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Max: 32.6°C
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Max/Min temp. 33/24 9C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+74,722)	(+902)
66,22,135	1,02,714

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,949)	(+10)
TS: 1,99,276	1,163
(+6,242)	(+40)
AP: 7,19,256	5,981

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

3,52,49,401

DEATHS

10,39,543

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES **213**

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika Ashvayuja Bahula Tadiya 10.01 am
Star: Bharani till 2.54 pm
Varjyam: 4.23 am to 6.11 am (Tuesday)
Durmuhurtam: 12.28 pm to 1.15 pm; 2.49 pm to 3.36 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

HJRI CALENDAR

Safar ul Muzaffar 17, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.07 am
Zohar: 12.14 pm
Asar: 4.21 pm
Maghrib: 6.07 pm
Isha: 7.15 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.07 AM

SUNSET TODAY 6.01 PM

MOONSET 8.23 PM

MOONRISE 8.41 AM

COUNTER POINT

Seat-sharing between the parties is complete... now, it's among factions of our own party!

IN BRIEF

Trump feels O2 dropping twice

Washington: Trump's medical team said the President experienced two episodes of blood-oxygen drops during his illness. They said Trump has remained without fever since Friday and was stable. He has completed a second dose of remdesivir, and his kidney and liver were normal. He could be discharged by Monday.

₹6.62 cr worth gold seized

Hyderabad: Gold bars and ornaments weighing eight kg and other valuables without proper documentation, all worth over ₹6.62 crore, were seized at the airport here, Customs officials said on Sunday. Intelligence reports said foreign-origin gold bars without proper papers were enroute Mumbai and Jaipur.

Report on Page 2

War games in peace time



Indian and Bangladesh Naval Warships take part in the third edition of Coordinated Patrol during the Bongosagar-2020, the bilateral exercise between the navies of both the countries off the sea from Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

LJP to fight Bihar polls alone

Unhappy with Nitish Kumar being projected as NDA's CM face

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 4

Bihar's upcoming electoral battle kept getting interesting as another "front" joined the battlefield. NDA constituent Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) of Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, announced it would go solo over "ideological differences" with Janata Dal(United) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The BJP, which held its central election committee (CEC) meeting to discuss its candidates after the LJP made its announcement, has already made it clear that Nitish Kumar is NDA's CM face.

The CEC was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. party president J.P. Nadda, Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nityanand Rai, election in-charge and former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, among others.

The LJP, which had won two Assembly seats out of 43 that it contested in the last elections, made it clear that it has a strong alliance with the BJP at the Centre. Post the polls, LJP MLAs will form government with the BJP in the state, the party said, giving an indication that the LJP chief is hoping to be a "kingmaker" in case JD(U)-BJP is short of the

halfway mark of 122. Paswans are one of the 22 Dalit castes in the state, which account for nearly 16 per cent of the total population. It would be seen whether the LJP will be able to woo the non-Paswan Dalit vote bank, a significant number of whom have been supporting Nitish Kumar.

The LJP has claimed it will contest 143 seats of the total 243. It remains to be seen how many candidates it actually fields, as it may get into "friendly fights" with the BJP in some seats if it sticks to the number. Also, it remains to be seen how the BJP's campaign will face the LJP's candidates where the JD(U) is

also contesting: The BJP leadership has asked its cadre to seek votes for the NDA candidates and not just the BJP's. The first phase of polling will take place on October 28 and the JD(U) and the BJP are yet to announce their seat sharing formula. Both had contested the polls in 2015 separately; the JD(U) was out of the NDA and had contested with the RJD and the Congress.

Speculation is rife that JD(U) could contest a couple of seats more than the BJP as it will have to accommodate the Hindustan Avam Morcha (HAM) of former chief minister Jiten Ram Manjhi from its quota.

Newborn thrown out of moving autorickshaw

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, OCT. 4

A newborn baby girl was thrown out of a moving autorickshaw near the Jubilee Club here by unidentified persons early on Sunday morning. Passersby tried to chase the vehicle and stop it but their attempts went in vain. They then picked up the baby and handed her over to a traffic constable present there.

The baby, suffering from respiratory problems, is under treatment at the neonatal care unit of the district headquarters hos-

pital. Her condition is stated to be critical. Cops are examining CCTV footage from various places on the Wyr Road to try and trace the autorickshaw.

Two Town police station inspector C.H. Sridhar said they would catch those travelling in the autorickshaw.

Hospital superintendent B. Venkateswarlu, who is supervising the treatment of the baby, said she is suffering from neonatal respiratory disease, which is common in premature newborns born before 32 weeks of pregnancy.

District child protection

officer P. Vishnuvandana said police had handed over the baby to them after filing an FIR. They shifted her to the hospital.

"Doctors have told us that they will be able to say something about the baby's condition after 11 am on Monday. A woman attendant from ICDS is looking after the baby, who is being fed as per doctors' instructions," Vishnuvandana stated.

The baby did not receive any injury after the incident. Sources suspect that some persons from Dornakal area had resorted to this crime.

CRIME | RECORD

Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh top list of states in trafficking, finds NCRB data

Human trafficking declines in Telangana

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 4

Human trafficking has seen a surge in the two Telugu states with Andhra Pradesh being the second most affected while Telangana state stands seventh.

The highest number of human trafficking cases has been reported from Maharashtra.

According to data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau, 245 cases of human trafficking were reported in 2019 in Andhra Pradesh against 240 in 2018

and 218 the year before. There has been a gradual decline in Telangana state which reported 137 cases in 2019 and 242 in 2018 and 329 in 2017.

According to the report, a majority of the victims were forced into the flesh trade, followed by domestic maids forced to work as bonded labourers.

Research by various organisations on human trafficking revealed that there is a huge demand for minor girls in brothels. Abject poverty is forcing parents to send their

minor daughters to work as housemaids. Recently, the Guntur police freed eight minor girls from bonded labour. They were brought from north Andhra by agents.

The International Day of No Prostitution is observed on October 5. The day aims at increasing awareness about prostitution. Several NGOs working against human trafficking have been urging the government to initiate measures to restrain human trafficking by strict implementation of laws.

Prof K.K. Mukherjee, former head of department of social work, Delhi University, said that besides trafficking-related prostitution, several social classes and tribal communities take up prostitution as their primary source of

income. HELP and Vimukthi organizations, which campaign for the rights of children and for the prevention of second generation prostitution, have called for the need to have measures to end human trafficking and prostitution.

HELP secretary N. Ram Mohan said 10.8 per cent of the human trafficking cases reported in the country has been registered in Andhra Pradesh, which is a big concern. He said that 99.40 per cent cases were charge-sheeted while 52

cases resulted in conviction. He said that AP is better in convictions compared to other states.

Ram Mohan said that there were only three Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) cases operative in AP. AHTUs should be established in every district and should enjoy police station powers. He said that rehabilitation should be provided to the victims who are rescued so as to ensure that they will lead a new life and effectively eliminate prostitution.

Centre, Oppn GST tug of war today

Non-BJP states to oppose borrowing option

New Delhi, Oct. 4: The GST Council meeting on Monday may turn into a stormy affair, with non-BJP ruled states still being in disagreement with the Centre on the compensation issue.

While as many as 21 states, mostly ruled by BJP or parties which have supported it on issues, had till mid-September opted to borrow ₹97,000 crore to meet the GST revenue shortfall in the current fiscal, Opposition-led states like West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala have not yet accepted the borrowing option given by the Centre.

Sources said in the 42nd meeting of the Council on October 5, Opposition-ruled states would object to the Centre's borrowing options and demand alternative mechanism for funding GST compensation deficit. They feel that the constitutional liability of compensating states lies with the Union government. In the current fiscal, the states are staring at a staggering ₹2.35 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue shortfall. Of this, as per Centre's calculation, about

CENTRE BREACHED TRUST OF STATES ON GST: HARISH

Finance minister T. Harish Rao in an exclusive for *Deccan Chronicle* says that denying states their rightful entitlement of GST compensation in these critical times is a clear breach of trust. Harish Rao says the Centre must not force the states to make up for the shortfall of GST.

■ See Page 2

₹97,000 crore is on account of GST implementation and rest ₹1.38 lakh crore is the impact of Covid-19 on states' revenues.

The Centre in August gave two options to the states to borrow either ₹97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or ₹2.35 lakh crore from market and has also proposed extending the compensation cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods beyond 2022 to repay the borrowing.

Chief Ministers of six

non-BJP ruled states — West Bengal, Kerala, Delhi, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu — have written to the Centre opposing the options which require states to borrow to meet shortfall. While these states want the Centre to borrow to meet the shortfall, the Centre has argued that the revenue accruing from GST compensation cess goes to the states and the Centre cannot borrow on the security of the tax it does not own. Under the GST structure, taxes are levied under 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent slabs. On top of the highest tax slab, a cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods and the proceeds from the same are used to compensate states for any revenue loss. Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal had given his legal view on the compensation cess issue where he has opined that there is no obligation on the Centre under the GST laws to compensate for the loss of revenue. He had opined that the GST Council has to find ways to meet any revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation. —PTI

Centre calls meet on Gorkhaland, angers Trinamul

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, OCT. 4

Barely eight months before the Assembly election in West Bengal, the Centre has invited the Mamata Banerjee government to a meeting on Gorkhaland with Gorkha Janmukti Morcha in New Delhi this week, leaving the Trinamul Congress fuming and the BJP smiling.

The Modi government's move comes close on the heels of BJP MP of Darjeeling Raju Bista's statement in the last session in Parliament where he raised the demand of the people of the hills for Gorkhaland as a "permanent solution" and mentioned the BJP's electoral promise in 2019 Lok Sabha polls to fulfil it.

Recently, the ministry of home affairs in a letter to the state government requested state home secretary, Darjeeling district magistrate and principal

secretary of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration to attend the meeting to be convened by Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy at 11 am on October 7.

Besides, a similar invitation has been sent to the president of GJM, the Darjeeling-based political party which spearheaded fierce Gorkhaland movement both before and after the Trinamul came to power in the state in 2011. Bimal Gurung, who founded the GJM, was its president for many years. He, however, went underground with cases against him after violence rocked Darjeeling leading to a prolonged shutdown in 2017. In November of that year, Mr Gurung was suspended by his rival camp in the party led by Binoy Tamang, while taking control of the outfit.

■ Page 5: Gurung camp builds rapport with BJP

FARM BILLS OUT ON CONGRESS RETURN: RAHUL

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI OCT. 4

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi once again lashed out at the Central government over the passage of Farm Bills in the recently concluded Monsoon Session of Parliament.

He said that his party will scrap the three farm laws and throw them in the waste paper basket when it comes to power at the Centre. Mr Gandhi's statement comes in the backdrop of the launch of the "Kheti Bachao Yatra" in Punjab with chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Sunday.

Flagging off a three day tractor rally against the farm bills, Mr Gandhi said, "Their (the BJP's) only aim is to destroy MSP and food procurement. The Congress is not going to let this government to do it. I guarantee that whenever the Congress returns to power, we will remove these black laws. We will fight the government and remove these laws."

SHORT TAKES

GUTKA, TOBACCO
WORTH ₹10L
SEIZED, 2 HELDDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

Two persons selling gutka, chewing tobacco products and foreign cigarettes were arrested and the products, worth ₹10 lakh, were seized from them. A team of the South Zone Task Force raided two houses at Naseebnagar, Phoolbagh, and in Fatehshah nagar and seized the materials.

The police said the two men and the seized products were handed over to the Chandrayanagutta and Bhavaninagar police officials for further action.

2 CORPORATE
EMPLOYEES DIE
IN MISHAPSANJAY SAMUEL PAUL
| DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

Two persons working with a corporate company died on the spot at Madinaguda in an accident involving a lorry.

Miyapur police said the victims, Panchala Srinivas and Epithi Swetha, colleagues at a corporate company, were proceeding to Moula Ali on a scooter around 6 am as Swetha had to write her DECET (Diploma in Elementary Common Entrance Test). While they were going from Chandanagar towards Kukatpally, a lorry hit their scooter in front of the Madinaguda bus stop.

According to Miyapur inspector Venkatesh Shamala, both the scooter riders died on the spot. Their bodies have been sent to Osmania Hospital for post-mortem. Further investigations are on.

BOOKIES AMONG
FIVE ARRESTED
FOR BETTINGDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT 4

Every game of the ongoing IPL 2020 in the UAE appears to result in not just an exciting game of cricket for fans of the sport but also an opportunity to try and make money off the games through illegal betting.

On Sunday, the city police said that they had arrested five men, including bookies and punters, for betting and running of the odds on Saturday evening.

Task Force officials, on credible information, raided the office of the Manbhavana Chit Funds Pvt Ltd, at MPM Mall, on Abid Road on Saturday. Anand Bhai Tapadia, the organiser and bookie, Shyam Sunder Sharma a sub-bookie, and three punters — Pamba Karandas, Tumwar Ashok and Voore Yashwanth Kumar — were arrested during the raid.

The police said the racket was being run under the direction of the main organiser identified as Alpesh, a resident of Gujarat, who led the ring that was accepting direct bets as well as online.

The police said ₹2.15 lakh was seized, along with 10 mobile phones, a television set, a set top box and remote, one calculator and a note book from the office.

RAJ BHAVAN TO
BE LIT IN PINK
ON OCTOBER 31DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT 4

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Sunday said that Raj Bhavan will be illuminated in pink colour on the last day of October, which is being observed as the breast cancer awareness month.

The Governor said she was inspired by the initiatives of the city-based Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation (UBF). She was delivering a speech at the third UBF Foundation Oration, where she was invited as the chief guest.

Sujatha Rao, former Union health secretary, said that the government was focusing on raising awareness on breast cancer and strengthening the health and wellness clinics under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

She said that India needs to step up the number of oncologists from the current level of 1,250, as well as radiographers and other allied specialties and upskill physicians and nurses working in the district hospitals and primary health-care centres.

GST: States need a helping
hand, Centre must support

States sacrificed their fiscal autonomy to facilitate introduction of GST

T. HARISH RAO

The issue of Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation to states has taken centre-stage because of a very unreasonable stand taken by the Centre. States had facilitated the introduction of GST by sacrificing their fiscal autonomy in the interests of harmonisation and simplification of the indirect tax system.

While state taxes subsumed under the GST accounted for around 50 per cent of their own tax revenue, taxes subsumed by the Centre constituted only 31 per cent. The Centre enacted the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 mandating compensation to states for loss of revenue on account of implementation of GST for a period of five years. For the purpose of compensating states, the Act envisages levy of compensation cess for five years, and beyond if the GST Council so recommends.

At GST Council in 2017, Union finance minister assured that in case GST compensation fund fell short of compensation, the GST Council shall decide mode of raising additional funds, including borrowing. As states

are recipients of compensation, assurance implied that the Centre would borrow. This was reassured by secretary of the Council in response to an issue raised by Telangana.

There was no problem in first two years. At end of 2018-19, there was a surplus of ₹47,272 crore in compensation fund, which was credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) and used by the Centre. This was in contravention of the Act that stipulates that cess collections shall be credited into a non-lapsable fund in the Public Fund. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his report placed in Parliament recently pointed out this impropriety. GST compensation instead of being transferred from Public Account was transferred as grants-in-aid.

In 2019-20, cess collection fell short of compensation by ₹69,751 crore. Compensation was paid to states with undue delays by utilising the cess wrongly credited into the CFI and transferring the remaining amount from the IGST balance of 2017-18.

The Coronavirus pandemic in the current year



T. Harish Rao

coupled with the slowdown in economic growth in recent years, has adversely affected the revenues of both the Centre and the states. Though nearly six months are elapsing in the current fiscal year, states have not received any compensation. In a meeting of GST Council specially called for discussing the issue of compensation, the Centre presented two options to states. Under Option-1, states have been allowed to borrow ₹97,000 crore, which is revenue loss attributable to implementation of GST, through a special window. This debt will be serviced by the Centre through extension of cess beyond five years. Under Option-2, states

● **AT GST Council in 2017, Union finance minister assured that in case GST compensation fund fell short of compensation, the GST Council shall decide mode of raising additional funds, including borrowing. As states are recipients of compensation, assurance implied that the Centre would borrow.**

were allowed to borrow ₹2.35 lakh crore, which is estimated loss of revenue on account of implementation of GST as well as loss attributable to Covid-19 pandemic. Under the second option, states will have to bear interest burden.

The Centre put forth four arguments on why states should borrow instead of Centre. One, Centre's borrowings will have macro-economic repercussions; two, no express provision in GST Act that Centre would bear liability shortfall in compensation cess, three, states (as of September 8, 2020), have borrowed only 1.25 per cent of GSDP though enhanced borrowing limit is 5 per cent and four, shortfall in cess cannot be paid out from CFI. None of

these arguments stand up to scrutiny.

Denying states their rightful entitlement of GST compensation in these critical times is a clear breach of trust. After the introduction of GST, states do not have any major source of revenue. The Centre has various sources of revenue such as income-tax, corporation tax and customs duties, which are outside the ambit of GST. Furthermore, the Centre has access to non-tax revenues, which are not sharable with states, like dividends from Central public sector undertakings, dividends from Reserve Bank of India, sale proceeds of spectrum, etc. This is not the time to leave states to fend for themselves. States are in need of a helping hand. The only viable option for bridging the trust deficit and to adhere to provisions of GST Compensation Act is Centre should borrow to fully compensate states without resorting to unlawful distinction between loss on account of GST implementation and Covid-19 induced loss.

(The writer is finance minister, government of Telangana state)

Harish: Cong is
day-dreamingS.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

Ridiculing the recent call of Manickam Tagore, AICC in-charge of Telangana Congress, to ensure a Congress win in the 2023 elections, finance minister T. Harish Rao on Sunday said the Congress was only day-dreaming.

Harish Rao was speaking after five prominent Congress leaders and municipal councillors of Medak Municipality joined the TRS in Medak in his presence.

Charging that the Congress and the BJP had entered into a secret pact in Telangana state, he pointed out that the Congress was targeting the state government instead of the NDA government at the Centre, which passed three con-

tentious agriculture bills. He wondered why the Congress did not even stage a protest against the anti-farmer bills. He said "the Congress behaviour was a clear indicator that the two national parties had arrived at a secret understanding in the state."

Harish Rao told Tagore that he should know how the Telangana state government was working for the welfare of farmers before criticising Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

Exuding confidence of winning the Dubbaka seat with a huge majority in the ensuing byelections, he pointed out that Congress leaders have not set a foot in the constituency even though the election schedule has been announced.

Tagore gears up
to challenge TRSIREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY
| DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

Manickam Tagore, All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Telangana state Congress affairs, has sparked new hopes among state Congress leaders through his energetic functioning. After reaching Hyderabad, Tagore has been implementing programmes to rejuvenate the party in the state as directed by the high command and taking on Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on various issues.

Though he has brought "josh" within the Congress cadre, the topic being discussed in party circles is how to face challenges in the forthcoming elections. The Dubbaka byelection is the first test. The TRS has intensified its campaign and deployed several MLAs. The BJP has appointed former ministers and former MPs as mandal in-charges and is actively campaigning.

The Congress has so far failed in even naming a nominee. Cheruku Muthyam Reddy, Congress candidate in 2019, has joined the TRS. There are murmurs that the party has no candidate with potential. Senior Congress leaders have been heard proposing that the ticket be given to Cheruku Srinivas Reddy, son of Cheruku Muthyam Reddy but the Congress house seems to be divided internally on the issue.

Tagore is facing challenges of not just fielding a suitable candidate, but with also matters like balancing party factions, ensuring the BJP's defeat, and working on getting a sizeable vote share.

Then there are the GHMC elections, which will be a real challenge. The Congress does not seem to be focused on channelling sentiments against the ruling party. The TRS and the BJP are already in the process of selecting candidates, whereas the Congress is yet to select its division and booth committees.

In the previous GHMC elections, Congress won only two divisions and lost its deposit in more than 100. As the Congress

STAY IN DUBBAKA
TO WIN BYPOLL,
CONGMEN TOLDDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

Congress's TS affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore has directed party leaders to stay in the Dubbaka constituency to ensure a win in the ensuing bypolls.

On Sunday, Tagore told a meeting of senior party leaders that teams were being formed with young leaders in Dubbaka. If leaders show negligence in campaigning, it will not be spared. "If we show our commitment and work hard, we can come into power in 2023," said Tagore.

With regard to the Dubbaka nominee, he said, "After discussing with the PCC chief and leaders from Medak district, the candidate's name for the bypoll will be declared."

Tagore said that the way the Governor was treating the party cadre is saddening. When party leaders went to meet her to hand over a letter expressing their concerns over the Farm Acts, she did not give them time and did not even reply to the email.

Condemning the incident of rape of a girl at Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, he said that the party will declare a satyagraha on Monday to protest the incident.

has only the Malkajgiri MP seat in the GHMC region, it will be interesting to see how Tagore will strengthen the Congress.

Elections to be held next year for the two graduate MLC seats will be another challenge. In the past, the Congress had to settle for the third place in these two seats. Tagore, however, maintains: "The Congress has a good vote-bank in Telangana state. People also respect Congress as the party which gave statehood. The party will achieve good results in all the forthcoming elections, as people will teach a lesson to KCR and corrupt TRS leaders."



Candidates ready to appear for the UPSC preliminary examinations at the University College of Women at Koti in Hyderabad on Sunday.

— P. SURENDRA

Low turnout for UPSC prelims
exam in TS amid pandemicHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

The Civil Services (Prelims) Examination conducted by UPSC on Sunday across India saw low attendance in Telangana state, both in the morning and afternoon shifts. Only 65 per cent of those who had applied turned up during the morning session, while presence during the afternoon session fell to 44 per cent.

Around 46,000 candidates had registered for writing the exam from Telangana state. The exams were conducted at 100 centres in Hyderabad and Warangal districts amid strict Covid-19 safety guidelines. In keeping with the physical distancing protocol, each exam centre in the city had only around 300-500 candidates allotted to it. Candidates said Paper-I during the morning session with questions from general studies, history, and current affairs was far more difficult than they had anticipated.

Paper-II during the afternoon session had questions on quantitative aptitude, reasoning, and comprehension. Aspirants are required to score a minimum 33 per cent in Paper-II before their marks in Paper-I are considered.

Several candidates complained on social media of errors in Hindi medium question paper. "Terms like Civil Disobedience Movement were translated incorrectly in Hindi. Do not authorities bother to check what is being put in question papers of

those who have opted Hindi medium," a candidate asked.

As for the difficulty level of the exam, candidates said even though they faced unexpected questions, they will start preparing for their Mains, rather than dwelling on mistakes in Prelims.

This year, around 10.58 lakh candidates applied for UPSC prelims examination pan India, though the vacancies notified this year are 796. The number of vacancies last year was 896.

CM fails but blames Centre: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar has questioned Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for writing a letter to the Centre just days before the October 6 Apex Council meeting called by the Union Jal Shakti ministry to resolve river water disputes between the two Telugu states.

In a letter on Sunday, Sanjay said the CM was blaming the Centre for his failures. "You are shedding crocodile tears on the Pothireddypadu issue now after your failure to act in time and deliberately allowing damage to the



Bandi Sanjay Kumar

interests of Telangana state all these days."

Asking the Chief Minister if he could not have discussed the issues raised in his letter in the

Apex Council meeting, Sanjay said, "it is only a show-off."

Sanjay said that the state had approached the Supreme Court in 2014 for setting up a tribunal for sharing of Krishna water and the court had ordered that the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal would decide on the matter. "The tribunal is hearing the matter and is likely to give its judgment any time now. Is the Centre not bound by the Supreme Court order?" he said.

Sanjay claimed that it was after he wrote a letter to the Union Jal Shakti minister requesting him to stop the "illegal" Pothireddypadu project

that the Centre, through the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), had responded and asked AP not to go ahead with it.

When the AP government did not respond, the Centre tried to convene the Apex Council meeting on August 5, Sanjay said adding, "but you (CM) asked for postponement until after August 20 only to allow Andhra Pradesh to complete the tender process."

He alleged, "the fact of the matter is that you have colluded with Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and both of you are playing a cruel game with the people of the two states."

Governor indulging in
politics, says DasojuDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

AICC spokesperson Dasoju Shrivani criticised Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Sunday, saying that it was not the Congress but the Governor who was indulging in politics at Raj Bhavan.

Dr Sravan told the media at Gandhi Bhavan: "When the Congress requested an appointment to give a memorandum on the agitation against the farm Acts, the Governor refused citing Covid-19. The

● **DR SRAVAN said that the party had offered to submit the memorandum to her public relations officer if the Governor is not ready to receive it.**

Congress had clearly mentioned that the delegation would consist of just two or three senior leaders."

Dr Sravan said that the party had offered to submit the memorandum to her public relations officer if the Governor is not ready to receive it.

"She refused that offer and did not permit us to

leave the memorandum at the Raj Bhavan entrance. In spite of it, Congress leaders did not say a word against her. It is highly condemnable that the Governor has termed our agitation and struggle for saving farmers as a political drama," Dr Sravan said.

"At the same time, she gave permission to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to visit Raj Bhavan and felicitate her husband Dr P. Soundararajan, who received an award," Dr Sravan said.

SHORT TAKES

BJP SLAMMED FOR CRITICISING KCR ON WATER

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

TS Planning Board vice-chairman B. Vinod Kumar on Sunday slammed Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy and BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar for criticising Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Rao over the handling of the water disputes with Andhra Pradesh.

Kumar told the media that the Centre was responsible for resolving interstate water disputes by constituting a tribunal under the Interstate River Water Dispute Act 1956. He said Kishan Reddy's offer that the Centre would mediate in the dispute showed no understanding of statutory and constitutional provisions.

Listing out the steps taken by the state government, Kumar asked BJP leaders to bring pressure on the Prime Minister and the Union Jal Shakti minister to ensure that the Krishna river tribunal allocates water to the Telugu states.

BIG QUEUES AS DEVOTEES THROG YADADRI TEMPLE

Hyderabad: Following the resumption of Arjitha sevas and tonsure offerings on the hill shrine, the Yadadri Lakshminarsimha Swamy temple witnessed a massive rush of devotees on Sunday.

It took more than 30 minutes for devotees in the queues to get the darshan of the presiding deity in Balalayam. The temple authorities have taken special steps to preserve the physical distancing in the queues.

Being a Sunday, the temple had a steady stream of devotees. Devotees were allowed to participate in limited numbers in Arjitha sevas — Abhishekham, Sudarshana Narsimha Homam and Nitya Kalyanam.

— INTV

SCB to probe land-grab

Says leased defence land outside civilian area encroached

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) will soon appoint a fact-finding committee to inspect land near the Malla Reddy Gardens, which is being encroached. This was announced by SCB vice-president J. Rama Krishna while he was on an inspection of the area in Bowenpally.

According to official sources, the total land

under the SCB is about 40.17 sq km. B1 category of land, under the management of the Centre, constitutes 4.2 percent of the area.

Part of this land is under the airport authorities.

Majority of the slums are in the B2 land, which is mainly owned by the state government and private parties. B3 category of land belongs to the defence ministry that has been given on lease.

■ **MAJORITY OF the slums are in the B2 land, which is mainly owned by the state government and private parties. B3 category of land belongs to the defence ministry that has been given on lease.**

These lands comprise 4.9 per cent of the total area. The SCB vice-president

told *Deccan Chronicle*, "In the inspection conducted on Sunday, we saw that several marriage and function halls in Bowenpally area hardly contribute to board's finances, as taxes paid by them are meagre. I will have a fact-finding committee approved in the next board meeting. The committee will also look into the small sheds that have come up in the area," Rama Krishna added.

CRPF MEETING ON MAOISTS SPARKS TENSION

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA I DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 4

A high-level meeting of senior police officials of Maoist-affected areas in Telangana state, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh was held at the Wajedu-Venkata-puram camp of the Central Reserve Police Force.

K. Vijay Kumar, senior security adviser to the Union home ministry, chair-ed the meeting. Kumar, who had earlier blunted red sandalwood smuggler Veera-ppan, is in Telangana state for the first time. Telangana state Director General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy, who has visited the areas twice in the last two months, participated in the meeting. Others at the meeting were A.P. Maheshwari, CRPF DG; Ashok Juneja, SDG Naxal, Chhattisgarh; Prakash, DIG Operations CRPF; Sunder Raj, DIG Bastar range; Sunil Dutt, SP Bhadradi-Kothagudem; Sangram Singh Patil, SP, Mulugu; and senior officers from the state police and CRPF. Though no details were made available, the main agenda was expected to be the increasing Maoist activities along the borders of the three states. It is expected that a strategy will be devised to uproot the Maoists.

The presence of a large number of police officials in the area caused tension among the locals.

Rich pretend to be workers for Aasara

PULI SHARATH KUMAR I DC
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 2

Hundreds of ineligible people are cornering Aasara pensions while eligible ones are being denied the same in the four districts of Karimnagar, Jagtial, Peddapalli and Rajanna Sircilla.

Even well-settled people owning air-conditioned cars and furnished houses are claiming pensions by pretending to be bidi workers.

While 22,679 applications are pending approval in these districts, an estimated ₹7 crore is being paid out to ineligible beneficiaries.

According to a survey by Loksatta Udhya Samasta (LUS), around 3,000 ineligible beneficiaries are receiv-

ing Aasara pensions in Karimnagar district alone. It has demanded that these people be weeded out.

The state government gives monthly pension of ₹3,001 to physically challenged while others like widows, weavers, toddy tappers, bidi workers, single women, and HIV and filaria patients get ₹2,016.

Neelam Lakshmi of Gollelly, Lalitha of Sircilla town and Amudala Shankaravva of Lakshmi-pur had applied for pensions after the death of their husbands. Their applications have not yet been approved. While this is so, there are many families wherein more than one person is receiving pension. LUS has identified 668 cases.

GOSHAMAHA TRS GROUPS ARGUE ON POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti's Goshamahahal constituency meeting ended with heated arguments between two groups on Sunday, in the presence of home minister Md Mahmood Ali.

The meeting was held to discuss the upcoming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and MLC graduates' constituency elections.

The issue began when TRS senior leader R.V. Mahender was not called on to the stage and his supporters began questioning the minister. Subsequently, Mahmood Ali called Mahender on the stage and continued the meeting.

After the minister left the place, Mahender and another TRS leader, Jai Shanker, quarrelled in front of other senior leaders.

Both the leaders lodged complaints against each other with the Narayana-guda police. Party leaders are trying to pacify the two as the police started making inquiries.

Kishan switches on 280 CCTVs he had funded

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday inaugurated closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at the DCP East Zone office, Amberpet, along with city police commissioner Anjani Kumar.

As legislator between 2014 and 2019, Kishan Reddy had sanctioned about ₹2.45 crore from his Constituency Development Fund to instal 280 CCTV cameras in Kacheguda, Amberpet, and Malakpet police station limits in his Amberpet Assembly constituency.

The Union minister said the measures along with several others were being taken to help with the smart police policy being carried out all over the country in the face of rising crime.

"The new technology will help the patrols and SHE teams identify crime hotspots," he said.

The MoS added that



Minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy along with Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar inaugurates CCTV cameras at the DCP East Zone office in Amberpet, Hyderabad, on Sunday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Telangana state is at the forefront of enforcing punishments for the accused by using technology, and has given first priority to crime control as part of the Safe City drive.

Anjani Kumar thanked the Union minister for funding the CCTV cameras and added that a command control for CCTV surveillance will be made available in Banjara Hills.

Theatre owners look to Talasani

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

With confusion over reopening of cinema theatres, Covid-19 safety protocols to be followed and restrictions that the audiences may have to be ready for, the TS Film Chamber of Commerce on Sunday said that a way forward could emerge after a scheduled meeting with minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Monday.

With some movie exhibitors declaring that they were ready to reopen cinemas with Covid-19 standard operating procedures in place, there appears to be some confusion among the theatre owners' community over just how to go about not just the reopening of the cinemas but to make movie watching experience a safe and enjoyable one. The state has 480 single screen theatres and 250 multiplex theatres.

TSFCC vice-president V.L. Sridhar said, "There is no clarity on the opening of theatres. The Centre has given permission for reopening from October 15, leaving the final decision to the states. We are looking forward to the meeting with the minister so there can be some clarity."

Among the challenges expected to be faced by the theatre owners or operators are ensuring social distancing and whether or not to have the traditional mid-movie breaks that could

■ **THEATRE OWNERS are worrying not only about the reopening of cinemas but also how to make movie watching experience a safe and enjoyable one.**

result in crowding at the concession stands. If a decision is taken to have such breaks, how long they should be to ensure crowding does not occur and the like, are the other challenges facing them.

TS Film Development Corporation chairman, Ram Mohan Rao told *Deccan Chronicle* that meetings were held between producers, distributors and the exhibitors to work out how to go about the reopening of the theatres and release of movies and how the producers may seek to "test the waters" first before going ahead with big releases.

Asian Cinemas managing director Sunil Narang said, "We have already submitted our petition to state government. Once the government vets the standard operating procedures and gives the go-ahead, we can announce plans to reopen the cinemas. The government has always been a friend of the cinema industry and we are looking forward for some talks with the Minister that will prove beneficial to all the parties involved." Asian Cinemas owns more than 40 theatres.

NDRF teams save worker from rubble

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 4

A construction worker had a miraculous escape when a part of a compound wall fell on him and buried him waist deep in rubble and loose earth. Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams of the GHMC were on the spot in about 15 minutes after the incident in Trimulgherry and dug the construction worker, Anjanna, out safely in a three-hour operation.

"Fortunately, he was not injured. There were no visible injuries and he was taken to a hospital for a

check-up," Viswajit Kam-pati, director Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management of the GHMC, said.

Anjanna was working next to the compound wall of the neighbouring house when it collapsed on and around him.

The DRF personnel could not use heavy equipment to rescue him as there was no room to manoeuvre machinery.

The rescue workers carefully dug Anjanna out, removing the rubble around him while taking care that no fresh rubble fell on him, Viswajit said.

FORMAT C-1

(for Candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about Criminal Cases

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of Candidate : **K. KAVITHA alias KALVAKUNTLA KAVITHA Resident of H.No. 8-2-310/A/31/A, FLAT NO 202, HILL TOP RESIDECY, PLOT NO 214, ROAD NO.14, BANJARA HILLS, HYDERABAD, 500034**

Name of Political Party : **TELANGANA RASHTRA SAMITHI (TRS)**

Name of Election : **By ELECTION TO TELANGANA STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

Name of Constituency : **NIZAMABAD LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY**

I, **K. KAVITHA alias KALVAKUNTLA KAVITHA**, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information, the following details about my Criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending Criminal Cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and Status of Case	Section (s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date (s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & Punishment imposed
1	Metropolitan Sessions Judge cum court of special sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyderabad	CC No. 99 of 2018 Charges not yet framed	Under Section 341, 188 of Indian Penal Code - The accused person is in connection with Pro-Telangana agitation cases.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2	Metropolitan Sessions Judge cum court of special sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyderabad	CC No. 69 of 2018 Charges not yet framed	Under Section 188,353 and 427 r/w 34 of Indian Penal Code. The accused person is in connection with Pro-Telangana agitation cases	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

Sd/-

Kalvakuntla Kavitha
Contesting Candidate (TRS)
Nizamabad Local Authorities Constituency

FORMAT C-2

(for Political party to publish in website, newspapers, TV)

Declaration about Criminal antecedents of candidates setup by the party

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of Political Party : **TELANGANA RASHTRA SAMITHI (TRS)**

Name of Election : **By Election to Telangana State Legislative Council from Nizamabad Local Authorities Constituency**

Name of STATE/UT : **TELANGANA STATE**

1	2	3	4		5	
Sl. No.	Name of Candidate	Name of Constituency	Pending Criminal Cases		Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
			Name of Court, Case No. and Status of Case	Section (s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date (s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & Punishment imposed
1.	K.KAVITHA Alias KALVAKUNT LA KAVITHA	NIZAMABAD LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY	Metropolitan Sessions Judge cum court of special sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyderabad CC No. 99of 2018 Charges not yet framed	Under Section 341,188 of Indian Penal Code - The accused person is in connection with Pro-Telangana agitation cases.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	K.KAVITHA Alias KALVAKUNT LA KAVITHA	NIZAMABAD LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY	Metropolitan Sessions Judge cum court of special sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyderabad CC No. 69 of 2018 Charges not yet framed	Under Section 188,353 and 427 r/w 34 of Indian Penal Code. The accused person is in connection with Pro-Telangana agitation cases.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

Signature of the Office bearer of the Political Party

Name: **MADIREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY**Designation: **General Secretary****TELANGANA RASHTRA SAMITHI (TRS)**

SHORT TAKES

FIVE ARRESTED FOR HUNDI THEFTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, OCT. 4

Indrapalem police arrested five youngsters, M. Kodandam (22), K. Durga Prasad (19), V. Satish alias Pichukagadu (20), T. Naveen Kasi (20) and a minor from Kakinada, on charges of stealing cash and other articles from hundis in four temples in Amalapuram and Allavaram. They also stole bikes parked outside the temples under Indrapalem police station limits.

DSP (Crimes) Bhima Rao said that they recovered ₹78,950 including ₹13,950 hundi cash and seized two bikes. He appreciated the efforts of sub-inspector K. Nagarajuna Raju, ASI Suribabu and other personnel for nabbing the five. Indrapalem police registered a case.

BRITISH-ERA BRIDGE COLLAPSES

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, OCT. 4

A bridge built during the British times to link two villages — Kandrakota and Turpupakalu in Peddapuram mandal of East Godavari district — collapsed in the early hours of Sunday.

Because of the recent floods in Yeleru reservoir, the bridge had suffered huge damage. As a result, officials stopped traffic over the bridge and allowed only cycles to ply. The bridge collapsed early on Sunday morning and fell into the canal. According to locals, the bridge was built in 1932 with the initiative of Ganta Ramaswamy and Joka Venkataraju for connecting the two villages.

Panchayat Raj deputy executive engineer Bhaskara Ramesh said that using NABARD funds, there is a proposal to construct a new bridge at a cost of ₹3 crore.

FAKE VPT WEBSITE CHEATS JOBLESS YOUTH

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 4

Cyber crooks have posted a recruitment notification on a fake website of Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) and cheated numerous unemployed youth. It is not yet known how many aspirants applied for the posts, though the application fee for trainee engineers was ₹1,200.

The official website of VPT is www.vizagport.com, whereas cyber criminals put out the employment notification on the website www.visakhapatnamport.com. The notification announced that recruitment is being conducted for posts of trainee engineers and diploma trainee posts.

The fake website mentioned that educational qualifications for trainee engineers must B. Tech (Fresher) in mechanical, electrical, electronics, metallurgy, instrumentation, civil or chemical engineering. The basic salary was advertised as ₹80,000. The education qualification for diploma trainee posts was a diploma in polytechnic.

Fraudsters asked candidates to fill the application online and pay an application fee of ₹1,200 for trainee engineer posts and ₹1,000 for diploma trainee posts through the UPI payment mode.

Protest against Hathras rape



Members of the Telangana Mahila Congress burn the effigy of PM Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday over the rape and murder of a girl in Hathras.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Covid cases ease but don't let guard down

Experts say safety protocols must be strictly followed

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 4

The gradual decline in Covid-19 positive cases in the last few days is giving relief to the state administration and medical fraternity. Around, 65,000 tests are being conducted on an average in a day.

Covid Command Control Special Officer Dr C Prabhakara Reddy said that though the numbers are reducing, one should continue to take precautionary measures to contain the spread of virus.

Dr Prabhakar Reddy said that if this trend continues for some more days, there is optimism that the situation will be under control by the end of this month. He stated that deaths have reduced by almost 50 per cent.

He called upon youngsters to be particularly cautious in this regard and feel the responsibility to contain corona by following Covid-19 protocol. He said that positive cases are coming down while there is an increase in tests and contact tracing.

Dr Prabhakar Reddy further said that Hyderabad-headquartered Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) had identified that the virus is recurrent and even those who have recovered have to be on alert. He said that earlier districts like Krishna Kurnool and Guntur were reporting more number of positive cases. However, in recent times, except East and West Godavari districts, the other districts are reporting less than 500 positive cases on an average every day.

FORMER MLA SUCCUMBS TO CORONAVIRUS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 4

Veteran leader Dronamraju Srinivas, former chairman of the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Regional Development Authority, succumbed to Covid-19 at a corporate hospital on Sunday afternoon. He was 59 and is survived by his wife, a son and daughter.

Family members said Srinivas contacted the virus 20 days ago and was quarantined at home. He was taken to a corporate hospital after his lungs were infected. His condition started worsening and he was put on a ventilator.

Rajya Sabha member V. Vijaysai Reddy and Minister M. Srinivasa Rao were monitoring his health on a daily basis. Treatment bills were paid by the Chief Minister's Office, on the advice of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Cases fall below 6.5K mark

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 4

The decrease in Corona positive cases continued on Sunday in AP with the total number of cases during the last 24 hours dropping to 6,242 from an earlier average of 10,000 cases per day. Godavari districts are at the top in number of Covid-19 positive cases, with East Godavari crossing the one-lakh mark and West Godavari

being at the second place with total 70,133 positive cases on Sunday.

In all, 7,084 patients have been discharged after getting cured, increasing the recovery rate in the past 24 hours, providing a ray of hope that the spread of Coronavirus is being contained.

The total number of positive cases in the state reached 7,19,256 on Sunday. The number of

recoveries is 6,58,875, while there are 54,400 active cases and total 5,981 deaths due to Covid-19.

East Godavari district on Sunday registered 826 positive cases and crossed the one-lakh mark, recording total 1,00,785 positive cases. The Godavari districts account for 24 per cent of the state's infection tally. East Godavari itself accounts for 14 per cent of cases.

Jagan may meet Modi tomorrow; will seek CBI probe into land cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 4

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is scheduled to leave for New Delhi on Monday. During his two-day visit, he is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and as well as Union ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman and Jagendra Singh Shekhawat to appeal for release of funds that are

due to the state for ongoing projects as well as river water disputes with Telangana state.

His visit was finalised after the Union government announced an additional loan to the state.

The Union finance ministry has allowed the state government to obtain additional borrowing capacity for the successful implementation of the public distribution system (PDS) and

ease of doing business reforms.

There are speculations that he would discuss the issue of YSR Congress joining the NDA government at the Centre. Jagan Mohan Reddy could also seek some favours, including a CBI inquiry into the Amaravati land scam and AP Fibernet scam.

According to sources, during his earlier visit, he was asked for concrete proof and evidence to order a CBI probe, which the state government submitted subsequently. He is expected to reiterate his demand for a CBI probe.

The Chief Minister will reach Pulivendula by 11.30 am on Monday to attend a memorial programme for his father-in-law Dr E.C. Gangi Reddy. From Kadapa, he will reach Delhi by 6.30 pm.

He is likely to meet Modi on Tuesday.

GIRL CLAIMS SHE STABBED MAN WHO TRIED TO RAPE HER

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, OCT. 4

A minor girl from a remote village under Peddakurappalli panchayat in Ramasamudram mandal of Chittoor district has told police that she survived a rape attempt, thanks to a sickle she had with her.

Circle inspector Madhusudhan Reddy said the girl informed police that she and her sister were grazing sheep in the nearby forest area when a person they identified as Shankar (45) grabbed her from behind, dragged her into bushes and tried to rape her. "The girl claimed that she then hit the man with the sickle that she was carrying to cut grass, after which he let her go. She then went and complained to her parents in the village. Parents thereafter lodged a complaint with Ramasamudram police, who have registered a case," the inspector said.

However, the accused rapist has also registered a case against the minor girl and her family members for attacking and inflicting severe injuries on him. "Accused Shankar claims that the minor girl's family and he have a long-pending dispute over farmlands in their village. We are thoroughly investigating the matter to verify the facts," CI Madhusudhan Reddy said, adding that they are awaiting medical reports to proceed further into the case.

MENTALLY ILL WOMAN KILLS HER NEPHEW

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 4

A mentally challenged woman killed an eight-year-old boy at Lingamguntla village in Chilakaluripet mandal of Guntur district on Sunday.

Chilakaluripeta sub-inspector G. Bhaskar identified the woman as Sk Asia. The victim was Karimulla, her elder sister Fathima's son. Fathima, residing at Narasaraopet, was going to Chirala in Prakasam district with relatives and her left Karimulla at Asia's house, the official said.

There were screams from the house when Asia started attacking Karimulla on Sunday. Locals rushed and tried to rescue the boy. But the woman also attacked the locals with knives.

The locals then informed police who rushed to the spot. By then the boy was already dead. Police have taken Asia into custody and shifted her to the Government General Hospital in Guntur.

The boy's body has been taken to Chilkaluripeta hospital for autopsy and will be handed over to the family later, police said.

A case has been registered and investigation is on, police said.

Parents reluctant to send children to school in Nov.

VADREU SRINIVAS IDC
KAKINADA, OCT. 4

The state government's proposal to reopen schools in November has met with stiff opposition from parents who fear that it will not only cause huge financial loss to them, but also expose their children to a serious health hazard.

The experience in the United States of America and other countries clearly shows that reopening of schools is not advisable during the pandemic, argue several parents. It is not realistic to expect that children, especially in primary schools, will maintain distance, and one child may expose all others to the risk of contracting the virus. Further, the parents will have to shell down fees and they will also have to bear hospital expenses, if the child is infected with the virus.

In one school at Vizianagaram district, more than 20 school children were infected and thousands of students tested positive in the US, after schools were reopened.

Noted pulmonologist Dr D. Seshagiri Rao said that unless an effective vaccine is developed, it is not advisable to reopen schools. If the government wants to go ahead, masks should be provided to students and only a limited number of students should be allowed in each class, although the risk factor would be quite high.

Some parents formed the 'Kakinada School Parents' group to oppose moves for reopening schools.

"The government says the consent of parents before sending their children to school is compulsory. Who will take responsibility if a student contracts the virus?" said founder of the group, A.P.J. Vinu.

He urged Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy not to give permission for reopening of schools in the given circumstances.

Another parent K. Ramachandra Rao said that contrary to claims being made by the government, the number of cases is increasing. He said that despite large cases being reported, the government was not declaring such vulnerable areas as containment zones.

IN MEMORY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2nd Timothy 4:7)
The memory of the just is blessed...
Our Angel in the sky.
WISHING YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Until we meet again.



Late Smt. G.D. SWARNA LATHA
Beloved D/o G. Devavaram
Retd. Head Mistress, Govt. Primary School, Sheringampally, Madhupur, Hitech City.

Inserted by:
Smt. C.R. Aruna Kumari and
Terence Richard Murray,
Grand Children: Allen Murray and
Alex Murray
Sri. C.R. Raj Kumar and Sushma Prasanna
Grand Children: Glory and David Raj
Ph No: 9246169129, 9246369129

(CA-3431)

OBITUARY



Sri TV.S.R. ANJANEYULU
Retired Railway Employee
DOB: 23-05-1934 DOD: 03-10-2020
Cremation at Chandrabhai Arjun Smashan that
on October 05, 2020 11:00 am onwards

House No.12-13-1126/A Srigidha Kalakriti
Apartment, Block No A2, Flat no 408,
Shirdi Sai Nagar, Tarnaka, Hyderabad -17
Ph: 9963694907/ 9865992413
In Grief: Tadepalli Phanihushan,
Sujatha Tadepalli, Uma Shankar, Sai
kumari, Badida Rajendra Madhav,
Manjula, Mukunda Kishore, Cielappa
Prahlad, Vakula, Shankara Srinivas,
Vanaja, Baschali Prasanna, Padmaja,
Grand Sons and Daughters

MEMORIAL SERVICE

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



Vemavarapu Sundaramma,
W/o Late Vemavarapu Moses.

DOB: 05.04.1941 DOD: 03.10.2020
Memorial service at our residence,
Flat no 88/4, MIG, 3-phase, KPMB
colony. On 05.10.2020 7.00PM
Inserted by Vemavarapu Family and
Bandeala Family.
Mobile : 9160505522

Dear Loving Memory



Smt. SREEBHASHYAM INDIRA
W/o. Late. Sri. S. Krishna Kumar IPS (Retd.)

DOB:01.02.1928 DOD:05.10.2011
Dr.S.J. Das
S. Vinod - S. Malini
(9848797932)
Dr. S. Ravi Kumar - S. Sandhya
S. Shashi Kumar - S. Rajani
Grand Children & Sreebhashyam Families

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Smt. MADAS SARALA
(W/o Late Sri M.V. Narasimha Rao)

Happy Birthday Dearest Mummy
We cherish your sweet memories & miss you the most. You have been our guiding force all through. With your blessings we will continue to walk on your path & fulfill your dreams.
Sons and Daughters-in-Law
Daughters and Son-in-Law
and Grand Children

(CA-3430)

OBITUARY

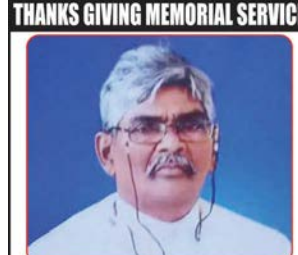
Because I live you also shall live Jn: 14:19



CHUNDI DANIEL AMBROSE
DOB: 12.06.1971 DOD: 04.10.2020
Funeral service at residence 10 am,
Funeral at Baptist Cemetery,
Narayanaguda.

Inserted by: Wife, Children
7799439148, 9866102930

THANKS GIVING MEMORIAL SERVICE



My beloved Husband late **Rev. B.S. Prasad Rao**
slept in the Lord on 8/9/2020.

D.O.B: 1/7/1946 D.O.D: 8/9/2020

"The memory of the just is blessed". Proverbs 10:7 KJV

Your life was a blessing to us, your memory is a treasure.

Thanks giving service will be held at my residence on Monday, the 5th Oct, 2020 at 7 pm. Venue: Plot No. 573A/5-6-184/1, S.K.D. Nagar, Vanshastharam, Hyd-500070.

Inserted by: **Mrs. M. Vimala Sarojini**
Ph: 9346604493, 9000539047

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Smt. MADAS SARALA
(W/o Late Sri M.V. Narasimha Rao)

Missing You on Your Birthday
Sons and Daughters-in-law, Daughter
and Son-in-law and Grand Children

(S/2021/D00671)

FOND REMEMBRANCE



Smt. KANTA PESHWANI
W/o Sunder Peshwani

Inserted by: Son: Sanjay Peshwani
Daughter in Law: Kanchan Peshwani
Grandchildren: Rajshri and Yuraj Peshwani
Daughter and Son in Law And
Peshwani Family
Cell: 9848953625

TREASURE TROVE Excavation yields interesting finds in temple town

Gold coins found in Srisaillam

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, OCT. 4

Excavation works underway at Ghanta Matam in Srisaillam for the past few months resulted in unearthing gold coins and a ring on Sunday. Earlier, silver coins, copper plates and a Dhyana Mandiram were among the recoveries.

K.S. Rama Rao, executive officer, Srisaillam Brhamaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple, said that the gold coins were found "intact" in a copper container at a water spring. The container has been exposed to the flowing waters and withstood the ravages of time, he said.

The gold coins were found inside the container besides



Gold coins unearthed at Srisaillam.

some silver coins. The gold coins seem to have been minted between 1860 and 1910. One coin has the likeness of King Edward VII of Great Britain.

Ashok Reddy, a coins historian, said that the 1902-1910 Edward VII gold full sovereign weighs 7.98 g of .917 purity gold, is 22.05 mm in diameter, and 1.56 mm thick.

"On the obverse side we see a portrait of King Edward VII facing right (Queen Victoria was facing left), and around him the inscriptions "Edwards VS VII D: G: BRITT: OMN: REX F: D: IND: IMP", he said.

"On the reverse we found Pistrucci's all-time classic design of St. George killing the dragon, suggested by the artist himself as a suitable motif to celebrate Britain's victory over Napoleon's army in the battle of Waterloo. The date of issue is also inscribed on the reverse side," he told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Rama Rao said "it was a blessing of Lord Shiva to have his mysteries revealed in the historic Srisailla Kshetram."

Kurnool localities get dirty water

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, OCT. 4

With drinking water pipelines getting mixed up damaged drain pipes, some colonies of Kurnool city are getting contaminated water since the past few days. The problem is acute in Lakshminagar and Bilal Masjid areas. Officials of the municipality's engineering department say they are trying to fix the issue.

Adding to the problem is sewage water overflowing onto the roads, mostly due to the rain. This problem is an annual feature. V. Venkateswarlu, a

resident of Lakshmi Nagar, said in Ward 24 opposite the Bilal Masjid, municipal water being supplied is contaminated. It is emitting a foul smell. "We are unable to use the water for cooking. If we use bore water, the fluoride content in it is very high. Despite several reminders, municipal authorities have not yet fixed the problem," Venkateswarlu complained. He said the civic body should send water tankers to supply drinking water.

Kurnool MLA Hafeez Khan said he has got in touch with officials concerned to fix the issue on priority.

SHORT TAKES

BJD MLA PRADEEP MAHARATHY DIES OF CORONAVIRUS

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 4

Former minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA from Pipili Pradeep Maharathy passed away on Saturday night. He was 65 and is survived by his wife, son and daughter. On September 14, the BJD leader had tested positive for Covid-19 and was undergoing treatment ever since.

Born on July 4, 1955, Maharathy was one of the towering non-Congress leaders in Odisha. Considered a close confidante of former chief minister Biju Patnaik, Maharathy began his career from student politics. He was elected as secretary, Morning College, Puri, and latter as president of SCS College, Puri.

In the 1975 Emergency, he was arrested under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA).

Known for his good sense of humour, the leader always projected him as a farmer. He always chose to raise the voice of common people both in and outside the state Assembly.

BJP MP WARNS OF 'GUERRILLA' STYLE RALLY IN WB

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, OCT. 4

In what may trigger controversy, BJP MP of Barrackpore Arjun Singh has threatened the Mamata Banerjee government of a "guerrilla" style rally by the saffron party which will "shake" the state secretariat Nabanna in Howrah on October 8. He also warned the Trinamul Congress that "no obstacles" would be accepted by the BJP workers in its mission.

To corner the TMC ahead of the Assembly elections in the state, the BJP Yuva Morcha has called the '*Nabanna Chalo Abhijan*' on seven issues — corruption in the SSC/TET recruitments, fair recruitment process, jobs to the unemployed, increase in age limit to appear for the examination, making the Public Service Commission free of corruption, bribery for jobs and jobs instead of allowance to the unemployed. The state secretariat houses the Chief Minister's office alongwith those of several Cabinet ministers and top bureaucrats.

RHEA SHOULD BE RELEASED, SAYS ADHIR

Kolkata, Oct. 4: A day after a panel of doctors at AIIMS in Delhi ruled out murder as the cause of Sushant Singh Rajput's death, leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Choudhury, on Sunday demanded that the actor's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty be released forthwith without further harassment.

Choudhury, who had said in the past that Chakraborty was being "falsely implicated" following her arrest in connection with a drug probe linked to Rajput's death, claimed on Twitter that she was a victim of a "political conspiracy".

"Now the BJP propaganda machinery may accuse the forensic team of AIIMS who has nullified the allegation that Rhea Chakraborty conspired to kill Sushant Singh Rajput," the state Congress chief tweeted.

"We are all pained by the expiry of Sushant ji but he cannot be honoured by falsely implicating a lady as an accused, I have earlier said that Rhea Chakraborty was an innocent lady, she should be released without further harassment to her, she has been the victim of Political conspiracy (sic)," he added.

Farmers burn paddy stubble



A farmer burns paddy stubble at a farm on the outskirts of Amritsar on Sunday. The pollution and smokey haze around the adjoining states of Punjab and Haryana, especially New Delhi has been linked with stubble burning and is said to be a contributing factor for increasing air pollution.

— PTI

ISI may take advantage of Punjab farmer strike: Intel

Reports suggest that Pak agency is trying to take advantage of farmers stir

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 4

Central intelligence and security agencies are closely monitoring the situation in Punjab as they feel Pakistan's intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is desperate to take advantage of the ongoing farmers' agitation in the state and wants to open a new front in Punjab after Kashmir.

The situation in Punjab remains tense as farmers are protesting against the recent farm Bills

cleared by the Centre.

Intelligence sources claimed that they were in constant touch with the state authorities to monitor the situation as reports suggest that ISI would use the agitation to revive militancy in the state. Similar attempts were also made in recent months when weapons were dropped close to the border using drones from Pakistan for subversive elements in Punjab.

Following this, security was increased considerably along the Indo-Pak

● **INTELLIGENCE SOURCES** claim that they were in constant touch with the state authorities to monitor the situation as reports suggest that ISI would use the agitation to revive militancy in the state.

border both by the BSF and the Punjab Police. Killing some religious and political leaders in the last few months was also seen as a desperate attempt to revive militancy in Punjab.

But now the intelligence and security agencies are extremely skeptical that in view of the ongoing agitation, the security situation might be compromised.

"In the past we have seen that ISI always tries to take advantage of such a situation. They made attempts in Kashmir Valley also following the abrogation of Article 370 but our security agencies did not let them succeed. Even in Punjab we will ensure that attempts by ISI to reactivate terror activi-

ties will fail completely," a senior security official said.

Following close coordination between Central and state security agencies, patrolling and surveillance in some sensitive areas, particularly along the border, have been increased substantially. As a preventive measure, the intelligence units in all districts have been activated in order to ensure that no untoward incidents take place in the wake of the agitation by farmers in Punjab.

No more than 100 people can attend poll rallies, directs HC

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 4

Gwalior bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed to register FIR if the poll rallies being organised by political parties in the election-bound Assembly constituencies in the state, comprised more than 100 people.

A court's directive came on Saturday in the wake of the spike in Coronavirus positive cases in the state. The state has reported 1.33 lakh positive cases and 2,399 deaths till date.

The court's directive was in response to public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Ashish Pratap Singh.

The court has also appointed a 3-member-lawyer team to keep a vigil on the political activities in the state and report cases of breach of protocol, if found, to the court through its registrar.

The petitioner has contended that the political parties attracted huge crowds in their rallies

● **THE COURT'S** directive was in response to a PIL filed in the wake of the spike in Coronavirus positive cases in the state, so far MP has reported 1.33 lakh Coronavirus positive cases and 2,399 deaths till date.

which has increased risk of spreading the virus. The court in its interim order observed that the politicians, leaders, and functionaries of the government should set an example for the people by abiding by the Covid-19 guidelines.

The court held that the district magistrates would be liable for contempt of court if they would be found wanting in implementation of the court's directive.

The court said any person can take photographs of such congregations and place it before the appropriate bench for adjudication, through the principal registrar.

The next date for hearing in the case has been set for October 15.

SHIVRAJ LEAVES FOR DELHI TO FINALISE CANDIDATES FOR BYPOLLS

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 4

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan left for Delhi on Sunday to finalise candidates for the 28 Assembly constituencies which are going to bypolls on November 3.

Chouhan was scheduled to meet central BJP leaders to finalise the candidates for Assembly by-elections which may prove crucial for survival of his government.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has earlier in principle decided to re-nominate the 25 ex-Congress MLAs who had resigned from the house and the grand old party leading to collapse of Kamal Nath government in March this year, from their respective Assembly seats in the ensuing by-elections.

However, the party was

yet to finalise candidates for three other Assembly constituencies, Jaura, Agar and Byabra, leading to the delay in the release of the candidates' list.

By-elections in these three Assembly seats were necessitated following the death of sitting MLAs.

"State election committee of the party has recommended two names each for the three Assembly seats to the Central election committee of party for finalisation of candidates for these constituencies", a senior BJP leader here said.

Filing of nomination for the Assembly by-elections would commence from October 9.

The Congress has already announced its candidates for 24 Assembly seats. Similarly, BSP has come out with a list of its candidates for 18 seats.

GURUNG CAMP BUILDS RAPPORT WITH BJP

From page 1

Mr Tamang was in the good books of the TMC for his pro-government stand.

Meanwhile, Mr Gurung and his camp built rapport with the BJP. His lieutenant, Roshan Giri, informed that their representative would attend the meeting. It is, however, not clear whether anyone from the state government or GTA would attend the meeting.

State tourism minister Goutam Deb alleged, "BJP is conspiring to divide Bengal. We will not allow this. We will foil this." Rejecting his claim, state BJP general secretary Savantan Basu made it clear that the saffron party is against the division of the state but it wants a "permanent solution" to the issue.

● **STATE TOURISM** minister Goutam Deb alleges that the BJP is conspiring to divide Bengal and says that they will not allow this and will foil the attempt.

Plans to vaccinate 25 crore people by July 2021: Minister

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, OCT. 4

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Sunday said the government plans to vaccinate about 25 crore people against the Coronavirus by July next year.

He said priority would be given to health workers engaged in Covid-19 management in getting inoculated and asserted the Centre would ensure fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, once they are ready. The health ministry has asked states to submit a list of priority groups by October end, particularly the health workers, who will receive vaccine shots.

The Centre estimates to receive 40-50 crore doses of the vaccine.

During an interaction on social media platforms, Dr

Vardhan said vaccine procurement would be done centrally with each consignment tracked real-time until delivery to ensure it reaches those who need it the most and there is no black-marketing. The list of frontline health workers will include both government as well as private-sector doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitary staff, ASHA workers, surveillance officers and many other occupational categories who are involved in tracing, testing and treatment of patients.

"The Centre is also working on plans for building capacities in human resources, training, supervision and others on a massive scale and roughly estimates to receive and utilise 40-50 crore doses covering approximately 20-25 crore people by July 2021. All this is under various stages of finalisation," he said.

India, China to hold 7th round of talks on Oct. 12

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 4

India and China will hold the seventh round of Corps Commanders-level talks on October 12 to discuss measures to disengage their armies at the line of actual control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh where both countries are engaged in 150 days of military stand-off.

The talks are being held when some high peaks at Ladakh have already seen some initial snowfall and winter has started to set in. Both sides are prepared to keep their armies at these high altitude mountains during winters when tempera-

tures dip to below zero degrees and bone-chilling wind make survival extremely difficult.

This will be the last meeting under 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen Harinder Singh, who is to take charge as Commandant of the Indian Military Academy (IMA) later this month after completing his one-year tenure.

Lt Gen PGK Menon, who will be the new 14 Corps Commander, will also take part in the Oct. 12 meeting. Representative from the ministry of external affairs, joint secretary (East Asia) Naveen Srivastava is also expected to attend the meeting.

SHOOTER SHREYASI SINGH JOINS BJP

New Delhi: Commonwealth Games gold medalist shooter Shreyasi Singh, whose father Digvijay Singh was a seasoned socialist leader from Bihar, joined the BJP on Sunday.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of Union of India invites Tender from competent and experienced Contractors having valid Electrical Contractor's license, technical expertise, financial solvency through E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railway for execution of the following works. Tender No. & Date - E-G-16 - ET - 20 - 21 (Open) Sr. No. (1) Name of work with its location - Augmentation of Power supply system over Samastipur Division. (2) Approx. Cost of Work- Rs. 17996372.83 (3) Earnest money - Rs. 240000.00 Cost of tender document -Rs. 5000.00 (Non Refundable) (4) Date & Time for closing & opening of tender - Date of closing of E-Tender at 12.00 hours on 22.10.2020 Date of opening of E-Tender from 12.30 hours on 22.10.2020. (5) Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office : www.ireps.gov.in , D.R.M. (Elect.) Office/Samastipur, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/G/Samastipur PR/0705/SP/JEGEN/T/20-21/36	

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
ईसीआर-सीएओ-कॉन-उत्तर-ई निविदा / उत्तर-38-20-21 दि. 01.10.2020, E-TENDER NOTICE NO. - ECR-CAO-CO-NORTH-ETN-38-20-21 E - TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK. Sl. No. 1. Name of work: Supplying, stacking, spreading, rolling of Pakur Range/Sahebganj loop machine crushed stone track ballast as per railway/RDSO specification on cess for Harinagar (Exd) to Valmikinagar road station (Incl) section in connection with doubling of Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar doubling project under DY/CE/C/NKE. Sl. No. 2. Approx cost of the work: Rs. 14,99,52,320/- Sl. No. 3. Earnest money: Rs. 8,99,800/- Sl. No. 4. Date and time for closing of tender: 28.10.2020 at 14.30 hrs. Sl. No. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. http://www.ireps.gov.in , and also can be seen in the office of CAO/Con/ECR,MHX,Patna Note: Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.gov.in atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender. CAO/Con/North ECR, Ry. Mahendraghat, Patna PR/708/CON/ENGG/T/20-21/48	

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-35-20-21 E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK S.N. 1, Name of work with its location: Miscellaneous civil works in connection with yard remodeling, construction of S&T building, FOB, Platform, approach road, retaining wall, PF shed and other miscellaneous works at Barauni Bypass station in connection with improvement of traffic facilities. S.N. 2, Approx. cost of the work of: Rs. 11,76,48,562.82 S.N. 3, Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 7,38,300.00 S.N. 4, Date and time for closing of tender : 27.10.2020 at 14.30 hrs. S.N. 5, Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. http://www.ireps.gov.in . Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.gov.in atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender. CAO/Con/North E.C.Railway/Mahendraghat, Patna PR/712/CON/ENGG/T/20-21/48	

HATHRAS | CASE Pehalvan's son blames victim's family, claims they keep 'changing their stand'

Meeting at ex-BJP MLA's house defends accused

Lucknow/Hathras, Oct. 4: Scores of people held a meeting on Sunday outside the house of a former BJP MLA in Hathras where they defended the accused in the alleged gangrape of a Dalit woman who later died, and demanded registration of an FIR against her family members.

Heavy police force was deployed in the vicinity of the residence of former BJP MLA Rajvir Singh Pehalvan, located around 8-9 kilometres from the vic-

tim's village. One of the organisers of the meeting and Pehalvan's son Manveer Singh denied that the gathering comprised members from the upper castes and said they were from "different sections of society". "We welcome the CBI inquiry ordered by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. We have faith in the investigation," Singh said while claiming that the victim's family members were "changing their stand". "The entire

scenario has been created to blame the government. The accused persons are in favour of any type of inquiry. But the victims are changing their stand every now and then. They do not want a narco test or a CBI probe. Now they want other kinds of inquiries," he claimed.

He said an FIR should be registered by police against the complainants in the case. "Our demand is that a case should be filed against those people who had filed

the case in the first instance," he said.

The 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped by four upper caste men in Hathras on September 14. She died on September 29 at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. Singh also said various legal options were being explored to defend the accused in the case. He asserted that the arrest of some of the accused persons from their homes was proof of their innocence.

— PTI

AZAD CHIEF SEEKS Y-PLUS SECURITY FOR VICTIM'S FAMILY MEMBERS

Hathras, Oct. 4: Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhhar Azad on Sunday visited the family of Hathras gangrape and murder victim and demanded government to allocate Y-plus security cover to them.

He also demanded that the government order an investigation into case

under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge.

Speaking to ANI, he said, "I demand Y security for the family or I'll take them to my house as they aren't safe here. We want an inquiry to be done under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge."

— Agencies

IN BRIEF

Shooting: Police officer killed

Myrtle Beach (US): A South Carolina police chief announced early Sunday the death of an officer following a shooting in Myrtle Beach. Officer Jacob Hancher was killed while responding to a call for service late Saturday, Myrtle Beach Chief Amy Prock said at a news conference. It's unclear what led up to the shooting, but witnesses told *The Sun News* they heard several shots around 10 p.m. Police had said on social media that an officer involved shooting had occurred around that time. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has been called in to investigate, news outlets reported. Hancher was a community service officer for four years and had been a police officer for less than a year, Prock said.

3 blow up ATM in restaurant

Philadelphia: Three men blew up an ATM in a Chinese take-out restaurant in Philadelphia while the establishment was still open but were unable to get any cash, police said. The men entered the Golden Chinese/American takeout restaurant in northwest Philadelphia shortly after 9 pm Friday and ordered food, police said. They then placed some kind of explosive device which damaged the ATM and the window and knocked items off shelves behind the counter, police said. The three went back into the establishment but were unable to remove the cash box that was still inside the damaged ATM, police said. The three then fled, one on a bicycle and the other two on foot. Police were searching for suspects and no arrests were immediately reported.

New Caledonia votes to be free

Noumea (New Caledonia): Voters in New Caledonia turned out in large numbers on Sunday to decide whether the archipelago in the South Pacific should get independence from France and break ties that were first established in the mid-19th century. Sunday's independence referendum is part of a three-decade decolonisation effort aimed at settling tensions on the archipelago between native Kanaks seeking independence and residents willing to remain in France. More than 180,000 voters were invited to answer the question: "Do you want New Caledonia to gain full sovereignty and become independent?" "Today is not a day like any other. Everyone woke up with the will to express oneself (through the vote). This is a historic day," Robert Wayaridri, 60, said. In Noumea, the capital, large lines of people waited to vote under the hot sun, sometimes for hours. Almost 80% of voters had already casted their ballots one hour before poll stations closed, according to the French ministry of the Overseas.

XI FOR CLOSER TIES WITH BANGLADESH

Beijing, Oct. 4: Chinese President Xi Jinping said he stands ready with Bangladesh leaders to better align the two countries' strategies and jointly promote the construction of his multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to take the strategic partnership of the two countries to new heights. Xi made the remarks in an exchange of congratulatory messages with his Bangladesh counterpart, Mohammad Abdul Hamid, on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral diplomatic ties. Xi hailed the steady and long-term friendship saying he is ready to work with Hamid to better align development strategies with Bangladesh, step up cooperation under the framework of the BRI and push forward the China-Bangladesh strategic, cooperative partnership to a new level, official media reported. With over \$26 billion Chinese investments and \$38 billion funding commitments, Bangladesh is one of the largest recipients of China's infrastructure project. China has also offered zero-tariff treatment to 97 per cent of Bangladesh's exports by adding 5,161 more items to the existing list of 3,095 duty-free products. The BRI seeks to build rail, maritime and road links from Asia to Europe and Africa in a revival of ancient Silk Road trading routes.

Trump's condition was far worse than made public

Starting to feel good, says Don

Washington, Oct. 4: US President Donald Trump's condition on Friday after testing positive for the Coronavirus was far worse than was publicly acknowledged, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said late Saturday.

"He's made unbelievable improvements from yesterday morning, when I know a number of us, the doctor and I, were very concerned," Meadows told *Fox News* in an interview.

"I can tell you this the biggest thing we see is with no fever now, and with him doing really well with his oxygen saturation levels," he adds. "Yesterday morning we were really concerned by that. He had a fever, and his oxygen level had dropped rapidly. Yet in typical style, this president was up and walking around."

Meadows said there was never a risk Trump would have to hand over power to US Vice President Mike Pence, after a day of conflicting reports and confusion over the American leader's actual fitness.

His comments echoed remarks by White House doctor Sean Conley, who

Washington, Oct. 4: President Donald Trump, who was admitted to a military hospital for treatment of Covid-19, said he has started to "feel much better" and thanked the American people and global leaders for their support. "I came here. Wasn't feeling so well. I feel much better now. We're working hard to get me all the way back. I have to be back because we still have to Make America Great Again," Trump said in a video message from the military hospital in a suburb of Washington on Saturday. However, White House physician Sean

Conley has said the president is "not yet out of the woods". "While not yet out of the woods, the team remains cautiously optimistic," Dr Conley said, adding that the plan for Sunday is to continue observation in between doses of Remdesivir, closely monitoring his clinical status while fully supporting his conduct of presidential duties.

Conley, in a memorandum, said the President had received Regeron's antibody cocktail on October 2. "President Trump continues to do well, having made substantial progress since diagnosis," Conley said. — *PTI*

said Trump had "made substantial progress since diagnosis, and remained 'fever-free and off supplemental oxygen.'" Conley was evasive when asked earlier whether the Presi-

dent had received supplementary oxygen at any point since falling ill, only confirming that he hadn't received any at the hospital or on Thursday — the day of his test. — *AFP*

PREZ DIAGNOSIS: U.S. VULNERABLE TO CORONAVIRUS

St Charles (US), Oct. 4: President Donald Trump's startling Covid-19 diagnosis serves as a cruel reminder of the pervasive spread of the Coronavirus and shows how tenuous of a grip the nation has on the crisis, health experts said. With US infections rising for several weeks, Trump became one of the tens of thousands of Americans who test positive each day. He went through a "very concerning" period Friday and the next 48 hours "will be critical" in his care, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Saturday.

That differed dramatically from the rosy assessment by Trump's staff and doctors, who took pains not to reveal the president had received supplemental oxygen at the White House before he went to a military hospital. Some of Trump's advisers and allies also have tested positive. — *AP*



Azeri protesters tear and burn an Armenia national flag as they take part in a demonstration in Istanbul on Sunday in support of Azerbaijan in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh. — *AFP*

COURT TO HEAR NAWAZ SPEECH BAN APPEAL

Islamabad, Oct. 4: A Pakistani court will on Monday hear a petition seeking a ban on airing speeches of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on television channels, days after the top PML-N leader made blistering remarks from London targeting the country's powerful Army.

A citizen, Amir Aziz, filed the petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and made 70-year-old Sharif, his brother Shehbaz Sharif, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) chairman and others as respondents, the *Express Tribune* reported.

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah fixed October 5 as the date for hearing the petition, the paper said. — *PTI*

Azerbaijan's No. 2 city hit in fighting with Armenia

Baku (Azerbaijan), Oct. 4: The fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces continued on Sunday over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, with Azerbaijan's second-largest city coming under attack.

Azerbaijani officials said Sunday that Armenian forces attacked Ganja, the country's second largest city. Hikmet Hajiyev, an aide to the Azerbaijani president, tweeted a video depicting damaged buildings, and called it the result of "Armenia's massive missile attacks against dense residential areas" in Ganja. It wasn't immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the video. Hajiyev said in another tweet that attacks on Ganja and other areas in Azerbaijan were launched "from territory of

Armenia." Armenia's Defence Ministry said that "no fire of any kind is being opened from the territory of Armenia in Azerbaijan's direction."

But Nagorno-Karabakh's leader, Arayik Harutyunyan, confirmed on Facebook he ordered "rocket attacks to neutralize military objects" in Ganja. His spokesman, Vahram Poghosyan, said the territory's army destroyed a military airport in Ganja, a claim Azerbaijani officials denied. The attack on the city killed one civilian and left four others wounded, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry tweeted. Harutyunyan said he ordered his forces to stop the attacks on Ganja to avoid civilian casualties. Nagorno-Karabakh's leader added that "proportionate and crushing" strikes targeting the

opponent's forces would continue, if Azerbaijan fails "to draw appropriate lessons." The fighting, which broke out on September 27 and has continued for eight straight days, is the biggest escalation in years in the decades-long dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh. The region lies within Azerbaijan, but is controlled by local ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia. Both sides said the hostilities have spread beyond the break-away territory and accused each other of attacking areas outside Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ganja, with a population of more than 330,000, is located roughly 100 kilometres (about 60 miles) north of Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's capital. — *AP*

Bumpy situation till X-mas: Boris

UK records over 10K Covid cases in a day for the first time since mass testing began

London, Oct. 4: Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday warned of a "bumpy" ride at least through to Christmas in December, as the UK recorded more than 10,000 Coronavirus cases in a day for the first time since mass testing for the deadly virus was put in place.

According to official figures, there were 12,872 new cases on Saturday, while a further 49 people have died within 28 days of testing positive for Covid-19. However, the government said a technical issue meant some cases from earlier in the week were not recorded at the time so these were included in Saturday's data. In his interview, the UK PM tried to strike a note of optimism over progress in beating the virus and said he believed over the "next few weeks and months" the "scientific equation will change, whether that is vaccines or testing". "I've got to tell you in all candour it's going to continue to be bumpy through to Christmas, it may even be bumpy beyond," Johnson told the BBC.

"This could be a very tough winter for all of us — we've got to face that fact," he said. While insisting his government was working "flat out" to fight the pandemic, Johnson said he took "full responsibility for everything that has happened since the pandemic began", admitting the National Health Service (NHS) led Test and Trace system was "not perfect". But he said scientific advisers had told him that by spring in March/April 2021 "things will be radically different and we will be in a different world".

Johnson said he understood people's "frustration" at differing rules and restrictions for different parts of the country but stressed that localised lockdowns was the right way to go and wait to see if the R number — of the rate at which the infection is transmitted — comes down as a result. "I'm a freedom-loving Tory. I don't want to have to impose measures like this, are you crazy? This is the last thing we want to do. But I also have to save life. And that's our priority," he said. "And as Prime Minister I couldn't take a course that could expose us to tens of thousands more deaths in very short order...we've got to continue to bear down on this virus, whilst protecting the economy. That's the balance we've got to strike," he added.

The interview this week coincides with his Conservative Party's annual conference, being conducted virtually for the first time due to coronavirus restrictions on mass gatherings. The Tories have created a 3D virtual conference with a computer-generated auditorium, foyer and fringe meeting rooms. However, the system has not been smooth-sailing as the virtual platform crashed during a session with UK Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove. — *PTI*

Market capitalism has failed: Pope

Rome, Oct. 4: Pope Francis says the Coronavirus pandemic has proven that the "magic theories" of market capitalism have failed and that the world needs a new type of politics that promotes dialogue and solidarity and rejects war at all costs. Francis on Sunday laid out his vision for a post-Covid world by uniting the core elements of his social teachings into a new encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti" (Brothers All), which was released on the feast day of his namesake, the peace-loving St. Francis of Assisi.

The document draws its inspiration from the teachings of St. Francis and the Pope's previous preaching on the injustices of the global economy and its destruction of the planet and pairs them with his call for greater



Pope Francis

human solidarity to address today's problems. In the encyclical, Francis rejected even the Catholic Church's own doctrine justifying war as a means of legitimate defense, saying it had been too broadly applied over the centuries and was no longer viable. "It is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a 'just war,'" Francis wrote. — *AP*

Israel environment minister tests +ve

Jerusalem, Oct. 4: A member of Israel's Cabinet has tested positive for the Coronavirus as the country remains under lockdown while battling a second wave of infection.

Gila Gamliel, Israel's environmental protection minister and a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, announced on Twitter Sunday that she had tested positive. She was the fourth minister in Israel's government to test positive for Covid-19 since March. "I feel good and

hope to recover quickly with God's help," she wrote on social media.

The Israeli government imposed a nationwide lockdown on September 18 ahead of the Jewish High Holidays in an effort to rein in a runaway outbreak of the Coronavirus. The country has one of the highest daily infection rates per capita in the world. According to Health Ministry figures, Israel has recorded over 264,000 cases and almost 1,700 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. — *AP*

annual conference, being conducted virtually for the first time due to coronavirus restrictions on mass gatherings. The Tories have created a 3D virtual conference with a computer-generated auditorium, foyer and fringe meeting rooms. However, the system has not been smooth-sailing as the virtual platform crashed during a session with UK Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove. — *PTI*

Russia reports 10,400 new daily cases

Moscow, Oct. 4: Coronavirus infections in Russia hit a new record on Sunday, with the government reporting over 10,000 new confirmed cases for the first time since mid-May. The 10,499 new cases

reported on Sunday bring the country's total to over 1.2 million. Russia currently has the fourth largest caseload in the world and has so far reported over 21,000 deaths. The Russian authorities insist there are no plans to impose a second lockdown in the country that has lifted most of the virus-related restrictions imposed in the spring.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday another lockdown is currently not being discussed in the government. At the same time in Moscow, which reported over 3,000 new cases on Sunday in the biggest surge in months, officials have recommended the elderly to self-isolate at home. — *AP*

Rahman PDM head in Pak

Islamabad, Oct. 4: Firbrand cleric-cum-politician Maulana Fazlur Rahman has been unanimously appointed as the chief of the newly-formed Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an anti-government alliance launched by 11 Opposition parties to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan. The decision was taken on Saturday during a virtual meeting of the Opposition parties attended by Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Balochistan National Party chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal among other senior politicians.

According to PDM's steering committee convener Ahsan Iqbal, Sharif proposed 67-year-old Rahman's name as the alliance president and it was endorsed by PPP chair-

man Bilawal and others, the *Dawn* newspaper reported. Sharif had initially proposed that Rahman should be appointed as the president on a permanent basis, but the idea was opposed by Bilawal and Awami National Party (ANP) leader Amir Haider Hoti, who suggested that the office should be given on a rotational basis to leaders of the constituent parties, the paper reported, citing sources. — *PTI*

CURBS | LIFTED

Muslims from outside the Kingdom could be allowed to perform pilgrimage from Nov. 1

Pilgrims return to Mecca as Saudi eases virus restrictions

Riyadh, Oct. 4: A very small, limited number of people donning the white terrycloth garment symbolic of the Muslim pilgrimage circled Islam's holiest site in Mecca on Sunday after Saudi Arabia lifted Coronavirus restrictions that had been in place for months.

The kingdom had taken the rare step of suspending the smaller "umrah" pilgrimage that draws millions year-round from across the world in early March as the Coronavirus morphed into a global pandemic and prompted countries to impose lockdowns and curfews to slow down transmission. But as nations begin to ease those restrictions, the Saudi government on Sunday started allowing a maximum of 6,000 pilgrims a day to enter the sprawling Grand Mosque in Mecca.

Only Saudi citizens and residents will be permitted to enter the mosque during this first phase of reopening, and each person has up to three hours to complete the pilgrimage. The Grand Mosque,

which is being sterilised and cleaned multiple times a day, houses the cube-shaped Kaaba that observant Muslims pray toward five times a day. Before visitors can enter the mosque to pray or perform the umrah, they have to apply and reserve a specific time and date through an online application to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing. Visitors can also select via the app their means of transportation and meeting points.

State TV showed on Sunday what appeared to be

fewer than 50 people circling the Kaaba at the same time and walking several metres (feet) apart. Typically, the mosque would be packed with worshippers from around the world crowded shoulder-to-shoulder at all times of the day and night. The second phase for loosening restrictions at the Grand Mosque comes into effect on October 18, allowing a maximum of 15,000 pilgrims and 40,000 for prayer from among residents and citizens based on allocated times via the app.

Muslim travellers from outside Saudi Arabia could be allowed to perform the umrah pilgrimage as early as November 1, the Interior Ministry has said. Saudi Arabia recently began easing some restrictions on international flights for the first time since March. The kingdom held a dramatically downsized, symbolic hajj pilgrimage in July due to concerns that it could easily have become a global super-spreader event for the virus.



Muslims pray around the Kaaba on Sunday. — *AP*

IN BRIEF

DENMARK TO CULL 1MN MINK OVER COVID

Copenhagen, Oct. 4: Denmark will cull around 1 million mink after finding further coronavirus infections among the animals at farms that breed them for their fur, authorities said.

The Nordic country is the world's largest producer of mink and had previously culled animals on farms hit by infections, but outbreaks have persisted.

Fresh cases have been registered at 41 mink farms and another 20 were believed affected, totalling up to 1 million minks, Environment and Food Minister Mogens Jensen said at a press briefing on Thursday evening.

As a precaution, the culling will include farms situated within 8 km (5 miles) of a farm with infected mink.

"My main focus is on ensuring, that the...mink farms do not become an infection risk for people, and therefore the government has decided to cull the mink," Jensen said.

In May, Spain ordered the culling of all 93,000 mink at a farm to prevent human contagion after finding that most of the mink there were infected with the Coronavirus.

The Netherlands reported a similar outbreak.

ENEL'S GREEN HYDROGEN PLANT IN CHILE

Milan, Oct. 4: Italy's Enel ENELMI plans to team up with Chilean power company AME and others to install a pilot project to produce green hydrogen in Chile, the utility said.

The plant, which is expected to be commissioned in 2022, will be the first green hydrogen plant of its kind in the country and one of the biggest in Latin America.

Besides Enel Green Power Chile and AME, other prospective partners include Chilean oil company ENAP, Siemens Energy and Porsche.

Green hydrogen is produced from renewable energy sources using devices called electrolyzers. Enel said the Chile plant would be driven by wind power.

Enel, one of the world's biggest renewable energy companies, is looking to launch a new green hydrogen business to speed up plans to be a carbon-free power producer by 2050. "As we are doing in Chile, we will continue scouting for other countries worldwide where similar initiatives can be launched," Global CEO of Enel Green Power Salvatore Bernabei said.

Hydrogen today is too expensive for widespread use but as costs come down governments round the world are looking to it to replace fossil fuels in sectors where electrification is not an easy solution.

Chile has said up to 20% of its CO2 reduction by 2050 will be made possible through cost-effective green hydrogen.

CHINA: CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2060

Beijing, Oct. 4: China will aim to hit peak emissions before 2030 and for carbon neutrality by 2060, President Xi Jinping has announced.

Mr Xi outlined the steps when speaking via videolink to the UN General Assembly in New York.

The announcement is being seen as a significant step in the fight against climate change.

China is the world's biggest source of carbon dioxide, responsible for around 28% of global emissions.

With global climate negotiations stalled and this year's conference of the parties (COP26) postponed until 2021, there had been little expectation of progress on the issue at the UN General Assembly.

However China's president surprised the UN gathering by making a bold statement about his country's plans for tackling emissions.

He called on all countries to achieve a green recovery for the world economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the official translation, Mr Xi went on to say: "We aim to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060."

Until now China has said it would peak its emissions by 2030 at the latest, but it has avoided committing to a long-term goal.

Emissions from China continued to rise in 2018 and 2019 even as much of the world began to shift away from fossil fuels.

Gamma hits Mexico with 70 mph wind

Mexico City, Oct. 4: Tropical Storm Gamma hit the resort-dotted coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula at near-hurricane force on Saturday, flooding streets, knocking down vulnerable buildings and stranding people trying to return from outlying islands.

The storm came ashore near Tulum with maximum sustained winds of nearly 70 mph (110 kph) — 4 mph (9 kph short of hurricane force), according to the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami. By night, winds had dipped to 60 mph (95 kph), and it was centred about 85 miles (135 km) north-northwest of Tulum, moving to the northwest at 7 mph (11 kph).

Forecasters said the biggest threat to the area, which recently reopened to tourism after a pandemic shutdown, was likely the torrential rain and possible flooding, with as much as 10 to 15 inches (250 to 375 mm) possible over the north-eastern part of the peninsula. The state's tourism department reported Friday on Twitter that more

than 41,000 tourists were present in Quintana Roo, with hotels in Cancun and Cozumel already at more than 30% occupancy. Social media accounts of Quintana Roo's state government showed police removing people from vulnerable shacks and removing downed trees.

Numerous local news media published images of a thatch-roof, open-sided seaside church, Maria Star of the Sea just north of Cancun, collapsed by the storm. The storm forced suspension of sea ferry services between Cancun and Playa del Carmen with the islands of Cozumel and Isla Mujeres.

The storm was projected to emerge from the northern edge of the Yucatan on Sunday and then curve toward the lower south-west into the west Gulf of Mexico, flinging heavy rains across a large part of southern Mexico and Central America. Hurricane Marie began to weaken Saturday over the open Pacific. Marie was a Category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph.

2nd Trump term catastrophic for climate: Scientist

Penn, Oct. 4: Michael Mann, one of the most eminent climate scientists in the world, believes averting climate catastrophe on a global scale would be "essentially impossible" if Donald Trump is re-elected.

A professor at Penn State University, Mann, 54, has published hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific papers, testified numerous times before Congress and appeared frequently in the news media. He is also active on Twitter, where earlier this year he declared: "A second Trump term is game over for the climate — really!"; a statement he reaffirmed in an interview with the *Guardian* and *Covering Climate Now*. "If we are going to avert ever more catastrophic climate change impacts, we need to limit warming below a degree and a half Celsius, a little less than three degrees Fahrenheit," Mann said.

"Another four years of what we've seen under Trump, which is to out-source environmental and energy policy to the polluters and dismantle protections put in place by the previous administration ... would make that essentially impossible." None of Mann's 200-plus scientific papers is more famous than the so-called "hockey stick study", which *Nature* published on Earth Day of 1998. With two co-authors, Mann demonstrated that global temperature had been trending downward for the previous one thousand years. Graphed, this line was the long handle of the hockey stick, which surged abruptly upwards in about 1950 — represented by the blade of the stick — to make the 1990s the warmest decade in "at least the last millennium".

In 1999, Mann became an assistant professor at the University of Virginia, where he was targeted

by the climate denier crowd, an experience detailed in his 2012 book *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars*. He received death threats, he says, and had emails stolen.

Virginia's former attorney general Ken Cuccinelli, a hard-right Republican, subpoenaed documents related to Mann's research funding in an effort to prove fraud. A *Washington Post* editorial blasted Cuccinelli for "mis[using] state funds in his own personal war against climate science". In 2014, affirming a lower court's decision, the supreme court of Virginia ruled against Cuccinelli, who now serves as a top official in Trump's Department of Homeland Security.

— Agencies

that he does not accept "bribes" or "coward threats". The president said Brazil was taking action on deforestation and reasserted that he views foreign interest in the Amazon as financially motivated and an attempt to undermine Brazilian sovereignty. "The greed of some countries towards the Amazon is a well-known fact," Bolsonaro said.

"However, the explicit demonstration of this greed by someone who is

Two killed, nine missing as rain hits France and Italy

Heavy flooding after record rainfall sweeps away roads, damages homes

Paris/Rome, Oct. 4: Two people died and nine people were missing in France and Italy after a storm hit border regions of the two countries, bringing record rainfall in places and causing heavy flooding that swept away roads and damaged homes, authorities said on Saturday.

The storm, dubbed Alex, ravaged several villages around the city of Nice on the French Riviera. Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi called it the worst flooding disaster in the area for more than a century after flying over the worst-hit area by helicopter.

"The roads and about 100 houses were swept away or partially destroyed," he told French news channel *BFM*. "I have been particularly shocked by what I saw today," French Prime Minister Jean Castex told a news conference after visiting affected areas, adding he was concerned that the death toll could rise. At least eight people were missing in France, authorities said. These included two firemen whose vehicle was carried away by a swollen river, according to local witnesses cited by several French media.

Television images from both countries showed several roads and bridges had been swept away by flood water and numerous rivers were reported to have burst their banks.

In Italy, at least two people died — one a fireman hit by a falling tree and another a man in his 30s whose car was swept into a river after a road subsided, local authorities said. As night fell, one Italian was still unaccounted for while a further 16 people earlier



Numerous rivers were reported to have burst their banks.

feared missing, including a group of six German trekkers, had all been found safe.

Officials in the Piedmont region reported a record 630 mm (24.8 inches) of rain in just 24 hours in Sambughetto, close to the border with Switzerland. The Piedmont regional chief Alberto Cirio called on the government to declare a state of emergency.

The water level in the River Po jumped by 3 metres (9.84 feet) in just 24 hours. Eric Ciotti, a member of the French parliament who is from one of the worst affected villages in the area, Saint-Martin-Vésubie, said several villages were cut off as they are located in steep-sided valleys of the mountainous region.

— Reuters

Russia: Pollution off Far East

Colombia shelves mine licence application

Bogota, Oct. 4: Colombia's environmental authority has shelved the licensing application for the proposed Soto Norte gold project as it was unable to reach a decision based on information supplied by Sociedad Minera de Santander S.A.S (Minesa), it said on Saturday.

Owned by the govern-

Kamchatka's regional governor Vladimir Solodov said. Greenpeace suggested the pollution could have happened weeks ago.

ment of Abu Dhabi through its investment arm Mubadala Investment Corp. [MUDEVUL], Minesa's plans for the project — located in Colombia's Santander province — included producing some 410,000 ounces of gold per year with an estimated mine life of 20 years.

— Reuters

It said the pollution was noticed over the course of several weeks by people on Khalaktyrsky beach, a section of Pacific coast-

line covered with black volcanic sand that is dozens of kilometers long and popular with tourists.

"The water... has changed colour and become unsafe for people's health. For several weeks people who were in contact with the water have experienced negative consequences," it said in a statement.

After getting into the water, people have complained of sore throats, worsening eyesight, dry eyes, nausea, physical weakness, vomiting and fever, it said.

Dead octopuses and other sea life could be seen washed up on the beach in videos posted on Instagram and reposted by Greenpeace.

— Reuters



Flames consume a home as fire tears through Lakeport, California.

— AP

CLIMATE IMPACT MAY SINK SMALL ISLAND NATIONS

Barbados, Oct. 4: Small island nations are in a bind. Under assault from climate change, they need to spend big to protect their communities from rising seas and dangerous storms.

But a major source of income-international tourism-has dried up due to the Coronavirus pandemic. So now they're pleading with world leaders for help and relief.

"As small island developing states, we are struggling to stay afloat literally and figuratively," said Jerome Xavier Walcott, minister for foreign affairs of Barbados. "We are of the view that a need for adequate climate finance in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic cannot be overstated."

Barbados was one of several island nations to raise concerns this week with the United Nations. Their calls were aimed at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The World Bank-IMF annual meetings kick off in two weeks.

The pleas for debt relief came from leaders of the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, the Maldives, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and other small island developing countries.

They said lockdowns implemented to fight the pandemic have sent revenues plummeting, thereby crippling national climate adaptation plans.

— Agencies

Bolsonaro slams Biden for coward threats over Amazon

Brasilia, Oct. 4: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro reacted angrily to US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's call for a world effort to offer Brazil \$20 billion to end Amazon deforestation or face consequences.

Bolsonaro wrote on Facebook he interpreted Biden's comment as a threat of economic sanctions if Brazil did not take the offer. Bolsonaro wrote in Portuguese and English

running for the presidency of his country is a clear sign of contempt for cordial and fruitful coexistence between two sovereign nations."

In November's US election, Biden is challenging Republican President Donald Trump. Bolsonaro openly admires Trump and has sought to ally Brazil with the Trump administration, with the two leaders seeking to deepen trade ties.

In last Tuesday's heated

Presidential debate with President Donald Trump, Biden said Brazil provided an example of how Trump "has no relationship with foreign policy".

"The rainforests of Brazil are being torn down," Biden said.

"I would be gathering up and making sure we had the countries of the world coming up with \$20 billion, and say, 'Here's \$20 billion. Stop tearing down the forest. And if you don't then you're gonna have signifi-

cant economic consequences.'" Official data show that an area roughly the size of Lebanon was deforested in Brazil's Amazon for 2019, an 11-year high, with preliminary government data for 2020 showing forest clearances up 34.5%.

Bolsonaro's right-wing government maintains that Brazil is a model of conservation because of the size of forest land still standing. Many researchers predict that deforestati-

on is propelling the Amazon towards a tipping point, beyond which it will gradually transform into a semi-arid savanna. If the deforestation of the rainforest continues past a threshold of 20-25 per cent total deforestation, multiple positive feedback loops will spark the desertification of the Amazon Basin. As roads are built and forests are cleared for timber production and agriculture, a checkerboard of tropical forest edges is created.

Brazil has repeatedly said the world should pay up if it wants more forest to be preserved. Brazilian Environment Minister Ricardo Salles reacted on Twitter to Biden's offer of funding, writing: "Just one question: Biden's \$20 billion in aid, is that yearly?" Bolsonaro ended his statement in English by calling Joe Biden the wrong first name.

"What a shame, Mr. John Biden! What a shame!"

— Agencies

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
aSensex	38,697.05	1.65
Nifty 50	11,416.95	1.51
S&P 500*	3,348.44	-0.96
Dollar (₹)	73.15	0.83
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.15	0.50
Euro (₹)	85.81	0.79
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,389▼37	0.07
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	39.27	0.00
IN 10-Yr bond yield	0.704	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.692	0.015

* As of 9:30 PM IST

FPIs pull out ₹7,780 cr from stocks in Sept.

Snapping their three-month buying spree, overseas investors turned net sellers in Indian markets in September, withdrawing Rs 3,419 crore on net basis, due to uncertainty ahead of the US presidential polls and surging coronavirus cases. Foreign portfolio investors withdrew a net Rs 7,783 crore from equities while the debt segment saw inflows of Rs 4,364 crore. FPIs had been net buyers in India in the three months to August. .

China's Jingye shows interest in Tata Steel UK



Chinese steelmaker Jingye Group Co is exploring a takeover of the UK's biggest steel producer, Tata Steel Ltd, Sky News reported, citing unidentified banking sources. The firm, which took over British Steel earlier this year, has expressed a "tentative" interest to Tata Group as well as the UK government, but has failed to make substantial progress so far. There is no formal sale process at this stage, Sky said.

Tagoor Labs to produce favipiravir

Hyderabad-based Tagoor Laboratories said it has received licence from the drugs controller to manufacture favipiravir. The company said it is planning to enhance its production capabilities. Dr. P. Kasi Viswanadha Raju, managing director, said his company is aiming to manufacture favipiravir in quantities sufficient to meet the growing domestic demand. Favipiravir is a broad spectrum anti-viral agent.

Dassault, Shiv Nadar varsity set up research unit

Software industry major Dassault Systemes has established a research centre in collaboration with Shiv Nadar University in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida. The Shiv Nadar University-Dassault Systemes Centre of Excellence (SDC) is for research, innovation, design and entrepreneurship, and is also aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of multidisciplinary education, the varsity said in a statement.

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■ Saudi Arabia's pre-budget estimates Oil seen hovering around \$50 till '23

ABEER ABU OMAR & MATTHEW MARTIN OCT. 4

Saudi Arabia's finance ministry seems to think that oil prices will stay around \$50 a barrel for at least the next three years. That's according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc's analysis of the kingdom's pre-budget statement released on September 30.

"Using our own estimates for the breakdown of government revenues, we calculate that the numbers presented in the budget statement are based on an average oil price of around \$50 a barrel between 2020 and 2023," said Farouk Soussa, a London-based analyst at Goldman.

Brent crude fell 6.3 per cent to \$39.27 a barrel last week as more countries tightened restrictions to counter the coronavirus pandemic and US president Donald Trump got infected, causing traders to fret about the outlook for energy demand.

While oil at \$50 would represent a 25 per cent rise from current prices, it would still be far below the pre-pandemic level of around \$65 and less than Saudi Arabia needs to balance its budget.

Goldman's calculations are roughly in line with those of Cairo-based investment bank EFG Hermes, which said Saudi Arabia is basing next year's budget on an oil price of \$50 to \$55. Goldman is itself more



CHEVRON NIGERIA TO CUT 25% WORKFORCE

RUTH OLUROUNBI & CHUKWUDI EJIMOFOR OCT. 4

Nigeria's Chevron unit said it plans to cut 25 per cent of its workforce to become more efficient and reduce operating costs, the latest sign demand for global oil is wobbling under coronavirus and new restrictions to contain it.

"The aim is to have a business that is competitive and an appropriate-

ly-sized organisation," a company statement said. "We must make the necessary adjustments in light of the prevailing business climate."

The International Energy Agency last month trimmed its forecasts for fuel consumption for the rest of the year, warning th

at the global oil market was increasingly "fragile" as new outbreaks of coronavirus derail the recovery.

—Bloomberg

bullish, forecasting that Brent will climb to \$65 by the end of 2021.

Saudi officials expect the country's fiscal deficit to narrow to 5.1 per cent of gross domestic product in 2021 from 12 per cent this year as they cut spending, according to last week's statement.

The kingdom tends to take a relatively conservative view of crude prices in drawing up its budget and doesn't divulge its assumptions, leaving analysts to estimate them from other

projections. The finance ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia would need oil to trade at \$66 to balance its budget in 2021, according to estimates from the International Monetary Fund.

Saudi Arabia's caution on prices comes as oil giants including BP Plc and Total SE predict the era of growing global demand for energy is over or coming to an end barely a decade from now.

—Bloomberg

KUWAIT CENTRAL BANK DENIES PLAN TO DEVALUE DINAR

ABBAS AL LAWATI & FIONA MACDONALD OCT. 4

The Central Bank of Kuwait, which pegs the dinar to a basket of currencies dominated by the US dollar, affirmed its commitment to the country's exchange-rate policy, responding to reports of an impending devaluation.

"In light of recent online reports falsely speculating on the intent to devalue the national currency, the Central Bank of Kuwait reiterates its commitment to maintaining the Kuwaiti dinar exchange rate at a level that protects its purchasing power," it said in a statement on Sunday. "CBK will continue its adherence to policies that aim to bolster the local currency."

The speculation started swirling after the passing last week of Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been succeeded by his half brother Kuwait

is facing the highest budget deficit in its history, brought on by the drop in oil prices and the coronavirus pandemic.

A potential solution to its liquidity crisis has been blocked by parliamentary opposition to a law that would allow the government to borrow.

Twelve-month forward contracts on the Kuwaiti dinar rose almost 60 points to 270 in the offshore market last month, signalling traders' concerns over the risk of a devaluation in the currency peg.

—Bloomberg

Micro units to gain from interest waiver

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 4



The government's suggestion of waiving compound interest on delayed payments during the moratorium period would predominantly benefit micro enterprises. While some small enterprises would also benefit from the waiver, medium-sized firms are feeling discriminated against. Industry is also keen to know whether banks will refund those who have already paid the compound interest.

The government on Saturday filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court that it was ready to bear the burden of an interest waiver for small borrowers.

Any individual or entity whose loan amount is less than Rs 2 crore, irrespective of whether they have availed of loan repayment moratorium or not, will be eligible for waiver of the compounding of interest.

This includes micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), education, housing, consumer durable, credit card, automobile, personal, and consumption loans. Among the MSMEs in

India, only 15 per cent have access to the formal banking system. Reports suggest that 45 to 50 per cent of the MSMEs with loan outstanding have availed of moratorium.

According to Rajive Chawla, chairman of IamSMEofIndia, all the micro enterprises which have availed of the moratorium would benefit from the government decision and some of the small enterprises, too.

Medium enterprises are not likely to benefit from the waiver. "It is good that micro enterprises will get relief. But I wish they would have given it to all MSMEs, as it is not a waiver of interest but a waiver of interest of interest," he said.

"Even within MSMEs, medium enterprises are being discriminated against in very many ways. Most of the policy support goes to micro and small enterprises. The policy biases force them to remain dwarfs without growing large," said Anil Bharadwaj, secretary general, Federation of Indian MSMEs (Fisime).

Faiz Askari, founder of SMEStreet, fears the waiver may disincentivise banks from providing loans to MSMEs in the future. "The number of MSMEs which are into the formal banking system itself is miniscule. Government should fully compensate the banks for the waiver so that they won't be reluctant to lend to MSMEs in future," he said.

However, Chawla believes banks will continue to lend MSMEs to meet priority sector lending targets. "Further, they lend to us for a higher interest rate compared to large corporates and there are a lot of other charges. The NPAs are also lower among MSMEs," he said.

MSMEs also want to have clarity on whether those who have already paid the compound interest to the banks will receive a refund.

Australia to pay half wages of trainee workers

TRACY WITHERS OCT. 4

Australia will provide a wage subsidy to encourage businesses to hire as many as 100,000 new apprentices or trainee workers as part of its budget strategy to

create jobs and boost incomes.

The A\$1.2 billion (\$860 million) program, which will pay for half of the apprentice's wage in the first year, will be available from Oct. 5. Prime Minister Scott Morrison

said Sunday in an emailed statement. "Apprenticeships are an important

pathway to get young people into jobs and to ensure there is a skills pipeline to meet the future needs of employers," Morrison said.

—Bloomberg

Changi Airport warns of 'daunting' future

REINIE BOOYSEN & KRISTAL CHIA OCT. 4

Changi Airport Group said the impact from the Covid-19 pandemic isn't abating as officials behind the world's best airport warned of a "daunting" period ahead.

Passenger traffic for Changi for the fiscal year ended March declined for the first time in more than a decade, as a slump in the last two months of the peri-

od wiped out earlier gains, serving as a harbinger of a deeper slump. To brace for "a prolonged crisis", Changi suspended operations from two terminals to save on operating costs as flights dropped to the lowest levels in its history.

"The battle with Covid-19 has only just begun," the company said in its annual report. "The future does appear daunting with the situation showing no signs of abatement."

According to the

International Air Transport Association, 25 million jobs are at risk in airlines and associated businesses such as travel and tourism. A third of the world's 26,000 passenger jets remain grounded, aviation data provider Cirium says.

Amid all the gloom in May, Changi was voted the world's best airport for an eighth consecutive year, according to a ranking by Skytrax.

—Bloomberg

RECORD RESERVES SIGNAL SHIFT IN RBI'S FOREX POLICY

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 4

RBI's pro-foreign portfolio investors (FPI) forex reserve policy is likely to continue but with lesser dollar buying, going forward. The central bank may allow the rupee to depreciate after amassing enough fire power to tackle the currency's volatility, analysts said.

The Reserve Bank of India has built all-time-high foreign exchange reserves (\$542 billion as on Sept. 25), which is positive for higher FPI inflow as sufficient reserves cut

exchange rate risks.

In September the rupee's stability against the US dollar improved as it hovered in the range of 72.75 to 74.05 compared to 76-77 in April-June.

Last month, the RBI bought \$8.7 bn of forex reserves up to Sept. 25 (vs. \$12.9 bn each in June and July) and India's forex reserves touched a record \$545 bn on Sept. 18 before declining by \$3 bn in the following week.

The RBI has returned to forex reserve adequacy after nearly 10 years and the rupee is now past the risks of large deprecia-

tion seen in 2011, 2013 and 2018, said a report by Bank of America Securities.

"India's ability to manage a scenario of capital flight is supported by its ample forex reserves (at \$542 bn: up \$72 bn year to date) which cover around nine times import, five times short-term debt and are around three times the IMF reserve adequacy measure," said Nomura.

With adequacy of reserves, RBI will be more relaxed about buying foreign currency than before, Bank of America Securities said.

RRBs incur net ₹2,200-cr loss

Mumbai, Oct. 4: Regional rural banks (RRBs) as a group reported net loss of Rs 2,206 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, as against Rs 652-crore net loss in FY19, according to data published by Nabard.

During FY2019-20, 26 RRBs earned profit of Rs 2,203 crore, while 19 incurred losses of Rs 4,409 crore, the data showed. The data on RRBs, recently published by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), is based on the data uploaded by the RRBs in the Ensure portal.

As on March 31, 2020, there were 45 RRBs working in 685 districts of 26 states and three union territories. These RRBs were sponsored by 15 commercial banks and operating through a network of 21,850 branches.

Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) as a percentage of gross loans outstanding of RRBs marginally declined to 10.4 per cent as on March 31, 2020, from 10.8 per cent a year ago. The share of

standard, sub-standard, doubtful and loss assets stood at 89.6 per cent, 3.6 per cent, 6.5 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively.

Eighteen of the 45 RRBs (as against 20 out of 53 RRBs as on March 31, 2019) had GNPA above 10 per cent as on March 31, 2020.

RRBs, at aggregated level, achieved a growth of 8.6 per cent in business in FY20 compared to a growth of 9.5 per cent in the previous year. Their total business stood at Rs 7.77 lakh crore.

Deposits and advances of RRBs increased by 10.2 per cent and 9.5 per cent, respectively.

Gross outstanding loans stood at Rs 2.98 lakh crore as against Rs 2.80 lakh crore in FY19.

Priority sector loans constituted 90.6 per cent or Rs 2.70 lakh crore of the gross loans outstanding of RRBs as on March 31, 2020. Share of agriculture and MSME sectors in total loan outstanding stood at 70 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively, the data showed.

—PTI

FLUSHING MICROFIBRE Garments dislodge woven fibre particles into laundry wastewater

Washing machine is a heavy polluter

MARGARET RHODES OCT. 4

Mojca Zupan is a corporate lawyer doing just fine in 2016, when a museum exhibit changed her life.

The Plastic Garbage Project depicts the "the origins, life cycle, sense, and senselessness of plastic products." "I saw these big microscopic pictures of microfibres," Zupan says of the tiny grains of plastic that slough off synthetic textiles and seep into bodies of water. "It's ridiculous. Washing machines pollute so heavily."

She did some research. Technically, a solution for catching microfibers existed. But awareness of the issue was low. "I didn't

get the feeling that something would be done about it in the near future," Zupan says. "I became determined to change the washing machine industry." Within a year, Zupan had started PlanetCare and begun selling the company's first product, a filter that attaches to household washing machines and catches those tiny, polluting microfibres before they reach the world's oceans.

A washing machine generates microfibre waste in the course of doing its job. By soaking, churning, and scrubbing a garment, it inevitably dislodges woven fibre particles into the laundry wastewater.



Roughly the size of a water bottle, the PlanetCare filter sticks onto the side of the machine and has nozzles on either side connecting to the water hose and to the drain. The filter itself is a three-dimensional mesh sieve designed to catch fibres as small as 0.1 millimetre, or 90 per cent of the microparticles that

would typically flow back into the water supply. A starter pack with seven filter cartridges costs \$112. PlanetCare is based in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Zupan's home. While most of its customers are in Europe, it does ship to the US.

These devices will hardly fix the world's microfibre problem, which is made more complicated by a lack of consensus around how to measure it. Some reports have found that a single garment sheds around 2,000 fibres in one wash cycle; others say a single load of laundry releases 700,000 fibres, flushing trillions of microfibres into waterways. In August, the journal Nature

published a study documenting high levels of ocean microplastics, with a possible 12 to 21 million tonnes near the surface of the Atlantic. Prior to that, a 2015 Science report put that number at 12 million tonnes, max.

"This is of great societal concern," says Richard Lampitt, a scientist at the National Oceanography Centre in the UK and one of the authors of the report. Underfunded research, he adds, is part of the problem. "We still need more evidence on [how lethal this is]. But if it is, we need to make strenuous efforts to prevent this material from getting into the ocean."

—Bloomberg

New Delhi, Oct. 4:

Amazon India on Sunday said it has enabled over one lakh local shops, kiranas and neighbourhood stores across the country through its various initiatives, a move that will help serve more customers this festive season.

More than 20,000 offline retailers, kiranas and local shops from "Local Shops on Amazon" programme will participate in "Great Indian Festival" for the first time, selling various items like daily essentials, large appliances and home decor products, a statement said.

This format helps shop owners establish a digital presence and expand their reach, while allowing customers to shop from local stores in their city.

The programme, which was launched in April this year, now has more than 20,000 retailers in 400 cities, including Meerut, Ludhiana, Saharanpur, Surat, Indore, Ernakulam and Kanchipuram. More than 40 per cent of the sellers are coming from outside the top 10 cities.

Amazon India's other programmes include Amazon Easy stores, "I Have Space" and Amazon Pay Smart Store.

"This festive season, we are focused on helping our sellers and other MSME partners grow their business and bounce back from the recent challenges. In the last few months we have seen businesses of all sizes increasingly adopt technology into their business," Amazon India vice-president Manish Tiwary said.

The integration of Amazon's programmes with one lakh-plus ubiquitous neighbourhood stores is a testament of the adaptability and inventiveness of Indian entrepreneurs, he added.

SHORT TAKES

Kitata runs away with London title

London: Eliud Kipchoge's four-year winning run at the London Marathon ended on Sunday as Shura Kitata emerged from the rain and the gloom to become the new champion.

There was no upset in the women's race with world record holder Brigid Kosgei winning her duel with fellow Kenyan Ruth Chepngetich, the world champion, who was eventually pipped for second by Sara Hall of the United States.

The race, originally scheduled to be run in April, was adapted to 19.7 laps of St James's Park rather than the traditional street route, and was restricted to elite runners only, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Kitata of Ethiopia claimed victory in two hours, five minutes and 41 seconds, pipping Vincent Kipchumba of Kenya on the line after a thrilling sprint finish. — *AP*

Barca beat Real in women's tie

Madrid: Barcelona crushed Real Madrid 4-0 in the first ever women's Clasico on Sunday, with Madrid president Florentino Perez deciding against attending the club's inaugural women's match.

Goals from Patri Guijarro, Lieke Martens and Alexia Putellas, as well as an own-goal by Madrid goalkeeper Maria Rodriguez, gave Barca an expected victory.

This was the first ever official fixture played by Madrid's women's team and the first ever against Barca, the club's most prestigious rival and the reigning Primera Division champions.

Luis Rubiales, the president of the Spanish football federation, and Spain women's coach Jorge Vilda were both at Valdebebas to watch the game. But Perez was absent, choosing instead to travel to see Madrid's men's team play against Levante in La Liga later on Sunday. — *AFP*

Chennaiyin rope in Brazil's Memo

Chennai: Two-time champions Chennaiyin FC have roped in Brazil's Emerson Gomes de Moura, better known as Memo, on a free transfer for the 2020-21 season of the Indian Super League starting next month.

The 32-year-old joins CFC on the expiry of his contract at Jamshedpur FC, having spent the previous three campaigns there, the club said in a statement on Sunday.

Known for his versatility as a defensive midfielder and central defender, Memo is set to add experience and stability to Chennaiyin's ranks.

"I am delighted to be a part of the Chennaiyin family. The upcoming season will be fantastic, I am certain. It is a pity we won't be able to feel the warmth of the fans in the stands, as they are truly incredible and loyal," Memo said.

"Every time I have played in Chennai, I have truly felt their passion. A unique ISL awaits us, which will be a spectacle in itself," he added. — *PTI*

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

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

WWE RAW

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

Watto comeback!

Watson roars back to form as Chennai floor Punjab

Dubai, Oct. 4: Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis conjured up commanding unbeaten half-centuries as Chennai Super Kings demolished Kings XI Punjab by 10 wickets to snap their string of losses in the IPL here on Sunday.

CSK relished a much-needed victory after three defeats in a row, overhauling a 179-run target with remarkable ease.

Watson (83 not out) and Du Plessis (87 not out) ensured that there was no close finish this time, reducing the match to a 'no-contest' with their authoritative batting.

The seasoned Australian punished the KXIP bowlers with 11 fours and three sixes in his 53-ball unbeaten knock while Du Plessis hit 11 fours and a six from 53 balls to also remain not out.

Except Mohammed Shami, KXIP did not have a bowler who could trouble the opposition batsmen and CSK exploited it to the fullest. CSK moved to sixth spot from bottom with this confidence-boosting win.

Skipper KL Rahul did hit a well-paced 63 to lead Kings XI Punjab to a competitive 178 for four after electing to bat but in the absence of good bowlers it was an onerous task to stop the experienced CSK brigade.

Rahul's risk-free 63 came off 52 balls with the help of seven fours and a six as he shared a 61-run stand with fellow opener Mayank Agarwal (26) and then raised a 58-run partnership with Nicholas Pooran (33 off 17).

KXIP looked set for a bigger total but both Pooran and Rahul were dismissed by pacer Shardul Thakur off successive balls in the 18th over.

CSK, like their rivals, also got to a solid start with openers — Du Plessis and Watson — creaming off 60 runs in the Powerplay overs.

They did not exactly set the field on fire but an effective strokeplay helped them begin the chase in right earnest.

The Australian-Protea duo blended caution with aggression, picking the right deliveries to attack. They raised the team hundred in the 10th over.

Watson got to his fifty with consecutive boundaries off Chris Jordan while Du Plessis raised his own with a single off the same bowler.

With Nothing working for KXIP, Watson and Du Plessis only became more dominant as the



CSK opener Shane Watson en route to his unbeaten 83 against Kings XI Punjab in an IPL game in Dubai on Sunday.

game progressed.

Earlier, Rahul and Agarwal were cautious. No lofted shot was played till the last over of the Powerplay with the two batsmen preferring to drive along the ground. It was also because Deepak Chahar and Sam Curran hardly pitched it short.

Even if Agarwal and Rahul opened their arms it was to slap the balls outside the off stump, when there was enough room to do that. CSK captain MS Dhoni introduced spin in the seventh over with Ravindra Jadeja, who created a chance too but Agarwal's hit fell just short of a diving Du Plessis.

SHANE WATSON			
R	B	6s	4s
83*	53	3	11

SCORECARD

Kings XI Punjab: KL Rahul c Dhoni b Thakur 63, M. Agarwal c Curran b Chawla 27, Mandeep Singh c Rayudu b Jadeja 21, N. Pooran c Jadeja b Thakur 33, G. Maxwell (not out) 11, S. Khan (not out) 14. **Extras (lb 1, w 3) 4. Total (for four wickets in 20 overs) 178.**

FoW: 1-61, 2-94, 3-152, 4-152.

Bowling: D. Chahar 3-0-17-0, Curran 3-0-31-0, Thakur 4-0-39-2, Bravo 4-0-38-0, Jadeja 4-0-30-1, Chawla 2-0-22-1.

Chennai Super Kings: S. Watson (not out) 83, F du Plessis (not out) 87. **Extras (w 11) 11. Total (for no loss in 17.4 overs) 181.**

Bowling: S. Cottrell 3-0-30-0, M. Shami 3-4-0-35-0, H. Brar 4-0-41-0, C. Jordan 3-0-42-0, R. Bishnoi 4-0-33-0.

RCB run into charged Delhi

Dubai, Oct. 4: A back-in-form Virat Kohli's tactical acumen will be put to test against Shreyas Iyer's unassuming but dynamic brand of captaincy when the two most impressive teams of the ongoing IPL — Royal Challengers Bangalore and Delhi Capitals — face each other here on Monday.

Both DC and RCB have looked solid so far and are among the top teams with three wins out of four games each.

While Iyer has shown great form in his team's four matches, Kohli finally got his act together in RCB's last game against Rajasthan Royals, striking a fluent half-century.

On Saturday, Iyer (88 not out off 38 balls) again showed his class after Prithvi Shaw's (66) opening act as Delhi beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 18 runs.

It's going to be a good challenge. They (RCB) have got a pretty good line-up, and have some big names. But, I think we have got a good team as well and the guys have been training really well. If we just execute our skills, perform the way we have been, I think it's going to be a very good game, and I'm sure we can out skill them

— ANRICH NORTJE

Delhi Capitals pacer says his team are capable of outperforming their opponents on Monday.

Kohli too finally got his touch back after three ordinary outings with an unbeaten 72 off 53 balls to guide RCB to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals.

And come Monday, the two skippers would look to lead from the front and outwit each other in what promises to be a thrilling contest.

While Shaw has so far looked quite in control at the top of the order for DC, Shikhar Dhawan's form would be a cause of concern for Iyer.

But on the brighter side,

and bowled a brilliant penultimate over against KKR on Saturday.

Harshal Patel, as Ishant Sharma's replacement, did well enough to finish with 2 for 34 in 4 overs but the fit-again Ravichandran Ashwin and Stoinis went for runs.

RCB, on the other hand, have been served well by the young Devdutt Padikkal at the top. The left-hander, considered the next big thing in Indian cricket, is fourth in the run-scorers' tally with 174 from four games, including three fifties.

And if Aaron Finch too gets going, it would be difficult for any side to stop the marauding Bangalore openers.

Kohli's return to form is a relief for RCB's batting unit, which also has the likes of the in-form AB de Villiers, Shivam Dube and Gurkeerat Singh among others. — *PTI*

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 23
- RCB: 14
- Delhi: 8
- No result: 1

MEETING IN 2019

- Delhi Capitals beat RCB by 4 wickets in Bengaluru.
- Delhi Capitals beat RCB by 16 runs in Delhi.

FOR THE RECORD

- Yuzvendra Chahal who has taken 197 wickets at an average of 23.77 in 174 innings needs three more to become the fifth Indian and 39th bowler overall to complete a double century of wickets in T20.
- Shikhar Dhawan who has scored 956 runs at an average of 34.14 needs 44 runs to become the eighth batsman from Delhi to complete 1000 runs in IPL.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	5	3	2	0	6	+1.214
Delhi Capitals	4	3	1	0	6	+0.588
Royal Challengers Bangalore	4	3	1	0	6	-0.954
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	2	2	0	4	-0.121
Rajasthan Royals	4	2	2	0	4	-0.317
Chennai Super Kings	5	2	3	0	4	-0.342
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	-0.417
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	0	2	+0.178

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

Quinton takes Mumbai to top

Sharjah, Oct. 4: Quinton de Kock was back amongst the runs with a sizzling 39-ball 67 before the bowlers did a commendable job in batsmen friendly Sharjah to power Mumbai Indians to a clinical 34-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

The swashbuckling duo of Hardika Pandya (28) and Kieron Pollard (25 not out) scored at their usual brisk pace but it was Krunal who propelled MI to 208 for five with 20 runs off a mere four deliveries in the last over.

Then, the MI bowlers did just enough to restrict SRH to 174 for seven.

Chasing 209, a formidable target even on the small Sharjah ground, SRH began with Jonny Bairstow sending Trent Boult's third delivery into the stands. Two fours and a six followed before Boult had the Englishman for a 15-ball 25.

David Warner (60 off 44 balls) got into the act with a couple of boundaries off Jasprit Bumrah. Manish Pandey had raced to 16 when Hardik Pandya dropped a sitter, his view blocked by the evening sun.

Pandey lofted Rahul Chahar over long-on for a massive six and Warner followed suit, hitting the leg-spinner for another maximum in the same over as SRH kept pace with the required run-rate.

The prolific Australian then cut his compatriot James Pattinson through the point region before smashing Krunal for a six and four to help SRH past the 100-run mark in the 11th over.

Attempting an upper cut against Boult, Kane Williamson was out caught by Quinton de Kock, after Bumrah bowled an excel-

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: R. Sharma c Bairstow b Sandeep Sharma 6, Q de Kock c & b Rashid Khan 67, S. Yadav c Natarajan b Kaul 27, Ishan Kishan c Pandey b Sandeep Sharma 31, H. Pandya b Kaul 28, K. Pollard (not out) 25, K. Pandya (not out) 20. **Extras (lb 1, nb 1, w 2) 4. Total (for five wickets in 20 overs) 208.**

FoW: 1-6, 2-48, 3-126, 4-147, 5-188.

Bowling: S. Sharma 4-0-41-2, T. Natarajan 4-0-29-0, S. Kaul 4-0-64-2, A. Samad 2-0-27-0, R. Khan 4-0-22-1, K. Williamson 2-0-24-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: D. Warner c Ishan Kishan b Pattinson 60, J. Bairstow c H. Pandya b Boult 25, M. Pandey c Pollard b Pattinson 30, K. Williamson c de Kock b Boult 3, P. Garg c Chahar b KH Pandya 8, Abhishek Sharma b Bumrah 10, A. Samad c Sharma b Bumrah 20, R. Khan (not out) 3, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 0. **Extras (lb 5, w 10) 15. Total (for seven wickets in 20 overs) 174.**

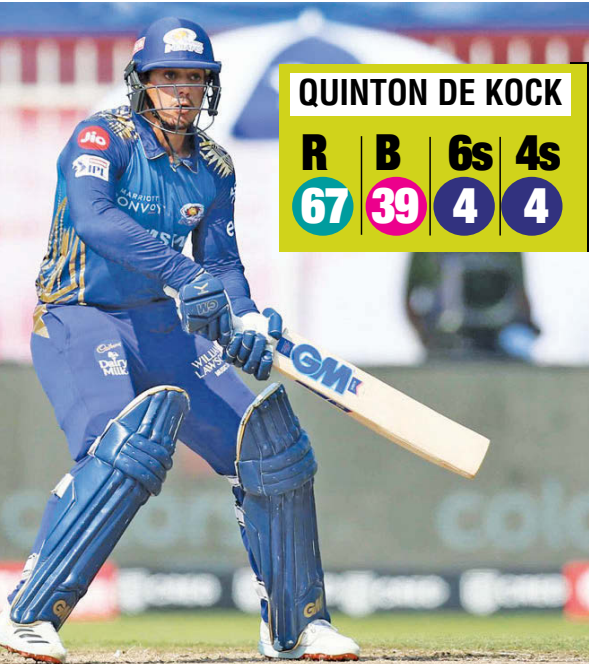
FoW: 1-34, 2-94, 3-116, 4-130, 5-142, 6-168, 7-172.

Bowling: T. Boult 4-0-28-2, J. Pattinson 4-0-29-2, K. Pandya 4-0-35-1, J. Bumrah 4-0-41-2, K. Pollard 3-0-20-0, R. Chahar 1-0-16-0.

lent six-run over.

Last match hero Priyam Garg failed to replicate his performance but it was the big wicket of Warner, in the 16th over bowled by Pattinson, that almost sealed the game in MI's favour even as the required rate soared past 14 runs an over. For MI, there were two wickets apiece for Boult (2/28), Pattinson (2/29) and Bumrah (2/41).

Earlier, Rohit Sharma plonked Sandeep Sharma over mid-wicket for a six to start the proceedings but the MI skipper was out caught behind the very next ball as he chased a wide delivery, only to nick it to Jonny Bairstow. — *PTI*



Mumbai Indians opener Quinton de Kock plays a shot against Sunrisers in Sharjah on Sunday.

QUINTON DE KOCK			
R	B	6s	4s
67	39	4	4

Karthik should bat after Morgan & Russell: Gauti

Sharjah, Oct. 4: Two-time IPL winning Kolkata Knight Riders captain Gautam Gambhir believes current skipper Dinesh Karthik should bat after Eoin Morgan and Andre Russell and also wants Sunil Narine to be dropped from the top of the order.

Apart from a 23-ball 30 coming at no 3 against Mumbai Indians, Karthik has failed to produce any significant score despite batting ahead of Morgan so far in the tournament.

The wicket-keeper batsman scored 6 after coming on to bat at no 5 against Delhi Capitals on Saturday even as Morgan (44 off 18) and Rahul Tripathi (36 off 16) raised hopes of a successful chase after batting



Dinesh Karthik

at no 6 and 8 respectively.

"Rahul Tripathi goes up the order, Dinesh Karthik plays at no 6, not before Morgan and not before Russell as well. Probably Sunil Narine goes to bat at 8 or 9. If Morgan bats no 4 and Russell at 5 and Dinesh Karthik to follow," Gambhir told

ESPNews info.

The former India opener also felt Karthik miscalculated by giving the 19th over to spinner Varun Chakravarty (1/49) as it yielded 20 runs.

"Your best bowlers need to ball the 18th, 19th and 20th over, unfortunately it didn't happen. Pat Cummins, Sunil Narine -- if a spinner has to bowl. Even Mavi, he did a fabulous job in the previous games and so did Andre Russell. You have to got to give your best bowlers," he said.

"Yes Varun Chakravarty did bowl well in the first few overs but you cannot expect a young spinner to be bowling the 19th over and that too in Sharjah, probably it was a miscalculation," he added. — *PTI*

It's all about smart work, says Shreyas



Shreyas Iyer is leading Delhi from the front.

Sharjah, Oct. 4: Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer doesn't consider himself a "gifted player" and has attributed all those big sixes against Kolkata Knight Riders to the enormous "hard and smart work" that he had put in the gym sessions.

Iyer hit 88 off 38 balls with six sixes and seven fours in Delhi's 18-run win over KKR in an IPL game here on Saturday.

"I know the hard work and the smart work I have put in through my gym sessions, so I wouldn't say I am a very gifted player," Iyer said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"It was really necessary for me to take time at the start which I did in the earlier games as well. It was the right time for me to take on the bowlers and then rotate strike as well after that.

"Luckily it worked out for

me. We keep talking about close victories and this was one of them. Really satisfied with the way everyone stepped up."

Losing captain Dinesh Karthik rued missing out on a couple of sixes in the middle overs which he felt probably cost them the match. "Maybe in between 10-13 overs we didn't get many boundaries, we lost a couple of wickets as well which sets you back in such run chases. To be honest, couple more sixes and we would have crossed the line," Karthik said.

Delhi seamer Anrich Nortje, who captured three wickets for 33, said they tried to exploit the conditions and focussed on mixing up the deliveries.

"We wanted to use the conditions to the best of our ability. There was a little bit of dew. Myself and KG (Kagiso Rabada) tried to get a few to go through.

We did it at the start. It got a little bit tough in the end, the ball was coming on nicely," he said.

"It was a bit difficult, proud that the guys pulled it through. We had different plans — try and change it up, not go with the same thing over and over again. Could have gone for a six, but luckily we got him (Morgan) out. Some balls gripped, that one gripped and we got the wicket."

Nortje said he and Rabada feed off each other's ideas.

"It's great bowling with him (Rabada), really enjoying the time we spend together. Trying to feed off each other, trying to find out what he thinks, what he does and it's nice to be in the same team with him," he said.

The 26-year-old from South Africa said they worked on their death bowling skills ahead of the match in Sharjah. — *PTI*

SHORT TAKES

Lahiri cards 77
at Farms golf

Jackson, USA: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri had a tough time on the pure and fast greens at the Country Club of Jackson, carding a five-over 77 in the third round to slip to T-52 at the Sanderson Farms Championship here. Lahiri's sole bright spot of the day was an eight-foot putt for birdie on the second hole on the moving day.

Time and again, the Indian missed inside 6-7 feet putts and dropped a lot of shots for 5-over 77, equalling his worst round in 2020 at the American Express in January. He tumbled from eight-under through 36 holes to three-under after 54 and dropped from T-7 to T-52.

Lahiri, who was five behind the then-leader Keegan Bradley after the second round, is now 11 behind the new leader Cameron Davis (63), Sergio Garcia and JT Poston (69), who are all 14-under. The Indian needs a Top-10 finish to get into next week's Shriners Children's Hospital Open in Las Vegas. — PTI

Weather ruins
Shubhankar plan

North Berwick, Scotland: Battling the "most challenging conditions" that he has played in, Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma struggled to a five-over 76 that left him tied 47th after the third round of the rain-hit ASI Scottish Open here. Sharma was going along fine till midway through the back-nine as he was even par through 12 holes with three birdies and three bogeys, but then the weather changed dramatically.

Over the next four holes, Sharma dropped five shots — a double bogey on the 13th and bogeys on the next three holes — before closing with pars on 12, he fell to five-over 76 and from being inside Top-10 at one point, he ended at T-47 at the wet Renaissance Club. "These were the most challenging conditions I have played in," said Sharma.

Robert Rock produced a solid one-over 72 in tough conditions to take a two shot lead into the final round. — PTI

Leeds hold City

Rodrigo equaliser keeps Manchester on leash

London, Oct. 4: Pep Guardiola was frustrated by the strength of guru Marcelo Bielsa's Premier League newcomers as Manchester City was held 1-1 by Leeds on Saturday.

At a rainy, empty Elland Road — due to Coronavirus restrictions — Rodrigo came off the bench in the second half to equalise with his first goal since joining Leeds ahead of the season in a club-record transfer.

City, the 2018 and 2019 champion, is eight points behind leader Everton in 11th place, albeit with a game in hand.

Leeds is in fifth place on its return to the top division after 16 years.

Meanwhile, Jorginho scored two penalties the second after Chelsea captain Cesar Azpilicueta stopped Tammy Abraham taking it to complete a 4-0 victory over Crystal Palace.

Chelsea's lead was secured by Ben Chilwell scoring on his league debut for Chelsea from Abraham's flick-on in the 50th minute and the left-back's cross set up Kurt Zouma for a header in the 66th.

Jorginho added the third from the penalty spot in the 78th after Abraham was tripped by Tyrick Mitchell at an empty Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea has seven points from four games and Palace is on six.

Also, James Rodriguez scored twice and assisted fellow Colombian Yerry Mina's header as Everton beat Brighton 4-2.

Everton has made its best start to a season since the 19th century with seven wins out of seven. Everton, which last won the English championship in 1985, is top of the early standings. — AP



Leeds United's Rodrigo (centre) celebrates after scoring a goal during their English Premier League match against Manchester City at Elland Road in Leeds, England, on Saturday. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. — AP

Atletico, Villarreal play stalemate

Madrid, Oct. 4: The excitement and euphoria over Luis Suarez didn't last very long for Atletico Madrid.

Two consecutive scoreless draws quickly dampened the hype surrounding Atletico's new attack after it had opened the season with an impressive 6-1 victory over Granada.

Atletico and Suarez struggled again on Saturday, being held by Villarreal at home in a

Spanish league match which it finished with no shots on target.

"Sometimes it's hard to explain these situations when you try everything but can't create opportunities," said Diego Simeone, who was seeking his 200th Spanish league win as Atletico's coach.

Suarez thrived in the opener but had already struggled along with the rest of the team in the 0-0

draw at promoted Huesca on Wednesday, a game that marked the Uruguay striker's first start with his new club after being told by Barcelona that he wasn't wanted anymore.

Villarreal had dangerous chances at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium on Saturday, but it couldn't capitalize on them and squandered a good opportunity to come away with the victory. Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak made a

few good saves to keep the clean sheet.

Meanwhile, Manuel Pellegrini's Real Betis held its spot at the top of the standings with a 2-0 victory at Valencia thanks to goals by Sergio Canales in the first half and Cristian Tello in the second.

The victory ended Betis' two-game losing streak after it had opened with a pair of consecutive victories. — AP

Iga upsets Halep;
Nadal in quarters

Paris, Oct. 4: Polish teenager Iga Swiatek shocked top seed and title favourite Simona Halep to reach the Roland Garros last eight on Sunday as 12-time champion Rafael Nadal breezed into the quarterfinals for the 14th time.

Swiatek, just 19 and ranked 54 in the world, triumphed 6-1, 6-2 on the back of 30 winners and not allowing 2018 champion Halep a single break point.

"I am surprised I could do this," admitted Swiatek after ending the 17-match winning streak of Halep, the overwhelming favourite in the absence of 2019 champion Ashleigh Barty and US Open winner Naomi Osaka and following the injury-enforced withdrawal of Serena Williams.

It was a stunning turnaround for the Pole who won just one game against the Romanian at the same stage in Paris last year, swept off court in just 45 minutes.

Swiatek will face Italian qualifier Martina Trevisan for a place in the semifinals after the 26-year-old, world number 159, registered a 6-4, 6-4 victory over fifth seed Kiki Bertens, a semifinalist in 2016.

Trevisan is the first qualifier to make the last eight since Yaroslava Shvedova in 2012.

Meanwhile in men's singles, Nadal defeated American qualifier Sebastian Korda 6-1, 6-1, 6-2, staying comfortably on course for a 13th French Open title and record-equaling 20th Grand Slam crown. Second seed Nadal racked up his 97th win at the tournament against just two defeats since his



Poland's Iga Swiatek celebrates after defeating Simona Halep of Romania in a fourth round match of the French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on Sunday. Swiatek won 6-1, 6-2. — AP

title-winning debut in 2005. He goes on to face either German sixth seed Alexander Zverev or Italian teenager Jannik Sinner in what will be his 42nd career appearance in the last eight of a Grand Slam.

"It was a good performance and I am happy with that. But Sebastian will be a great player in the future, it's impressive to see him hit the ball so well," said Nadal. — AFP

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