


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | MONDAY | 19 OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 31.8°C
Min: 20.6°C
RH: 74%
Rainfall: 72.5mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 32/22 °C

COVID-19
COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+55,582)	(+789)
75,46,882	1,14,621

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,436)	(+6)
TS: 2,22,111	1,271
(+3,986)	(+23)
AP: 7,80,237	6,429

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,01,53,666

DEATHS

11,16,974

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Tadiya till 2.12 pm
Star: Anuradha till 3.53 am (Tuesday)
Varjyam: 9.45 am to 11.12 am
Durmuhurtam: 12.24 pm to 1.10 pm; 2.43 pm to 3.29 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

HILIRI CALENDAR


Rabiul Awwal 1, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.09 am
Zohar: 12.11 pm
Asar: 4.14 pm
Maghrib: 5.57 pm
Isha: 7.06 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.10 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.53 PM
MOONSET 7.32 AM
MOONRISE 7.21 PM

COUNTER POINT



HEAVY RAINS

I can't find a safe place to shift flood affected people, sir!

IN BRIEF

Sonia: Democracy in tough phase:

New Delhi: Congress chief Sonia Gandhi Sunday said the Indian democracy is passing through its "most difficult phase", as she chaired a party meeting during which the roadmap for its agitation over farm bills and alleged atrocities on Dalits was deliberated upon. Addressing a meeting of AICC general secretaries and state-incharges, which she presided over, she launched a scathing attack on the government over the three farm laws, the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, economic slowdown and alleged atrocities against Dalits.

Indo-China 8th round of talks

New Delhi: The eighth round of Corps Commander-level talks between India and China is likely to take place this week with a focus on carrying forward their discussions on the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh as the region enters the harsh winter season, government sources said. There was no breakthrough on the disengagement of troops from the friction points during the seventh round of talks on October 12. Both sides had maintained that the talks were "positive and constructive".

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Mar Thoma church head passes away

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Trump leans on fear tactics to win polls

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Ferguson wins the game for Kolkata Knights

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Vol. 83 No. 291 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

Panel: India may beat Covid by Feb

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

A 10-member panel, headed by IIT-Hyderabad's Prof. M. Vidyasagar, claims that Covid-19 pandemic can be controlled by February with minimal active symptomatic infections if all safety protocols are strictly followed.

They also cautioned that a relaxation in protective measures could lead to a rise of up to 26 lakh infections in a month.

With the festive season round the corner, the committee members, professors from other IITs and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and scientists, have warned that relaxations during the festivities and winter may increase susceptibility to the infection. They also spoke against imposition of any fresh lockdowns at the district or state level, unless there is an imminent danger of healthcare facilities being overwhelmed.

The report has suggested that active cases had reached

peak in September, and that it was because of the imposition of an early and comprehensive lockdown that reduced the peak-load on the healthcare system.

"With no lockdown, the pandemic would have hit India very hard, with a peak-load of over 140 lakh cases in June. Given our lack of preparedness back then, the healthcare system would have been overwhelmed, leading to many additional deaths", the report stated. The predictions and observations by the committee have been made based on a study on "Progression of the COVID-19 Pandemic in India: Prognosis and Lockdown Impacts", conducted by eminent scientists and academicians from across the country, including IIT-H, IIT-Kanpur, CMC Vellore, ISI Kolkata, IISc Bangalore, NIE Chennai, NIV Pune, among others.

This is part of the government panel formed to evolve a national super-model for COVID-19 progression.

WOMEN TO HEAD 50% BC CORPNS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18

YSR Congress government has announced governing bodies for 56 BC corporations formed to develop the status of backward classes belonging to 139 castes in Andhra Pradesh.

Names of persons appointed as chairpersons of these corporations were announced at a press conference by a Group of Ministers led by BC welfare minister Chelluboina Venugopala Krishna.

The ministers reiterated that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been giving top priority to BCs in every welfare scheme. Formation of BC corporations is a measure to ensure their development.

Minister Venugopala Krishna said as 50 per cent reservations have been provided to women, nearly 29 of the total 56 corporations will be led by women as chairpersons.

In addition to this, the state government has also appointed 12 directors representing all the 13 districts to each corporation. He asserted that the Chief Minister has set up 56 corporations for the 139 BC castes to focus on their all-round development.

"The CM firmly believes that BCs are Backbone Classes and not Backward Classes," he remarked.

Dummy Dharani registrations done

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, OCT. 18

Revenue officials on Sunday came up with dummy registrations of agriculture lands as a prelude to real registrations and uploading data on Dharani portal.

The officials are likely to undertake a similar exercise to check the online system on Monday. Review meetings with officials are underway on how to maintain online registrations with the help of the portal.

According to official sources, each tahsildar or joint registrar must record 10 dummy land registrations. Officials have been trained in this regard. Dharani portal is an online land registration process that ensures transparency, security and responsibility to people and landowners.

Tahsildars will act as a joint registrar as far as agriculture land registrations and mutations are concerned. They will register agriculture lands in 570 mandals while 142 sub-registrars will register non-agriculture assets with the help of portal.

Adilabad collector Sikta Patnaik is visiting tahsildar offices and inspecting the arrangement made for the registrations. She visited the Mavala mandal tahsildar office and monitored the registrations.

Officials informed farmers and those wishing to register their lands have to book a slot before the registration process.

The government has introduced new responsibilities to the tahsildars after village revenue officers were removed and streamlining the portal for online registration of agriculture and non-agriculture lands.

Farmers furious after hybrid paddy crop fails

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, OCT. 18

Around 150 farmers from Vemsoor mandal, who became victims of the spurious hybrid variety NTU-1224 paddy seed, are up in arms demanding compensation from Nagarjuna Seed Company for the huge losses they have suffered as there was no yield even after 140 days of sowing.

NTU-1224 was sown by the farmers in 400 acres Vemsoor mandal. The variety is raised in A d a s a r l a p a d u, Lingapalem, Marlapadu, Vemsoor, Kandukur, Ramannapalem and Vemsoor mandals, where there are only two traders.

The farmers took the land on lease and raised the seed variety, Mandapati Nagireddy, a

farmer from Adasarlapadu, said "The paddy plants grew smoothly and became tall but there was no yield."

T. Prasad, a farmer from Lingapalem, said, "We took the land on lease at ₹15,000 per acre and we spent another ₹10,000 for seeds and ploughing and sowing. We lost all the money and this has forced us to raise our voice".

The agitated farmers raided the shops that sold NTU 1224 variety and grilled the traders.

They staged a dharna in front of the shop in Kandukur. However, the traders washed their hands off by saying that they have informed the seed failure to the company officials.

It is suspected that Nagarjuna Seed Company

did not test the seed, which is mandated, before dispatching them to their dealers. This has not been complied with as far as the NTU -1224 seed variety of 9003 batch goes.

Vemsoor mandal agricultural extension officer Ramamohan said that he had received a complaint about the seed failure and had sent a report to the government.

PESTICIDE | WATCH

Activists suspect political nexus after rise in illegal sale despite govt orders

Use of toxic herbicide Glyphosate increases

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Amid the debate over imposing a complete ban on the use of the weed-killing herbicide glyphosate, a report by the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) India, a pesticide watch NGO, states that there is an increase in its use across the country.

Glyphosate stood at the second position in production and consumption among herbicides. The data for production and consumption also shows a huge difference and little

information is available on its export.

The field study by PAN that was conducted in seven states — Telangana state, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu — reports the use of 24 different brands of three formulations based on glyphosate. Glyphosate-based herbicide products are also sold in areas where the crop for which it has been approved is not grown.

In Telangana state, where the use and sale is restrict-

ed until the end of the Kharif season, activists have suggested that there is increasing illegal sale and use by farmers, despite the government orders, and a suspected political nexus.

"Bigger cotton farmers, especially in Mancherial, by using manual labour but no protective gear, use glyphosate extensively,

because they think that it is more economical for them than going through other processes of de-weeding their crops," said Sreeharsha T, activist with the Rythu Swarajya Vedika.

Narasimha Reddy Donthi, director of Pesticides Action Network-India added that the unrestricted access and wider

availability of glyphosate-based herbicides and poor pesticide poisoning monitoring has contributed to unreported or unrecognised occupational poisoning or self-poisoning.

"Most farmers who spray the toxic herbicide on their own or get manual labour to do so do not consider the related-safety hazards. When they are rushed to hospital and poisoning is reported, due to differences in technical pronouncement or similar issues, most of these cases don't get reported as poisoning due to glyphosate.

Hence the data is difficult to be collaborated."

The study by PAN India states that the majority of farmers and workers interviewed did not have training on glyphosate application, safety precautions, and use of personal protection kits (PPE). Moreover, none of the farmers or workers reported use of PPE while working with glyphosate or working in fields sprayed with glyphosate; rather some of them reported use of a cloth, hat, mask, glove, goggles of poor quality as safety measures.

Lakes breach in heavy rain

Vehicles swept away; people seek refuge on rooftops, cry for help

The Balapur bund of the Gurram Cheruvu that breached following heavy overnight rain on Sunday leading to Hafeezbabanagar, Balapur and several other colonies in Hyderabad getting flooded. These areas had been flooded in last Tuesday's rain as well.

— P. SURENDRA

Al Jubail Colony and adjoining areas. Water from the breached lakes swept away vehicles while people fled to the rooftops and cried for help. People who had cleared the piled-up sludge from the residential complexes due to devastation on Wednesday woke up to horrific scenes on Sunday.

"Our houses are completely submerged in the floodwater. Neither the corporator nor the local

MLA came to our rescue. The civic authorities too ignored us despite contacting them. About 500 people spent a sleepless night without food and shelter," said Waheeb Riyaz, a resident of Uppuguda.

"Wednesday's rainfall caused a major devastation and we have not recovered yet. This is the first time in my growing years I am witnessing such floods. We have already suffered property

loss on Wednesday and breaching of lakes adds to our woes", lamented Moosa Khan of Hafeezbabanagar. He said that it was back to square one for residents, who had almost cleaned their houses. Early on Sunday morning two teams of the National Disaster Response Force and 19 teams of the Disaster Response Force (DRF) of the GHMC are carrying out relief works.

OVERNIGHT RAINS LEAVE TWO DEAD, CELLARS FILLED UP

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

The impact of Saturday evening's downpour – up to 18 cm of rain was recorded in some localities — that went well into the night made its impact felt on Sunday.

Two children — one four years old and another six — died in rain-related incidents.

All the hard work of people who began cleaning up their homes and shops and pumping out of water from flooded cellars and basements, came to a naught after rains on Saturday evening. This was hard to come to terms with for tens of thousands of people in the affected areas who were trying to put their life in order.

Cellars of 3,000 buildings were flooded after Saturday's rain.

SRISAILAM SETS 10-YEAR WATER RELEASE RECORD

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC KURNOOL, OCT. 18

For the first time this decade, Srisaillam reservoir officials released over seven lakh cusecs of water in a 24-hour period by lifting 10 crest gates to the height of 33 feet.

The dam has seen huge flood water coming into it in the past three days as torrential rains in Maharashtra and upper reaches of Krishna river filled up Narayanapur dam in Karnataka and Jurla project in Telangana state to the brim.

Jurla has a live capacity of just 6.79 tmc and its full reservoir level is 318.52 tmc. As per Central Water Commission (CWC) alert, the flood trend on the Srisaillam reservoir was steady with 4,85,485 cusecs coming into the reservoir from Jurla and Sunkesula barrage across Tungabhadra river near Kurnool.

Srisaillam dam opened 10 spillway gates to a height of 20 feet on Sunday and 5,10,597 cusecs of water. The reservoir level is 884.60 feet against the total height of 885 feet. The present storage at the dam is 213.4011 tmc.

A retired engineer, who worked at Srisaillam, found fault with the authorities for holding so much water in the reservoir. He raised concern that it is against flood management and would have a devastating impact on the structural stability of the dam. The water release left several residential houses in Lingala Gattu village of Kurnool district inundated. Around 450 Lingala Gattu locals, who mostly depend on fisheries, were in the grip of fear. However, revenue and police officials reached the area and alerted the villagers.

Srisaillam tahsildar B. Rajendra Singh said that with heavy inflows at Srisaillam reservoir, the officials released seven lakh cusecs of water into Nagarjunasagar Friday morning but the outflows were reduced to below six lakh by evening due to drastic fall of inflows.

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SHORT TAKES

HARISH TAKES A
DIG AT BJP'S
PENSION CLAIMSS.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Finance minister T. Harish Rao demanded that BJP leaders show proof of their claim that the Modi-led BJP government at the Centre was paying ₹1,600 pension to each bidi worker in Telangana state. The minister was addressing a gathering in Dubbaka as part of the byelection campaign on Sunday.

He dismissed the BJP's claims of giving a major share of pension amount to Telangana state. He wanted to know why pension was not being paid to bidi workers in BJP-ruled states. Harish Rao said that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh was paying ₹500 as old-age pension and to widows and in Karnataka it was ₹400 while the TRS government was paying ₹2,000.

Terming the BJP as an anti-farmer party, he said that the UP government is collecting power charges of ₹4 per unit from farmers while the TS government was giving it free. He appealed to the people to teach a lesson to the Congress and BJP in the ensuing byelection.

ARUNA FOR CBI
PROBE INTO TS
FARM PROJECTSIREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

BJP vice-president D.K. Aruna has demanded an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into irrigation projects taken up by the K. Chandrashekar Rao government.

Addressing a press conference at the state BJP office here on Sunday, she accused the government of swindling funds in the name of changing the design of irrigation projects.

The BJP leader attributed submergence of the Yeleru pump house under Kalwakurty project followed by a blast to negligence of the government. She protested that the government used police force to prevent them from visiting the site.

She said that government set up the pump house underground in spite of engineers being against it. She pointed out that government ministers and TRS leaders had written a letter opposing the project. Still the government insisted on setting up the pump house underground.

Aruna urged the Centre to order a CBI probe to unravel facts behind the acts of omission and commission in building the irrigation projects. Accusing the government of ignoring the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation scheme, she said designs of this project and the Chevella Pranahitha scheme were also changed to mint money.

Aruna said the CM could have undertaken a helicopter survey to assess crops loss due to incessant rains. She slammed the government for failing to give detailed project reports to the Apex Council and said the Chief Minister should inform people about of his version of the projects.

177 ANIMALS
DROWN IN
MUSI FLOODDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

As many as 177 animals belonging to dairy farms adjacent to Musi River drowned in floods. Authorities said the cattle, sheep and goats, had been tied in their farms. The onus for deaths lies on dairy farm owners, officials said.

According to highly placed sources, as many as 146 buffaloes and 18 calves, apart from 13 sheep and goats died downstream of Himayatsagar, Jilleluda tank and Gurram Cheruvu. Sources said dairy farms owners are habituated to raising cattle, goats and sheep on banks of Musi River due to easy availability of green grass.

The apathy of GHMC, revenue and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has caused the deaths animals, cattle owners say. They maintain that no city department had alerted them about evacuating their animals. Cattle owners complain that neither the corporation nor revenue officials are ready to pay compensation. "Our livelihood will be threatened if the government does not come to our rescue. We have already lost cattle, whom we raised like our children."

Sari dole helps TRS regain footing

The TRS leaders are connecting again with the villagers during Bathukamma saris distribution

PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, OCT. 18

TRS leaders are using distribution of Bathukamma saris to regain their footing in the rural and tribal areas of erstwhile Adilabad district, which they avoided for the past few months because of Covid-19 epidemic.

The saris are coming in handy for them to revive their connection with villagers. The ruling party leaders are, however, taking due precautions like wearing masks and ensuring social distancing while distributing the saris.

Some of the women TRS leaders wearing Bathukamma saris are even playing Bathukamma with the women folk of villages.

TRS legislators including Adilabad MLA Rekha Naiak, Asifabad MLA Kova Laxmi, minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy and others have visited several villages and distributed Bathukamma saris. They are avoiding mass gatherings and meeting village women only in small groups.

Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna has also visited many interior villages in Adilabad rural mandal and distributed Bathukamma saris.

While distributing saris, Ramanna is indirectly campaigning for the TRS candidate who is contesting the ZPTC seat in Adilabad Rural mandal. The seat had fallen vacant after sudden demise of incumbent Are Rajanna recently.

Surprisingly, even many senior TRS men are making it a point to attend the women-centric Bathukamma events, which will continue in the villages till Dasara festivities are over.

Distributing Bathukamma saris at Rebbena, Asifabad Zilla Parishad chairperson Kova Laxmi said the state government is committed to welfare of women. She reeled out the various government schemes being implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

PRIORITY LIST
FOR VACCINE
UNDERWAYDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18.

The state government is in the process of identifying and compiling lists of people for prioritising administration of Covid-19 vaccine as and when it becomes available.

Director of Public Health Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said on Sunday that the first priority will be frontline workers from the health sector and other government departments working directly with people, followed by those aged above 60 years.

Also on the priority list will be people with comorbidities irrespective of their age. These are being prepared as per Central directives, he said. Dr Rao, and Director of Medical Education Dr K. Ramesh Reddy, addressing a press conference, said that the heavy rains that lashed the city this past week could result in a spurt in water and vectorborne diseases.

To combat this possibility, the department has been running 182 health camps in the GHMC area, department officials said. "We appeal to people to prevent spread of cholera, jaundice, and polio and other waterborne diseases. Boil drinking water before consuming and eat only hot food. Chlorinate drinking water that you get," they said.

People at camps are screened for their health and for Covid-19 symptoms and are being tested. Anyone who has been in close contact with those found positive, are under observation. It is absolutely safe to go to the flood relief camps. The authorities have also started spraying of sodium hypochlorite solution in vulnerable areas.



MLC Akula Lalitha, mayor Dandu Neetu Kiran hand over Bathukamma saris to women in Nizamabad.

— DC

Getting saris during Covid-19, a timely gift: Women

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 18

Distribution of Bathukamma saris began on a grand note on October 9. Keeping the popularity of the festival across the state in mind, the government decided to give a sari to every woman irrespective of caste and religion on the occasion of Bathukamma festival.

On the other hand, to uplift the weaver's community and to provide them employment opportunities round the year, the government started giving bulk orders for manufacture of Bathukamma saris every year.

Receiving the Bathukamma sari for the first time, a college student, Jahannavi of Karimnagar said that it was a good decision. The importance of sari cannot be denied as it is match-

less. It is one of the most beautiful garments because even a simple sari can look spectacular depending on how it is draped. The best thing about a sari is that it can be worn for any occasion, she said.

Lachamma, an elderly woman of Vemulawada, said that many women are eagerly waiting to get Bathukamma saris. This year the government distributed good ones, she said.

Hymavathi, a school teacher in Ramagundam, said that many poor people are facing a lot of problems for not getting work due to Covid-19. Getting saris during these times will be timely gift, she said.

By distributing Bathukamma saris to all sections, and also for Ramzan and Christmas, the TRS government has set a model for other govern-

ments, she said.

Meanwhile, women in Gangadhar mandal rejected Bathukamma saris and alleged that they were given poor quality saris and that too from an old stock. They said that they were surprised to receive such a cheap sari after standing in a long queue with photocopies of Aadhaar and ration cards. They said the sari cost just ₹100.

District unit president of Bharatiya Janata Party women wing, speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, said that the distribution of saris to women in the name of Bathukamma festival is a cheap trick played out by TRS party to attract women voters.

Apart from that they were deceiving the women and insulting them by giving away poor quality saris, which cannot be used.

Many women fear that



Women of Gangadhar mandal express their anger to Choppadandi MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar alleging that they were given the old stock of Bathukamma saris in Karimnagar district.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

their ration card will be cancelled if they do not take the sari, which is compelling them to take

them. Instead of that the government should take steps for establishing small

scale industries for providing employment opportunities to women, she opined.

Bathukamma at Amrabad tiger reserve



Principal chief conservator of forests R. Shobha (third from right) plays Bathukamma with forest department staffers at Mannanur, the entry point to the Amrabad tiger reserve.

3 winter months crucial, take care, warn docs

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Winter is coming. And the three months of the cold season — the period when most viruses get active and traditionally the time of flu, and other diseases such as colds, fevers — will be crucial to how Telangana state ultimately handles Covid-19.

Unless people adhere to Covid-19 safety protocols that for these three months also include celebrating festivals at home with families and stay away from large gatherings or

small crowds, it is likely that the state will see a repeat of what happened in Kerala after the Onam celebrations with thousands of new Covid-19 cases being recorded every day.

"We are not asking people not to celebrate festivals. They should do so within the confines of their own families. Avoid gatherings. Wherever there are groups of people, Covid-19 can spread. Dasara is round the corner, will be followed by Diwali in November and Christmas in December.

■ Dr Rao announced the launch of a special publicity campaign to help people keep safe during this festival season. The publicity campaign comprises a series of posters, radio jingles.

These are the months when people will travel to their native places, from towns and cities to villages or from villages to towns and cities, to join their families," Director of Public Health Dr G.

Srinivasa Rao has said. "Seventy per cent of all Covid-19 cases found in Telangana state are asymptomatic," Dr Rao said, meaning that they could be affected by the Coronavirus but not showing any of the symptoms. "Every person you interact could be spreading the disease," Dr Rao warned.

Covid-19 cases were reducing in Telangana state thanks to the efforts of the state government, health department and people following safety precautions of wearing masks, washing hands,

maintaining physical distance and avoiding crowds. "If people relax and give up on these in the festive season, we will see a surge in Covid-19 in the state," he said.

Dr Rao also announced the launch of a special publicity campaign to help people keep safe during this festival season. The publicity campaign comprises a series of posters, radio jingles and animated video spots. "Festivals come and go but if a life is lost, it will not come back. Avoid that agony and stay safe," he said.

57.7% EXCESS RAINS
DAMAGE ₹100 CR
CROPS IN KHAMMAMRAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, OCT. 18

The fifth spell of rains in Khammam district has damaged crops over 80,000 acres including paddy, cotton and chilli. Heavy rains have breached tanks at 50 places in various mandals. Sattupalli mandal is the worst-hit with breaches at 10 locations. Paddy crop over 1,000 acres have been washed away in the mandal.

Crop damage has been reported from 345 villages in the district causing losses to 55,000 farmers. As per a preliminary report, crop loss has been estimated at ₹100 crore. Hopes of crops surviving are nil as they have been under water since last four days. The district has recorded 57.7 percent excess rainfall during this Kharif season.

Paddy over 40,000 acres and cotton on 39,000 acres has been damaged in Enkoor; Kallur; Penuballi, Raghunathapalem, Tallada, Vemsoor and Konigler mandals.

Prior to the rains, officials had expected to harvest 6.50 lakh tonnes of paddy during this season. Political parties have demanded that the state government extend liberal financial assistance to farmers.

CPI state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy said, "Government should take up relief measures immediately. Loss of crops is unexpected and the government is not serious about paying compensation".

Bharatiya Kisan Morcha state president Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy said the state government must provide some relief to farmers immediately. Farmers in the district stand to lose ₹15,000 per acre, he said.

SHORT TAKES

EIGHT ARRESTED FOR CRICKET BETTING

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, OCT. 18

The Task Force police busted an IPL cricket betting racket in Nizampet near Tirumala Theatre in Khammam on Sunday. The police took into custody eight persons, while 10 managed to abscond.

The police recovered ₹15,000 cash and eight cell phones. They also collected details of the online and offline trading done.

According to the Task Force ACP Venkatrao, one Boina Sandeep along with six others organised cricket betting, online and offline for the ongoing IPL matches. For transactions, they used Google Pay and PhonePe. The amount of transactions done is ₹3.58 lakh. The eight arrested were taken to the I-Town police station, and a case filed.

MAOISTS ISSUE WARNING TO PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 18

In the last few days, Naxalites have written open letters warning the local public representatives in the wake of the police focusing on the movements of the Maoists in the districts bordering Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

On Sunday, a letter was found, in Pambapur village of Mahamutharam mandal in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district warning local representatives.

The leaflets, purportedly written on behalf of CPI (M) Karimnagar-Khammam-Warangal Area Committee, said that the anarchy of public representatives has increased in villages.

It stated that the village presidents, sarpanch Bantu Ramesh, would be punished in the public court for illegally accumulating wealth.

Mentioning four public representatives who gathered a lot of assets in erstwhile Warangal, Karimnagar and Khammam, the Maoists warned that they would face the same fate of Venkateswara Rao who was killed in Borlagudem eight years ago.

NO STAMP DUTY FOR REGISTRATION OF SADA BINAMA

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

The state government on Sunday announced the exemption of stamp duty for registration of sada binama (white paper agreement) transactions of small and marginal farmers to an extent of five acres, in a set of guidelines issued for such transactions.

The government mandated that the alienee, transferee or buyer should be a small or marginal farmer. Farmers with more than five acres land should pay both the stamp duty and the regularisation fee.

The government said regularisation is applicable only to agricultural lands located in rural areas and the scheme will not be applicable for agricultural land transactions using sada binama in Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA), municipal corporations and municipalities except for certain notified mandals.

According to the guidelines, all the applications for regularisation of sada binama transactions should be submitted only through Mee Seva centres along with details in the prescribed format.

The applicant should scan and upload copies of Aadhaar card, sada binama document, pattadar passbook number of buyer and seller (if available) and documentary proof pertaining to the land apart from the sada binama.

The applicants can collect an acknowledgement as a proof of having submitted an online application from the Mee Seva centre after payment of application fee.

■ **THE GOVERNMENT** said regularisation is applicable only to agricultural lands located in rural areas and the scheme will not be applicable for agricultural land transactions using sada binama in Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, Kakatiya Urban Development Authority, municipal corporations and municipalities except for certain notified mandals.

Mediators exploit T-Wallet to fleece the innocent

People not approaching staff to know the functioning of app: Official

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 18

The government has introduced online services via the T-Wallet to encourage cashless transactions and bring in transparency in governance.

However, mediators in Karimnagar have made it an opportunity to make money on the pretext of helping people who do not have much knowledge about online transactions.

The stamps and registrations department of the district has been transformed into an e-office for providing information including encumbrance certificates and market value through cashless

● **PEOPLE WHO** want to get any particulars of a land must enter details of that land in T-Wallet app to generate a number.

● **THIS NUMBER** is submitted to the sub-registration office for getting the information required.

transactions using the T-Wallet app.

People who want to get any particulars of a land must enter details of that land in T-Wallet app to generate a number. This number is submitted to the sub-registration office for getting the information required.

However, people unaware of the online processes are taking help of mediators at the premises of stamps and registration

office.

These mediators are collecting extra money from people in the name of helping them. Even stamp vendors are collecting more money from people for stamp papers.

Mediators are collecting ₹80 for ECs and ₹100 for market value in addition to the fee fixed by the government. If people need the information urgently, mediators are charging ₹150 for ECs and ₹200 for

market value papers.

Even stamp vendors are exploiting people by charging extra. For example, the ₹100 stamp paper is being sold for a price ranging from ₹150 to ₹180.

Mediators are currently minting money as many people are rushing to stamps and registrations office for ECs, market value papers and stamp papers in wake of the newly introduced Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) by the state government. There are allegations that certain officials of stamps and registrations department have joined hands with mediators and looting innocent people.

“Even though the issue

has been taken to the notice of officials, they have not taken any action till date,” a complainant said.

An official of stamps and registration department, under condition of anonymity, maintained that people are not approaching office staff to know about the functioning of T-Wallet app and carrying out cashless transactions.

They are consulting outsiders and shelling out money. “If anyone lodges a complaint of cheating in the name of providing online services pertaining to the work at registration office, action will be taken,” the official assured.



Fawn being handed over to the forest officials on Sunday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Shepherd finds Black Deer fawn

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 18

A shepherd from Gunjedu village of Kothaguda mandal in Mahabubabad district found a deer fawn among his herd when he returned home after grazing them in the forest area.

Muyyaboina Prabhakar had returned with his flock of cattle and sheep. Considerably surprised, Prabhakar informed VSS chairman Tolem Ananth Rao and mandal praja territorial committee (MPTC) member Burka Pushpalatha who con-

veyed the information to local forest beat officer Sandeep.

Prabhakar said, “I took my oxen and sheep to graze in the forest. The deer fawn must have followed the sheep on their way back.”

Forest officials reached Gunjedu and the black deer was handed over to the officials of the forest department by MPTC Pushpalatha.

Forest officials congratulated Prabhakar for rescuing the fawn, and the local public representatives. The fawn will be sent to the Kakatiya Zoo in Hanamkonda.

OU postpones UG, PG exams due to rains

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

In view of the heavy rains that have battered the state in the past week, Osmania University has decided to further postpone all its UG and PG examinations.

All exams scheduled for October 19, 20 and 21 have been postponed. Examinations scheduled from October 22 will be conducted as per the time

table, said the Osmania University Controller of Examinations.

JNTUH has directed all principals of constituent and affiliated colleges to postpone exams scheduled on October 19 and 20 due to the forecast of heavy rains. However, there is no change in the schedule of other exams.

The schedule for postponed exams will be announced later, the university said.

After the rains



Vehicles piled up as the Balapur Gurram Cheruvu breached due to the heavy rains. Many residential localities in Hafeez Babanagar in Hyderabad were waterlogged on Sunday adding to the woes of the citizens. — P.SURENDRA

Bhatti detained, then released

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

The Veldanda police on Sunday detained Congress Legislative Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka who was on his way to inspect the Kalwakurthy pump house which was submerged by the waters of the Srisailem reservoir on Friday.

Mallu Bhatti along with MLAs D. Sridhar Babu, Jagga Reddy, and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy planned to visit the lift irrigation project where an explosion had also occurred due to the submergence. He was later released.

Speaking to the media, Mallu Bhatti alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao did not care the engineers' instructions on the pump house construction and went by his own decisions. This reflected in the damage at the pump house.

The CLP leader also demanded a CBI inquiry into the irrigation projects built for the last six



■ **MALLU BHATTI** along with MLAs D. Sridhar Babu, Jagga Reddy, and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy planned to visit the lift irrigation project where an explosion had also occurred due to the submergence. He was later released.

and a half years of the TRS regime.

The CM is redesigning the projects and bagging thousands of crores as commissions, he alleged. The Congress called a protest in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district on October 21 to protest the Kalwakurthy incident.

TS to become a fish hub soon: Koppula

DC CORRESPONDENT
JAGTIAL, OCT. 18

Welfare minister Koppula Eshwar participated in various developmental activities in Dharmapuri in Jagtial district on Sunday.

The minister laid the foundation stone for renovation works of a mini Tank Bund at the cost of ₹92.77 lakhs, distributed 150 dual desk benches to the Zilla Parishad High School in Dharmapuri and released 6.1 lakh fish seed in the Yellampalli reservoir backwater of the Godavari river on Sunday.

The minister said, “With the completion of several water projects, the income of fishermen in the state has increased leading Telangana towards becoming a fish hub in the country.”

The government is taking several steps to develop the economy in rural areas by giving a boost to caste-based professions.

Determined to improve the welfare of the fishermen community, the government introduced the Comprehensive Fisheries



Welfare minister Koppula Eshwar accompanied by collector G. Ravi releases fish seed in the Yellampalli reservoir backwaters of Godavari river in Jagtial district on Sunday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

■ **The minister** said that with the completion of several water projects, the income of fishermen in the state has increased leading Telangana towards becoming a fish hub in the country.

Development Scheme' distributes fish seed at 100 per cent subsidy, along with necessary equipment and has handed over com-

plete rights of water bodies to the local fishermen societies.

About the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme

(KLIS) the minister said, once completed, Godavari water will be available 365 days to the residents of Dharmapuri.

ECONOMIC | SENSE

Average yield is 25 kg flowers every other day; sold for ₹80 a kg in Karimnagar flower market

Lily cultivation earns Baddipally farmer big bucks

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 18

An aspiring progressive farmer from Baddipally village of Kothapalli mandal has ventured to think out-of-the-box and has emerged as an inspirational role-model after going in for lily plantations instead of traditional crops like paddy, cotton and maize.

It is making economic sense as he is reaping impressive rewards.

Thirupathi, who had earlier cultivated paddy and cotton crops in his four acres, was disappointed at the meagre profits.

On one occasion, he attended an awareness programme organised

under the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) by the horticulture department about lily plantations.

He learnt that lily grows in all types of environments and climatic conditions, but is best to cultivate it in the rainy season. Apart from its aesthetic beauty, lilies are widely used for decoration purposes in functions and rituals. Once planted, it starts yielding for three years.

Since lily flower is used for multiple purposes, it has great demand in the market in Telangana state.

After learning the techniques, Thirupathi decided to go for lily plantations and started on an experi-

■ **APART FROM** its aesthetic beauty, lilies are widely used for decoration purposes in functions and rituals. Once planted, it starts yielding for three years.

ment basis in about 20 guntas of land. He was surprised when he started reaping huge benefits and that too every month.

Thirupathi said that he started lily cultivation in 2018. The single-seed breed (bulbs) is procured from Hyderabad through Peddi Mallareddy, a farmer of Sadashivapalli village.

Each bulb will give around 30 to 60 buds. The

main problem with lily cultivation is growth of weeds. A remedial measure is use of Utragin 800 gms weedicide.

Along with organic manure, NPK, zinc phosphate, boron and sodium molybdate fertilizers are used as they increase the weight of the flower.

Water should be provided every seven to 10 days depending on the temperature, he explained.

Thirupathi said that there was an average yield of 25 kgs of flowers every other day. By selling them in the Karimnagar flower market at ₹80 a kg, he is able to generate an income of ₹33,000, which fetches him a handsome profit of around ₹30,000, he said.



Thirupathi collects lily flowers from his fields in Baddipally village of Kothapalli mandal in Karimnagar district. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

IN BRIEF

Museum on ex-Prez Pranab in the offing

Berhampore: A museum will be built in the memory of former president Pranab Mukherjee in West Bengal. It will come up at his residence in Jangipur of Murshidabad, former Congress MP and Mukherjee's son Abhijit Mukherjee informed. Pranab Mukherjee, who was a two-time MP from Jangipur and held several ministerial portfolios including finance and external affairs from time to time during the Congress rule at the Centre, died on August 31 in Delhi after a prolonged illness. At a condolence meeting in memory of his father at Rabindra Bhavan in Jangipur Abhijit said, "My father had built a house at Deuli on the outskirts of Jangipur and named it as Jangipur Bhavan. We have decided to build a museum at the ground floor of the house very soon." The leaders many photos and mementos received from foreign countries would be showcased in the museum.

MAR THOMA CHURCH HEAD PASSES AWAY

Thiruvalla, Oct. 18: Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, the primate of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, died early on Sunday at a private hospital here after battling cancer, church sources said.

The 90-year-old head of the Marthoma community was under treatment for pancreatic cancer and breathed his last around 2.30 am, hospital sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of the spiritual leader, saying the Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives of the poor.

"His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives of the poor and down-trodden. He was blessed with abundance of empathy and humility. His noble ideals will always be remembered. RIP," Modi tweeted.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the demise of the Metropolitan was not only a loss to the church but to the society as a whole. "He worked for the liberation and welfare of the homeless and marginalised people in the society. His involvement in rehabilitating children from the Red Street in Mumbai and uplifting transgender persons into the mainstream shows how he battled for the down-trodden," Vijayan said in a statement.

Born as P.T. Joseph to Alakunnathu T. Lukose and Mariamma couple at Maramonin Pathanamthitta district, Joseph Mar Thoma became Mar Thoma metropolitan in October 2007 after the then Mar Thoma, Philipose Mar Chrysostom, expressed his desire to transfer responsibilities of the church to his successor due to his deteriorating health.

SENA ACCUSES BJP OF USING GUVs AS AGENTS

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 18

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has accused the BJP of using the Governors as its "political agents" to destabilise all the governments run by the Opposition parties. This is not a sign of a good ruler, said senior leader Sanjay Raut.

"In Maharashtra, the BJP has engaged in anti-government propaganda since there is a non-BJP government in the state. In fact, wherever there are Opposition governments, the BJP has trained its guns at them by appointing governors as their political agents," said Raut in his weekly column in the Sena mouthpiece *Saamana* on Sunday.

The Sena leader cited several states where Governors are at loggerheads with the governments of Opposition parties. "In West Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar is seen posing daily challenges to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is not budging to him. In Delhi too, there is a clash between Arvind Kejriwal and the lieutenant-Governor. There is no trouble in Punjab due to the fear of invoking the wrath of the Sikh community. In Maharashtra, the Thackeray government is stable despite various attempts from the Governor, whereas all efforts to destabilise the Ashok Gehlot government were foiled in Rajasthan," he added.

Raksha Bhavan to be razed

Shram Shakti Bhavan also to be demolished for controversial Central Vista

ANIMESH SINGH | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 18

Raksha Bhavan, which houses the accommodation suites of officers attached with the prestigious National Defence College (NDC), as well as Transport Bhavan (office of the road transport & shipping and tourism ministries) and Shram Shakti Bhavan (which houses the labour, water resources and power ministries), are all set to be demolished under the controversial Central Vista project.

Transport Bhavan and Shram Shakti Bhavan will make way for chambers for MPs next to the proposed new Parliament building, while Raksha Bhavan will be replaced by the common Central Secretariat (CCS) build-

ings that will house the offices of all Central ministries, top sources aware of these developments told this newspaper.

The much criticised Central Vista project — which envisions the building of a new Parliament House, a new accommodation for the Prime Minister and offices of all Central ministries at the 3 km stretch between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate — entails shifting the entire staff of these ministries as well as officers' suites of the NDC to the under construction Grameen Vikas Bhavan, which was earlier supposed to be the new address of the rural development ministry.

The entire cost of shifting the staff of the ministries as well as that of

the NDC officers' suites to the under-construction erstwhile Grameen Vikas Bhavan and its fresh construction will come to around ₹350 crores, the sources added. They claimed that this cost will be less than the cost of building the new office of the rural development ministry.

The proposal has been approved by the urban affairs and the defence ministries, the sources said. The erstwhile Grameen Vikas Bhavan will be known as General Pool Office Accommodation (GPOA) building.

The proposed Grameen Vikas Bhavan, which had been sanctioned by the rural development ministry in November 2018, as its new address, and whose construction had

begun in July 2019, was abruptly stopped after it was decided in December 2019 by the Centre that all ministries will be accommodated in the CCS buildings under the Central Vista project.

At the time of halting its construction, the government had already spent around ₹12 crores on Grameen Vikas Bhavan, sources privy to the details said.

Subsequently, according to highly-placed sources, it was decided that the under-construction Grameen Vikas Bhavan or the proposed GPOA building will now house the twin offices of all these five ministries as well as suites for the NDC officers.

Keeping security aspects in mind, the GPOA build-

ing will have separate entry and exit points for civilian and military establishments, and even the basement parking area will be partitioned by walls so that there is no intermingling of ministries' staff with that of the NDC officers.

The Central Vista project has been shrouded in controversy ever since it was officially announced in September last year. It has faced allegations ranging from seeking hasty approvals, lack of transparency and absence of public consultation, and seeking the advice of experts as well as not taking the all-important approval of Parliament, and going ahead with it despite the fact that the Coronavirus pandemic is raging in the country.

Minister confirms Covid community transmission

New Delhi, Oct. 18: Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Sunday said community transmission of the Coronavirus infection is restricted to certain districts in a limited number of states, clarifying that "this is not happening across the country".

The minister said this during an interaction with his social media followers on the sixth episode of "Sunday Samvaad".

He was responding to a question from a participant, who cited West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remark that there are instances of community transmission in her state and asked the minister which are the states that have witnessed community transmission of the disease.

"In different pockets across various states, including West Bengal, community transmission of Covid-19 is expected to occur, especially in densely-populated areas. However, this is not happening across the country. Community transmission is limited to certain districts, occurring in a limited number of states," Vardhan said.

He added that as yet, no mutation of the Coronavirus has been detected in India that is either more transmission-efficient or more pathogenic.

The Centre so far has denied community transmission of the Coronavirus infection in

● **HARSH VARDHAN** says community transmission of the Coronavirus infection is restricted to certain districts in a limited number of states and that this is not happening across the country.

the country. Health ministry officials had said the World Health Organisation (WHO) has not given any standard definition of community transmission. It permits its member nations to assess the spread of the disease, based on their own analysis of the situation, and do their reporting, which the global body shows on its website.

Broadly, if it is not possible to trace the transmission chain, it means there is community transmission, officials said. The Centre has maintained that there are clusters of cases and there are pockets of localised transmission.

Meanwhile, with Kerala witnessing a spike in Coronavirus infections recently, Harsh Vardhan said the state was paying the "price for gross negligence" during Onam festivities when unlocking of services along with an increase in travel for trade and tourism led to the spread of Covid-19.

The minister said this ought to serve as a good lesson for all the state governments that were being negligent in planning for the festival season. — PTI

Lights of victory



Iconic Howrah Bridge illuminated with the official colour of historical Mohun Bagan Club after the official handover of the I-League 2019-20 trophy to the champions Mohun Bagan at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kolkata on Sunday.

— PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

BJP-Cong spar over Tharoor's remarks

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 18

Berating the Congress over its senior leader Shashi Tharoor's remarks at the recent Lahore Think Fest, where he criticised the Indian government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, "bigotry and prejudice" against Muslims and "problem with northeast citizens who look different."

Describing Tharoor's virtual address as a Congress "debut rally" in Pakistan, the BJP asked whether Congress leader Rahul Gandhi intends to contest elections in Pakistan. It said that henceforth, the Congress leader should be called "Rahul Lahori."

Hitting back, the Congress said that the BJP had always responded to substance and facts with "jumlebaazi (rhetoric)" and that such reactions from the ruling party "ridicule" the debate and "diminish us as a democracy."

Citing Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi's earlier statement on nullification of Article 370, P. Chidambaram's tweet on restoration of Article 350, Mani Shankar Aiyar's statement during a Pakistani TV debate in 2015 and Salman Khurshid's remarks at an event in Islamabad, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "We want to ask andhi whether he is planning to contest from Pakistan."

● **SHASHI THAROOR** at the recent Lahore Think Fest criticised the Indian government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, "bigotry and prejudice" against Muslims and "problem with northeast citizens who look different."

"...Tharoor said Gandhi should get credit which he is not getting in India or by the Indian media but seems he is getting much affection from Pakistan... Tharoor has already held the debut rally(of Congress) there (Pakistan)," Dr Patra said. He questioned the need to discuss Indians from the northeast at a Pakistani forum while adding that "there is no country in this world as democratic and just as India."

Taking on the Congress over Tharoor's remarks on Indian Muslims, Patra asked did the Congress leader or its leadership ever dare to ask how minorities are treated in Pakistan and how Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and Sikhs are forcefully converted or killed.

Hitting back, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said, "The BJP has always responded to substance and pointed facts with 'jumlebaazi'. The BJP has always believed in rhetoric, not substance. Yes, it does sometimes catch you by the eyeballs or the eardrums when you hear it, but, within seconds, logic takes over and tells you how empty a rhetoric the BJP is indulging in."

Nath's reference of woman mantri as 'item' sparks row

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 18

Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Sunday joined ranks of politicians who have made crass, sexist remarks by reportedly describing Madhya Pradesh women and child welfare minister Imarti Devi, who hails from a dalit community, as an 'item'.

Addressing an election meeting at Dabra under Gwalior district in MP, Nath, 74, said, "Who is she...(the crowd calls out Imarti Devi's name)... why should I take her name... you all should

have warned me... what an item!). Shockingly, former minister and senior Congress leader Bijoylaxmi Sadho who was present at the dais burst into laughter along with others while reacting to Nath's sexist remarks.

Devi, who is contesting from Dabra Assembly constituency in the November 3 by-elections as a BJP candidate, was also a minister in the Kamal Nath government which fell in March this year following the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs.

BJP took strong exception to the 'derogatory'

remarks by Nath against the woman minister and moved the Election Commission demanding to bar him from campaigning in the state.

The party declared to move the women commission and national scheduled caste commission demanding action against Nath for making insulting remarks against the woman minister.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed shock and dismay at Nath's 'outrageous' utterances against a woman minister, saying it smacked of his arrogance and narrow mindset.

OFFICIAL | APATHY

Bridge built to ease transportation to local markets, hospitals

Villagers build timber bridge over river

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 18

Residents of Birindipada, a remote forest village under the K. Nuagaon block in Odisha's Kandhamal district, have built a timber bridge over the local Kalipan river to establish physical links with the local markets, hospitals, schools and colleges.

The locals on Sunday said they have been deprived of basic transport and communication facilities for decades and all their appeals to build a concrete bridge over the river always fell on "deaf ears" of the administration.

Despite repeated appeals

and petitions to the local representatives of the state administration, no step was taken to construct a bridge.

As a result, they always crossed the dangerous Kalipan river with the help of cables tied to the trees on both sides of the river.

"We have appealed to the local MLA and MP umpteen times. They have always assured us that they will look into our request. Unfortunately, they never made any move to build a bridge here. Pregnant women and ailing people were left to their fate as we could not carry them to the nearby hospitals," said the villagers.

They added that the gov-



The timber bridge constructed by villagers of Birindipada in Odisha's Kandhamal district.

— DC

ernment-supplied ration often did not reach them as the river served as a barrier.

"Earlier we used to cross the river with the help of metal cables tied to big trees on both the sides of the river. When our plight

was highlighted by the media, the administration removed the cables, pushing us to utter confinement. Our brothers and fathers collected logs from the forest and made this timber bridge. If the government removes it, we

will once again be stranded and will be paddling through water risking our lives," said a pregnant woman.

Though no government official was forthcoming on the allegation of apathy made by the villagers, sources said the government has constructed a bridge over the river six km upstream from the village. However, the villagers are not using that bridge as they have to travel that extra distance.

"The government is still considering building a bridge at Birindipada. We have drawn the attention of the higher authorities and a decision will be taken soon" a senior government official who did not want to be quoted said.

IN BRIEF

16 killed in Pak landslide

Islamabad: At least 16 people were killed on Sunday when a bus they were travelling in fell into a deep ditch after being struck by a landslide in Gilgit-Baltistan region, according to a Pakistani media report. The bus was going from Rawalpindi to Skardu when it was hit by the landslide which was so massive that it pushed the vehicle into a deep ditch, killing at least 16 people in the Roundo area in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Radio Pakistan reported. Landslides are common in the region which is famous for its scenic beauty as well as treacherous roads.

Plan to retrieve Titanic radio

Norfolk (US): People have been diving to the Titanic's wreck for 35 years. No one has found human remains, according to the company that owns the salvage rights. But the company's plan to retrieve the ship's iconic radio equipment has sparked a debate: Could the world's most famous shipwreck still hold remains of passengers and crew who died a century ago? Lawyers for the US government have raised that question in an ongoing court battle to block the planned expedition. "Fifteen hundred people died in that wreck," said Paul Johnston, curator of maritime history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. "You can't possibly tell me that some human remains aren't buried deep somewhere where there are no currents." The company, RMS Titanic Inc., wants to exhibit the ship's Marconi wireless telegraph machine.

UAE min accused of sex assault

London: The chair of Britain's Hay literary festival said Sunday the event will not return to Abu Dhabi after one of the festival's curators alleged that she was sexually assaulted by the tolerance minister of the United Arab Emirates while working with him. Caitlin McNamara alleged she was attacked in February by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, a member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, the *Sunday Times* reported. The *Times* said McNamara, who had travelled to the UAE to work on the launch of the literary festival there, claimed she was assaulted by the sheikh when they met at a remote island villa. The Foreign Ministry of the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula also home to Dubai, said it does not comment on personal matters. When asked about the case, Britain's Metropolitan Police confirmed that a woman contacted the force on July 3 to report an allegation of rape, and said an initial statement has been taken from her. The *AP* does not usually name sexual assault victims, but McNamara agreed to be identified by the *Times*, which ran her picture on the front page. Festival chair Caroline Michel said her colleagues are committed to supporting McNamara.

AFGHANISTAN CAR BOMBING KILLS 13

Kabul, Oct. 18: A suicide car bombing on Sunday killed at least 13 people and wounded around 120 others in Afghanistan's western Ghor province, officials said. The head of a hospital in Ghor, Mohammad Omer Lalzad, said emergency staff were treating dozens of people with both serious and light injuries from the bombing. He expected the death toll to rise. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Aran said the car bombing struck near the entrance of the provincial police chief's office and other nearby government buildings in the area. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Ghor, which comes amid an uptick in attacks by the Taliban as representatives of the group and Afghan government officials hold their first-ever face-to-face talks in Qatar, where the Taliban have had a political office for many years. The negotiations are meant to end the country's decades-long war. Arif Aber, spokesman for the provincial governor in Ghor, said the blast was so strong that its sound could be heard across Feroz Koh, the capital city of the province. "It damaged and partially destroyed a few government buildings, including the police chief's office," Aber said.

Covid vaccine deployment in UK by New Year: Report

The vaccine has a Serum Institute of India tie-up as it undergoes trials

Living Covid found on frozen food packaging

London, Oct. 18: One of the UK's senior-most medical chiefs has indicated that a vaccine against Covid-19 could be ready to be deployed by the start of the New Year, according to a media report on Sunday. Jonathan Van-Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer and one of the government's advisers on the Coronavirus pandemic, has reportedly told members of Parliament (MPs) that the vaccine created at Oxford University and being manufactured by AstraZeneca could be ready for rollout soon after Christmas in December.

In India, the vaccine has a Serum Institute of India tie-up as it undergoes trials. "We aren't light years away from it. It isn't a totally unrealistic suggestion that we could deploy a vaccine soon after Christmas. That would have a significant impact on hospital admissions and deaths," *The Sunday Times* quoted Van Tam as telling the MPs during a briefing last week.

An MP who attended another briefing with Van-Tam told the newspaper that the medic was "very bullish about the third

Beijing, Oct. 18: China's health authority has confirmed the detection and isolation of living Coronavirus on the outer packaging of imported frozen marine fish in the port city of Qingdao, in what it described as the first detection of its kind on the cold food chain in the world. The authorities in Qingdao, where a new cluster of Covid-19 cases were reported recently, conducted tests on all of its about 11 million population. No new clusters of cases were found after the tests, the local authorities said. In July, China suspended imports of frozen

stage AstraZeneca results, which he expects between the end of this month and the end of next." "Van-Tam expects it to protect the elderly and vulnerable. He gave us to understand that it stopped the virus

shrimp after the deadly virus was found on packages and the inner wall of a container.

The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Saturday said it detected and isolated the living Coronavirus on the outer packaging of imported frozen cod (large marine fish) in Qingdao. The finding was made during an investigation to trace the source of recent infections reported in the city. It has proved that contact with packaging contaminated by living Coronavirus could lead to infection, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported,

'shedding' in the young. He said he would expect vaccination to start in January," the MP was quoted as saying.

It comes as the UK government introduced new laws on Friday that would

allow larger numbers of healthcare workers to administer flu and potential Covid-19 vaccines. "Covid-19 vaccines are being developed at speed which, if successful, will save lives," said Van-Tam. — *PTI*

quoting the CDC statement. It, however, did not mention the country from where the package was imported. It is the first time in the world that living Coronavirus has been isolated from the outer packaging of cold-chain food, the statement said.

The agency said the risk of cold-chain food circulating in China's market being contaminated by the Coronavirus is very low, citing recent nucleic acid test results for samples taken from the business. A total of 2.98 million samples had been tested across the country by September 15. — *PTI*

AIRLINES PUSH FOR TESTS OVER QUARANTINES

Frankfurt, Oct. 18: What will it take to get people flying again? International air traffic is down 92 per cent this year as travelers worry about catching Covid-19 and government travel bans and quarantine rules make planning difficult.

One thing airlines believe could help is to have rapid virus tests of all passengers before departure. Scattered experiments on improving safety are under way around the world, and a UN organisation is leading talks to set guidelines. There is a lot at stake.

With no end in sight to the pandemic, the near total halt to international travel will hinder economies as they try to bounce back from recession and return to normal levels of business activity. Millions of jobs at airlines, airports and travel related businesses are affected. — *AP*

Don plays fear tactics to win Midwest states

Janesville (Winconsin), Oct. 18: President Donald Trump leaned into fear tactics Saturday as he accused the Left of trying to "destroy the American way of life" in a late reelection pitch to voters in Michigan and Wisconsin — two Midwestern states that were instrumental to his 2016 victory but may now be slipping from his grasp.

In back-to-back rallies, Trump accused the Left of wanting to "erase American history" and "purge American values". He claimed, with no basis, that Democratic rival Joe Biden would put communities at risk. Trump offered the dark message as he faces headwinds not only in national polling, which shows Biden leading, but also in key battleground surveys. His comments come after his campaign, with far less cash than Biden's, largely retreated from TV advertising in the Midwest, shifting much of its money to Sun Belt states such as Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Georgia, as well as Pennsylvania.

As he tries to energise his base and keep on the fence voters from turning against him, Trump sought to paint Democrats as "anti-American radicals" and said moderates had "a moral duty" to join the Republican Party. "The Democrat Party you once knew doesn't exist," he said. It was the same on issue after issue, as he claimed in hyperbolic terms that Biden's election would spur "the single biggest depression in the history of our coun-

The left is trying to destroy the American way of life and purge American values. Democrats are anti-American radicals. Moderates have a moral duty to join the Republican Party.

DONALD TRUMP, US President

try" and "turn Michigan into a refugee camp."

Addressing the Coronavirus crisis, Trump warned that Biden would "shut down the country, delay the vaccine and prolong the pandemic". Public health experts say the nation would be in far better shape had Trump's administration taken more aggressive action early on. And while he repeatedly predicted victory, Trump seemed to grapple throughout the day with the prospect that he could indeed lose in November. In Michigan, he quipped that, in January, he "better damn well be president". In Wisconsin, he wondered how he would process a loss. "Can you imagine if I lose? I will have lost to the worst candidate in the history of American politics," he said.

"What do I do?" Trump has continued to hold rallies despite the threat of the Coronavirus, which hospitalised him for several days earlier this month. Wisconsin broke the record for new positive virus cases on Friday — the third time that's happened in a week. — *AP*

US, Israeli envoys in Bahrain to ink deals

Jerusalem, Oct. 18: A joint American-Israeli delegation headed Sunday for Bahrain, where officials will be signing a number of bilateral agreements following an announcement last month to normalise relations.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser, Meir Ben-Shabbat, led the delegation that flew out of Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. Israel's commercial El Al flight 973 — a nod to the international dialing code for Bahrain — will fly through Saudi Arabia's airspace en route to Manama, where dignitaries from all three countries will speak at a ceremony after landing.

US, Israeli and Bahraini flags festooned the tarmac before take-off. Ben-Shabbat, one of the key Israeli officials involved in negotiations with Bahrain, said ahead of take-off that the visit will "translate plans to actions and concrete agreements" with the signing of a range of deals involving finance, investment, trade, tourism, communications, technology and agriculture. Another Israeli official said the visit represents the official establishment of diplo-

● **AN ISRAELI official** said the visit represents the official establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries with the sides expected to sign a joint statement establishing full diplomatic relations.

● **THE DECISION** to establish ties with Israel has outraged the Palestinians, whose leadership has blasted the Bahraini move, and a similar Emirati deal, as a betrayal and an undermining of the Arab stance.

matic relations between the two countries with the sides expected to sign a joint statement establishing full diplomatic relations.

The decision to establish ties with Israel has outraged the Palestinians, whose leadership has blasted the Bahraini move, and a similar Emirati deal, as a betrayal and an undermining of the Arab stance that recognition of Israel should come only after Palestinians achieve an independent state of their own. Bahraini civil society groups and opposition figures have also spoken out against normalisation with Israel. — *AP*

CHINA RESTRICTS SENSITIVE EXPORTS WITH NEW LAW

Beijing, Oct. 18: China has passed a new law restricting sensitive exports to protect national security, allowing Beijing to reciprocate against the US as tensions mount between the sides over trade and technology. The law, which will apply to all companies in China, was passed on Saturday by the National People's Congress Standing Committee and will take effect on December 1.

Under the law, China can take "reciprocal measures" toward countries or regions that abuse export controls and threaten its national security. It will apply to civilian, military and nuclear products. — *AP*

Parisians pay respects to Samuel Paty



People gather on Place de la Republique in Paris on Sunday, in homage to history teacher Samuel Paty two days after he was beheaded by an attacker who was shot dead by policemen. — *AFP*

INDIAN-ORIGIN BUILDER WHO KILLED 3 FREED

London, Oct. 18: An Indian-origin builder who was arrested in connection with the killing of three men, also of Indian origin, following a deadly knife fight on the streets of east London will not face any murder or manslaughter charges as the incident was deemed to be an act of self-defence. Gurjeet Singh, 29, had been arrested by the Metropolitan Police in connection with the killing of Narinder Singh Lubhaya, 29, Harinder Kumar, 30, and Malkit Singh Dhillon a.k.a. Baljinder Singh, 37, back in January.

The three murdered men, originally from Punjab, were found to have set upon Gurjeet Singh at Seven Kings in Redbridge area of London and were killed in the ensuing street fight. "Gurjeet Singh was arrested on January 20 on suspicion of murder. He was charged with possessing an offensive weapon in a public place and was remanded in custody to appear at Snaresbrook Crown Court, where he pleaded not guilty," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. "He appeared for trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court on August 19 charged with being in possession of an offensive weapon. Following trial, the jury found him not guilty," the statement said. — *PTI*

UN arms embargo on Iran expires

Tehran, Oct. 18: A decade-long UN arms embargo on Iran that barred it from purchasing foreign weapons like tanks and fighter jets expired Sunday as planned under its nuclear deal with world powers, despite objections from the United States.

While insisting it planned no "buying spree", Iran in theory can purchase weapons to upgrade military armament dating back to before

its 1979 Islamic Revolution and sell its own locally produced gear abroad.

In practice, however, Iran's economy remains crippled by broad-reaching US sanctions, and other nations may avoid arms deals with Tehran for fear of American financial retaliation.

The Islamic Republic heralded the end of the arms embargo as "a momentous day for the international community... in defiance of the US

regime's effort".

The Trump administration, meanwhile, has insisted it has re-invoked all UN sanctions on Iran via a clause in the nuclear deal it withdrew from in 2018, a claim ignored by the rest of the world.

"Today's normalisation of Iran's defence cooperation with the world is a win for the cause of multilateralism and peace and security in our region," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

wrote on Twitter. The United Nations banned Iran from buying major foreign weapon systems in 2010 amid tensions over its nuclear programme.

An earlier embargo targeted Iranian arms exports. The US Defence Intelligence Agency predicted in 2019 that if the embargo ended, Iran likely would try to purchase Russian Su-30 fighter jets, Yak-130 trainer aircraft and T-90 tanks. — *AP*

NAMES | OFF

Immigration and passport panel directed to meet biannually

Pak removes 5K from travel blacklist

Islamabad, Oct. 18: Pakistan authorities have removed the names of over 5,000 individuals from the travel blacklist after the government took note of the problems faced by citizens whose names have been blacklisted for a long time, according to a media report on Sunday.

Interior Minister Ijaz Shah, in a meeting held recently, directed the review committee of the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports to meet biannually to review cases of blacklisted individuals. The meeting was held after a gap of almost four years. The previous meeting was held in December 2016. Taking note of problems faced by the blacklisted citizens, the minister directed the

‘Illegal’ hiring: PIA ex-MD held

Islamabad, Oct. 18: Pakistani International Airlines' former managing director Aijaz Haroon has been arrested on charges of illegal appointment of a Pakistani-American to a senior position at the national flag carrier at a huge salary package in violation of human resource department rules, according to a media report on Sunday. The Federal Investigation Agency on Saturday also arrested PIA's former human resource director Mohammad

Haneef Pathan along with Haroon, *The Dawn News* reported, quoting FIA Deputy Director Abdur Rauf Shaikh.

An FIR has been registered against the two former officials on charges of illegal appointment of Salim Sayani as deputy managing director (DMD) in PIA in 2009 in "clear violation of PIA HR rules", the report said.

Sayani has also been booked in the case. He was appointed on a monthly salary of \$20,000 along

with other perks and privileges that caused huge loss to the national exchequer. Sharing details of the perks and privileges, Shaikh said apart from the salary in US dollars, Sayani was allowed to stay at a five-star hotel for three months and his family was also provided accommodation in Dubai on PIA's expense. The "illegal appointment caused a loss between Rs 200 million and Rs 250 million to the exchequer", the report quoted Shaikh. — *PTI*

report in the *Dawn* newspaper. The committee reviewed the names of citizens falling in category B of the blacklist and removed the names of 5,807 individuals out of a list of 42,725 people.

The committee will consider rest of the cases in its forthcoming periodic review, the report said. There are two main blacklist categories- Category 'A' includes names of those involved in serious crimes like terrorism, money laundering and anti-state activities, whereas the 'B' category mainly has names of deportees who had either travelled abroad on forged documents or were found involved in crime in the host country, it said. — *PTI*

Immigration and Passports director general to immediately convene a meeting of the periodical review committee to consider cases on merit and remove names from the blacklist after the due process, according to a



DECCAN Chronicle

19 OCTOBER 2020

India shown poorly in global hunger index

The recent World Economic Outlook report of the IMF which predicted that Bangladesh's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) this year to \$1,888, a notch higher than India's \$1,877, was a shocker to many who believed in India's growth story. But the apologists of the government countered the report saying it is only one of the indicators of economic prosperity and there are many others for India to take relief from. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 published this week, instead of offering some relief, has delivered another shocker. It has put India behind most of its south Asian neighbours, including Bangladesh. GHI has ranked India at 94 among 107 nations in the GHI and placed it in the "serious" hunger category. Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan, ranked 75, 78 and 88, respectively, are also in the same category but are above India. Nepal, ranked 73rd and Sri Lanka 64th are better off and are in "moderate" hunger category.

GHI score is calculated on four indicators — undernourishment; child wasting or the share of children under the age of five years who have low weight for their height reflecting acute under-nutrition; child stunting or the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age reflecting chronic under-nutrition; and child mortality or the mortality rate of children under the age of five. The GHI reports says India recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate and 17.3 per cent wasting rate while the under-5 mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent. It also says 14 per cent of India's population is undernourished.

There are several factors which could have landed India and its people in this situation but population cannot be among them as China, the world's most populous nation, is among the top 17 nations with GHI scores of less than five.

Hunger is not a new phenomenon in India but the GHI signals the dire future that awaits the country. Three of the four indicators in GHI refer to the way how children are taken care of and this shows India in a poor light. The government, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, misses no opportunity to tell the world that India is poised to reap the demographic dividend. But the GHI offers solid data for the planners if they want to sustain the advantage to the next generation as well.

It is not that all is lost and the government makes no attempt to address the issue. One glimmer of hope is that the Indian score has been coming down from 32.2 in 2010 to 30.3 in 2019 to 27.2 in 2020. The National Nutrition Mission or Poshan Abhiyan, which aims at bringing down stunting of children to 25 per cent by 2022, should have helped make a difference. And this must be sustained with enhanced budgetary allocations. India has of late made a stunning performance in improving its score in the ease of doing business index thanks to a targeted approach; it should be able to repeat the feat in GHI, too, for we owe it to our future, that's our children.

A win for liberal-left

The "super-Kiwi-socialistic-empire-of-Jacinda" has pulled off the Labour Party's biggest win down under — securing for it its largest vote share since the 1930s and the potential to become the first party to be able to govern alone since 1996, the year New Zealand's mixed member proportional system came about.

The Mary Poppins-esque New Zealand PM was judged and handed a report card by her people in which they gave her the highest marks in two subjects — her handling of a mass shooting last year by a white supremacist in Christchurch, with her inclusive "be strong, be kind" mantra and swift action to ban guns, and her "go hard, go early" coronavirus crack-down. The latter won her a Peace Prize nomination and led to her country becoming a global model in pandemic control, having lost only 25 lives. Ms Ardern had also won global praise for her response to the White Island volcanic eruption last December. The 40-year-old had promised supporters that she would build an economy that works for everyone; create jobs, train people, protect the environment and address climate challenges and social inequalities. The incoming parliament now is set to be the country's most inclusive one ever. There will be an increase in the number of women, people of colour and LGBTQ+ members. Labour's Ibrahim Omer will be the country's first African MP and Terisa Ngobi has become the first Pasifika person to win the Otaki electorate. Labour's Vanushi Walters will become New Zealand's first Sri Lankan MP.

However, as far as her progressive agenda is concerned, though the Labour Party has now been given a much stronger hand, it is unclear whether Ms Ardern's government has the economic chops to push it through. Already, Ms Ardern is under fire from the Left for costly housing and a watered down climate bill. But little would she like to alienate the large number of her new centrist and right-of-centre voters.

All this shows that it is too early to tell whether a shift in the post-pandemic privation-stressed planet's political axis has occurred just yet. But Ms Ardern's second term is definitely a blow struck for liberals amid the march of right wing populism through the world.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

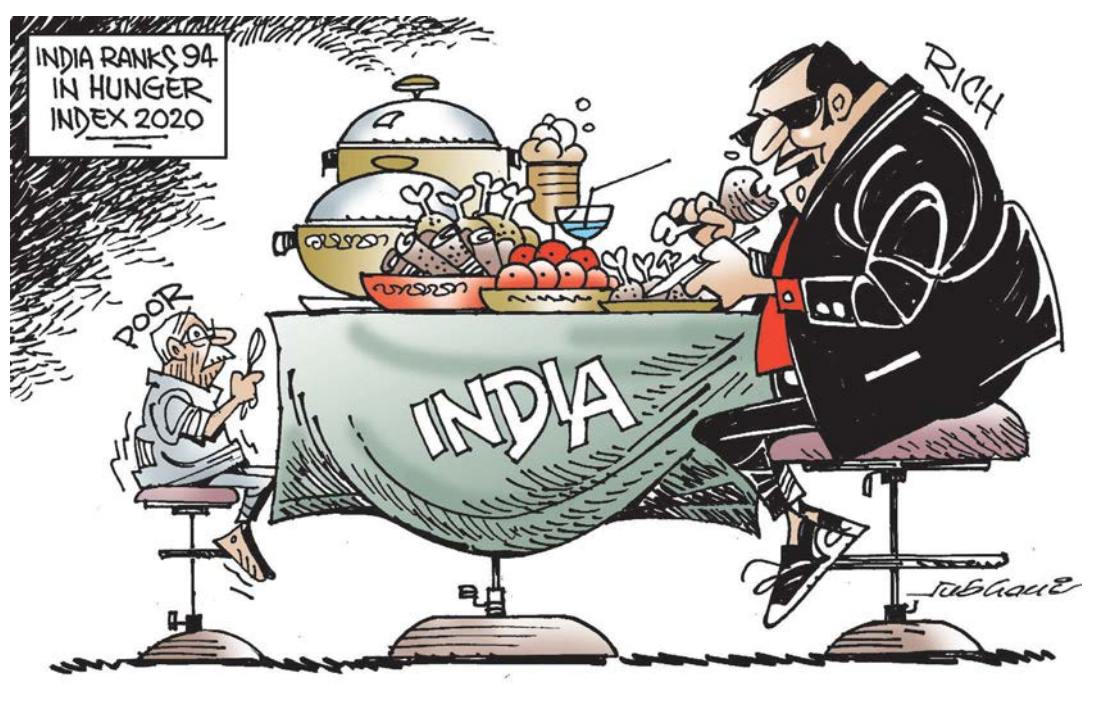
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Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: H/SD-348/2006-08

Subhani



India must learn from others, shed its hubris



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

Can a "Vishwa Guru", a global leader offering lessons to the world, afford to get riled at the mere suggestion that another country in its neighbourhood may be catching up?

In the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and an economic crisis, a fracas has broken out over the purely statistical probability that Bangladesh may soon be doing better than us in terms of per capita gross domestic product.

Over the past week, economists, political analysts, lawyers and even cartoonists have waded into the topic triggered by the International Monetary Fund updating its World Economic Outlook.

"I've now checked the data. The IMF's estimate shows Bangladesh will cross India in real GDP per capita in 2021. Any emerging economy doing well is good news," tweeted Kaushik Basu, professor of economics at Cornell University and a former chief economist of the World Bank.

Dr Basu, who is a former chief economic adviser to the Indian government (2009-12), added that it was shocking that India, which had a lead of 25 per cent five years ago, was now trailing and that this calls for bolder fiscal and monetary policies.

The topic is tailor-made for a verbal slugfest of the kind that economists alone are equipped for. Not being an economist, I hesitate to get sucked into it.

But going through what various economists have been saying over the past few days, it is clear that many factors which catapulted Bangladesh, a country of over 165 million people with a turbulent history, to where it is today, are beyond conventional economics.

As analyst N. Chandra Mohan pointed out in a recent commentary piece for South Asia Monitor: "The kerfuffle over a

numbers game should not, however, deflect attention from Bangladesh's superior growth performance in recent years and it's model of development."

That is the backstory. Bangladesh's export-led model of development, its outward orientation and remittances are indeed key factors behind its growth and altered status from a basket case to an Asian tiger in-the-making, as many experts have pointed out.

But to look at Bangladesh only through the GDP lens is to miss the deeper storyline. Bangladesh has invested in strengthening its human capital, especially women, and this is paying off also in economic terms.

It has outpaced India in many social indicators, including female labour force participation.

As Bloomberg columnist Andy Mukherjee points out, Bangladesh has two out of five women of working age in the labour force, which is double of India's 21 per cent participation rate.

Women in Bangladesh not only have a huge presence in the country's textile and readymade garment sector, they are also employed in the agro-processing, jute mills, poultry and dairy industries.

Having a female political leadership at the top helps. But all these changes did not happen overnight. Since 2006, the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) has been tracking the extent of gender-based gaps in individual countries through health, education, economy and political parameters. The 2020 GGI report, which shows the progress of 153 countries and provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across and within regions, noted that Bangladesh has been the best-performing country in South Asia, having closed 72.6 per cent of its gender gap by 2020. India

is fourth in the region, having closed 66.8 per cent of its gender gap.

There are other markers. The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2020 by the United Nations indicates that the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) or the number of deaths per 1,000 live births is 31 for Bangladesh and 34 for India. The infant mortality rate (number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births) is 26 for Bangladesh and 28 for India.

According to the Global Hunger Index 2020, India now ranks 94th among 107 countries in terms of hunger. The corresponding ranks for our neighbours are as follows — Pakistan (88), Nepal (73), Bangladesh (75), Sri Lanka (64) and Myanmar (78). Only Afghanistan fares worse, at 99th place.

It is nobody's case that Bangladesh is an utopia or that its economy and society have no problems. Nor can anyone seriously argue that India has no advantages. India's economy and trade mix are a lot more diversified, as experts point out.

But we must not shy away from acknowledging that Bangladesh has indeed made a lot of effort to improve social indicators like female work-force participation, life expectancy, health, nutrition and succeeded significantly. And this has contributed towards Bangladesh's progressively faster growth rate especially over the past two decades.

This is not to take away from the successes in social indicators in parts of India. But the point is that other countries are not sitting idle either and we must not luxuriate in the comfort of having been the world's fastest-

To look at Bangladesh only through the GDP lens is to miss the deeper storyline. Bangladesh has invested in strengthening its human capital, especially women, and this is paying off also in economic terms

growing large economy in the pre-Covid-19 period.

The pandemic has hit every economy and society; and it will deepen the challenges, including a decline in exports, lower private investment and job losses.

The countries which have invested more in their people are likely to cope better, be more resilient and bounce back sooner. Another Asian country which has leveraged its demographic dividend through effective investment in its people is Vietnam.

Vietnam's efforts to promote access to primary education and to ensure its quality through minimum quality standards have paid off. In the 2015 OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) — which tests high school students in maths, science, and other disciplines — Vietnam ranked eighth out of 72 participating countries, ahead of OECD countries like Germany and Netherlands, says a recent report by Brookings titled "Vietnam's manufacturing miracle: Lessons for developing countries".

India has lifted millions of people from abject poverty in recent decades. The World Health Organisation declared this country and the region free of polio in March 2014. The Narendra Modi government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign, despite the flawed implementation in many places and the hoopla, has accelerated access to basic sanitation in this country.

India is probably in no immediate danger of being overtaken by its eastern neighbour. Optimists believe that there will be a mild growth recovery in the coming months and India will eventually bounce back.

But we have to shed our hubris. This is a good moment to take a look at not just Bangladesh but the rest of the Asian region to see what we can learn from whom.

The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com.

LETTERS

HYDERABAD RAINS

It seems like we must live only on the first floor or second floor in flats to escape floodwater. The ground floor must be left for parking. It must be made a mandatory rule for all living in low-lying and heavily congested areas of Hyderabad. In order to build a futuristic Hyderabad, the GHMC must strictly impose this.

Pramod Baberwal
Hyderabad

The observation that the visit by leaders does nothing to mitigate the sufferings of those affected by rains is very true (*Protocols, DC, Oct. 18*). It is an attempt to cover up their failure and negligence. The ex gratia of ₹5 lakh by the government for rain-affected people is also not so attractive, but still a welcome move.

Zakaria Sultan
Hyderabad

TIMELY DECISION

The decision to temporarily suspend the survey of property details on Dharani portal is timely (*GHMC suspends collection of property data, DC, Oct. 17*). The rains have worsened the city and the services of GHMC are very much needed.

M. Pradeep Kumar
Hyderabad

MODI'S CALL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for preparedness to access Covid-19 vaccine for all is timely. Ensuring easy access for about 130 crore people is a gigantic proposition. Things like production of the vaccine, logistics involved in its supply ask for lots of imaginative and advanced planning and coordination. An independent and high-powered committee at the Centre must be constituted.

M. Somasekhhar Prasad
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Indian made MIG to be handed over to IAF today

POONA, Oct. 18

The first MIG-21 aircraft manufactures from raw materials in India by the MIG complex of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited will be handed over to the Indian Air Force at a function to be held at the HAL's Ojhar division near Nasik tomorrow.

Minister of Defence Production P. C. Sethi, Maharashtra Finance Minister S.K. Wankhede and Air Chief Marshal P.C. Lal will attend the function.

Palash Deb



Evolve the right parameters to judge varsities

Recent media reports have highlighted that with the Technology opting out of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021, only two Indian universities feature among the world's best 400 universities. At a time the National Education Policy 2020 seeks to transform India into a global knowledge superpower by establishing world-class universities, the reluctance of established IITs to be associated with these rankings has drawn its fair share of criticism.

In a society still conscious of hierarchy, and where a growing sense of national pride demands global recognition in every sphere, conversations about rankings evoke opinionated arguments. University rankings have not just captured the imagination of higher education, but in many ways hold hostage higher education itself. Yet, some of the criticism against Indian universities seems misplaced if we consider the complexities of global university rank-

ings, and the imperfect correlation rankings have with a university's real performance.

University rankings are often a source of national pride and soft power. It appears that as more and more countries enter the global race to build so-called "world-class universities", no self-respecting nation can afford to fall behind. There are about 20 global university league tables, of which the most popular are The Times Higher Education World University Rankings, The Academic Ranking of World Universities compiled by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings. Other notable rankings include the US News and World Report, the U-Multirank (which allows users to generate their own rankings based on their preferences), the Ranking Web or Webometrics Ranking developed by the Cybermetrics Lab, and the Universitas 21 (which ranks countries, rather than universities, on the

strength of their higher education systems). These rankings differ widely in the parameters they use (such as research output or reputation among academics and employers) and the weights they assign to the various parameters.

Some ranking parameters, such as university reputation, are based on perception, in addition to being opaque (a main allegation against the Times rankings) and procedurally faulty (the QS ranking allows universities to nominate who ranks them). Even supposedly objective metrics that capture the quality of research and teaching, such as publications in select journals, citation count, student-faculty ratio, and graduation rates, can be misleading. For one thing, these metrics cannot capture such intangible aspects of university education such as campus culture or student experience. The measures chosen are often based on ease of availability, and metrics such as student-faculty ratio or graduation rates are susceptible to manipulation by

university officials.

Rankings tend to favour research over teaching, creating perverse incentives for faculty members in research-intensive universities, many of whom treat teaching as a chore. Publishing in the best journals in a field is not always a transparent process, and one cannot easily brush aside the role of such external factors as courting editors or choosing esoteric research topics that are well-received by academic journals but have no real relevance to society. Rankings also favour the citation-heavy hard sciences, and prefer peer-reviewed articles over books or conference presentations. All institutions, irrespective of mission, are judged by the same parameters, which reduces institutional diversity by forcing all of them to prioritise certain common metrics. Rankings also do not come cheap, as universities need to provide substantial research support, develop infrastructure, and spend large sums on marketing and brand promotion. Finally,

rankings can foster social inequalities as the lion's share of government grants goes to a select few universities that are often attended by students from well-to-do families.

Given these limitations, one could possibly argue that institutional excellence is better gauged using socio-economic metrics such as the impact of faculty research on government policy, court rulings, or the development of critical indigenous technologies. One must recognise though that these may not necessarily improve a university's global rank. But if we are forced to choose between the two, our social and economic priorities must always take precedence. The main goals of Indian higher education policy should be human capital development, innovation, social equity, and economic growth. Rank will eventually follow, but until it does, we should not lose sleep over them.

The writer is a professor of management at IIM Calcutta

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,982.98	0.64
Nifty 50	11,762.45	0.70
S&P 500*	3,483.81	0.01
Dollar (₹)	73.34	0.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.87	0.36
Euro (₹)	85.90	0.06
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,704.324	0.62
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	0.742	0.008
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.935	0.037
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	42.92	-0.24

* As of Friday/Saturday

Retail cheque payments down to a trickle

The share of paper clearing in retail payments has come to trickle in FY20, RBI data shows. In FY20, the share of paper clearing in total retail payments plunged to just 2.96 per cent in terms of volume and to 20.08 per cent in terms of value, the data showed. In FY16, when the RBI began to push digital payments post-note ban, paper/cheque clearings accounted for 15.81 per cent in volume and 46.08 per cent in value of total.

SECL plans 8 coal evacuation units worth ₹3,100 cr



Coal India-arm SECL is executing eight 'first mile connectivity' projects with an outlay of Rs 3,100 crore to evacuate the dry fuel, especially incremental production under the proposed plan to scale up the maharatna firm's output to 1 billion tonnes. The move will also help power plants at farther most locations in northern and western regions to avail of recently notified rail concessions for distance beyond 1400 km.

Dollar Inds. eyes acquisition to enter lingerie biz

Hosiery major Dollar Industries is looking at acquisition opportunities as it plans to enter the lingerie business by the first half of FY22. The firm is also eyeing up to 10 per cent growth in revenue at about Rs 1,050 crore in the current fiscal. "We are looking at inorganic opportunities to enter into the lingerie business. We have looked at some companies, but didn't get good value," Dollar Industries CEO Ankit Gupta said.

Parle Agro aims for ₹10,000-cr turnover by 2022

Beverages major Parle Agro, the maker of popular brands such as Frooti and Appy Fizz, plans to set up a new plant and introduce one more new major product in the next two years, as it gears up to touch a turnover of Rs 10,000 crore by 2022, its joint MD and chief marketing officer Nadia Chauhana said. Parle, which had a turnover of Rs 6,500 crore in 2019, recently introduced its new offering B-Fizz.



■ Listing premium declines for latest IPOs Primary market losing appeal

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 18

The phase of high retail and high net worth investor (HNI) interest in the primary market seems to have lapsed, considering the tepid response to the IPOs of UTI Asset Management Company and Angel Broking and the decline in their listing premium.

UTI AMC's IPO saw under-subscription of non-institutional investors' portion, comprising corporates and HNIs, at 93 per cent subscription while Angel Broking got even less demand from non-institutional investors at 69 per cent of shares on offer.

UTI AMC's shares listed below the issue price of Rs 554 and on Friday it closed 8.84 per cent below the issue price at Rs 505 against the all-time high it touched on the listing day at Rs 529.95.

Angel Broking shares also listed below the issue price of Rs 306 and never moved beyond Rs 296.70. It closed 20.09 per cent down from issue price at Rs 244.50 on Friday.

In most of the prior initial public offerings, the non-institutional category had received high subscriptions, as with Computer Age Management Services or Cams (111.85 times) which is of similar size to the UTI AMC (Rs 2,160 crore versus Rs 2,242 crore of Cams) and having mutual fund industry as the main



Performance of IPOs during the pandemic

Name of the company	Issue price (₹)	Current market price (₹)	All-time high price	Demand/Issue subscribed
UTI AMC	554	505.05	529.95	2.31
Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders	145	168.30	216.95	157.41
Likhitha Infra	120	139.80	143.30	9.51
Angel Broking	306	244.50	296.70	3.94
Cams	1240	1343	1489	46.99
Chemcon Speciality Chemicals	340	406.20	731.25	149.33
Route Mobile	350	707	988	73.30
Happiest Minds	166	325.90	394.95	150.98
Rossari Biotech	425	774	859	79.37

Source: NSE

driving force-Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (678.88 times), Happiest Minds (351.46 times), Route Mobile (192.81 times) and Chemcon Speciality Chemicals (449.14 times).

The premium over the public issue price of other recently listed companies like Route Mobile (current market price Rs 707/all time high on listing Rs 988), Happiest Minds (Rs 325.90/Rs 394.95), Chemcon Speciality Chemicals (Rs 402.20/ Rs 731.25) Cams (Rs 1,343/ Rs 1,489) are also coming down gradually.

Nirali Shah, senior research analyst, Samco Securities, said, "The IPO party seems to have been punctured with the comparatively muted listings of UTI AMC and Mazagon Dock. This response seems to be in tandem with the recent swing in market sentiments from bullish to neutral."

IndiGo thinking of launching dedicated freighter services

SHAH IMRAN AHMED MUMBAI, OCT. 18

The country's largest carrier by domestic market share, IndiGo, is mulling launching dedicated freighter services amid an expected surge in cargo transportation, particularly to transport Covid-19 vaccine once it is available.

The airline has already held preliminary discussions with European aviation major Airbus on the type of freighters that could be possibly put into service for dedicated freighter flights, according to an industry source.

IndiGo, which has more than 250 planes in its fleet, is one of the largest customers of Airbus, especially A320 neo aircraft.

To a query on whether the carrier is planning to launch dedicated freighter services, IndiGo chief executive officer Ronjoy Dutta said it was being studied as a proposal.

"(This is) being studied as a proposal. (But) No final decision yet," he said.

The source said that IndiGo is looking to launch dedicated freighter services as it sees good demand for air cargo.

A mid-level IndiGo executive, who is into handling



the airline's partnerships and aeropolitical affairs, recently held initial level discussions with Airbus executives on the type of air freighter that could be used for such operations, the source added.

"The dedicated air freighter service, however, is expected to be a division within the airline," the source said.

Cargo transportation raked in revenues for airlines when air passenger services were suspended during the lockdown.

IndiGo clocked higher revenue by operating around 1,700 cargo flights between April 18 and September 7 as compared to the earnings over the last financial year.

Scheduled domestic air passenger services were suspended for two months from March 25 as part of

efforts to curb spreading of coronavirus infections. The services recommenced on May 25.

While scheduled international passenger flights have been suspended from March 23, overseas flights are allowed under various air bubble pacts.

As per estimates from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), cargo revenue worldwide is expected to reach a near-record and more than double to 26 per cent of the industry's total revenue this year.

"The potential size of the delivery is enormous. Just providing a single dose to 7.8 billion people would fill 8,000 (B) 747 cargo aircraft. Land transport will help, especially in developed economies with local manufacturing capacity," IATA said recently.

₹3 L-cr MSME credit line may end soon

New Delhi, Oct. 18:

The government is unlikely to extend the ₹3 lakh crore-Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSME sector beyond October even though the sanctioned amount so far is only nearly 65 per cent of the target, sources said.

The scheme is meant to provide financial support to businesses, primarily micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), impacted by the slowdown, triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

The sources said the objective is to provide support to all those affected and if there are no takers for the scheme, there is no need to extend the scheme even though there is some room left.

On August 1, the government widened the scope of the Rs 3-lakh crore scheme by doubling the upper ceiling of loans outstanding and including certain loans given to professionals like doctors, lawyers and chartered accountants for business purposes under its ambit. To ensure more companies can benefit from the scheme, it was decided to increase the upper ceiling of loans outstanding as on February 29 for being eligible under the scheme from Rs 25 crore to ₹50 crore.

The maximum Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line funding under the scheme was increased from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore. —PTI

Apparel exports turn positive in September

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 18

Apparel exports have posted positive growth in the month of September. The export market has seen better recovery compared to the domestic market and is expected to close the year with lesser losses.

For the first time in the fiscal, apparel exports saw a positive growth of 10.22 per cent in September to \$1,190 million against \$1,079 million in September 2019. From a 90 per cent decline in April, exports have been recovering as the industry has been increasingly exporting medical textiles, said Apparel Export Promotion Council chairman A. Sakthivel.

According to him, apart from medical textiles, exporters have also started receiving orders for apparels for the festive season. "We expect exports to further grow in the coming months and make up for a large part of losses suffered in the first half of the year," he said. Rating agency Icrs projected Indian apparel exporters to report a turnover decline of 20-25 per cent in FY21. However, the domestic market might see a steeper 30-40 per cent decline in revenues by the end of the year.

Domestic-focussed branded apparel retail companies had reported a steep fall of 84 per cent in revenues in the June quarter while garment-exporting companies reported a lower contraction of 50 per cent. From a near standstill in April 2020 amid lockdowns, apparel exports recovered in July and August to 78 per cent and 86 per cent of the year-ago levels. However, domestic retail sales are estimated to be at 40-50 per cent of



last year's levels. The impact on domestic retailers has varied, depending on factors such as strength of online presence, segments being catered to and presence in tier-II and III cities and rural markets, which have performed better than metros and tier-I cities.

"Demand in H2 FY2021 is expected to gather support from extended online festive sales and further relaxations under Unlock 5.0 guidelines, effective from October 15, 2020 onwards. Developments such as a rollback of pay cuts by some corporate entities, government's festive advance scheme etc are also expected to result in improved cash flows in the hands of consumers, thereby supporting discretionary spending," said Jayanta Roy, senior VP and group head, Icrs Ratings.

As per a survey by the Retailers Association of India, 53 per cent of consumers are looking forward to shop apparels and fashion during the festive season.

Shippers close to global deal to cut pollution

JESSICA SHANKLEMAN & EWA KRUKOWSKA OCT. 18

Nearly 200 countries are nearing a legally binding agreement to reduce pollution from the world's cargo ships, a step forward after two years of talks on how the industry should clean

up its emissions.

A series of virtual meetings will start on Monday hosted by the United Nations shipping agency over a new rating system that will measure the carbon intensity of 60,000 large ships that haul everything from containers to crude oil. After an historic

agreement in 2018 by the International Maritime Organization, its members are negotiating ways to get to their goal of cutting the industry's emissions in half by the middle of the century. All of them agree a ratings system is needed for the carbon intensity of ships. —Bloomberg

India likely to lose gas field Farzad-B in Iran

New Delhi, Oct. 18: India has all but lost the ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf after Iran decided to prefer domestic companies over foreign firms for development of the field, sources said.

ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas investment arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), had in 2008 discovered a giant gas field in the Farsi offshore exploration block.

OVL and its partners had offered to invest up to \$11 billion for development of the discovery, which was later named Farzad-B.

After sitting over OVL's proposal for years, the National Iranian Oil Co (NIOC) informed the firm in February this year about its intention to conclude the contract for Farzad-B development with an Iranian company, sources with direct knowledge of the development said.

OVL, however, continued its engagements with NIOC over the development of the field and sought terms and conditions of the proposed contract for its evaluation, they said, adding that Iran has so far not responded to the Indian firm's request.



Farzad-B holds total reserves of around 21.7 trillion cubic feet of which around 60 per cent is recoverable, and production is slated to be around 1.1 billion cubic feet per day.

Sources said unconfirmed information suggests that Iran has identified a local firm for the development of the field, but OVL has not yet given up hopes and continues to chase Iranian authorities for the contract.

The 3,500 square kilometre Farsi block sits in water depth of 20-90 metres on the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf.

OVL, with 40 per cent operatorship interest, signed the Exploration Service Contract (ESC) for the block on December 25, 2002. Other partners included Indian Oil Corp

(IOC) with 40 per cent stake and Oil India Ltd (OIL) holding the remaining 20 per cent stake.

OVL discovered gas in the block, which was declared commercially viable by NIOC, on August 18, 2008. The exploration phase of the ESC expired on June 24, 2009.

The firm submitted a Master Development Plan (MDP) of Farzad-B gas field in April 2011 to Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), the then designated authority by NIOC for development of Farzad-B gas field.

A Development Service Contract (DSC) of Farzad-B gas field was negotiated till November 2012, but could not be finalised due to difficult terms and international sanctions on Iran.

In April 2015, negotiations restarted with Iranian authorities to develop Farzad-B gas field under a new Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC). This time, NIOC introduced Pars Oil and Gas Company as its representative for negotiations.

From April 2016, both sides negotiated to develop Farzad-B gas field under an integrated contract covering upstream and downstream. —PTI

Over 1.1 lakh sellers received orders in 48 hours: Amazon



New Delhi, Oct. 18: E-commerce major Amazon India on Sunday said over 1.1 lakh sellers on its platform received orders during the first 48 hours of its 'Great Indian Festival' sale, with a bulk of orders coming from smaller parts of the country.

Amazon's 'Great Indian Festival' started on October 17 and will go on for about a month to coincide with the festive season. Amazon Prime members were provided early access to the sale from October 16.

"These 48 hours were the biggest ever for Amazon in its seven-year history. We had created a buildup for the sale for our Amazon sellers...Over 1.1 lakh sellers received orders, and 66 per cent of them came from small towns," Amazon India vice president Manish Tiwari said.

Amazon India, which has over 6.5 lakh sellers on its platform, registered its biggest spike in new customers, with 91 per cent of them coming from small towns (beyond the metros and top 40 cities).

About 66 per cent of new Prime sign-ups were also from small towns like Tawang and Changlang (Arunachal Pradesh), Mokochung (Nagaland), Baran (Rajasthan), Pudukottai (Tamil Nadu), Una (Himachal Pradesh) and Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh), Tiwari said.

The trends seen by Amazon India are similar to those witnessed by Flipkart, which opened its 'Big Billion Days' sale on October 16, had said 50 per cent of new customers on its platform were from tier-3 cities and beyond. —PTI

GONE WITH | TYPHOON

Most Korean households own a fridge specifically to store kimchi

A kimchi disaster is brewing over cabbage shortage

HEESU LEE OCT. 18

A series of typhoons in South Korea this summer has left the country blindsided by a kimchi catastrophe.

Fields of cabbages—which are usually seasoned with spices this time of year and left to ferment for months to make South Korea's favourite pungent dish—were wiped out across the country due to the extreme weather, causing prices to surge more than 60 per cent.

"Cabbage prices are going nuts," said Jung Mi-ae, a mother of two, who usually loads up on the

vegetable in fall to make her own kimchi. "I had to rub my eyes to see the price tag again because it didn't make any sense."

In a normal year, South Korean households buy cabbages and other vegetables in bulk to make kimchi for the next year, a season called 'gimjang' and a tradition passed down through the generations for over a century.

But this year, the longest-ever rainy season as well as three big typhoons caused flooding in August and September, damaging crops and disrupting supplies. The nation's fresh food prices climbed 22 per cent last month to the highest



since early 2011, Korea Statistics said.

It's not just households who are suffering. Daesang Corp, South Korea's top kimchi producer, said it has temporarily suspended on-

line sales because of the cabbage shortfall. CJ CheilJedang Corp, another major food company, said it's looking for alternative supplies to meet demand that's especially high this year as more people eat at home due to the pandemic.

"Cabbage in particular is quite sensitive to climate change and any sort of extreme weather will be detrimental to its output," said Kim Dajung, a research fellow at the Korea Rural Economic Institute. "While prices are starting to stabilise, uncertainties over price will continue to persist until the gimjang season begins in mid-November."

There is some hope. The ready-made kimchi shortage should ease because recent favourable weather means cabbage prices will cool off, the agriculture ministry said.

That should provide some comfort for people like Lee Neung-hwa, a 64-year-old housewife whose kimchi fridge is starting to look bare. Most South Korean households own a fridge specifically for the condiment to store their kimchi at the ideal temperature.

"Gimjang must go on," she said. "At this price though, that means less kimchi stew from now on."

—Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Narine action gets IPL's clearance

Abu Dhabi: Kolkata Knight Riders' West Indian spinner Sunil Narine was on Sunday cleared by the IPL's suspect bowling action committee after being reported last week. Narine was reported for a suspect action during his team's clash against KXIP last Saturday and another such instance could have led him to being barred from bowling in the league. But, in a relief for the player as well as for his franchise, the IPL committee found his bowling action to be clean. "Sunil Narine, the Kolkata Knight Riders player, has been cleared by the IPL's suspect bowling action committee," the IPL said in a statement. After being reported, Narine was placed on the IPL warning list. KKR requested for an official assessment of Narine's action from the specific committee, submitting action footage in slow motion with back and side angles. — *PTI*

Gold for Elavenil, Shahu gets silver

New Delhi: World number one Indian Elavenil Valarivan won a gold medal and Shahu Tushar Mane bagged a silver in the Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship, held virtually on Sunday. The championship was organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF). Thanks to her gold, Elavenil got richer by \$1000 while Shahu Mane pocketed \$700 for his effort. In the 60-shot competition in which shooters from six nations participated, including hosts Bangladesh and India, Elavenil shot a modest 627.5 to come out on top. Shiori Hirata won the silver with 622.6, while Indonesian Vidya Toyviba took the bronze with 621.1. Japan, however, won the gold in the men's event as Naoya Okada shot a solid 630.9 to leave India's Shahu behind. Shahu shot 623.8 to settle for second place. — *PTI*

Blues held to a draw by Saints

London: Southampton scored a stoppage-time equaliser to rescue a 3-3 draw at Chelsea in the Premier League on Saturday, highlighting how the home team's defensive vulnerability remains despite its off-season spending spree. Jannik Vestergaard glanced in a speculative shot from deadline-day signing Theo Walcott in the second minute of added-on time as Southampton rallied for a second time, having fallen 2-0 behind to Timo Werner's first goals in the league. Then adding to that Kai Havertz scored the third goal for Chelsea. Danny Ings pulled a goal back for Southampton just before halftime, and Che Adams took advantage of dreadful defending by Chelsea to equalize in the 57th minute. Chelsea, which has already drawn two matches 3-3, missed the experience of one of its new recruits center back Thiago Silva. — *AP*

Barca, Real lose ahead of Clasico

Madrid: Real Madrid and Barcelona will each head into the Clasico next weekend on the back of a defeat after La Liga's two title favourites were punished for slack performances on Saturday. Zinedine Zidane made four substitutions at half-time but could not spark a lethargic Madrid into life as his team fell 1-0 at home to newly-promoted Cadiz. Madrid's was perhaps the more concerning display, the reigning champions managing just two shots on target against Cadiz, who could have scored more after Anthony Lozano's early strike. Then two hours later on the opposite side of the city, Ronald Koeman tasted his first competitive loss as coach of Barcelona as they followed Madrid's example by being beaten 1-0 by Getafe at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez. — *AFP*

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: West Brom & Albion vs Burnley from 10 pm; Leeds United vs Wolverhampton from 12.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 2

Italian League: Verona vs Genoa from 12.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

WWE RAW

Bouts from 5.30 am on Sony Ten 1

Lockie locks it for KKR

Ferguson floors SRH in Super Over with brilliant bowling

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 18: A fast and furious Lockie Ferguson produced one of the most incredible bowling performances of this IPL edition to lead KKR to a thrilling Super Over win over SRH, here on Sunday. Ferguson proved to be the "Knight in Shining Armour" with his storehouse of variation as he dismissed David Warner and Abdul Samad in the Super Over, leaving KKR with only a three run-target to chase.

This was after David Warner's unbeaten 47 and 18 runs off the final Andre Russell over saw Sunrisers level the scores at 163 with KKR in the stipulated 20 overs.

Ferguson was magnificent during the regulation 20 overs also as his 3/15 in 4 overs had SRH in all sorts of trouble.

Earlier, Dinesh Kartik's carefree approach was well complemented by skipper Eoin Morgan's grace as Kolkata Knight Riders managed a par 163 for five after being put into bat. — *PTI*



Lockie Ferguson of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates the wicket of Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner during the super over of an Indian Premier League match in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. — *BCCI*

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: S. Gill c Garg b Rashid Khan 36, Rahul Tripathi b Natarajan 23, N. Rana c Garg b V. Shankar 29, Andre Russell c Shankar b Natarajan 9, E. Morgan c Pandey b Thampi 34, D. Karthik (not out) 29. **Extras:** (lb-2, nb-1) 3. **Total:** (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 163. **FoW:** 1-48, 2-87, 3-88, 4-105, 5-163. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-27-0, B. Thampi 4-0-46-1, T. Natarajan 4-0-40-2, V. Shankar 4-0-20-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-28-1.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Jonny Bairstow c Russell b Chakravarthi 56, Kane Williamson c Rana b Lockie Ferguson 29, Priyam Garg b Ferguson 4, David Warner (not out) 47, Manish Pandey b Ferguson 6, Vijay Shankar c Gill b Cummins 7, Abdul Samad c Gill b Mavi 23, R. Khan not out 1. **Extras:** (lb-7, w-2, nb-1) 10. **Total:** (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 163. **FoW:** 1-57, 2-70, 3-70, 4-82, 5-109, 6-146. **Bowling:** P. Cummins 4-0-28-1, S. Mavi 3-0-34-1, Varun Chakravarthi 4-0-32-1, A. Russell 2-0-29-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-15-3, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-18-0.

Super Over: SRH 2/2 (w.2,w) lost to KKR 3/0 (c.1,r.2lb).

Gayle, Mayank stun mighty Mumbai in Super Over-2

Dubai, Oct. 18: Kings XI Punjab beat Mumbai Indians via Super Overs in their IPL match here on Sunday.

After the first Super Over failed to separate the two teams, the match stretched to second Super Over where Chris Gayle and Mayank Agarwal made sure Kings XI Punjab prevail.

Mumbai scored 11/1 in the second Super Over and in reply Kings reached the target with two balls to spare.

Earlier, Quinton de Kock continued his rich vein of form, scoring a 43-ball 53 before Kieron Pollard and Nathan Coulter-Nile provided the late flourish as Mumbai Indians posted 176 for 6 against Kings XI Punjab.

De Kock hit three fours and as many sixes for his fourth fifty of the tournament to anchor the innings before Pollard (34 not out off 12) and Coulter-Nile (24 not out off 12) added 57 runs off

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians Innings: Rohit Sharma b Arshdeep Singh 9, Quinton de Kock c Mayank Agarwal b Chris Jordan 53, Suryakumar Yadav c M. Ashwin b Shami 0, Ishan Kishan c M. Ashwin b Arshdeep Singh 7, Krunal Pandya c Deepak Hooda b Ravi Bishnoi 34, Hardik Pandya c Pooran b Shami 8, Kieron Pollard (not out) 34, Nathan Coulter-Nile (not out) 24. **Extras:** (b-4, lb-2, w-1) 7. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 176. **FoW:** 23-1, 24-2, 38-3, 96-4, 116-5, 119-6. **Bowler:** Glenn Maxwell 4-0-24-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-30-2, Arshdeep Singh 3-0-35-2, Chris Jordan 3-0-32-1, Murugan Ashwin 3-0-28-0, Deepak Hooda 1-0-9-0, Ravi Bishnoi 2-0-12-1.

Kings XI Punjab: K.L. Rahul b Bumrah 77, M. Agarwal b Bumrah 11, C. Gayle c Boult b Chahar 24, N. Pooran c Coulter-Nile b Bumrah 24, G. Maxwell c Sharma b Chahar 0, D. Hooda (not out) 23, C. Jordan run out 13. **Extras:** (w-4) 4. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 176. **FoW:** 1-33, 2-75, 3-108, 4-115, 5-153, 6-176. **Bowling:** T. Boult 4-0-48-0, K. Pandya 2-0-12-0, J. Bumrah 4-0-24-3, N. Coulter-Nile 4-0-33-0, K. Pollard 2-0-26-0, R. Chahar 4-0-33-2.

Super Over scores: KXIP 5/2 vs MI 5/1. **Super Over 2 scores:** MI 11/1 (1,1w-1,4,w-1, 0, 2) lost to KXIP 15/0 (6,1,4,4).

21 balls in the death overs to lift MI past the 170-run mark.

Opting to bat, MI were at a spot of bother when they were reduced to 43 for 3 but De Kock and Krunal Pandya (34 off 30) shared a 58-run stand to steady the ship.

It was the pace duo of Arshdeep Singh (2/35) and Mohammed Shami (2/30) who provided the

early breakthroughs, dismissing Rohit Sharma (9) and Suryakumar Yadav (0) respectively to reduce MI to 24 for two in 3.3 overs.

New man Ishan Kishan then became Arshdeep's second victim when he was caught at deep third man while trying to go for a upper cut as MI ended the powerplay at 43 for 3. — *PTI*

Dhoni clarifies Bravo was unfit

Sharjah, Oct. 18: The proven Dwayne Bravo was not available to bowl the final over against Delhi Capitals due to fitness issues, Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said after their heartbreaking loss here.

Instead, spinner Ravindra Jadeja was entrusted with the task and Delhi Capitals knocked off the 17 runs required to win the game on Saturday night.

Bravo, who was off the field, is normally very effective with his slower balls in crunch situations.

Axar Patel smashed three sixes off Jadeja to take his side past the finish line.

"Bravo was not fit. He went out and didn't come back. The options were Jaddu and Karn. I went with Jaddu," Dhoni said.

Dhoni admitted that fielders let the side down.

"Shikhar's wicket was important but we dropped him quite a number of times. If he keeps batting, he will keep the strike rate high. Also the wicket played better in the second half, but we can't take the credit away from Shikhar," he added. — *PTI*

BRAVO COULD BE OUT FOR A FEW WEEKS

Sharjah, Oct. 18: Chennai Super Kings' death bowling expert Dwayne Bravo could be "out for a few days or a couple of weeks" due to a groin injury, according to head coach Stephen Fleming.

Bravo's inability to bowl the final over cost CSK their IPL game on Saturday as Delhi Capitals knocked off the required 17 runs.

"He (Bravo) seems to have a right groin injury, obviously it was serious enough to keep him from coming back to the field, he is just really disappointed that he was not able to bowl the final over, that's pretty much for what he is in the team for," Chennai Super Kings coach Fleming said.

The seasoned all-rounder's injury would have to be reassessed going forward. — *PTI*

Jamaican sprinter Blake slams MSD

Sharjah, Oct. 18: Star sprinter Yohan Blake said Mahendra Singh Dhoni had "made the worst decision in a long while", fuming in front of his TV set in faraway Jamaica as DC closed in on a remarkable win in IPL.

Blake, an ardent admirer of the sport, questioned Dhoni's move to give Jadeja the final over on Saturday night. He was oblivious to the fact that everyone's preferred choice, death bowling specialist Dwayne Bravo, was not fit to bowl the last over after walking off the field.

"I think Dhoni made the worst decision in a long while. Dhoni, that's a poor decision to bowl Jadeja at the last part. What happened to Bravo. Really?" he asked in a video posted on Twitter. "Poor poor poor poor choice Mahendra Singh Dhoni. You just can't bowl Jadeja to the left hand batsman," Blake, the youngest 100m world championship winner, tweeted.

Engaging in a conversation on the social networking site, Blake later realised that Bravo was injured. But he was still not convinced with Jadeja bowling the final over with Delhi Capitals requiring 17 runs to win the game, which they did with a ball to spare. — *PTI*

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalappally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001. Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

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McCann/Burk/Tvs/415/10/20