from here. — PTI

Minor girl held captive for 22 days, raped by 2

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 14

The police later handed over the victim to Childline officials.

During counseling by the Childline authorities, the 15-year-old revealed that she had been held captive by two youths in an abandoned poultry farm for 22 days and raped several times by the accused.

One of the youths allegedly recorded a video of the incident and blackmailed her and repeatedly abused her for 22 days.

On Wednesday, the police after receiving some inputs, raided the area and rescued the girl.

Based on the allegations by the girl, Childline authorities have filed a complaint at Chauliaganj Police Station in connection with the incident.

IN BRIEF
Holocaust aid for survivors

Berlin: Germany has agreed to provide more than a half billion euros to aid Holocaust survivors struggling under the burdens of the coronavirus pandemic, the organisation that negotiates compensation with the German government said Wednesday. The payments will be going to approximately 240,000 survivors around the world, primarily in Israel, North America, the former Soviet Union and Western Europe, over the next two years, according to the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also referred to as the Claims Conference. With the end of World War II now 75 years in the past, Holocaust survivors are all elderly, and because many were deprived of proper nutrition when they were young today they suffer from numerous medical issues.

Lebanon, Israel begin border talks

Naqoura (Lebanon): Lebanon and Israel began indirect talks Wednesday over their disputed maritime border, with American officials mediating the talks that both sides insist are purely technical and not a sign of any normalisation of ties. The US has been mediating the issue for about a decade, but only earlier this month was a breakthrough reached on an agreement for a framework for US-mediated talks. The development comes against the backdrop of Lebanon's spiraling economic crisis and following a wave of US sanctions that recently included two influential former Cabinet ministers allied with the militant Hezbollah group. Israel, the United States, as well as some other Western and Arab countries consider the Iran-allied Hezbollah a terrorist organisation.

Copters collide, 9 Afghan troops die

Lashkar Gah (Afghanistan): Two Afghan army helicopters collided while transporting wounded soldiers in the southern Helmand province, killing nine Afghan service members, the country's Defence Ministry and local officials said Wednesday. The two Soviet-era Mi-17 helicopters crashed due to technical problems while taking off in Nawa district, the Afghan Defence Ministry statement said. The nine dead were all Afghan crew and soldiers who had been on board the aircraft. Omer Zwick, a spokesman for Helmand's provincial governor, said the helicopters were carrying wounded soldiers when they crashed late Tuesday. He said that over the past week, Taliban fighters have launched coordinated attacks in different parts of Helmand province, which has intensified in recent days. Three local officials in Helmand province said the helicopters were deploying Afghan commandos to repel a Taliban attack in Nawa district.

CANNIBALISM: LIFE TERM FOR GUILTY MAN

Jeffersonville (US), Oct. 14: A southern Indiana man convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend and eating parts of her body was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison without parole. Joseph Oberhansley was found guilty September 18 of murder and burglary in the death of Tammy Jo Blanton.

Clark Circuit Judge Vicki Carmichael sentenced Oberhansley based on a jury recommendation.

The body of Blanton, 46, was found at her home the morning of September 11, 2014, badly mutilated with more than 25 sharp force injuries and multiple blunt force injuries, authorities have said.

Oberhansley testified that "two Black guys" had been at the victim's home when he arrived around 4 a.m. that day and said they were responsible for Blanton's death and knocking him out. He awoke when police knocked on the door looking for the victim.

Oberhansley also was sentenced to six years to be served concurrently on the burglary charge, the News and Tribune reported. Prosecutors dropped an attempt to seek the death penalty last year.

Jurors were drawn from Allen County in northeastern Indiana because of the intense media coverage the case has received in the southern part of the state.

Sea of protesters in Bangkok


Pro-democracy protesters take part in an anti-government rally in Bangkok on Wednesday.

China, far left desperate for Biden win: Don
BIDEN IS WORST CANDIDATE IN U.S. POLITICS

Washington, Oct. 14: China and the far left are "desperate" for Joe Biden's win as the Democratic presidential candidate will "surrender" jobs to China, President Donald Trump said as he returned to the battleground State of Pennsylvania after being treated for Covid-19. In his first political rally in Pennsylvania, which sends 20 electoral college votes, after he was tested positive for Covid-19, Trump on Tuesday hit hard at his political opponent, alleging that the former vice president is known for "surrender".

"Biden will eliminate tariffs on China. He's already said he's going to take the tariffs off China. There goes your steel industry. There goes your aluminum industry. There goes everything. Allowing them to plunder without consequence," he said, addressing thousands of his supporters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

"The one constant in Biden's platform is surrender. He surrenders, whether it's China, whether it's Cuba. How about Cuba? How about the deal they made with Cuba? How bad was that one? I ended it," he said. "That's why both China and the far left are desperate for a Biden win because he will surrender our jobs to China. China will own the US if that sleepy guy gets the position, okay," Trump said.

Trump said that over the next four years, he will make America into the manufacturing superpower of the world. "And

Washington, Oct. 14: US President Donald Trump has described his presidential challenger Joe Biden as "the single worst candidate in the history of America", referring to a few recent gaffes of the Democratic leader who is challenging him.

Republican incumbent Trump, 74, and challenger Biden, 77, are locked in a close contest for the November 3 elections. "I'm running against the single worst candidate in the history of American presidential politics and you know what that does? That puts more pressure on me. Can you imagine if you lose to a guy like this?" Trump told his supporters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on Tuesday.

— PTI

Feel like 'Superman': Trump

President boasts about new immunity after experimental treatment

OVER 4 MN TESTS CONDUCTED IN CHINA'S QINGDAO

Beijing, Oct. 14: Over 4 million Coronavirus tests have been conducted in China's Qingdao city where a local virus cluster was detected over the weekend, officials said. The Coronavirus has killed 4,634 people with 85,611 confirmed infections, including 241 active cases, in China.

White House doctors have now cleared him for holding election rallies. Holding his second rally since contracting coronavirus, Trump told a crowd of his supporters packed onto an airport tarmac in Johnstown, Pennsylvania that he felt like "Superman" after the treatment. Trump was briefly forced to pause his re-election campaign after he tested positive for Covid-19 and he returned to the campaign trail from the battleground State of Florida on Monday.

Addressing his supporters in Pennsylvania, another battleground state, Trump, 74, thanked the doctors that treated him. "All I know is I took something, whatever the hell it was, I felt good very quickly. I don't know what it

Don playing with people's lives: Joe

Washington, Oct. 14: Donald Trump's handling of the Coronavirus pandemic has been "erratic" just like his presidency, his Democratic challenger Joe Biden has said, terminating the US president's leadership as "chaotic and divisive" that has cost Americans far too much.

The former vice president said Trump was playing games with people's lives and "the only senior Donald Trump seems to care about" is himself.

"His handling of this Coronavirus pandemic has been erratic just like his presidency. And it has prevented Florida seniors and people all across the

WB APPROVES \$12B TO FINANCE VIRUS VACCINES

Washington, Oct. 14: The World Bank has approved \$12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute Coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to 1 billion people. The \$12 billion "envelope" is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to \$160 billion to help developing countries fight the Covid-19 pandemic, the bank said in a statement late Tuesday.

The World Bank said its Covid-19 emergency response programmes are already reaching 111 countries. Citizens in developing countries also need access to safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines, it said. "We are extending and expanding our fast-track approach to address the Covid emergency so that developing countries have fair and equal access to vaccines," said bank's president, David Malpass. "Access to safe and effective vaccines and strengthened delivery systems is key to alter the course of the pandemic," he said. — AP

was, antibodies, antibodies. I don't know. I took it, I said I felt like superman," Trump said. "Then I said, let me at 'em. Nah, and I could've been here four or five days ago. It's great, we have great doctors. I want to thank the doctors at Walter Reed and Johns Hopkins, and — great doctors," he said. Trump said, that "one

great thing about being president, if you're not feeling 100 per cent you have more doctors than you thought existed in the world. I was surrounded with like 14 of them. Where are you from? I'm from this one. Where are you from? I'm from Johns Hopkins. I'm from Walter Reed. But what great, talented people. They did a great job."

Boasting about his new immunity to the disease, Trump said, "And now I'm immune tell me. I'm immune. I could come down and start kissing everybody. I'll kiss every guy — man and woman. Look at that guy how handsome he is. I'll kiss him. Not with a lot of enjoyment." — PTI

U.S. BODY: BUILD TECH ALLIANCE WITH INDIA

Hong Kong, Oct. 14: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended the 12 Hong Kong residents who were detained by China while allegedly trying to flee to Taiwan by boat in August, saying that they had "committed no crime." They simply believe that they are worthy of freedom and the unalienable rights due to every person," Pompeo said in virtual remarks delivered at the John S. McCain Freedom Award Ceremony on Wednesday.

"They aren't alone in that belief. America should negotiate formal AI cooperation agreements with India, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam. In the report submitted to the Congress and President Donald Trump, the Commission underlined that America must build on the strength of its allies and partners to win the global technology competition and preserve free and open societies.

This recommendation builds on growing support for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, a strategic forum among the US, Australia, India, and Japan, and calls for formalising ties with these and other nations in the Indo-Pacific region to focus on AI cooperation for defence and security purposes.

CHINA WANTS UNIPOLAR WORLD WITH ALL NATIONS TRIBUTARIES: U.S. OFFICIAL

Washington, Oct. 14: China ultimately wants to have a unipolar world wherein every country is some sort of a tributary to it, a top American National Security Advisor has said, asserting that nations across the globe are starting to realise what Washington is up against with Beijing.

US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said the world was slowly entering into a multipolar situation. "They want to have a P-2 instead of P-5. I don't think we're going to have a bipolar situation in the world right now," O'Brien said.

to anti-government protests and were facing charges in Hong Kong prior to their arrest, are

being held in the southern city of Shenzhen where they await prosecution. Two of them are suspect-

ed of organising an illegal border crossing, while the other 10 are suspected of entering mainland waters illegally. The group was believed to have been headed for self-governed Taiwan when they were arrested, following China's imposition of a sweeping national security law targeting political expression in semi-autonomous Hong Kong.

Taiwan is a popular choice among Hong Kong residents looking to leave the city. Relatives say that they are being held incommunicado and have not been granted access to lawyers.

— AP

ORBITING | OUTPOST

Astronauts trying a two-orbit, three-hr approach to Int'l Space Station

Russian-US crew launches to the space station

Moscow, Oct. 14: A trio of space travelers has launched successfully to the International Space Station for the first time using a fast-track manoeuvre to reach the orbiting outpost in just three hours. NASA's Kate Rubins along with Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchikov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos lifted off as scheduled Wednesday morning from the Russia-leased Baikonur space launch facility in Kazakhstan for a six-month stint on the station. For the first time, they are trying a two-orbit, three-hour approach to the orbiting space outpost. Previously it took twice as long for the crews to reach the station. They will join the station's Nasa commander Chris Cassidy, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner, who have been aboard the complex since April and are scheduled to return to Earth in a week.

Speaking during pre-launch news conference at Baikonur, Rubins emphasised that the crew spent weeks in quarantine at the Star City training facility outside Moscow and then on Baikonur to avoid any threat from the Coronavirus. "We spent two weeks at Star City and then 17 days at Baikonur in a very strict quarantine," Rubins said. "During all communications with crew members, we were wearing masks. We made PCR tests

twice and we also made three times antigen fast tests." She said she was looking forward to scientific experiments planned for the mission.

"We're planning to try some really interesting things like bio-printing tissues and growing cells in space and, of course, continuing our work on sequencing DNA," Rubins said. Ryzhikov, who will be the station's skipper, said the crew will try to pinpoint the exact location of a leak

at a station's Russian section that has slowly leaked oxygen. The small leak hasn't posed any immediate danger to the crew.

"We will take with us additional equipment which will allow us to detect the place of this leak more precisely," he told reporters. "We will also take with us additional improved hermetic material which will allow to fix the leak."

In November, Rubins, Ryzhikov and Kud-Sverchikov are set to greet Nasa's

SpaceX first operational Crew Dragon mission, bringing NASA astronauts Mike Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Soichi Noguchi to the space station aboard the Crew Dragon vehicle. It follows a successful Demo-2 mission earlier this year. The Crew Dragon mission was pushed back from Oct. 31 into November, and no new date has been set yet.

— AP

IN BRIEF
**FLOODING: 10K
EVACUATED IN
CAMBODIA**

Phnom Penh, Oct. 14: More than 10,000 people have been evacuated in Cambodia after a tropical storm triggered flash floods, an official said Wednesday. Seasonal rains made worse by the storm caused flooding in 19 of the country's 25 provinces, affecting 140,000 people in all, said Khun Sokha, a spokesman for the National Committee for Disaster Management. The flooding also destroyed thousands of hectares (acres) of rice, he said. The capital, Phnom Penh, was not badly hit, though police moved more than 500 families in a southern part of the city to safer ground. Khun Sokha said the heavy rains have killed at least 11 people since the beginning of the month.

**HUNTERS NAB
PYTHON, SET
RECORD**

Florida, Oct. 14: Two Florida hunters set a new record when they caught a Burmese python that measured a whopping 18 feet, 8.8 inches (5.71 metres), authorities in the southern state said Friday, as they encourage more people to eliminate the invasive species. The Burmese python was captured 40 miles (60 kilometres) west of Miami and weighed in at 103 pounds (47 kilograms), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said. "That's a new record!" the agency said in a statement accompanied by a picture of hunters Ryan Auburn and Kevin Pavlidis, posing at either end of the monster serpent, stretched across a country road. "The removal of this female snake is a triumph for our native wildlife and habitats," the commission said. The previous record for the invasive species was 18 feet and 7.6 inches, captured in 2013. A native of southeast Asia, the constrictors were probably introduced to Florida as exotic pets toward the end of the last century and released into the Everglades, vast wetlands that occupy much of the southern part of the state. They have no natural predators there and feed on everything from raccoons to smaller alligators. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission pays hunters a bounty to capture the snakes.

**24 PLANETS
BETTER THAN
EARTH: STUDY**

Washington, Oct. 14: Scientists have identified 24 planets outside our solar system that they say may have conditions more suitable for life than the Earth. The study, published in the journal Astrobiology, details characteristics of potential "superhabitable" planets, that include those that are older, a little larger, slightly warmer and possibly wetter than Earth.

The researchers from the Washington State University (WSU) in the US noted life could more easily thrive on planets that circle more slowly changing stars with longer lifespans than our Sun.

The 24 top contenders for superhabitable planets are all more than 100 light years away, but the study could help focus future observation efforts, such as from Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope, they said. "With the next space telescopes coming up, we will get more information, so it is important to select some targets," said Dirk Schulze-Makuch, a professor at WSU and the Technical University in Berlin.

"We have to focus on certain planets that have the most promising conditions for complex life. However, we have to be careful not to get stuck looking for a second Earth because there could be planets that might be more suitable for life than ours," Schulze-Makuch said. The researchers identified superhabitability criteria and searched among the 4,500 known exoplanets beyond our solar system for good candidates. Habitability does not mean these planets definitely have life, merely the conditions that would be conducive to life, they noted.

The researchers selected planet-star systems with probable terrestrial planets orbiting within the host star's liquid water habitable zone from the Kepler Object of Interest Exoplanet Archive of transiting exoplanets.

Calif. wildfire threat intensifying

Winds and dry conditions may reinvigorate the worst fire season in the state's history

California, Oct. 14: Hot, dry conditions and intense winds across California are threatening to reinvigorate what has already been the worst fire season in state history, officials warned on Wednesday.

Gusty winds in California's north and extreme heat in its south are creating conditions that could fan wildfires that began earlier in the summer as well as spark new ones, leading state and federal authorities to urge residents to prepare.

The National Weather Service issued a heat advisory for a wide swath of Southern California as temperatures topped 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius). The agency asked residents to exercise caution with any fire sources.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) said strong winds and low humidity could ramp up fires in Northern California starting Wednesday.

"While good progress has been made on a number of fires, this could hamper containment efforts," Daniel Berlant, Cal Fire assistant deputy director, said on Twitter on Tuesday. "It means if a new fire breaks out, that fire is going to be able to burn very rapidly."

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), which provides power to much of California, said Monday it was considering proactively shutting off power as soon as Wednesday to as many as 50,000 state residents to mitigate fire risk.

This year, wildfires have



Glass Fire burns a hillside above Silverado Trail in St. Helena, California.

— AP

burned over 4.4 million acres in California — twice the total of 2018, which had been the highest on record. Five of the six largest fires in state history were in 2020.

Thirty-one people have died, and over 9,200 structures have been destroyed.

Fall has tended to be California's peak wildfire season, but state officials say the season is growing longer each year.

Experts say droughts and climate change from

fossil fuels have made poorly managed forests much more flammable, leading to extreme fire activity.

California's record wildfires pose a problem for the state's plan to use its forests to help offset climate-warming emissions.

It is unclear how much California's plan for becoming carbon-neutral by 2045 depends on its forests. But as climate

change fuels increasingly frequent and intense

blazes, any plan that relies on keeping forests healthy could be frustrated.

California's climate-change agenda is among the most ambitious in the United States, but thanks to wildfires, forests are "part of the problem, not part of the solution," Edie Chang, a deputy executive director at the California Air Resources Board (CARB), told Reuters.

With global efforts to cut the use of fossil fuels falling short of what is

needed to avoid the worst effects of climate change, scientists believe capturing climate pollution already emitted will be necessary to limit warming.

Maintaining the health of forests, which suck up and store carbon, are among those solutions.

The most populous US state has suffered five of its six largest wildfires in history this year as heat waves and dry-lightning sieges coincided with drier conditions that

mate scientists blame on global warming. This year, a record 4 million acres in California have burned, releasing decades of stored carbon into the atmosphere.

That amounts to more than 200 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, assuming the scorched acres held similar amounts of carbon as acres burned in previous years, said Emily McGlynn, an environmental economist at the University of California, Davis.

— Reuters

**CLIMATE CHANGE
DESTROYING
WATER BODIES**

Boston, Oct. 14: Global oceans and other bodies of water are being destroyed by the impacts of climate change, causing many negative trends to occur throughout the world.

Ocean temperatures are important because for certain species, they determine how "breathable" certain parts of the ocean are, according to Oceanographic Magazine. It is presumed that these animals may not thrive as well in rising temperatures.

"All in all I think that this announcement is great, since at least European Union countries and China are now sharing common reason, that's very good news. And I hope that also the US will join that club in the near future," Petteri Taalas, WMO Secretary-General, told a briefing in Geneva.

Xi used the UN lectern to call for multilateral action on climate change after President Donald Trump called the Paris climate agreement — with nearly 200 signatories — a one-

petition to design a solution to decontaminate the area, which is home to endangered bird species.

The winner: A huge hoover, dubbed the 'Nul-o-Plastic' and developed by Envisan, the environment division of maritime infrastructure company Jan De Nul Group.

"It's basically a vacuum cleaner which is really smart (and) adapted to this circumstance," engineer Tom Van Vooren, the project's coordinator, told while talking to Reuters.

petition to design a solution to decontaminate the area, which is home to endangered bird species.

The aim is to pull roughly 7.5 tonnes of plastic pellets out of the reserve. A first test concludes later this month. Currently, less than a third of Europe's plastic waste is recycled.

To help curb litter, the European Union is planning new rules to ensure all packaging can be reused or recycled, and will ban single-use plastic cutlery and straws from 2021.

Port authorities last year launched a competition to design a solution to decon-

taminant EU industry from being undercut by cheaper imports from countries with less stringent climate policies. But it is not yet clear how authorities will measure the level of pollution, or carbon intensity of goods or how variable the fees will be.

As part of its aim to cut EU greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, the European Commission is drafting plans to levy the fees on goods coming into the 27-country bloc.

The policy, which the Commission will propose next summer, aims to pro-

tect EU industry from being undercut by cheaper imports from countries with less stringent climate policies. But it is not yet clear how authorities will measure the level of pollution, or carbon intensity of goods or how variable the fees will be.

The Commission, the executive body of the European Union, plans to roll out the policy by 2023 in a few sectors with relatively low international trade flows, to help simplify what is expected to be a legally and technically complex mechanism.

— Reuters

sided accord and criticised China for being the world's largest carbon emitter.

"If we fail with climate

mitigation then we would see problems which are of a very different magnitude when it comes to human suffering and also

economic losses," Taalas said. "Also in the United States there has been good progress especially the private sector, and several states have been investing in climate-friendly technologies," he added.

Global temperatures will

continue to warm over the

next five years, and may

even temporarily rise to

more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,

the WMO said in July.

Scientists have set

1.5C (2.7 Fahrenheit)

as the ceiling for avoiding

catastrophic climate change.

Responding to a question from Chinese Central Television, Taalas said:

"China is contributing

25% of the global emissions

and one of your major challenges is that your energy production is

very much based on coal-fired power plants."

But China has made

record investments in

renewable energy, such as

solar and wind energy,

and has become a significant exporter of such

technology worldwide, he said.

— Reuters

50% Great Barrier Reef corals were lost in last 30 yrs

Melbourne, Oct. 14: The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, which is the largest reef system in the world, has lost more than half of its coral population in the past three decades, according to a new study.

The research, published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, assessed coral communities and their colony size along the length of the Great Barrier Reef between 1995 and 2017, and found that small, medium, and large corals have all declined in the period.

"We measured changes in colony sizes because population studies are important for understanding demography and the corals' capacity to breed," said Andy Dietzel, a co-author of the study from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoralCoE) in Australia.

"We found the number of small, medium and large corals on the Great Barrier Reef has declined by more than 50 percent since the 1990s," said Terry Hughes, another co-author of the study from CoralCoE.

According to the study, the decline occurred in both shallow and deeper water, and across virtually all species — but especially in branching and table-shaped corals.

"These were the worst affected by record-breaking temperatures that triggered mass bleaching in 2016 and 2017," Hughes said. Since the reefs are underwater ecosystems

**RESEARCHERS
FIND ELEVATED
RADIATION**

Harvard, Oct. 14: Radiation levels downwind of US hydraulic fracturing drilling sites tend to be significantly higher than background levels, posing a potential health risk to nearby residents, according to a study by Harvard researchers released on Tuesday. The study, published in the journal *Nature*, adds to controversy over the drilling method known as fracking, which has helped the US become the world's biggest oil and gas producer over the past decade but which environmentalists say threatens water and air.

President Donald Trump supports fracking because of its economic benefits, and his Democratic rival Joe Biden has promised to continue to allow it if elected even though he aims to impose an ambitious plan to fight climate change. Areas within 20 kilometres downwind of 100 fracking wells tend to have radiation levels that are about 7% above normal background levels, according to the study, which examined thousands of US Environmental Protection Agency's radiation monitor readings nationwide from 2011 to 2017. The study showed readings can go much higher in areas closer to drill sites, or in areas with higher concentrations of drill sites. The increases are not extremely dangerous, but could raise certain health risks to people living nearby," said lead author, Petros Koutrakis. — Reuters

Vacuum cleaner helps remove plastic

Brussels, Oct. 14: Engineers have built a giant 'vacuum cleaner' to rid a Belgian nature reserve of millions of pieces of plastic litter too small to collect by hand.

The Galgeschoor reserve, a site of mudflats and salt marshes in the port city of Antwerp, has become riddled with plastic particles that built up over years from litter deposited by industry and towns along the river Scheldt.

"It's basically a vacuum cleaner which is really smart (and) adapted to this circumstance," engineer Tom Van Vooren, the project's coordinator, told while talking to Reuters.

The Galgeschoor reserve, a site of mudflats and salt marshes in the port city of Antwerp, has become riddled with plastic particles that built up over years from litter deposited by industry and towns along the river Scheldt.

The machine's rubber tyres limit soil disruption, and its suction mechanism is designed to avoid damaging plants.

Port authorities last year launched a competition to design a solution to decon-

taminant the area, which is home to endangered bird species.

The aim is to pull roughly 7.5 tonnes of plastic pellets out of the reserve. A first test concludes later this month. Currently, less than a third of Europe's plastic waste is recycled.

To help curb litter, the European Union is planning new rules to ensure all packaging can be reused or recycled, and will ban single-use plastic cutlery and straws from 2021.

— Reuters

Conservation success or pests? Seals spark a debate

Portland, Oct. 14: Nick Muto has fished up and down the New England coast and there is nothing that gets his blood boiling more than the sight of seals, Muto said.

Muto, whose two boats fish for groundfish such as skate and monkfish as well as lobster, is among a growing group of anglers, beach goers and local officials who are quick to blame everything from disease to depleted fisheries to increased shark sightings on the exploding seal population.

"Areas that we used to

traditionally fish that were as close to guarantees as you could get have been strip-mined of fish, and the fish have been driven out of there by seals," Muto said.

"They have eaten fish out of our nets. They have been caught in our nets. They are everywhere."

The debate over seals was reignited after the death in July of a swimmer killed by a great white off Harpswell, Maine.

Seals are often shark prey, and experts believe Julie Dimperio Holowach may have been mistaken

for a seal. No one questions that seal and shark numbers are on the rise, mostly due to federal protections. It's estimated there are as many as 50,000 grey seals in New England waters plus a lesser number of harbor seals. The animals were almost eliminated through hunting and bounties decades ago.

But experts maintain there is not enough science to determine whether the current population is too big and little basis for culling the marine mammals. Even suggesting

seals are destroying fisheries or are solely to blame for shark attacks is not supported by hard evidence. Experts say warming waters and other factors also could be playing a role. The Gulf of Maine, which stretches from Cape Cod to Nova Scotia, has been heating up faster than 99% of the world's oceans.

"We get into this question

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40,794.74
Nifty 50	11,971.05
S&P 500*	3,488.24
Dollar (₹)	73.30
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.55
Euro (₹)	86.08
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,367 ▲631
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.02
IN 10-Yr T-bill yield*	5.900
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.717 ▲0.010

* As of 8:30 PM IST

India's public debt ratio to rise to 90%: IMF

India's public debt ratio, which remained stable at around 70 per cent of the GDP since 1991, is projected to jump by 17 percentage points to nearly 90 per cent due to higher public spending due to Covid-19, IMF said. "In our projections, the increase in public spending, in response to Covid-19, and the fall in tax revenues and economic activity, will make public debt jump...to almost 90 per cent of GDP," Vitor Gaspar, a director of IMF, said.

WPI inflation hits to 7-month high of 1.32% in Sept.



Spiralling prices of food items, especially vegetables, pushed up the wholesale inflation to a seven-month high of 1.32 per cent in Sept. and cements the likelihood that the Reserve Bank will continue with status quo on interest rates. The Wholesale Price Index-based inflation was at 0.16 per cent in Aug. The WPI-based inflation seems moving in sync with CPI-based retail inflation, which rose to 7.34 per cent in Sept.

FlexPay offers credit on UPI for salaried class

Hyderabad-based NBFC Vivifi India Finance Pvt Ltd has launched FlexPay, which offers credit on UPI. Anil Pinapala, founder and CEO of Vivifi, said FlexPay facilitates instant fund transfer between two bank accounts on a mobile platform. The 'Scan Now & Pay Later' feature of FlexPay enables the salaried class and the self-employed to use a line of credit when they do not have money available in their bank accounts.

India to have 60,000 start-ups, 100 unicorns

India is expected to have 60,000 start-ups and 100 companies with valuation of over \$1 billion by 2025, a TIE Delhi-NCR report, in association with Zinnov, said. It business recovery of start-ups is back on track after the lockdown. However, 12-15 per cent of start-ups are facing risk of survival and a similar percentage of start-ups have closed their business. There are around 38,000 active start-ups today.

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Firm raises annual revenue forecast Infosys profit jumps 26.6%

VIBHUTI SHARMA
BENGALURU, OCT. 14

Infosys Ltd on Wednesday raised its annual revenue growth forecast, after the Indian software services firm posted a better-than-expected quarterly profit, buoyed by growth in client demand for its digital services during the pandemic.

The company revised its annual revenue forecast to between 2 per cent and 3 per cent in constant currency terms, from an earlier expectation of revenue being flat to up 2 per cent.

Bengaluru-based Infosys, which provides services such as cloud, data and analytics to companies across the world, said it will also roll out salary increases and promotions across all levels effective January 1.

"Infosys results today... signifies how important it has become for enterprises to invest in IT to weather any disruptive situation—be it pandemic or an economic recession," Forrester analyst Ashutosh Sharma said.

Infosys reported quarterly operating margin of 25.4 per cent, up from 21.7 per cent last year, following rivals Tata Consultancy Services that posted a 2.2 per cent rise in operating margin to 26.2 per cent while Wipro saw its margin rise to 19.2 per cent for the period.

Consolidated net profit for Infosys in the September quarter climbed 26.6 per cent to Rs 4,845 crore (\$661.35 million). Analysts



TO ROLL OUT SALARY HIKES FROM JAN.

New Delhi, Oct. 14: Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said during a virtual briefing.

The salary hike process will restart now and will be effective on January 1, 2021, he added.

"We restarted promotions in the last quarter at our junior levels, and this will now be expanded to all our levels," Parekh said.

Infosys had earlier said it was suspending promotions and pay hikes amid the epidemic-led slowdown in business.

Infosys COO Pravin Rao said the quantum of salary hikes will be identical to those seen in previous years. —PTI

on average had expected a profit of Rs 4,519 crore, according to Refinitiv data.

The company's upbeat profit this quarter comes in contrast to peers TCS and Wipro, which saw their profit drop 7.1 per cent and 3.4 per cent, respectively.

Reuters

Revenue for Infosys climbed to Rs 24,570 crore from Rs 22,629 crore in the quarter. This compares with analysts' estimate of Rs 24,191 crore.

During the quarter, Infosys had a gross addition of 96 clients.

Labour codes could come in force from April '21: Secy

New Delhi, Oct. 14: All four labour codes are likely to be implemented in one go from April 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year, labour secretary Apurva Chandra said on Wednesday.

Parliament in its just concluded session passed three labour code bills: the Industrial Relations (IR) Code; the Social Security Code; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSH).

The Wage Code Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament last year.

Last month, labour minister Santosh Gangwar had said that efforts would be made to implement the all four labour codes by December this year.

Talking to reporters, Chandra said, "We have started work on firming up draft rules of the recently passed three labour codes in Parliament. We are trying to notify draft rules by middle of November to seek feedback. We will give 45 days time for feedback."

He further said that the four codes are likely to be implemented from April 1, with notification of firmed-up rules.

Initially, draft rules under a law is notified with a stipulated time period (45 days) to receive feedback. Thereafter, these rules are finalised and implemented for bringing the law into force.

On Tuesday, Centre had granted permission to had

RBI lists eligible cases for loan restructuring

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCT. 14

Loans that are not standard as of March 1 are excluded

Farm credit for allied activities, viz., dairy, fishery, poultry and bee-keeping, are excluded

Loan against property included if it's not personal loan

nance institution/self-help group loans meeting the basic eligibility criteria, unless covered by the specific exclusions, are eligible resolution but personal loans from these categories will not be recast.

Similarly investment exposures that are credit substitutes like corporate bonds and commercial papers are also eligible for resolution, the RBI said.

Similarly, restructuring of under-implementation project loans involving deferment of date of commencement of operations (DCCO) are excluded from the scope of resolution framework.

However, loans given to farmer households would be eligible for resolution under the scheme if they do not meet any other conditions for exclusions specified by the central bank.

Loans against property will also be eligible for recast if they don't fall under the personal loan category. All microfin-

try, bee-keeping and sericulture are excluded from the scope of the 'resolution framework.'

However, loans given to farmer households would be eligible for resolution under the scheme if they do not meet any other conditions for exclusions specified by the central bank.

Loans against property will also be eligible for recast if they don't fall under the personal loan category. All microfin-

GST: Tamil Nadu gets nod to raise ₹9,600 cr

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 14

issued permission to 20 states to raise Rs 68,825 crore through open market borrowings.

With Tamil Nadu also joining the list, permission has been granted to 21 states to mobilise Rs 78,542 crore so far. Apart from TN, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura,

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Union territories Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir have also settled for Option-1.

Punjab, West Bengal, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Telangana are some of the states opposing the Centre's options.

The borrowing permission issued to the 21 states is over and above the borrowing permission of around Rs 1.10 lakh crore to meet the revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation.

Market's 10-day rise is a first in five years

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, OCT. 14

The market has recorded a 10-day gaining streak for the first time since January 2015 on the back of buoyancy in IT and financial services sector, accommodative stance of the Reserve Bank and sharp fall in Covid cases over the last few days.

The Sensex closed at a fresh high of 40,794.74, up 169.23 points or 0.42 per cent while the Nifty-50 index closed 29 points short of the 12,000 mark at 11,971.05, up 36.55 points or 0.31 per cent.

The market entered an uptrend on September 24 at 36,553.60 and has not looked back for the last 14 sessions, gaining 11.6 per cent but for a minor blip on September 29. From September 30 to October 14 it has been gaining, though the quantum of gains has been down as several index constituents, like ITC, Bharti Airtel and NTPC, have been falling behind in the current rally and index heavyweight Reliance Industries has also underperformed in the current

leg of the uptrend.

The market opened lower but witnessed a sharp recovery in the last hour of trade, to finally close in the green. Banks and financials gained as the Supreme Court started hearing the loan moratorium and interest waiver case towards the close of the market hour.

"Late buying in banking and financials in expectation of a favourable judgment by SC on the loan moratorium case, which was postponed to 2nd Nov, led to the recovery in the market," said Siddhartha Khemka, head-retail research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

FPIs were net buyers of equities worth Rs 821.86 crore. Profit booking in the first half of trade may have been from the domestic institutions.

The Global Insights Report of Experian finds that household incomes of 43 per cent Indian consumers have declined during the pandemic. Consumers have taken significantly stronger actions in almost every possible way to deal with their current financial circumstances.

The top three actions being taken by customers are: creating or using more personal budget; reducing discretionary spending; and saving more in emergency funds.

"Banks and financial institutions must be very careful in how they treat consumers in these tough times," said Sathyasaiyanasundaram, country head and MD of Experian India.

Around 50 per cent of consumers expect an increase in their online spending, the report said.

OVER 40% HOUSEHOLDS SEE DECLINE IN INCOME: STUDY

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 14

Close to half of Indian consumers have seen their household incomes declining since the Covid-19 outbreak, finds a report by Experian.

The Global Insights Report of Experian finds that household incomes of 43 per cent Indian consumers have declined during the pandemic. Consumers have taken significantly stronger actions in almost every possible way to deal with their current financial circumstances.

The top three actions being taken by customers are: creating or using more personal budget; reducing discretionary spending; and saving more in emergency funds.

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E-COMM VOLUMES GROW 31% IN SEPT. QUARTER

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 14

Increased usage of digital platforms due to the pandemic has helped e-commerce industry witness an order volume growth of 31 per cent for the September 2020 quarter as compared to the same period last year.

However, the growth in gross merchandise value was a tad below at 24 per cent as the average order volume declined 5 per cent in the September quarter year-on-year, according to Unicommerce, e-commerce focused SaaS platform.



While people are ordering more online, they are ordering lesser value products. Further, the category mix has changed, and the higher share of personal care and health & pharma categories is driving the overall order value down.

Page has denied wrongdoing and called allegations of verbal abuse and workplace intimidation

here against employees as "outrageous". It did not answer questions about the Wrap probe, but said it has evidence which "flatly disproves" the allegations.

In an email, Wrap spokesman Seth Lennon said such violations could normally result in a factory losing its certification.

Wrap said it makes certification decisions on a facility-by-facility basis.

—Reuters

growth of over 90 per cent, almost double the growth recorded in the Unicommerce' annual report released in August. Unicommerce expects this growth to taper down in the coming months when the workforce, which had gone to their hometowns, start returning to metro and tier 1 cities.

The pandemic has changed the dynamics of the retail ecosystem substantially. E-commerce is no longer the supporting vertical and has now taken a front seat," said Kapil Makhija, CEO Unicommerce.

While the phones looks similar to last year's iPhone 11, but the edges are now flat instead of curved. They all support 5G, a new wireless standard that can transmit data as much as 10 times faster than the current 4G LTE technology.

The Cupertino, California-based technology giant has generated relatively little sales growth from its marquee product in recent years as consumers hold onto their phones for longer. Quarterly revenue from this segment peaked in the first quarter of Apple's 2018 fiscal year.

This year's crop of new iPhones marks the first major redesign in three years, which could prompt more upgrades and a new spurt of

growth. Investors and analysts are also bullish on sales in China, where 5G networks are more built-out than in the US.

"With our estimation that 350 million of 950 million iPhones worldwide are currently in the window of an upgrade opportunity, we believe this will translate into an unprecedented upgrade cycle for Apple," Dan Ives, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, said.

The handsets have a faster A14 processor and updated cameras and use sharper OLED screens, an improvement from last year's cheaper LCD screens, Apple said. The company showcased major improvements to the iPhone 12 Pro Max cameras, including with video recording and zooming in during picture taking.

The iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 Pro come out on Oct. 23, while the iPhone 12 mini and iPhone 12 Pro Max arrive Nov. 13. —Bloomberg

Isuzu drives in BS6 D-Max

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 14

Isuzu Motors, the Japanese automaker, on Wednesday introduced the BS-VI-compliant D-Max range of models priced between Rs 7.84 lakh and Rs 10.07 lakh at Mumbai showroom. While the D-Max Regular Cab range starts from Rs 7.84 lakh, the D-Max S-Cab trims are priced at Rs 9.82 lakh and Rs 10.07

SHORT TAKES

Joshna enters quarters in Egypt

Cairo: India's leading squash player Joshna Chinappa, playing her first tournament in six months, has reached the quarterfinals of the CIB Egyptian Open here.

The world number 11 was pushed to the limit by 38th ranked Farida Mohamed who staged a valiant comeback after losing the first two games to level the match.

In the decider, the Indian managed to see off the Egyptian for a 11-7, 11-6, 7-11, 10-12, 11-9 win in the third round.

Joshna meets world number two Nour El Sherbini in the quarterfinals.

India's highest-ranked male player, Saurav Ghosal, lost his third round match against Egypt's Mezan Hashem 8-11, 9-11, 8-11.

It was the first event too for Ghosal since March when the COVID-19 outbreak led to a nationwide lockdown. — PTI

NZ cricket great Reid dies at 92

Auckland: New Zealand's oldest surviving Test cricketer and former captain John Reid has died here at the age of 92, the country's cricket board said on Wednesday.

Reid, regarded as one of the world's best all-rounders during his heyday in the fifties and early sixties, captained New Zealand in 34 Tests including, most notably, the country's first three victories.

"He was, and will remain, a household name in this country, having helped pave the way for everything that has come in his wake," New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White said in a statement offering his tributes.

The NZC release, however, did not specify the cause of Reid's death. Born in Auckland, and educated in Wellington, Reid played 246 first-class games and scored 16128 runs at 41.35, including 39 centuries, while taking 466 wickets at 22.60. — PTI

Another 1st round exit for Murray

Cologne, Germany: Andy Murray suffered another first-round elimination, this time at the Cologne Indoors at the hands of out-of-form veteran Fernando Verdasco.

Verdasco exploited Murray's fragile serve to win 6-4, 6-4 in a match which finished after midnight German time.

Verdasco, at 36 one of the few players older than the 33-year-old Murray in the tournament, broke Murray's serve four times to 15. Murray lost in the second round of the U.S. Open and in the first round of the French Open. He used wild cards for both of those Grand Slam tournaments and again in Cologne for his first loss on an indoor hard court since the 2015 tour finals.

Verdasco will take on top-seeded Alexander Zverev in the second round after the German player had a bye in the first round. — AP

Golfer Johnson tests Covid +ve

North Las Vegas: Dustin Johnson became the most prominent player to test positive for the coronavirus since golf resumed in June, forcing him to withdraw from the CJ Cup at Shadow Creek.

The PGA Tour said in a statement that Johnson notified officials he was experiencing Covid-19 symptoms and was given another test that came back positive. Johnson is the No. 1 player in the world and the reigning PGA Tour player of the year after winning the FedEx Cup for the first time. He has not played since he tied for sixth at the U.S. Open last month. "Obviously, I am very disappointed," Johnson said. "I was really looking forward to competing this week, but will do everything I can to return as quickly as possible. I have already had a few calls with the tour's medical team and appreciate all the support and guidance they have given me."

— AP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

BADMINTON

Denmark Open: Matches from 5.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

TENNIS

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

DELHI DELIGHT

Capitals beat Royals by 13 runs to regain top spot

Dubai, Oct. 14: Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 13 runs in an Indian Premier League game on Wednesday. Batting first, Shikhar Dhawan (57 off 33 balls) and skipper Shreyas Iyer (53 off 43 balls) scored half-centuries but Delhi lost momentum towards the end to be restricted to 161 for seven.

Jofra Archer (3/19) and Jaydev Unadkat (2/19) were impressive with ball for Rajasthan.

In reply, Rajasthan Royals scored 148 for 8 in 20 overs with debutant Tushar Deshpande taking 2 for 37. Ben Stokes top scored with 41 off 35 balls for the Royals.

Earlier, Dhawan and Iyer hit stroke-filled half-centuries but Delhi Capitals lost momentum towards the end to be restricted to 161 for seven.

Earlier, DC had a disastrous start to their innings after opting to bat as they lost Prithvi Shaw off the first ball of the match with a gem of a delivery from Archer that jagged back in after pitching and crashed into the middle stump after getting an inside edge.

To make matters worse for DC, Ajinkya Rahane was holed out to Robin Uthappa off Archer at mid-on an over later.

But then skipper Iyer (53 off 43) joined hands with Dhawan (57 off 33) and the duo initially played cautiously before opening up

to take DC forward.

They shared 85 runs for the third wicket off 55 balls to keep DC's momentum going after the early jolts.

Dhawan looked in great nick from the onset, often finding the boundary with his trademark pulls and shots square off the off

Shreyas Gopal.

His runs came off 33 balls which had six boundaries and two hits over the fence. After Dhawan's dismissal, Iyer took the onus on himself and upped the ante with some lusty hits and in the process got to his fifty off 40 balls in the 15th over bowled by Jaydev Unadkat, that yielded 17 runs, including two sixes.

But soon after, Iyer departed, caught by Archer at long-off off Kartik Tyagi as he went for another big hit. — PTI

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: P. Shaw b Archer 0, S. Dhawan c Tyagi b Gopal 57, A. Rahane c Uthappa b Archer 2, S. Iyer c Archer b Tyagi 53, M. Stoines c Tewatia b Archer 18, A. Carey c Archer b Unadkat 14, A. Patel c Tyagi b Unadkat 7, R. Ashwin (not out) 0. **Extras:** (lb-2, w-6, nb-2) 10. **Total (for 7 wkts, in 20 overs)** 161.
FoW: 1-0, 2-10, 3-95, 4-132, 5-153, 6-157, 7-161
Bowling: Archer 4-0-19-3, Unadkat 3-0-32-2, Tyagi 4-0-30-1, Stokes 2-0-24-0, Gopal 4-0-31-1, Tewatia 3-0-23-0.
Rajasthan Royals: B. Stokes c sub (Lalit Yadav) b Deshpande 41, J. Buttler b Nortje 22, S. Smith c & b Ashwin 1, S. Samson b Patel 25, R. Uthappa b Nortje 32, R. Parag run out (Patel) 1, R. Tewatia (not out) 14, J. Archer c Rahane b Babada 1, S. Gopal c sub (Lalit Yadav) b Deshpande. **Extras:** (b-1, nb-1, w-3) 5. **Total (for 8 wkts, in 20 overs)** 148.
FoW: 1-37, 2-40, 3-86, 4-97, 5-110, 6-135, 7-138, 8-148.
Bowling: K. Rabada 4-0-28-1, T. Deshpande 4-0-37-2, A. Nortje 4-0-33-2, R. Ashwin 4-0-17-1, A. Patel 4-0-32-1.



Ravichandran Ashwin (left) of Delhi Capitals celebrates the wicket of Rajasthan Royals captain Steve Smith in an Indian Premier League match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

— BCCI

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	8	6	2	0	12	+0.990
Mumbai Indians	7	5	2	0	10	+1.327
Royal Challengers Bangalore	7	5	2	0	10	-0.116
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	4	3	0	8	-0.577
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	0	6	+0.009
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.390
Rajasthan Royals	8	3	5	0	6	-0.844
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

Gayle set for IPL 2020 debut



NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL: ● Matches: 25.

● Punjab: 13. ● Bangalore: 12

MEETING IN 2019

● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Kings XI Punjab by 8 wickets in Mohali.

● Bangalore beat Punjab by 17 runs in Bangalore

MEETING IN 2020

● KXIP beat RCB by 97 runs in Dubai.

FOR THE RECORD

● Lokesh Rahul's unbeaten 132 in the first meeting against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Dubai was the highest ever individual score in the IPL.

● Virat Kohli, who hits 494 fours in 176 innings of 184 matches, needs six fours to become only the second batsman to hit 500 or more fours in the IPL.

— S. PERVEZ QASIER

year-old to get going from ball one, having not played earlier in the competition.

He would have played the last two games but could not due to food poisoning. Having recovered fully, it will be interesting to see who he replaces in the side.

Benching a yet to fire Glenn Maxwell is one option or the team can bring Gayle at the expense of an overseas bowler and replace him with the available Indian talent.

KXIP are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K.L. Rahul (387 at strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner Mayank Agarwal (337 at 48.14).

They run into a RCB squad which has grown in confidence by leaps and bounds since their last meeting. — PTI

JAPAN SWIM CHAMP SETO SUSPENDED FOR AFFAIR

Tokyo, Oct. 14: Japan's top Olympic swimmer Daiya Seto has been barred from competitions and official training until the end of the year as punishment for an affair.

The star athlete was caught on camera in September by a gossip magazine, which chronicled the married 26-year-old's movements as he picked up his girlfriend, took her to a "love hotel", then went to pick up his daughter from nursery.

Seto apologised for his "irresponsible behaviour" in a statement on Tuesday, saying he accepted the sanctions from the Japan Swimming Federation, which include events at home and abroad.

It means that Seto — the reigning world champion in the 200m and 400m individual medley — will miss a national competition in December. But he will still be allowed to take part in the Games next summer and can also practise in private, the swimming federation said.

Seto will also have to complete the Japan Olympic Committee's "integrity education" programme among other courses, according to his management. "I intend to sincerely give my full attention to swimming... So that I may regain the trust of my family, whom I hurt deeply with my irresponsible behaviour, and regain the acceptance of my family as well as all of you as a swimmer," Seto said. — AFP

Neymar hat-trick fires Brazil past Peru



Brazil's Neymar (left) celebrates with teammate Roberto Firmino after scoring a goal against Peru during a qualifying match for the Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022 at the National Stadium in Lima, Peru, on Tuesday.

Martins had given hosts Bolivia a deserved lead but Argentina scored a fortuitous equaliser through Lautaro Martinez.

Lionel Messi, who had an otherwise quiet game, and Martinez then combined to tee up Correa to thrash home the winner.

ECUADOR DOMINATE URUGUAY 4-2

Ecuador totally dominated Uruguay in a 4-2 victory in Quito.

They took the lead on 15 minutes as Moises Caicedo flicked home a header from an Angel Mena cross.

Both sides had a goal ruled out following a VAR review before Michael Estrada doubled the advantage on the stroke of half-time, rifling home from inside the box after a mistake by veteran Uruguayan center-back Diego Godin. — AFP

Pressure on Loew as Germany hold Swiss against Turkey last Wednesday, Loew's side were once again guilty of poor defending.

SPAIN GO DOWN IN UKRAINE

Substitute Viktor Tsygankov's strike gave Ukraine a surprise 1-0 win over Spain in their Nations League clash in Kiev.

The 22-year-old Dynamo Kiev player had not long been thrown into the fray by coach Andriy Shevchenko when he latched onto Andriy Yarmolenko's superb through ball and fired past an exposed David de Gea in the 76th minute. — AFP