

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | THURSDAY | 8 OCTOBER 2020



**NATION | 4**

**OPS names EPS as CM pick in Tamil Nadu**



**WORLD | 5**

**16-year-old turns Finland PM for a day**

**SPORTS | 8**

**Nadal powers into Paris semifinals**



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**WEATHER**

Max: 32.0°C  
Min: 24.0°C  
RH: 32%  
Rainfall: 3 mm  
Forecast: Cloudy.  
Max/Min temp.  
32/24 °C

**COVID-19 COUNT**

CASES	DEATHS
(+91,030)	(+1,331)
68,32,646	1,05,551

covid19india.org

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS**

(+2,154)	(+8)
TS: 2,04,748	1,189
(+5,120)	(+34)
AP: 7,34,427	6,086

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

3,62,79,666

**DEATHS**

10,57,896

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES **213**

worldometers.info/coronavirus

**ASTROGUIDE**

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Adhika Ashwayujya Bahula Shashti till 4.32 pm  
**Star:** Mrigasira till 10.46 pm  
**Varjyam:** Nil  
**Durmuhurtam:** 10.06 am to 10.53 am; 2.48 pm to 3.35 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 1.30 pm to 3 pm  
**HJRI CALENDAR**  
**Safar ul Muzaffar 20, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 5.08 am  
**Zohar:** 12.14 pm  
**Asar:** 4.20 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.05 pm  
**Isha:** 7.13 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.59 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.07 AM**  
**MOONSET TODAY 11.15 AM**  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW 10.26 PM**

**COUNTER POINT**

It's not costly, sir! You can enjoy the luxury of a vacant seat!

**IN BRIEF**

**Ex-CBI director found dead**

**New Delhi/Shimla:** Former CBI director Ashwani Kumar, who led the Aarushi murder investigation, was found hanging at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday, and officials suspect he committed suicide. The body of Kumar (69), a 1973-batch IPS officer, was found hanging at his residence in Brockhurst, near Chhota Shimla, in the evening, they added. Himachal Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu, Shimla A) Mohit Chawla and other senior police officials reached the spot. A forensic team has also reached the spot.

■ Report on Page 4

## Chemistry Nobel for ‘molecular scissors’

**Stockholm, Oct. 7:** Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for developing a method of genome editing likened to “molecular scissors” that offer the promise of one day curing inherited diseases and even cancer. Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A. Doudna developed a method known as CRISPR/Cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision.



Jennifer A. Doudna, left, and Emmanuelle Charpentier.

“There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all,” said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

■ Report on Page 5

**HOPE | REBORN**

**Grandmother celebrates 100th birthday in hospital after recovering**

## Centenarian knocks out Covid

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

She is a centenarian and even Covid-19 could not keep her spirits down. On Wednesday, when Dr. Lakshmi Kantamma David was discharged from hospital after recovering from the disease, the hospital staff marked the milestone of her 100th birthday with a cake and a fond farewell.

“Her attitude was positive all through the treat-

ment. When she came here, her lungs were damaged and she was admitted into the ICU. But her spirit to overcome the disease helped in her response to the treatment and speeded up her recovery,” Dr. Swarna Deepak, critical care consultant at Apollo hospitals, where Kantamma was treated, said.

“She got better sooner than we expected,” she added. The 100-year-old retired doctor was diagnosed with Covid on



Staff of a private hospital celebrate the birthday of Dr Lakshmi Kanthamma after she recovered from Covid along with her son

September 19, along with her son Paul S. David, who too tested positive on the same day.

They were cured of Covid-19 and were discharged from the hospital on Wednesday.

For Kantamma herself, her bout with Covid was just one more challenge to be taken head on. Born in an age when women were still confined to their homes and had little freedoms, she married the man she fell in love with, an

Army officer, way back in 1946 as the country was on the cusp of attaining independence.

“I have four children, three boys and a girl. They are all retired now,” Kantamma told *Deccan Chronicle* after her discharge. “I have four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren,” she said in a telephone interview.

■ Page 2: Family jubilant on recovery



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with farmers during her visit to Jakkula Nekkalam village of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday while explaining the benefits of the new Farm Bills. — C. NARAYANA RAO

## Reap Farm Bill sops: Nirmala

**FM says farmers will get good prices for Guntur chillies now**

**MD ILYAS | DC**  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Union finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, who was in Vijaywada on Wednesday, affirmed that new agriculture laws are beneficial to farmers and refuted the allegations of Opposition parties as politically motivated. She stated that farmers can sell their produce in any market in the country for good prices.

Responding about the

pending funds to AP, Sitharaman said that the 14th finance commission funds was a closed chapter and that was intimated to AP finance minister, Buggana Rajendranath Reddy. She said that presently the 15th finance commission is under implementation and the union government would reconsider the pending funds to AP, including the finance commission.

The government decided to continue the five-year,

time-bound GST compensation fund and cess beyond the five years limit, said Sitharaman, adding that regarding GST issues, another meeting would be held on October 22 to resolve the problems. Despite the good demand for Guntur red chillies in north India and other places, farmers still failed to get good prices, said Sitharaman, but now the new laws would help farmers to get good price throughout the country.

Refuting objections and allegations of Opposition parties and saying that they were opposing these Bills with vested political motives, she claimed, “These reforms are not new. Even Opposition parties put these reforms in their manifestos. But now they are opposing them. It means that they, particularly the Congress, is cheating the public.”

■ Page 2: APMCs will stay relevant, says FM

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Stating that the state government was laying more emphasis on the protection of women and that the state police should put an extra effort in this regard, Chief Minister, K.

Chandrashekar Rao, asked the police to deal with organised crimes with an iron hand.

Holding a high-level meeting with senior police and forest officials on crimes and forest offences at the Pragathi Bhavan, the Chief

Minister stressed that need to control and eradicate the sale and supply of banned substances like ganja that were harming society, especially the youth.

■ Page 2: TS must distance from anti-Dalit violence: CM

## US makes H-1B visa hard to get

**Washington, Oct. 7:** The Trump administration has announced new restrictions on H-1B non-immigrant visa programme which it said is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries, a move which is likely to affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.

The interim final rule announced by the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday, less than four weeks ahead of the US presidential election, will narrow the definition of “specialty occupation” as Congress intended by closing the definition that allowed companies to game the system. It will also require firms to make “real” offers to “real employees,” by closing loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers. And finally, the rules would enhance the department’s ability to enforce compliance through worksite inspections and monitor compliance before, during and after an H-1-B petition is approved.

The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from

countries like India and China. Such a decision by the Trump administration is likely to have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals. Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the pandemic that has severely hit the US economy. According to the Department of Homeland Security, the interim final rule to be published in Federal Register will be effective in 60 days.

According to the Department of Home-land Security, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is forgoing the regular notice and comment period to immediately ensure that employing H-1B workers will not worsen the economic crisis caused by Covid-19 and adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed US workers, it said.

Data shows that more than half-a-million H-1B non-immigrants in the US have been used to displace US workers, which has led to reduced wages in a number of firms and the stagnation of wages in certain occupations, said the Department of Homeland Security.—PTI

## SC: PROTESTS AT PUBLIC PLACES NOT ACCEPTABLE

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

The Supreme Court on Wednesday “unequivocally” said that protests can be held at designated places only and the protesters can’t occupy the public places indefinitely causing “grave inconvenience” to the public.

Referring to Shaheen Bagh protest wherein the sit-in by the protesters continued for over two months, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul heading a three judge bench said, “We have to make it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied like this and that too indefinitely.”

Heading the bench also comprising Justice Aniruddha Bose and Justice Krishna Murari, Justice Kaul further said that in the case of Shaheen Bagh it was not just that the protest was taking place at an undesignated area, but was a “blockage of a public way which caused grave inconvenience to commuters”.

Speaking for the bench, Justice Kaul said, “We have, thus, no hesitation in concluding that such kind of occupation of public ways, whether at the site in question or anywhere else for protests is not acceptable and the administration ought to take action to keep the areas clear of encroachments or obstructions.”

Shaheen Bagh was the epicentre of countrywide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens.

The CAA was viewed as discriminatory as the amended provision provided for grant of Indian citizenship to the minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Christian, and Parsi — facing religious persecution in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The protest at Shaheen Bagh had started on December 15, 2019 and continued for over two months.



## IN BRIEF

## DCs to decide on open spaces

**From Page 1**  
The government said in open spaces, keeping the size of the ground/space in view and with strict observance of social distancing, mandatory wearing of face masks, provision of thermal scanning and handwash or sanitiser, more people may be permitted by district collector(s)/commissioner(s) of police/superintendent(s) of police/local bodies. The health department will issue SoPs which have to be strictly followed. In respect of containment zones, strict lockdown shall be in force till October 31 and only essential activities shall be permitted. In areas outside containment zones, all activities permitted prior to the introduction of lockdown measures will be allowed.

## Cricket betting racket busted

**Hyderabad:** The Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone Team, Hyderabad on Tuesday busted a cricket betting racket and apprehended one person and seized a TV, cellphone, and cash of ₹35,000 from his possession. The accused Nadimpally Prasad Raju, according to the police, is a native of Amapalpuram, Andhra Pradesh. He was organising cricket betting for the past six months, collecting and distributing bets from about 12 punters in the twin cities. The raid was conducted under the supervision of P. Radha Kishan Rao, Dy. Commissioner of Police, Commissioner's Task Force. The accused along with seized property was handed over to the SHO, Banjara Hills PS, Hyderabad for further action.

## Gambling racket busted, 18 held

**Hyderabad:** Eighteen people playing card games and gambling have been arrested from a farm house near Mantan Gourelli village. The police also seized ₹22,47,000 from the arrested persons. The police also seized four vans, one car and an SUV, along with liquor, snacks and food. According to V. Yadagiri Reddy, Ibrahimpatnam division's ACP, the raid at the farm house on Tuesday evening, was conducted by Yacharam police along with officials from the Special Operations Team of the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate, following a tip off about the gambling. While 18 persons who were playing cards were caught during the raid, the organiser of the event, identified as Karnati Ramesh Goud and a resident of the village, was absconding. All the 18 arrested persons, who were subsequently remanded to judicial custody, were all businessmen.

## KIDS FORCED TO COMMIT CRIME, ONE ARRESTED

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

A 23-year-old man was arrested and three children he employed to help him in his criminal activity of stealing two wheelers, and also a temple hundi, were taken into custody by the Meerpet police on Wednesday.

According to the police, the man, identified as Khatravath Nandu, a resident of Lenin Nagar in Meerpet village in Ranga Reddy district, was caught along with three 'children in conflict with law' – minors caught breaking the law, at Mandamallamma Crossroads on Wednesday morning and recovered from them four Honda Activa scooters, a Splendour Plus motorcycle and a temple hundi. The vehicles and the hundi were stolen from Kadthal, Kanchanbagh, Kandukur, Meerpet and Saroornagar police station limits, Meerpet inspector of police M. Mahender Reddy said.

All the accused lived in the same locality and were addicted to various vices and resorted to stealing two-wheelers and also managed to steal a hundi from a temple. They would recce various areas in the evenings and then steal the vehicles and flee from the spot, the police officer said.

● **THE VEHICLES** and the hundi were stolen from Kadthal, Kanchanbagh, Kandukur, Meerpet and Saroornagar police station limits, Meerpet police inspector M. Mahender Reddy said.

## Insomnia, depression, anxiety cases rise during lockdown

Worry over businesses, jobs and managing family expenses take heavy toll

**KANIZA GARARI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

People suffered insomnia and anxiety during the lockdown according to a study carried out in south India from April 6 to May 28, 2020. The study was carried out by researchers from Katuri Medical College in Guntur to understand the psychological impact of the lockdown due to Covid-19. Depression, anxiety and insomnia were the highest in

the 1001 people who participated in the study online during the lockdown period. The people who participated in the study were from all the states of south India. They had not tested positive for Covid-19 at the time of their participation in the study. 69 per cent suffered from insomnia, 65 per cent from depression and 33 per cent from anxiety. Apart from the impact of the disease, there was a lot of worry about businesses, employment and

● **THOSE WHO** suffered were healthcare workers, doctors, police, widows, separated people, people with co-morbid conditions, people with polysubstance use and poor socio-economic status.

also managing family expenses. The participants were in both younger and elderly age-groups and faced problems during lockdown as their source of income

was badly affected. Those who suffered from insomnia and depression were in the age group of 25 to 55 years. Those who suffered were healthcare workers, doctors, police, widows, separated people, people with co-morbid conditions, people with polysubstance use and poor socio-economic status.

Dr Suresh Kumar Kota, professor and head of department of psychiatry and Dr Maithri Kolluri, post

graduate at the department in Katuri Medical College observed that mental health conditions post-lockdown require the attention of Indian government. The researchers have found that there is a need to evaluate the prevalence of psychological impact of the pandemic where a targeted approach for populations must be taken up. This will help to plan and design appropriate interventions to tackle these issues.

## STATE RECORDS 2,154 FRESH COVID POSITIVE CASES

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Fresh cases of Covid-19 have clambered back into their three hundreds in the city with the state health department saying that at the last 24-hour check on Tuesday evening, the GHMC area recorded 303 new cases. The last time GHMC area recorded three hundred or more cases was on September 30 with 305 fresh Covid-19 infections reported for the day.

Since October 1, new Covid-19 cases hovered in the 280s and 290s, with the only exception being on September 4 when the city recorded 262 cases as a result of fewer tests done during the weekend.

On Tuesday, the state recorded 2,154 fresh cases, along with eight more deaths from Covid-19. The total Covid-19 cases in Telangana reached 2,04,748, while deaths rose to 1,189, the department said.

As many as 2,239 people were reported as recovered from the disease on Tuesday taking their number to 1,77,008, while 26,551 patients were considered as 'active cases' in Telangana.

While GHMC re-recorded the highest total new cases at 303 for Tuesday, districts in state with three digit figures were Ranga Reddy with 205, Medchal-Malkajigiri with 187, and Khammam with 127 cases. Karimnagar district recorded 96 cases while Bhadradi-Kothagudem had 92 cases.

A total of 2,029 Covid-19 patients were being treated in government hospitals while another 2,658 were receiving treatment in private hospitals in the state.

● **SINCE OCTOBER 1**, new Covid-19 cases hovered in the 280s and 290s, with the only exception being on September 4 when the city recorded 262 cases as a result of fewer tests done during the weekend.

● **ON TUESDAY**, the state recorded 2,154 fresh cases, along with eight more deaths from Covid. The total Covid-19 cases in Telangana reached 2,04,748.

## Few takers for RTC buses



The usually busy Khairatabad bus stop saw few passengers on Wednesday. Though the TSRTC has begun its limited services in the city, many people are still avoiding travelling by bus following complaints of no social distancing guidelines being followed either at the bus stops or inside the buses.

— R. PAVAN

## NIMS DOCTORS DEMAND ARREARS, THREATEN STRIKE

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences Resident Doctors Association has warned that they would go on strike from October 12 if their pending arrears are not paid by the government by then. They say despite several representations, their arrears have not been cleared.

Second year resident doctors are getting ₹3,000 less per month since the last 17 months while final year doctors are getting ₹6,000 less. Allowances for the 2019 batch have not been paid at all. There are also other arrears pending when it comes to specialties. Resident doctors say they have already given a strike notice to the administration. If they do not get their arrears by then, they will go on strike from Monday.

## Family jubilant on recovery

**from Page 1**

Her family was absolutely jubilant at her recovery and getting back home.

Paul David, her son, said his mother wakes up at 5 am every day, makes her own breakfast and morning tea. She does not depend on us. She is very particular; she does things on her own. Even at this age, she talks about what she can give to the society, which she says is the prime purpose of human life.

It was this spirit that saw Kantamma, who began her medical career as a gynaecologist at the government maternity hospital at Nayapul in the old city of Hyderabad many, many years ago, move to Gulf of Aden in 1960 on a diplomatic visa as part of an Indian technical aid plan for Aden.

During her 15 years of service there, she was considered a health ambassa-

dor for the underprivileged. "Two years after I returned to India in 1975, I took voluntary retirement from government service and joined the Methodist mission hospital in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, from where I moved to Sirsa in Haryana," Kantamma said. She returned to Hyderabad in 1989 after losing her husband.

"My grandmother is inspiration itself. She keeps surprising all her grandchildren on their birthdays by baking cakes and cooking their favourite meals for them," Victor H. David, one of her grandsons said.

Mala James, Kantamma's niece, said "Age has not slowed her down. She keeps abreast of medical advances, reads medical journals and is always ready to help.

She is such an inspiration to everyone in the family."

## ILLEGAL ZARDA MANUFACTURER ARRESTED

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

The Commissioner's Task Force, Central Zone team, Hyderabad, raided a manufacturing unit in the Falaknuma area on Tuesday and apprehended its owner who was illegally manufacturing and selling banned tobacco products.

The police team seized 100 kg zarda, about 5,000 empty cans of Baba Zarda empty tins, one can seaming machine and other materials worth ₹3 lakh from the owner's possession.

The police said that the accused was also involved in two separate cases previously.

The accused along with seized material were handed over to Station House Officer (SHO) Falaknuma Police Station for further action in this regard.

## TS must distance from anti-Dalit violence: CM

**From Page 1**

Expressing concern at incidents of atrocities against Dalits in various parts of the country, Rao desired that Telangana should distance itself from such incidents, asking the police to focus on preventing any untoward incidents against the Dalits in the state.

Emphasising friendly policing, Rao said that the police should behave with humanitarian values when the weak and meek approach them for help and protection.

Telangana is swiftly moving forward on the path of development and is now the number one state in the country as far as the maintenance of law and order situation is concerned, claimed Rao.

Instructing forest officers to take stern action against those plundering forest wealth Rao asked them to coordinate with the local police to control timber smuggling in the state.

Pointing out that the production of illicit liquor was totally eradicated in the new

● **INSTRUCTING FOREST** officers to take stern action against those plundering forest wealth Rao asked them to coordinate with the local police to control timber smuggling in the state.

● **Asking the police** to be on high alert about various social evils such as gambling in the state and curb them, Rao instructed the senior police officers to deal more firmly with fake certificates incidents

state, Rao said that due to Covid-19's spread, there were some reports suggesting that some illicit liquor production is taking place in a very few places in the state. They should be stopped forthwith.

Asking the police to be on high alert about various social evils such as gambling in the state and curb them, Rao instructed the senior police officers to deal more firmly with fake certificates incidents and as it sends wrong signals in society if people are able to pro-

duce fake certificates instead of getting the real ones after studying hard.

Reminding police officials that those retiring from service should get their pension settlement on their day of retirement and they should be respectfully sent to their homes the same day, Rao said there should not be any delay in making appointments on compassionate grounds in the police department.

In view of increase in the strength of the women's forces in the Telangana police with the 33 per cent reservation, Rao asked the senior police officers to create separate rest rooms and other facilities for women officers at all the police offices and stations.

Asking the Director General of Police (DGP), M. Mahender Reddy, to speed up the process of setting up 10 lakh CCTV cameras in Hyderabad city, Rao said he wanted the police department to increase the use of information technology developments to control criminal activities and offences.

## Oppn's anti-TRS wave theory to be tested

**From Page 1**

Both will be tested to substantiate their theory that there is an anti-TRS wave in the state and the people of Dubbaka will vote representing that spirit in the bypoll.

Even a cursory or virtual dipstick check on the mood of constituency brings out a simple easy projection. Under the leadership of constituency in-charge finance minister Harish Rao, TRS will win a big victory, perhaps even better than its last win with over 62,000 votes. Strangely, most people who say they will vote for TRS are not happy with the government.

A disappointing government and a greater failure of an Opposition may hardly augur well for democracy, but such is the matrix in which the election will be fought.

A senior TRS leader said, "There is a sympathy wave for the Solipeta family. But it will be a big win for us based on the performance of KCR government. People will

always support him and strengthen his hand further even as he fights for the rights of the state. Like the way he did for our water rights against Andhra and with the Centre if need be, as everyone saw yesterday."

"People are very angry with the TRS. All promises have been broken, from 2 BHK houses to drinking water for every house. Where are the jobs?"

Even the state and its people are reeling under a series of health crises. Even as people suffer, a single family becomes more powerful and richer, crushing all voices of the people," a Congress leader underlined.

Despite this, the party, however, seems unable to make a battle out of it. BJP leaders and workers were highly enthusiastic and hopeful that under a new state president, Bandi Sanjay, they would be able to end the TRS narrative and set a mood that the saffron party is all set to replace the pink.

But local factors turned against them,

especially the candidate, who has a rape case against him. While the probable BJP candidate, M. Raghunandan Rao, has got a High Court reprieve from legal action, local cadre are not enthusiastic in a post Hathras and Moinabad phase to campaign for a candidate facing charges of such a heinous crime.

"If he is the candidate, our party will lose in a big way. If there is any other candidate, preferably a Reddy, BJP can make a big fight out of this," said a BJP leader. The saffron party, however, does not seem intent on relenting or changing its candidate so late in the day.

When a local BJP leader, Thota Kamalakar Reddy spoke against giving a ticket to Raghunandan, he was summarily suspended. But not many are betting on the chances of this candidate, who will make a hat trick of defeats if he loses this one.

A.P. Jithender Reddy, senior BJP leader and former MP, apart from other leaders, are trying

## APMCs will stay relevant, says FM

**From Page 1**

Lauding the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Union finance minister Sitaraman said "Despite many challenges including the Covid19 pandemic, Modi passed the amendments with a commitment to empower the farmers. Amending labour laws alone will not give proper results. That's why we have made amendments to all three bills at the same time. A farmer can now take his produce to any state and sell it anywhere in the country, without additional burden. They can utilise the e-NAM platform to get more benefit by selling his produce. At the same time, they could also go for agreements with the purchasing companies, can form farmer produce organisations, could add value to their farm produce and do much more."

Claiming that she met some farmers "on my way from the airport to here, they thanked Modi for the reforms as they can sell their produce anywhere in India now."

## Course on biomedical engg

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH), has announced starting of a new B. Tech course in biomedical engineering focused on next-generation healthcare technologies.

The course will help biomedical engineers work on frontier areas of healthcare innovations in deep-tech industry or academia.

As IITH biomedical engineers, students will be trained to design medical devices, develop 3D imagers and microscopes, crunch mountains of healthcare data, recognise patterns in health and disease, simulate and predict spread of epidemics, create brain-spinal systems in silicon, design prosthetics that move with

thoughts, print 3D cornea, bone or skin, develop nanoparticles to fight tumours or turn them down with ultrasound, design implants, regenerate organs from stem cells, create biosensors on a chip, model impacts on body, and craft algorithms that mimic body and brain, among others.

Curriculum for this course will be designed around four verticals – bio-imaging/sensing, bio-mechanics, biomaterials and bio-intelligence/AI. Professor B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, said they believe this program will help build indigenous medical devices of high quality that serve all sections of the country.

For further details, those interested may contact Head, BME a t head@bme.iith.ac.in .

## IIITH PLANS TO SET UP SMART CITY RESEARCH CENTRE

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

The International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH) on Wednesday announced setting up of a Smart City Research Centre (SCRC) with support from MEITY (Government of India), Smart City Mission, and the Government of Telangana.

IIITH's Living Lab

will collaborate with government bodies, start-ups and big organisations on Smart City solutions. Its campus will include different verticals related to air quality, building energy, water quantity, and quality, street lighting, among other related things. Through the Living Lab, the institute hopes to transform the campus into a platform for learning, experimentation and to showcase new ideas and approaches.

A leader said, "BJP's national leadership has resolved to end the rule of TRS in the next elections. We will showcase our seriousness in Dubbaka. It will be a significant date in state politics when we defeat TRS, which otherwise has a good track record of winning bypolls."

Meanwhile, the Congress, several of whose leaders have confessed that they cannot match the money or clout of TRS, are hoping a good candidate and ground-level contact could give the party some traction in the constituency, where it stood third last time around.

"There is anger against the TRS government. But Dubbaka will not risk the wrath of the ruling party with three years to go. It will be a TRS win, by default," said a farmer; "A big one."



## SHORT TAKES

**2 BURGLARS HELD,  
₹18.5L JEWELLERY  
RECOVERED**DC CORRESPONDENT  
KOTHAGUDEM, OCT. 7

The police arrested two burglars in Paloncha and recovered jewellery worth of ₹18.5 lakh — gold 575 grams and silver 4.5 kg— from them on Wednesday.

The burglars were identified as Inala Krishna and Pusapati Srinivas.

The duo had done burglaries at various places in Paloncha. During surprise checks, the police found the two moving suspiciously with a bag.

They took them into custody for interrogation, where they agreed to their offences.

**GP SECRETARIES  
PULLED UP FOR  
BAD ATTENDANCE**DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, OCT. 7

An exercise to get qualitative services from gram panchayat secretaries to improve activities in the villages is on. Many gram panchayat offices are not managing their time correctly.

The topmost priority of the administration is to maintain the attendance of secretaries and their working hours. Presently, secretaries, under the supervision of sarpanches, work at their will as there is no supervision on their hours of work.

As a result, the implementation of various government schemes is affected. The role of the secretaries is crucial in the perfect implementation of the development and welfare schemes in the villages.

Misuse of funds also came to the fore, and the government suspended as many as 39-gram panchayat secretaries.

There are 584-gram panchayats in Khammam district having 100 regular secretaries, and the remaining are junior secretaries. As a first step, the government has issued guidelines on the working schedule of the secretaries.

Every secretary will have to download the notequam App and post their photo in the WhatsApp group created by the officials.

The mandal panchayat officers have to send the attendance register of all secretaries through a Google spreadsheet to the district panchayat office. The attendance report has to reach the DPO office before 10 am.

The work done by the secretaries will be evaluated and under scanner through WhatsApp along with the funds used.

**5-KM STRETCH OF  
NSP LEFT CANAL TO  
GET A FACELIFT**RAVINDRA SESHU | DC  
KHAMMAM, OCT. 7

The beautification of the five-kilometre stretch of the Nagarjunasagar Left Canal project going through in the limits of Khammam Municipal Corporation will shape the ambience of the town. The state has allocated ₹2.34 crore for the project.

Presently, the road on both sides of the canal is a place for anti-social elements. They use it as their adda to drink and smoke ganja. Further, the sides of the canal bund have turned out to be a garbage dumping space.

Some of the land on either side of the canal is encroached by realtors. People, throw waste bottles and empty cigarette packs into the canal. They also take a bath and wash clothes polluting the channel. With the beautification project, will check these activities.

Minister for transport Puvvada Ajay said that besides a park on both sides along with a walking track. Both sides of the canal will have a fence, so children and adults cannot go swimming. In the last year, there have been a dozen instances of children drowning in the canal. All types of sports equipment will be installed in the children parks to be set up.

Both sides of the canal will have a green cover which will include flowering plants, grass and other trees. The canal will be one of the best spots in the town after Lakaram tank.

● **PRESENTLY**, the road on both sides of the canal is a place for anti-social elements. They drink and smoke ganja. Further, the sides of the canal bund have turned out to be a garbage dumping space.

● **BOTH SIDES** of the canal will have a fence, so children and adults cannot go swimming.



A view of a main road submerged in floodwater in Jangaon on Wednesday due to the heavy rains. A colony flooded with rainwater.



# Heavy rain floods Jangaon

**Floodwater inundate the main through fares, several colonies and the low-lying areas**ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, OCT. 7

The heavy rains in Jangaon threw normal life out of gear on Wednesday, resulting in several colonies in the town flooded.

Due to the pathetic drainage system, the main through fares were flooded, leading to traffic issues. Vehicles moved cautiously on the pothole ridden highway.

Floodwater inundated the low-lying areas completely. Residents had to wade in knee-deep high water to reach their homes.

Jyotinar, Srinagar colony, Kumari Wada, Balaji Nagar, Weavers Colony, Sai B a b a Temple area, JK Nagar were affected.

Residents complained that neither the district nor the municipal administration did anything to ensure the floodwater drained.



Floodwater floods a colony in Jangaon on Wednesday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

## Farmers fear excess rains will destroy crops

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, OCT. 7

Farmers in Khammam district are fearing that the fourth spell of rains taking place due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal will destroy their crops ready for harvesting.

The rainfall registered in various mandals on Wednesday was between 2 cm to 14.8 cm. Wyra received the highest rainfall of 14.8 cm followed by 9.8 cm in Mudigonda, 9.7 cm in Konigerla, 9.1 cm in Chintakani, 7.6 in Bonakal, 7.5 cm in Khammam Urban, 6.6 in Tallada, 6.5 cm in Khammam Rural mandal and 6.2 cm in Madhira.

■ **WYRA RECEIVED** the highest rainfall of 14.8 cm. The Met department has predicted more rains in the coming four days.

The district recorded an average rainfall of 5.5 cm, and the total rainfall so far is 47 per cent excess when compared with the average.

This year all the 21 mandals in the district registered excess rain. The metrology department has predicted more rains in the coming four days. Farm officials have alerted the cotton and chilli farmers to divert the rainwater logged in their fields by making passages as it will damage the standing crops.

## Oct. 12 deadline for public assets registration

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, OCT. 7

Warangal Urban district collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu has directed officials to expedite the registration of public property undertaken by the state government.

He along with the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation commissioner Pamela Satpathy reviewed the progress of asset registration in Dharani app at the GWMC office on Wednesday.

The collector said, "Along with the details of 2.10 lakh assets registered with the GWMC, the details of assets where assessment has not been completed have to be registered. The entire registration process should be done in the app by the 12th of this month."

He assured the appointment of bill collectors, office attendants, municipal staff, VROs, VRAs as well as senior and junior assistants from all departments in the district.

Ms Pamela informed that 13 people are filling the details in each revenue inspector circle. The collector directed the staff to



Collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu and GWMC commissioner Pamela Satpathy inspect the registration process on Wednesday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

● **THE COLLECTOR** assured the appointment of bill collectors, office attendants, municipal staff, VROs, VRAs as well as senior and junior assistants from all departments in the district.

be increased to 30 to speed up the registration process.

"All steps are being taken to ensure 100 per cent registration of assets before the deadline. Each

employee has been instructed to register at least 50 asset details every day," she said.

The commissioner said that the supervising officers in each circle are monitoring the registration progress in the Dharani app on an hourly basis.

Additional commissioner Nageshwar, deputy commissioner G. Raju and others participated in the review.

Later, the collector and the commissioner made a surprise visit to the

## COOPERATE, SHARE INFORMATION, SAYS JOGU PREMENDER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, OCT. 7

Adilabad municipal chairman Jogu Premender appealed to residents and house owners to cooperate with the concerned officials and furnish information about their property and house so it can be upload on the government portal Dharani.

The municipal chairman visited houses in Kholigpura colony and enquired with the house owners about the ongoing survey. He also asked the concerned officials as to how the data is collected.

Brahmanwada and Kottur areas and inspected the details of the properties registered in the Dharani App.

The collector and the commissioners inquired about the problems encountered locally and the accuracy in the registration of records.

## Nizamabad all set for MLC bypoll with Covid-19 protocol

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 7

The undivided Nizamabad district is gearing up to hold the MLC bypolls on October 9. Of the 824 voters, 24 voters are Covid-19 positive, while a voter from Kamareddy district, was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The administration has put in place Covid-19 precautions at the 50 polling centres.

As many as 399 polling personnel have been appointed, including presiding officers, polling officers and micro observers.

The administration has added 10 per cent reserve staff incase any polling employee gets infected with the virus. All polling personnel will have to undergo Covid-19 testing twice, and if anyone is found infected, the reserve staff will replace them. In each polling station, a medical officer; ANM or Asha worker is available to monitor Covid-19 protocol.

There are two options for Covid-19 voters to franchise their votes; at the last hour of polling day from 4 pm to

5 pm, otherwise, via postal ballot. Wearing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits, Covid-19 voters can franchise their votes. The administration has arranged for an ambulance to bring positive patients to the polling station who do not have their vehicles.

All the voters will get face masks and hand gloves at the polling stations. Thermal screening, use of sanitisers and social distancing is mandatory at all the polling stations. Reportedly, in the TRS party, 19 voters are Covid-19 positive. From the Opposition, 5 five from the Congress and the BJP are infected. Medical officers will monitor the health condition of the Covid-19 voters during the election.

MLC election returning officer, district collector C.Narayana Reddy on Wednesday said that Covid-19 protocol is strictly being followed, during the byelection. "We have told the voters and polling personnel to take precautions during polling and counting of votes. Before the polls, the 50 polling stations will be sanitised," he said.

## RAIDS ON GUTKA STOCK POINTS INTENSIFIED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 7

Nizamabad commissionerate police have intensified raids on gutka and zarda stock points in the last few days in Nizamabad district.

Police seized ₹35 lakh worth gutka and other materials in raids so far. Commissioner of police Kartikeya has directed police officers to carry out raids on gutka stock points and godowns across the commissionerate limits.

Commissionerate police task force led by inspector Shakir Ali, conducted raids on gutka and other banned items stock points in Nizamabad.

Under I- Town, II-Town, IV-Town and V-Town limits, police found huge gutka stocks and seized them.

The police found gutka manufacturing machines from Mirchi compound area in Nizamabad.

Following the unabated sales of gutka, CP Kartikeya has directed the assistant commissioner of police, station house officers and the task force to carry out raids on illegal gutka and zarda stocks.

On credible information, task force police and respective police stations officials carried out raids in the town.

The commissioner of police warned the gutka sellers to mend their ways or get ready to face action.

Because of the continuous raids by the police, gutka sales halted in Nizamabad district for the last few days. Retail and wholesale dealers fear holding stocks of gutka.

The gutka addicts are worried over the halt of sales and are trying to purchase gutka at an extra price.

## IN 24 HRS, MUNICIPAL CORPORATOR SUDHA, RETURNS TO THE BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 7

In a gap of 24 hours, the 44 division BJP municipal corporator Baikan Sudha along with her husband Baikan Madhu who had joined the TRS on Tuesday, re-joined the TRS on Wednesday.

The BJP district president Baswapuram Laxminarsaiah, BJP state executive committee member Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta welcomed the couple back into the party fold.

Meanwhile, two municipal councillors from Yellaeddy joined the TRS on Wednesday. Councillors Mancherla Maheshwari and Gade Vijayalaxmi joined the TRS in the presence of minister for roads and buildings, legislative affairs and housing V. Prashanth Reddy.

Former MLA E. Ravinder Reddy was so present.

## RISE IN | POPULATION

**Maharashtra govt plans to release few tigers from Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve into TS**

# Tiger attacks on the rise, people fear man-animal conflict

PILLALAMARRI  
SRINIVAS | DC  
ADILABAD, OCT. 7

Increase in the migration of tigers from Maharashtra may result in a conflict between the tigers and humans soon along the state borders of old Adilabad district like in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.

In the last six months, tiger attacks on cattle have increased in old Adilabad district, especially in the areas that share their borders with Maharashtra.

People say that after attacking the cattle, in the future the big cats may begin to attack the people working in the fields and cattle grazers in the forest areas.

Already, incidents of tigers attacking people

have come to the fore in Chandrapur and Yavathmal district in Maharashtra.

Villagers say, "Forest officials are only talking about tiger conservation. No one is bothered about the safety of the people."

In many places, especially the tribal areas, agriculture fields are close to the forest areas. The general practice is that owners or cattle grazers take their cattle to the nearest forests for grazing.

There have been records of tiger movement in Penchikalpet, Sirpur (T), Bejjur mandals, in Bheempur and Tamsi mandals and also along the river Pranahitha in Kumarambheem Asifabad district and along the river Penganga in Adilabad district.



The owner with the calf that was killed by a tiger at Thalai village in Bejjur mandal in Kumarambheem Asifabad district on October 3.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

Recently a tiger attacked three cattle in Bheempur mandal. Two persons were killed by tigers in separate

incidents in Yavathmal and Chandrapur districts in Maharashtra. The areas are close to the Telangana

borders.

There is news that the Maharashtra government plans to release some

tigers from the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve into Telangana. Fear has gripped the farmers in old Adilabad district that border these areas.

Forests officials have appealed to villagers, not

to take their cattle for grazing near the forests. Farmers were advised not to visit the fields early in the morning, and to return home in the evening early, as there is a movement of tigers in the area.





SHORT TAKES

EX-CBI DIRECTOR  
ASHWANI KUMAR  
FOUND DEAD

Shimla/New Delhi, Oct. 7: Former CBI director and Nagaland Governor Ashwani Kumar was found hanging at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday, officials said.

Kumar became CBI director in 2008, succeeding Vijay Shanker, in the midst of the agency's probe into the Aarushi Talwar murder case that hogged the headlines.

Kumar later became Governor of Nagaland, they said.

He was presently Vice Chancellor of a private university in Shimla, they said.

The body of Kumar, a 1973-batch IPS officer, was found hanging at his residence in Shimla Wednesday evening, they said.

STONES THROWN  
AT KAMAL NATH'S  
CONVOY

RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, OCT. 7

Former chief minister Kamal Nath's cavalcade was on Wednesday stoned by some miscreants when he was leading an election rally in Annapur.

The incident happened when the youth wing of BJP was staging black flag demonstration to protest Mr Nath's visit to Annapur assembly constituency which is going to by-elections along with 27 other seats in Madhya Pradesh on November 3.

The demonstrators tried to block Mr Nath's cavalcade while holding the demonstration and shouting slogans against him. However, the security personnel deployed in the area chased them away to clear the way for Mr Nath's convoy to proceed to the venue of the public meeting in the town. Some youths who were part of the demonstration then suddenly started pelting stones at Mr Nath's vehicle.

However, Mr Nath's cavalcade had passed by then.

A video catching the violent demonstration went viral immediately after the incident.

Congress condemned the attack, saying that the BJP was resorting to violence against Congress leaders out of frustration.

"The attack on Mr Nath's vehicle is a clear demonstration of BJP's frustration over growing popularity of Congress. In democracy, there is no place for violence", senior Congress leader and former Union minister Arun Yadav said.

He said Mr Nath enjoyed Z plus security and slammed the Shivraj government for security lapses leading to attack on his vehicle.

UGC DECLARES  
24 UNIVERSITIES  
AS FAKE

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Wednesday announced a list of 24 "self-styled, unrecognised institutions" in the country, terming them as "fake" with the maximum of them operating from Uttar Pradesh followed by Delhi.

"Students and public are informed that currently 24 self-styled, unrecognised institutions are functioning in contravention of the UGC Act, which have been declared as fake universities and these are not empowered to confer any degree," UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain said.

The majority of eight of these universities are from Uttar Pradesh — Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi; Mahila Gram Vidyapith, Allahabad; Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Allahabad; National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur; Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Aligarh; Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Mathura; Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh and Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Noida.

Delhi has seven fake universities — Commercial University Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Juridical University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open University for Self Employment and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual University). Odisha and West Bengal have two such universities each. Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Maharashtra have one each.

# Crisis blows over, OPS names EPS as CM pick

11-member steering committee as asked by OPS set up

G BABU JAYAKUMAR  
& D. SEKAR | DC  
CHENNAI, OCT. 7

With sweets and firecrackers, it was early Deepavali at the AIADMK headquarters premises on Wednesday morning soon after the party coordinator, O. Panneerselvam, named the incumbent Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2021 Assembly elections.

The meeting, scheduled for 10.00 am, started a little ahead of time with the party headquarters wearing a festive look since morning and the first announcement was on the formation of the 11-member steering committee, which had been Panneerselvam's long time demand.

Party deputy coordinator K.P. Munusamy, who was among those working till 3.30 am to bring about a rapprochement between Panneerselvam and Palaniswami, read out the names of the members of the steering committee, which he said was formed on the basis of a decision taken at the General Council.

Also Panneerselvam put his stamp of approval on the list by signing on it in front of the crowd.

The steering committee members are Forest Minister Dindigul C. Seenivasan, Electricity Minister P. Thangamani, Municipal Administration Minister S.P. Velumani, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, Law Minister C. Ve. Shanmugam, Food and Civil Supplies Minister R. Kamaraj, former MLA J.C.D. Prabakar, former MP Manoj Pandian, former Minister P. Mohan, former MP R. Gopalakrishnan and Sholavandan MLA K. Manikam.

Munsamy and Vaithilingam, another deputy coordinator, had shuttled between the official residences of Panneerselvam and Palaniswami to finalise the name of the committee members till the wee hours as that was the last hitch to be ironed out to bring both the leaders together to make the announcement they were united.

Once the truce was called, the entire party



AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam greets Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in Chennai on Wednesday

leadership geared up for the meeting and trooped to the venue. Panneerselvam arrived by around 9.40 am and he was followed by Palaniswami in another five minutes. Musical bands heralded their arrival with welcome notes and supporters, some of them wearing full face masks with the images of the leaders, cheered them with slogan shouting.

Then the two leaders, along with the other party functionaries, chatted for some time before the meeting was called for order. It was rumoured that they wanted the announcements to be made at an auspicious hour that came before 10 am.

Whatever be the reason,

the meeting turned out to be a simple affair with the presentation of shawls, brief expression of thanks and appreciation and several rounds of applause without slipping into long winded harangue that normally marked political meetings.

Then the top brass of the party, including Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, dove down to the MGR memorial. Both of them paid homage to MGR and also J. Jayalalithaa at their respective samadhis and then drove away.

When Jayakumar was asked by the media on the steering committee having more Palaniswami supporters, he said that

the names were chosen unanimously. He said the show of unity in the party was a huge blow to betrayers and opponents of the AIADMK.

Vaithilingam, to a question on some senior leaders not figuring in the committee, said that there were other vacancies in the party and they would be soon filled up with the senior leaders who were not part of the panel.

AIADMK cadre, both men and women, cheered the leaders for putting up a show of unity with their jubilant gigs and slogan shouting.

A marked sense of relief and celebration filled the air as they distributed sweets and lighted firecrackers.



Gupteshwar Pandey

SHIV SENA TO  
CONTEST 50  
SEATS IN BIHAR  
ELECTIONS

BHAGWAN PARAB  
MUMBAI, OCT. 7

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has announced that it will contest 50 seats in the forthcoming Bihar Assembly polls. The party has also decided to field its candidate against former Bihar police chief Gupteshwar Pandey, who is likely to contest the polls on JDU ticket.

Mr Pandey had criticised the Mumbai police and Maharashtra government in the actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case. He later joined the ruling Janata Dal (United) after taking voluntary retirement from the service. He is expected to contest the elections on a JDU ticket from Buxar.

Senior Shiv Sena leader Anil Desai said, "Maharashtra, Mumbai and Shiv Sena were unnecessarily defamed in the Sushant Singh death case by playing vendetta politics. The Shiv Sena will now fight back by contesting the polls. We will contest 50 seats in Bihar."

According to Sena leaders, the party had contested the 2015 assembly polls too, in which it had polled more than two lakh votes.

Defending the decision to contest against the former Bihar DIG, Mr Desai said, "Not just Maharashtra but the entire nation saw his theatrics. His statements were unbecoming for his post. But our Shiv Sainik is ready to fight against him."

The Shiv Sena had earlier accused the Bihar politicians of trying to make Sushant Singh's death an electoral issue. Some issues can be shipped from Mumbai if they don't have real issues, another Sena leader Sanjay Raut had said.

Bihar will go to polls in three phases: October 28, November 3 and November 7.

## BJP spares 11 seats for associate partner VIP

Patna, Oct. 7: The BJP on Wednesday allocated 11 seats to associate partner Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) from its quota of 121 seats in Bihar assembly polls.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had announced at a joint press conference Tuesday that while JD(U) will spare some seats to Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) of former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi from its share of 122 seats and the BJP will accommodate VIP from its quota of 121 seats in the 243-member assembly.

JD(U) has provided seven seats to HAM.

The seat distribution to VIP was announced at a press conference addressed by Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar unit president Sanjay Jaiswal and VIP chief Mukesh Sahni.

Jaiswal told reporters that VIP will also be provided one seat in Bihar legislative council in future.

VIP floated a couple of years ago by former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni, was with the opposition Grand Alliance till last week.

Sahni had on Friday last announced an abrupt exit from the opposition coalition in protest against "back-stabbing" by RJD,

which helps the anti-NDA grouping, and its de facto leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Sahni expressed happiness over return to the BJP-led NDA with which he had started his political innings in 2014 general election with an aim to make Narendra Modi Prime Minister of the country.

Meanwhile, Bihar BJP leader Usha Vidyarthi joined the Lok Janshakti Party on Wednesday after meeting its president Chirag Paswan, and is likely to be fielded from the Paliganj assembly seat where the JD(U) will contest as well.

Vidyarthi, a former MLA, joined the LJP a day after another senior BJP leader from the state, Rajendra Singh, who was associated with the RSS for a long time, joined Paswan's party.

Singh wanted to contest from Dinara but the seat has been allotted to the JD(U) as part of its seat-sharing arrangement with the ally BJP for the Bihar assembly polls.

The Lok Janshakti Party, which has announced that it will contest from seats given to the JD(U) and not fight against the BJP, hopes that many more leaders from other parties will join it in the coming days. —PTI

## I-T RAIDS LOCATIONS IN BIHAR, U.P. IN PROBE AGAINST BUSINESSMAN

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The Income Tax Department has conducted searches in poll-bound Bihar and Uttar Pradesh against a businessman involved in mining and the hotel industry and the chairman of a "large" cooperative bank, the CBDT said on Wednesday.

It said the raids were conducted on Tuesday in Patna, Sasaram and Varanasi on the basis of "actionable intelligence" and ₹1.25 crore cash was seized while fixed deposit receipts of ₹6 crore were placed under "prohibitory orders."

"During the search, an amount of ₹75 lakh was found in a car belonging to the businessman involved in mining and hotel industry. Subsequent investigations led to the finding

that this amount was unaccounted and was also linked to the chairman of a large cooperative bank," the CBDT said in a statement.

"Unaccounted cash and documents with details of substantial cash transactions were found and seized. These transactions are not reflected in the corresponding returns of income," it said.

The Board did not identify those who were raided but sources said the businessman has links with a political party in Bihar.

Polls for the 243-member Bihar assembly will be held in three phases — October 28, November 3 and November 7 — and counting of votes will take place on November 10. —PTI

## POCSO accused done to death

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
OCT. 7

A 37-year-old Kerala man, who was an accused in POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) case and out on parole, was hacked to death by unidentified persons in Thrissur district.

The accused had carried out the alleged sexual assault on a tribal girl in Pazhayannur in Thrissur. His body was found in a vacant plot. The police has registered a case and the probe has begun.

The local police said Sathesh was found with injuries in a vacant house near his home in Eland in Thirumani village. He was taken into custody about eight months ago in connection with the case of sexual assault on a tribal girl. After being released on parole, he was residing in Malappuram.

However, of late he was often seen near the spot where the tribal girl was sexually assaulted. There were also reports that some people used to visit the village looking for him which led to the suspicion that he might have committed something wrong in Malappuram.

Local residents told police that two persons from Malappuram district had visited the village recently enquiring about the whereabouts of Sathesh.

The cops are trying to find out if they are linked to the incident in any way.

● **LOCAL RESIDENTS** told police that two persons from Malappuram district had visited the village recently enquiring about the whereabouts of Sathesh.

● **THE COPS** are trying to find out if they are linked to the incident.

The cops are also in the process of collecting the details of persons who visited the village to ascertain their identity. The local police is in touch with the Malappuram police to check whether any case is registered against Sathesh in any of the police stations, especially in the area where he used to live.

Though the house where Sathesh's body was found was abandoned, a group of persons used to assemble there for drinking sessions. According to villagers they used to create ruckus in the house.

Sathesh was on parole as part of the government decision to release under-trials and remand prisoners in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Kerala high court had earlier permitted parole for prisoners who are serving less than 6 years term in jail.

The Poojappura central jail in Thiruvananthapuram had reported the highest number of cases with over 470 inmates and about a dozen officials getting infected with Covid-19.

## Scribe, 3 others booked for sedition two days after being held by UP cops

Lucknow/Mathura, Oct. 7: The Uttar Pradesh police on Wednesday booked four persons including Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan on sedition and other charges at Maant police station in Mathura, two days after they were held while on their way to Hathras.

Charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IT Act have also been filed against the four who were later remanded in judicial custody for 14 days by a Mathura court, officials said.

The FIR claimed that police recovered pamphlets "Justice for Hathras victim", six mobiles and a laptop from them, and during the initial probe it was found that they were going to Hathras with an intention to breach the peace as part of a conspiracy.

The four were held on Monday when they were on their way to Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gangraped — an incident that has sparked widespread outrage.

Police had earlier claimed that the four, identified as Kappan, a journalist of Malapuram in Kerala, Atiq-ur-Rehman of Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmad of Bahraich and Alam of Rampur, had links with alleged radical group Popular Front of India and its affiliates.

They were on Wednesday booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code including 124A (sedition) and



Police produce journalist Siddique Kappan and three others, suspected to have links with the Popular Front of India and its affiliate in Mathura, in a court in Mathura on Wednesday.

— PTI

153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), according to the FIR.

They have also been charged with IPC Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious belief).

The recovered pamphlets, Am I not India's daughter, made with Carrd.co, encourage social discord and public unrest," the FIR said.

The FIR alleged that internet platform Carrd.co and website Justice for Hathras were being used to instigate cast violence, riots and collecting donations.

Such websites are spreading anti-national propaganda in the country and distorting facts to create tension and disturb law and order, it alleged.

In this way, it is clear that prima facie internet platform Carrd.co and website Justice for Hathras have committed offences under various sections of the IPC and other Acts.

The four persons and other unidentified persons have been found to be involved in these criminal acts and an investigation is necessary to find the details of their actions, it said.

It has to be probed from where and why these websites are being operated, how much money is being collected through this platform/website, where was this amount used and

who were beneficiaries, the FIR said.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Anju Rajput granted the police a 14-day judicial remand of the four persons, saying the offence is of serious nature and requires more interrogation.

Earlier, the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) had sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking Kappan's release and also filed a habeas corpus petition in the Supreme Court.

The Press Association and the Indian Women Press Corps on Wednesday described the journalist's arrest as the Uttar Pradesh government's attempt to "silence" the media and demanded his immediate release. —PTI

## SIT PROBING HATHRAS CASE GETS MORE TIME TO FILE REPORT

Lucknow, Oct. 7: The UP government has given an additional 10 days to the three-member SIT investigating the alleged gangrape and killing of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras as the "probe is not complete", a senior official said Wednesday.

The special investigation team, constituted on September 30 and led by Home Secretary Bhagwan Swarup, was initially given seven days to submit its report.

But the UP government later sought a CBI probe into the case and the criminal conspiracy to spread caste conflict it has suspected. On Tuesday, it told the Supreme Court it wanted an apex court-monitored CBI inquiry into the incident to ensure "no vested interests will be able to create fake, false narrative with oblique motives".

"Yes...the time for submitting report for the SIT has been extended by 10 days," said Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi. Asked about the reasons for the extension, he added, "The reason is one. The probe is not complete."

The Yogi Adityanath government is fighting severe criticism for its handling of the case, particularly after the local police burnt the woman's body at night without the family's approval. —PTI



## IN BRIEF

**N. Korea ex-envoy to Italy defected**

**Seoul:** A senior North Korea diplomat who had vanished in Italy in late 2018 lives in South Korea under government protection, a lawmaker said Wednesday. If confirmed, Jo Song Gil, the North's former ambassador to Italy, would be the highest-level North Korean official to defect to rival South Korea since the 1997 arrival of Hwang Jang-yop, a senior ruling Workers' Party official who once tutored leader Kim Jong Un's father, late leader Kim Jong Il. South Korea's spy agency earlier told lawmakers that Jo had left his official residence in Rome with his wife in November 2018 and was under protection at an unspecified location outside the European country. Lawmaker Ha Tae-keung, who sits on the intelligence committee of the National Assembly, wrote on Facebook that Jo arrived in South Korea last year and is under the protection of the South Korean government.

**40 nations flay China over HR**

**United Nations:** Nearly 40 mainly Western countries criticised China's treatment of minority groups, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet, on Tuesday and expressed grave concern at the impact of its new national security law on human rights in Hong Kong. The US, many European countries, Japan and others called on China to allow "unfettered access" to Xinjiang for independent observers, including UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet, and to urgently refrain from detaining Uighurs and members of other minorities. The 39 countries also urged China in a joint statement read at a meeting of the General Assembly's human rights committee, "to uphold autonomy, rights and freedoms in Hong Kong, and to respect the independence of the Hong Kong judiciary". It was immediately followed by a statement from Pakistan on behalf of 55 countries opposing interference in China's affairs when it comes to Hong Kong.

**Guitar legend Eddie Van Halen dies**

**New York:** Eddie Van Halen, the guitar virtuoso whose blinding speed, control and innovation propelled his band Van Halen into one of hard rock's biggest groups and became elevated to the status of rock god, has died. He was 65. A person close to Van Halen's family confirmed the rocker died Tuesday due to cancer. The person was not authorised to publicly release details in advance of an official announcement. "He was the best father I could ask for," Van Halen's son Wolfgang wrote in a social media post. "Every moment I've shared with him on and off stage was a gift." With his distinct solos, Eddie Van Halen fuelled the ultimate California party band and helped knock disco off the charts starting in the late 1970s with his band's self-titled debut album and then with the blockbuster record "1984," which contains the classics "Jump", "Panama" and "Hot for Teacher". Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time, and the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.

**PM FOR A DAY: TEEN FILLS TOP JOB IN FINLAND**

**Helsinki, Oct. 7:** Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin faced a quieter day than usual on Wednesday after handing power to a 16-year-old as part of a campaign to promote girls' rights. Aava Murto, from Vaasky in southern Finland, said she was having an "exciting day" as she faced media on the steps of parliament after meeting with the chancellor of justice. Murto added that she had "learnt some new things about legislation". In the afternoon, the student who actively campaigns on climate and human rights issues was to speak with MPs and the minister for development and foreign trade. Her message to decision-makers has been that girls "need to realise more how important they are, and how they are just as good at technology as boys," she said. "I think young people could teach adults to be more innovative and think more about the future," she added. The swap is part of a global "Girls Takeover" campaign by children's rights charity Plan International, which aims to raise awareness of girls' digital skills.

**Court: Greek party criminal body****Guilty verdicts delivered against many of the far-right Golden Dawn party's ex-lawmakers**

**Athens, Oct. 7:** A Greek court has ruled that the far-right Golden Dawn party was operating as a criminal organisation, delivering a landmark verdict in a marathon five-year trial. The court on Wednesday delivered guilty verdicts against several of the party's former lawmakers for participating in a criminal organisation, and deemed others guilty of leading a criminal organisation. The 68 defendants in the trial include 18 former lawmakers from the party that was founded in the 1980s as a neo-Nazi organization and rose to become Greece's third largest party during the country's decade-long financial crisis. The court was assessing four cases rolled into one: The fatal stabbing of Greek rap singer Pavlos Fyssas, attacks on migrant fishermen, attacks on left-wing activists and whether Golden Dawn was operating as a criminal organisation. The presiding judge of the three-member panel delivered a guilty verdict against Giorgos Roupakias for the murder of Fyssas. That prompted applause inside the courtroom and among the crowd outside. — AP



Thousands of people gather for a protest outside a court in Athens on Wednesday.

**COURT ORDERS ISSUING ADS TO SUMMON NAWAZ**

**Islamabad, Oct. 7:** A Pakistani court on Wednesday ordered that advertisements be issued in newspapers to summon former premier Nawaz Sharif after his representative in London refused to receive the arrest warrant against him in corruption cases. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) was irked by the attitude of Sharif's representatives at his residence in London and ordered that the advertisements be posted in *Dawn* and *Jang* newspapers. The court directed the federal government to bear the cost of the advertisements and the additional attorney general Tariq Khokhar was asked to pay the fees within two days. The order followed after an official posted at the Pakistani High Commission in London informed the IHC that a representative of Sharif had initially agreed to receive the arrest warrants but later changed his mind. The IHC in its last hearing had directed Hanan to record a statement in the next hearing of the case via a video link. The court last month issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Sharif. — PTI

**Pence, Harris all set for one-off V-P debate****Biden against second debate if Trump still suffers from Covid**

**Washington, Oct. 7:** Vice President Mike Pence and his Democratic challenger Senator Kamala Harris are all set for a crucial debate, which comes as President Donald Trump is ill with Coronavirus that has claimed over 200,000 American lives and battered the country's economy. Harris, whose mother was from India and father from Jamaica, scripted history in August when she was picked up by the Democratic Party as its vice presidential nominee. She is the first Black woman and the first Asian-American woman to be selected as the vice presidential nominee of a major political party in the US. It will be for the first time in the American history that an Indian-origin person will be taking up the podium for a vice pres-

**Washington, Oct. 7:** Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday said he is against participating in his second debate with Donald Trump next week if the president still suffers from Covid-19. "I think if he still has Covid, we shouldn't have a debate," Biden, a former

US vice-president, told reporters on his return from Gettysburg. The first of the three presidential debates between Biden, 77, and Trump, 74, was held on September 29. The second debate is scheduled for October 15 in Miami and the final one on October 22 in

Nashville, Tennessee. Biden said they should follow very strict guidelines. "Too many people have been infected. It's a very serious problem, so I will be guided by the guidelines of the Cleveland Clinic and what the docs say is the right thing to do," he said. — PTI

idential debate in Salt Lake City, Utah on Wednesday night. Political analysts believe that an aggressive Harris, 55, who aspires to be the first woman vice-president in history, will easily

prevail over Pence, 61, during the only vice-presidential debate and help Biden, 77, to widen his lead over Trump, 74. The debate comes nearly a week after the first of the three presidential debates in Clevel-

and on September 29 wherein Biden termed Trump a "liar" and a "clown" as the two candidates fiercely clashed over a number of issues, including racism, economy and climate. Following the first presi-

dential debate, Trump was tested Covid positive and admitted to a military hospital, a development that upended his hectic campaign just weeks before the presidential elections on November 3. He returned to the White House on Monday night after spending four days at the hospital, but his doctors say the president may not entirely be out of the woods. Biden, in the last few days, has widened his lead over Trump by double digit. However, the Trump Campaign believes that Pence could come out with a stellar performance during the debate. The debate gains added significance, given the Covid-19 infecting Trump, triggering speculation that Pence may be taking over the reigns of the country temporarily. — PTI

**Belarus Oppn asks Germany to mediate**

**Berlin, Oct. 7:** Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said Wednesday that German Chancellor Angela Merkel would be an ideal person to mediate the political crisis in her country. Tsikhanouskaya said in Berlin that Merkel is "aware of what's going on there" and "would be really helpful in solving this problem." Tsikhanouskaya met with Merkel behind closed doors on Tuesday. Tsikhanouskaya laid out her aspiration following talks with Norbert Roettgen, a top lawmaker in Merkel's conservative party. "So, our main ask for her was to be a leader in this mediation, to call for other countries to partici-

pate in mediation for starting this negotiations," Tsikhanouskaya said. Merkel has not indicated whether she would be willing to take on such a role, and even if she did, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko has rejected repeated calls for dialogue with the opposition. Tsikhanouskaya went into exile in Lithuania after the Aug. 9 presidential election in Belarus, which election officials claimed that Lukashenko won in a landslide. Opposition figures and some poll workers say the results were fraudulent and tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest. — AP

**Virus stimulus bill after poll: Don**

**Washington, Oct. 7:** President Donald Trump has instructed his officials to stop negotiating with the Democrats on another stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit US economy until the November 3 presidential election, alleging that Speaker Nancy Pelosi was not holding talks in good faith. Trump's sudden decision on Tuesday to pull the plug on the negotiations is a major blow to millions of Americans still struggling with the fallout from the pandemic that has badly hit the economy and killed over 210,000 people in the country. "I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and small businesses," Trump said in a series of tweets on Tuesday. Trump's instructions came a day after he was discharged from a military hospital where he was treated for Covid-19. For the past a few weeks, senior officials from his administration were nego-

**ISRAELI PM'S WIFE MAY HAVE VIOLATED CURBS**

**Jerusalem, Oct. 7:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife may have violated the country's Coronavirus lockdown by inviting a hairdresser into the official residence last week to prepare her for a public service video advocating the wearing of masks. The incident, first reported by the Yediot Ahronot daily, was the latest in a string of lockdown violations by Israeli leaders and public figures — drawing widespread criticism. — AP

tiating with the House Democrats on a major stimulus package before the presidential election. Analysts have warned that the recovery of the world's largest economy risks stalling without further aid. While the US has regained about half the jobs lost in

**Another Trump aide tests positive for virus**

**Washington, Oct. 7:** Stephen Miller, a top aide to President Donald Trump, tested positive for Covid-19, taking the number of White House staffers infected by the deadly virus to at least 10. "Over the last five days I have been working remotely and self-isolating, testing negative every day through yesterday. Today, I tested positive for Covid-19 and am in quarantine," Miller said in a statement. President Trump, along with First Lady Melania Trump, tested positive for Coronavirus last Thurs-

day, soon after it was known that their close aide Hope Hicks contracted the infection. Trump was admitted to a military hospital on Friday and was discharged on Monday. White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany and three of the staff from the press office also tested positive. At least three journalists working at the White House tested positive for the infection. On Tuesday, the White House issued an updated guideline on health and safety of the residence staff. — PTI

March and April, more than 10 million people remain unemployed. "Nancy Pelosi is asking for \$2.4 trillion to bailout poorly run, high crime Democrat states, money that is in no way related to Covid-19. We made a very generous offer of %1.6 tril-

lion and, as usual, she is not negotiating in good faith," the Republican president alleged. "I am rejecting their request and looking to the future of our country," he said. Trump said he has asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell not to

delay but to focus full time on approving his outstanding nominee to the US Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett. "Our Economy is doing very well. The Stock Market is at record levels, JOBS and unemployment also coming back in record numbers. We are leading the World in Economic Recovery, and THE BEST IS YET TO COME!" Trump said. In another tweet, he alleged that "crazy" Nancy Pelosi and "the radical Left" Democrats were just playing "games" with the desperately needed workers' stimulus payments. "They were never in it to help the workers and they never will be," he alleged. But Pelosi accused Trump of "putting himself first at the expense of the country". "He shows his contempt for science, his disdain for our heroes... and he refuses to put money in workers' pockets, unless his name is printed on the cheque," she added. "Clearly, the White House is in complete disarray," the top Democrat said. — PTI

**T-Rex fossil sells for record \$31.8 mn**

**New York, Oct. 7:** One of the most complete specimens of a T-Rex fossil in the world was sold for a record \$31.8 million Tuesday by Christie's in New York, nearly quadrupling the previous highest price for a dinosaur at auction. The apex predator made mince meat of Christie's opening price of between six and eight million dollars, showing off the lasting power of the T-Rex. It then shredded the previous record set by a specimen called Sue that was sold for \$8.4 million in October 1997 by Sotheby's to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Only around 50 Tyrannosaurus fossils have been discovered since the first was unearthed in 1902. Bids hit the \$9 million mark in less than two minutes after the start of the auction, but after 14 minutes there were just three bidders left in the race, until the hammer came down on an offer of \$27.5 million, to which were added costs and commissions.

The sale was organised in New York, where the expert assessor was located, but with lines open to Hong Kong and London, where Christie's specialists were taking calls from collectors. The fossil, nicknamed Stan, stands 13 feet (four metres) high and 40 feet long, with puncture marks in the skull and neck that experts believe show evidence of fights with fellow T-Rexes. He would have weighed in at around eight tonnes when alive, some 67 million years ago. The fossil was discovered in South Dakota in 1987 and named after the amateur paleontologist who came across the remains, Stan Sacrison. Paleontologists from the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in South Dakota spent more than 30,000 hours excavating and then assembling the 188 bones of the skeleton. Casts were then taken for dozens of museums around the world. — AFP

**Pearl killers get 3 months' more jail**

**Islamabad, Oct. 7:** British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides — the main accused in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl — will remain in jail for another three months, according to an order issued by Pakistan's Sindh government on Wednesday. The announcement of extending their detention was made by prosecutors during a hearing of the Supreme Court, which

was to decide on Sheikh's release. The apex court last week barred the government from releasing them. Faisal Siddiqi, the lawyer representing Pearl's family, told the media that the government prosecutor, Fiaz Shah, told the judges he needed more time for paperwork to prepare for the case. The court accepted his argument and adjourned the hearing till October 21. — PTI

**Charpentier, Doudna win Chemistry Nobel****PEACE PRIZE: WHO, GRETA OR PRESS WATCHDOGS?**

**Oslo, Oct. 7:** The World Health Organisation is the bookies' favourite to win the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, though experts say Greta Thunberg or press freedom groups are also contenders. — AFP

"There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all," said

Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. "It has not only revolutionised basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments." He said that, as a result, any genome can now be edited "to fix genetic damage," adding that the tool "will provide humankind with great opportunities." But he cautioned that the "enormous power of this technology means we have to use it with great care." It has already raised serious ethical questions. — AP



French researcher in Microbiology, Genetics and Biochemistry Emmanuelle Charpentier (left) and US professor of Chemistry and of Molecular and Cell Biology, Jennifer Doudna. — AFP



# DECCAN Chronicle

8 OCTOBER 2020

## Quad's future: Too early to talk of an 'Asian Nato'

While the physical gathering of the foreign ministers of India, the United States, Australia and Japan in Tokyo this week — fairly unusual in these Covid-19 times — sent an unmistakable signal to China that these nations were determined to stand up to its bullying in the neighbourhood and beyond, and uphold the principle of a “rules-based international order” in a “free and open Indo-Pacific region”, which India’s external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said meant “respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and the peaceful resolution of disputes”, it was left to US secretary of state Mike Pompeo to really turn the heat on Beijing. In a direct attack not only on the Chinese government but also the Communist Party of China, America’s chief diplomat — who made it a point to go ahead with his visit despite the churn back in election-eve Washington — blasted China’s “exploitation, corruption, and coercion” in the “South (China Sea), East China Sea, Mekong, the Himalayas and the Taiwan Straits”. He also openly accused China of initially “covering up” the coronavirus pandemic in Wuhan and “silencing the very brave Chinese citizens who raised the alarm”.

The Quadrilateral, the grouping of the four nations that met in Japan, has been around for a while, but what has given the strategic partnership new heft is China’s renewed aggression of late — most visibly in the People’s Liberation Army’s intrusions into Indian territory in eastern Ladakh — which Mr Pompeo pointedly referred to in his remarks, but also in its newfound claims to the South China Sea, which mostly lies in international waters, and its blatant attempts to intimidate the democratic government in Taipei through an excessive show of force in the Taiwan Straits. India has a direct interest in ensuring freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, through which so much of our trade transits, which recently prompted New Delhi to send naval warships to show the Indian flag in these waters.

Everybody is well aware that the “Quad” is aimed at countering China, but it was noticeable only the US leader explicitly targeted the People’s Republic, while India, Australia and Japan were more circumspect. That doesn’t mean they don’t share the same views about Beijing’s aggression, which affects them far more than it does the US, but they also don’t want to aggravate China beyond a point — to ensure, say in India’s case, it doesn’t adversely impact the ongoing negotiations over the Ladakh de-escalation process. Japan too has become more vigilant as China has got increasingly assertive about its claims to some islands. All four nations are united on the need to counter the waves of disinformation from Beijing, such as over the source of the coronavirus, or the use of so-called “wolf warrior diplomacy” by which the PRC targets smaller nations — like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh or Nepal — to name just a few in our neighbourhood.

Where is the “Quad” headed? Will it, as some commentators predict, evolve into a kind of “Asian Nato”? Or will it focus not just on security, but also try to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative and help develop 5G networks that don’t depend on Huawei? There are many in India who may welcome an “Asian Nato”, but we should remember that if we want an independent foreign policy, we have to safeguard our borders ourselves, this can’t be easily outsourced even to our closest allies.

## AIADMK: Who really won?

In what was a win-win situation, a long drawn imbroglio in Tamil Nadu’s ruling party, AIADMK, came to a close, on expected lines and at the expected hour on Wednesday. Deputy chief minister O. Panneerselvam, who started it all on Independence Day when some posters made an appearance in his hometown expressing his followers’ desire to see him as the next chief ministerial candidate of the party, concluded it by announcing his rival Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the chief ministerial candidate. But the acrimony with which the two leaders fought the battle for supremacy and fact that unlike many other political parties in the State or the country, AIADMK is no more a personality oriented or ideologically driven party give rise to the doubts if the differences can really blow over.

For, what we have is a cabal of leaders, who had been chosen to whatever positions they held by the former supremo J. Jayalalithaa, or by default her confidante V.K. Sasikala. Of them, many aspire to lead the party or the government run by it, though the opportunity has come to only two of them through cruel twists of fate.

Those two on whom the mantle had fallen agreed among them to one being chief minister and the other deputy chief minister, ensuring that the rest remained in the sidelines. But when the deputy became more ambitious on seeing the chief minister cornering all the glory and anything else that came along with the job, the fight started.

With the rest of the leaders on the sidelines sensing the dangers such an in-fighting could engender, put an end to it. But the fact that the parleys went into the small hours of Wednesday and that there are some loose ends to be tied up, too, only indicate that it can erupt again. For it is not clear as to who the victor is now.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

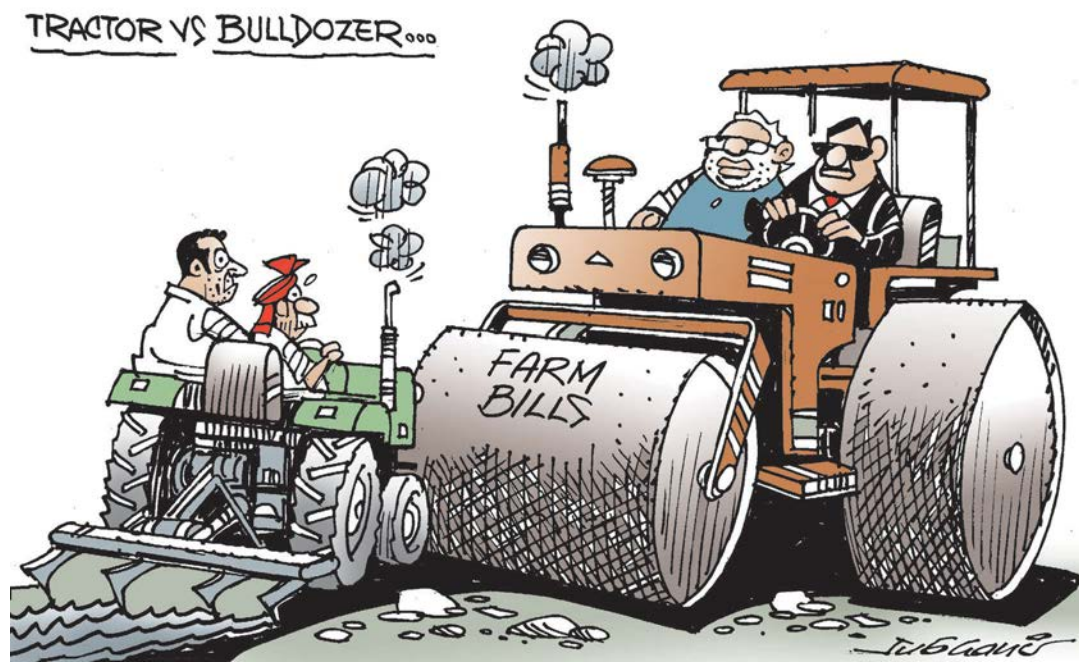
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### TRACTOR VS BULLDOZER...



Subhani

## Empower IAF to fight aerial war on 2 fronts



Abhijit Bhattacharyya

At 88, the Indian Air Force (born in 1932 as the Royal Indian Air Force) can certainly look back with pride as it evolved into an outstanding professional force, which is the nation’s pride and the envy of our neighbours. Even before the RIAF was born, an 18-year-old Indian pilot, Lt. Indra Lal Roy of the Royal Flying Corps, had downed 10 German fighters in just 14 days in the skies over France, and laid down his life while still in his teens, on July 22, 1918. Posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Roy was India’s sole flying ace in the First World War. The standard set in 1918 continues to date.

The IAF officers of today remain worthy torchbearers of their legendary predecessors, notwithstanding a few hiccups over the pace of its fleet modernisation. War or peace, they operate with great elan. Their offensive as well as defensive ops over the “forward edge of battle area” in the 1965, 1971 and 1999 wars have been true to the Latin dictum “*Per Ardua ad Astra*” (Through adversity to the stars). However, India faces a major challenge today from an aggressive Communist Party of China, and the IAF, and India, have to be adept at tackling it.

Forty years ago, in 1980, China’s infant aviation industry was based mainly in Shenyang and Harbin; with the Soviet-licensed Yak-18, AN-2 biplane and Mi-4 helicopter; besides the F-6 (MiG-19), and F-7 (MiG-21) under production. With the start of the 1978 Deng Xiaoping era, by 1990, things had changed visibly. “Chinese factories carry out sub-contract work on Airbus A-300, A-310 and A-320; ATR-42; British Aerospace 146; Boeing-737, 747, and 757; McDonnell Douglas MD-

80 series” (*Jane’s All the World’s Aircraft 1991-92*). A Chengdu factory develops the JJ-5 (MiG-17), J-7 (MiG-21F); multi-role helicopter Zhi-8; Harbin made SH-5 maritime bomber; China-France joint ventured Z-9 Haitun helicopter; Nanchang made Q-5 close-air-support fighter (also exported to Pakistan); Shaanxi Aircraft developed Y-8 (derivative of Soviet AN-12 transport); Shenyang Aircraft built J-8 air-superiority fighter; and Xian Aircraft produced (Soviet-licensed Tupolev-16) strategic bomber.

From early on, China made its intent to build indigenous aircraft quite clear. It was determined to be self-sufficient and reduce its dependence on imported aircraft to fight its foes, just like the United States and the erstwhile Soviet Union earlier. It would build its own war machine, keep the best for its own forces and give the second best to its friends, allies and followers with a lower price tag; keeping them militarily and financially dependent on the CPC. Military hardware is an effective tool of foreign and defence policy and serves as an instrument of geostrategic influence by putting smaller client states under pressure, enhancing their non-planned expenditure.

Indeed, China aggressively pursued an unfriendly posture from the start of the twenty-first century — with self-production, market distribution (selling it to smaller, friendly foreign customers) and consumption of its own product, thereby cutting import costs. This entire area needs a thorough relook by the Indian ruling class, as imported equipment still rules the roost in this country. Mass scale indigenous defence hardware/software production eludes the IAF.

By 2001, China had

exported its J-7 single-seat fighter and close air support machine to India’s neighbourhood — Bangladesh (16), Pakistan (24), Sri Lanka (4). The Pakistan Air Force too started acting “big” — “Number 2 Squadron Masroor, Numbers 18 and 20 Rafiqi and Number 25 Mianwali” (*Jane’s All the World’s Aircraft 2000-01*). A clear signal was given to New Delhi two decades ago — that the Dragon was working in tandem with the Pakistani military-ISI — but the Indian government failed to react, and in fact opened its economic and commercial doors to China around the same time.

After Islamabad made a mockery of Atal Behari Vajpayee’s Lahore bus diplomacy, the Kargil misadventure followed, and though it led to a “victory” for India, it was over the dead bodies of over a thousand soldiers. The history of 1965 was repeated in 1999, when the initial loss and subsequent recapture of our own territory couldn’t be hidden behind India’s “Kargil Vijay Diwas” celebrations. It was not an inspiring message for citizens.

China must have made a careful note of India’s plight in tackling Pakistan. By 2010, Beijing moved further up the aerial ladder. It set up a helicopter hub at Tianjin, general aviation at Zhuhai and aero engines at Shanghai. Its long-term aviation policy was aimed not just at competing, but also challenging the West by stealing its technology and “compelling” it to “voluntarily” cooperate with Beijing. The West was lured into Beijing’s trap over its greed for profits.

Beijing was deeply embedded to Airbus for commercial aircraft

**The Indian Air Force, with its back to the wall, needs to give high priority to the production of multi-combat craft, as it is the actual user, and boost its in-house research and development capabilities**

development, and a key supplier of fighters to Pakistan. Of 19 multi-role fighter types in the world, China, with four types (CAC J-7, CAC J-10, SAC J-8 AND SAC J-11B), stood joint second with Russia (MiG-29/MiG-35, Su-30M, Su-35, Su-50) as the United States remained number one, with five types (Boeing F-15E, Boeing F/A-18E/F, Lockheed F-16, Lockheed F-22 Raptor and Lockheed F-35 JSF). Regrettably India, with its sole (developing) light combat aircraft, was nowhere in global aircraft production competition. A big country like India can’t expect to win long-drawn battles only with imported fighters.

China’s PLA Air Force banks heavily on indigenous research, development and production of combat aircraft. This can be seen from *Military Balance 2020 (London)*, the “2,517 combat capable aircraft” of the PLA Air Force comprise indigenous (and not imported) inventory — bombers, fighters, electronic warfare, tankers and transporters. India’s slow indigenisation process, and its unplanned forced expenditure due to the rising threat from China, poses a major hurdle for this country: our excessive reliance on imported fighter jets will have its repercussions.

The Indian Air Force, with its back to the wall, needs to give high priority to the production of multi-combat craft, as it is the actual user, and boost its in-house research and development capabilities. No time should be lost. The fighter, transport and rotor-craft production base must be widened, because otherwise the country’s indigenous production capacity and capability will not proceed at battle speed, retarding its readiness for multi-front conflicts. The IAF must make the fullest use of its human resources, the sooner the better.

*Today, October 8, is Indian Air Force Day*

*The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College. The views expressed here are personal.*

### LETTERS

#### HILARIOUS CARTOON

As the Nobel prize season has begun, I could not control my laughter today when I saw Coronavirus awarding the Chinese President with a medal stating “next year’s Nobel should be given to my discoverer”. Loved it Subhani.

Jyothi David Raj  
Hyderabad

#### AGRICULTURE LAWS

The Opposition which is holding tractor rallies, rail rokos and rasta roko will harm people by spreading Coronavirus. They better stop all the agitations and help the farmers get the best out of the farm laws.

Dr O. Prasada Rao  
Hyderabad

#### CRIME PUNISHMENT

I do not fully agree with the view that redressal in some situations is to be based on caste and gender (*Hathras: Yogi govt’s offensive misguided, DC, Oct. 7*). It is alright as far as gender is considered, but not caste. If the culprits are punished on account of committing crime against Dalits or people of a particular caste, will it help diminish, if not increase, the animosity or superiority complex of those belonging to upper caste? It tantamounts to discriminating similar victims belonging to OCs. The administration and police should ensure that perpetrators of the heinous crime are brought to book immediately.

S. Nageswara Rao  
Hyderabad

#### LAW & ORDER

It appears that courts have a force majeure to intervene with respect to law and order situation in certain states like UP and AP (*Hathras case horrendous, protect witnesses: SC to UP, DC, Oct. 7*).

B. Raghunadha Rao  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN

## DECCAN Chronicle

#### Probe into Shastri’s death demanded

NEW DELHI, Oct. 7.

Mr. T.N. Singh, a former Union Minister, today reiterated his demand for a judicial enquiry into the causes of death of the late Prime Minister Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri and now a Member of Rajya Sabha, said he planned to go round the country and launch a signature campaign in support of his demand. He was also planning, in consultation with other leaders, to set up a committee to press the demand for an enquiry.

The demand for probe into Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri’s death at Tashkent more than four years ago was voiced by Mr. Morarji Desai here today.

Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



## Ex-DGP Pandey and the power of ‘good offices’

The three-month mandatory cooling-off period has been waived for IPS officer Gupteshwar Pandey, who was DGP Bihar and sought voluntary retirement (VRS). This was done to allow him to join politics and possibly contest the upcoming state Assembly elections. Mr Pandey, who shot into the headlines with his controversial comments on the investigation into actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s suicide, applied for VRS and received the approval from the Bihar government within 24 hours!

Normally, an officer seeking VRS has to give a three-month notice to the government before quitting. Sources say that it takes up to two months for the government to clear the paperwork before granting retirement. In Mr Pandey’s case,

however, there was an unseemly hurry to grant his request.

Few, however, were surprised at Mr Pandey’s resignation from the IPS. His political ambitions had been the subject of much speculation weeks before he actually took the plunge. He has gone down this road earlier in 2009 when he took VRS to fight the Lok Sabha elections that year. He lost and was reinstated into the IPS. It pays to be well-connected.

#### HARYANA TO SEE CHANGES AT THE TOP

With the retirement of Haryana chief secretary Keshni Anand Arora and the appointment of principal secretary to the chief minister, Rajesh Khullar, as executive director of the World Bank, observers expect a major adminis-

trative change in the state.

According to those in the know, several senior IAS officers are in the succession race. Among them, Vijay Vardhan, a 1985-batch IAS officer and current home secretary, is the strongest claimant for the post of chief secretary. Others in the fray are 1986 batch IAS Sanjeev Kaushal, and 1987 batch IAS Rajeev Arora. V. Umashankar, a 1993 batch IAS and additional principal secretary to CM, is reported to be very close to the CM Manohar Lal Khattar. Apparently, being close to the CM makes one a good contender for a plum posting.

Some observers point out that the caste factor may play an important role. Both Keshmi Anand Arora and Rajesh Khullar are Punjabis, as is chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. So, will he choose babus

from the Punjabi community to fill the slots? Will the caste factor play a role? Any guesses?

#### BABUS AND OTHER VIP SQUATTERS

There is nothing new about the reluctance of public servants to move out of the residential accommodation allotted them after retirement from service. It has been debated in public and private by citizens and VIPs, discussed in the courts who have issued directions to governments, but not much has changed.

The latest effort to ensure that government accommodation is not misused by babus is a directive from Delhi high court to the Centre to ensure that it gets illegally occupied houses vacated and recovers the rental dues for the period of the

illegal occupation. Apparently, according to the data submitted by the ministry of housing and urban affairs, the government has managed to wrest 565 government accommodations that were illegally occupied by retired public servants and recovered Rs 3 crores in rental dues. However, it also stated that Rs 9 crores was still outstanding from other illegal occupants and it has issued notices to the offenders.

For now, the dispensers of justice seem to have been appeased but this issue is not off the table. And won’t be until babus, and our worthy netas, learn to let go of their official trappings once they no longer have the privilege to enjoy them.

*Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let’s multiply the effect.*



quick BITES

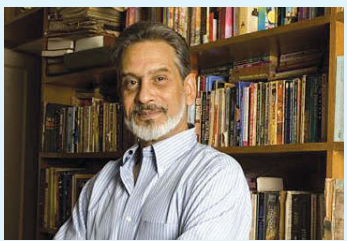
INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,878.95	0.77
Nifty 50	11,738.85	0.66
S&P 500*	3,404.35	1.29
Dollar (₹)	73.32	0.20
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.72	0.56
Euro (₹)	86.22	0.28
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,215*694	1.35
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.66	-0.99
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.014	-0.012
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.780	0.040

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

NHAI awards 1,330 km NH projects in H1

The NHAI said it awarded projects for building 1,330 km of highways in April-Sept., up 60 per cent from the year-ago period. The projects are valued at Rs 47,289 crore. "NHAI has awarded projects for a total cumulative length of 1,330 km in the current financial year. The projects awarded so far in first half of the current financial year are 1.6 times higher of 828 km awarded in FY19-20 and 3.5 times higher of...FY18-19."

Stimulus should continue for 3 yrs: Pranob Sen



The Centre should continue with the stimulus to revive the economy for three years and it should not be a one-off measure, Pranob Sen, chairman of the standing committee on statistics, ministry of statistics and programme implementation, said. The improvement in economic activity at the moment is due to the pent up demand, he said. "The government game-plan should be to continue with the stimulus for three years."

Nilesh Shah re-elected Amfi chairman

Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC has been re-elected as chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India. Some new faces have also been inducted to the Amfi. Vishal Kapoor, CEO IDFC AMC has been elected as chairman, Amfi standing committee of certified distributors. Radhika Gupta, CEO Edelweiss Asset Management Ltd, has been elected as the chairperson of Amfi ETF committee.

Maruti reports 26% rise in Sept. production

Maruti Suzuki India said its total production in September increased 25.63 per cent to 1,66,086 units. It had produced a total of 1,32,199 units in the same month last year. Passenger vehicles production stood at 1,61,668 units last month as compared with 1,30,264 units in September 2019, a growth of 24.1 per cent. Production of mini cars comprising Alto and S-Presso models were at 30,492 units versus 23,073 units.



— Reuters

Q2 profit misses analysts estimate TCS unveils ₹16K cr share buyback plan

New Delhi, Oct. 7: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Wednesday announced a mega Rs 16,000-crore buyback plan at Rs 3,000 per equity share. In 2017 and 2018 too, TCS had undertaken buyback offers of similar sizes. The current offer price of Rs 3,000 per share is 9.6 per cent higher than the stock's closing at Rs 2,737.40 on the BSE on Wednesday.

TCS, which reported a 5 per cent rise in net profit for the September 2020 quarter but missed analysts estimates, said its board has declared a second interim dividend of Rs 12 per equity share.

In a regulatory filing, TCS said its board has approved "a proposal to buyback up to 5,33,33,333 equity shares of the company for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 16,000 crore, being 1.42 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital at Rs 3,000 per equity share."

The buyback will be conducted via a tender offer route through the stock exchanges, it said.

A public announcement setting out the process, timelines and other requisite details will be released in due course following the buyback regulations, the filing said.

In 2018, TCS had undertaken a share buyback plan worth up to Rs 16,000 crore, offering Rs 2,100 per equity share and entailing up to 7.61 crore shares.

In 2017, TCS had conducted a similar share purchase exercise. The company had said its buyback offer was part of its long-term capital allocation policy of returning excess cash to shareholders.



WIPRO TO CONSIDER BUYBACK ON OCT. 13

New Delhi, Oct. 7: IT services major Wipro on Wednesday said its board will consider a buyback plan on October 13. However, no other details were provided.

"The outcome of the Board meeting will be communicated to the stock exchanges soon after conclusion of the Board meeting on October 13, 2020," Wipro said in a regulatory filing. —PTI

ny had said its buyback offer was part of its long-term capital allocation policy of returning excess cash to shareholders.

In a separate filing, TCS said its chief financial officer V. Ramakrishnan would be retiring from the company on April 30, 2021 and the board has appointed Samir Seksaria as CFO-designate.

TCS reported 4.9 per cent

rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 8,433 crore for the September 2020 quarter, excluding Rs 1,218-crore provision towards legal claim. Including this number, the net profit is Rs 7,475 crore. The company had a net profit of Rs 8,042 crore in the September 2019 quarter. TCS missed analysts' profit estimates of Rs 7,805 crore, according to Refinitiv data.

Its revenue grew 3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 40,135 crore from Rs 38,977 crore a year ago.

TCS said the interim dividend will be paid on November 3 and the record date for the same is October 15.

Also, the company will roll out salary hikes effective October 1. TCS' consolidated headcount stood at 4,53,540 as of September 30.

"We want to thank all TCsers for the incredible resilience they have shown during these trying times. We are happy to announce that we will be rolling out salary increases, effective October 1st," Milind Lakkad, global head, HR of TCS said. —Agencies

Rajeshwar Rao appointed RBI deputy guv



M. Rajeshwar Rao

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The government on Wednesday appointed RBI's senior-most executive director M. Rajeshwar Rao as the deputy governor of the central bank.

Rao was appointed to the post vacated by N. S. Vishwanathan, who stepped down three months ahead of his extended tenure on health grounds.

According to the RBI Act, 1934, the central bank needs to have four deputy governors—two from within the ranks, one commercial banker and another an economist to head the monetary policy department. —PTI

Most generic drug ingredients made in Asia: EU lobby group

Berlin, Oct. 7: Two-thirds of the active ingredients needed to make generic drugs are manufactured in Asia, a study showed on Wednesday, the latest evidence to underscore Europe's reliance on foreign imports for its medicines.

European governments were rattled at the start of the coronavirus outbreak when India, one of the biggest producers of drug ingredients, banned exports of certain products relevant to the pandemic, prompting concerns about disruptions to supply chains and a shortage of medicines.

Although those fears were largely unfounded, European Union health ministers have vowed to boost local drugs production to safeguard against future bottlenecks.

The study by German generics lobby group Pro Generika analysed the global production of 565 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and found 63 per cent of the quality certificates,



which grant them suitable for use in medicinal products, were held in Asia, up from around 31 per cent in 2000.

Price pressure and lower regulatory requirements have led to a shift in drugs production from Europe to Asia over the past two decades, Pro Generika said.

More than 80 per cent of Asia's certificates are held by manufacturers in India and China where the majority of producers are concentrated in just a few states and provinces, the study found. For more than half of the APIs, there are only a handful of manufacturers worldwide.

Europe holds 31 per cent of API certificates, down from 59 per cent in 2000

with producers mainly in Italy, Germany, Spain and France focussing on ingredients with low sales volumes that are complex to manufacture.

Spooked by the pandemic, France in June announced plans to bolster local production of medicines with president Emmanuel Macron pledging 200 million euros (\$236m) to help domestic research and manufacturing of medicine.

Austria is also investing money to shore up production at an anti-biotics plant owned by Swiss drugmaker Novartis's Sandoz division in Tyrol.

Industry players warn bringing production home may be a complicated process, saying higher labour costs and tougher environmental standards make it impossible to compete with Asian suppliers on price.

Novartis said it was seeking to establish at least two sources for key ingredients to have fall-back options. —Reuters

HDFC Bank to give up to ₹40 L loan to pay Apollo medical bills

Mumbai, Oct. 7: HDFC Bank on Wednesday announced a tie-up with Apollo Hospitals through which its customers can avail unsecured loans of up to Rs 40 lakh to pay for medical expenses incurred at the healthcare chain.

The loans will be disbursed almost instantly as and when a need for money arises, and the hospital patients who are customers of HDFC Bank will also receive preferential treatment, its CEO & MD Aditya Puri told reporters.

Apollo executive chairperson Shobana Kamineni said HDFC Bank has 65 million customers who can take advantage of this facility.

She stressed that while availing of health insurance is necessary, it does not cover all the aspects despite providing cashless facilities and hence, such a tie-up will help.

Apollo had launched 'the Healthlife Programme' earlier this year to take care of multiple diseases and ailments, and HDFC Bank customers who will be registering as

part of the tie-up will be made part of the same, she said. Currently, there are 4 million members on the platform, Kamineni said.

HDFC Bank group head (corporate banking) Rahul Shukla said the base programme subscription comes without any charges for its customers.

Puri said the bank is not stressed and has a healthy capital adequacy of over 18 per cent, which will ensure that it will keep lending. —PTI

Electric 2-wheeler mkt picks up in September

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 7

After prolonged sales slump due to Covid-19-induced lockdown, the electric two-wheeler industry is showing signs of revival in Asia's third biggest economy.

In September, sales of high-speed electric two-wheelers (HS E2W) increased 72 per cent year-on-year. The registration stood at 2,544 units in September 2020, as against 1,473 vehicles sold in the corresponding month of the last year.

"We are experiencing huge customer interest in greener vehicles as they have seen how the environment looks like when no fuel-guzzling vehicles are running on roads," Sohinder Gill, director general at the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, or SMEV, said on Wednesday.

The lockdown has increased customer interest in greener vehicles, he said.

The upcoming festive season would add to the pent-up demand and help companies to recover what they lost in the first two quarters due to the lockdown, Gill pointed out.

Hero Electric Vehicles, Okinawa Autotech, Ather Energy, Ampere Vehicles, Revolt Intellicorp, Jitendra New EV-Tech, are some of the major EV players in the country

The first six months of the FY21 have been a jumpy ride for the EV industry. The financial year started with uncertainty due to Covid-19 and lockdown.

Between April and September'20, the industry registered sales of 7,552 units of HS E2W as against 10,161 HS E2W sold in the corresponding months last year.

Gill said lately there have been many positive news on the EV policy front from central and state governments that has led to a higher confidence amongst manufacturers, component suppliers and investors.

"We look forward to a big push by the government to set right what went wrong with FAME 2 so as to assist generation of demand," he added.

Not many companies seeking loan restructuring: SBI chief

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, OCT. 7

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India's (SBI) newly appointed chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, in his first press interaction, on Wednesday said his top three priorities would be safety of the bank's employees, safety of customers and maintaining quality of the bank's balance sheet.

In his inaugural address, Khara said his endeavour would be to deliver value and customer convenience and quality. "The bank has embarked on a journey of digital distribution and is increasingly leveraging digital and analytical capabilities and will continue this journey."

In context of the Covid-19 pandemic, Khara said that business is "70-80 per cent back to the pre Covid-19 levels," for the bank.

The government had on Tuesday appointed Khara as SBI chairman for three years, effective from October 7. Before this, Khara was a managing director at the bank and



Dinesh Khara, SBI chairman

was responsible for overseeing global markets and subsidiaries of SBI.

On a question on credit growth, Khara said, "We are witnessing a credit growth of 6-7 per cent. I think, I am sanguine that retail is doing well. On the corporate loan growth, many companies are going to the debt capital market. So if we look at growth in our non-SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) portfolio, the growth is 10 per cent. We have to re-adjust to the corporate desire whether it is credit or investments."

Speaking about the bank's response to loan restructuring both retail and corporate, Khara said both corporate and retail loan

restructuring requests are within manageable limits.

"We are very closely observing the behaviour of people who are showing interest in restructuring. We have created a website for people wanting to enquire about restructuring. The hits on the site reflect the interest of people wanting to restructure and we feel that the number is quite manageable considering our book.

When it comes to corporate restructuring, I think as of now we have not seen many of the corporates reaching out for restructuring, but, yes ofcourse there are some. But whatever numbers are seen, I would say it is not very unusual but within the manageable limits."

Khara also ruled out any immediate plans for the bank to raise equity capital. "There were options in tier I and Tier II category also apart from the equity raising. So I think what we have decided as of now is that we have raised money from Tier I and Tier II and our current capital adequacy position is fairly comfortable," he said.

Govt's interest waiver is manageable, say analysts

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, OCT. 7

The government's decision to waive interest-on-interest on loans under moratorium would be a manageable outcome, as the value impact of waiving interest-on-interest is limited, feel experts.

According to rating agency Icr, assuming that not more than 30-40 per cent of the overall loans of the banks and NBFCs would be eligible for relief, the cost to the government should not exceed Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 crore.

Jefferies India analysts in a report said, "If the extent of waiver from banking sector to borrowers is limited to interest-on-interest only, it would be a manageable outcome as value impact of waiving interest-on-interest is quite limited and will also address the overhang."

Anil Gupta, vice president, financial sector ratings at Icr, said, "Assuming not more than 30 to 40 per cent of the overall loans of the banks and NBFCs will be eligible for relief, the cost to the government should not exceed Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 crore. This is assuming all borrowers are given relief irrespective of they are availing of the moratorium or not."

"Given the intent of the government to absorb the cost of the waiver, we expect the impact to be minimal on profitability of lenders," added Gupta.

The Centre, in an affidavit in the Supreme Court, has supported waiving compound interest or 'interest on interest' for small ticket loans up to Rs 2 crore. The relief would be available to all borrowers, the government said.

According to a Reuters report, domestic banks fear that the government's decision would create unnecessary work for lenders and lead to more litigation, without providing much of a boost for the sagging economy. "Getting the money back from the government is a painful exercise," it quoted a senior banker as saying.

FRESH | CHALLENGE

Abuse of Android OS position in smart TV market alleged

Google faces new antitrust case in India

ADITI SHAH & ADITYA KALRA NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

Alphabet Inc's Google is facing a new antitrust case in India in which the US tech giant is alleged to have abused its Android operating system's position in the smart television market, a source and two lawyers involved in the case said.

The case is Google's fourth major antitrust challenge in India, one of its key markets where it is currently facing public criticism from local start-ups for enforcing certain policies and company charges they contend hurt their growth.

It also comes as Google faces new antitrust challenges in the US and a

potential antitrust probe in China that is set to look into how it allegedly uses its dominance of its Android mobile operating system to stifle competition. Google has denied any wrongdoing.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has since June been looking into allegations that Google engages in anti-competitive practices by creating barriers for firms wanting to use or develop modified versions of Android for smart TVs, such as Amazon Fire TV's operating system, according to the source.

The case has been filed by two antitrust lawyers, Kshitiz Arya and Purushottam Anand. They both confirmed the case filing against Google

for alleged abuse in the smart television market, but declined to comment further.

The source said the CCI had directed Google to submit its written responses to the allegations and that the company has sought more time.

Smart TVs, or Wi-Fi-enabled TVs with apps for streaming services like Netflix and YouTube, have become increasingly popular in India.

Data from Counterpoint Research shows 8 million smart TV sets were sold in India in 2019. Three in five smart TVs sold in India are based on Google's Android system, which also powers nearly 99 per cent of India's half a billion smartphone user base. —Reuters

GOOGLE, ORACLE IN COPYRIGHT CLASH

Washington, Oct. 7: Tech giants Google and Oracle are clashing at the Supreme Court in a copyright dispute that's worth billions and important to the future of software development.

The case before the justices Wednesday has to do with Google's creation of the Android operating system now used on the vast majority of smartphones worldwide.

Google says that to create Android, which was released in 2007, it wrote millions of lines of new computer code. But it also used 11,330 lines of code and an organization that's

part of Oracle's Java platform. Google has defended its actions, saying what it did is long-settled, common practice in the industry, a practice that has been good for technical progress. But Oracle says Google "committed an egregious act of plagiarism" and sued, seeking more than \$8 billion.

The case has been going on for a decade. Google won the first round when a trial court rejected Oracle's copyright claim, but that ruling was overturned on appeal. A jury then sided with Google, calling its copying "fair use."

—AP



## SHORT TAKES

## Oz women equal win streak record

**Brisbane:** Australia demolished New Zealand by 232 runs in the third women's ODI to equal the world record of 21 consecutive ODI victories set by Ricky Ponting's all-conquering men's team in 2003. After smashing their way to 325 for five off their 50 overs at Brisbane's Allan Border Field, the Australians then bowled New Zealand out for just 93 to record their biggest ever win against the Kiwis. Australia dominated all aspects of the match, with Rachael Haynes (96) and Alyssa Healey (87) putting on an opening partnership of 144. Annabel Sutherland (35), Ash Gardner (34) and Beth Mooney (29 not out) chipped in to set the visitors an imposing target. New Zealand were never in the hunt, particularly after they lost captain Sophie Devine in the first over for a duck. — *AFP*

## Lakers, one step closer to crown

**Orlando:** LeBron James scored 28 points as Los Angeles Lakers moved to within one win of a 17th NBA championship on Tuesday with a 102-96 victory over Miami Heat. Humbled by Miami in Game Three on Sunday, James and the Lakers came roaring back in a hard-fought defensive battle that was finely balanced until Los Angeles pulled away in the closing minutes. The win leaves the Lakers 3-1 up in the best-of-seven series, meaning they can clinch the championship with victory in Game Five on Friday. James started slowly but clicked in the second half to lead the scoring while providing eight assists and hauling down 12 rebounds. Anthony Davis meanwhile finished with 22 points. — *AFP*

## Hero riders in top 15 after Stage 1

**Villamartin, Spain:** Hero MotoSports Team Rally has started their first campaign of the season on a positive note with all three riders delivering decent performances in the first stage of the Andalucia Rally. Joaquim Rodrigues made an impressive start to maintain pace throughout the stage, finishing just outside the top 10, at 11th place. Sebastian Buhler wasn't too far behind from his mentor and finished the stage in the 15th place. Indian ace C. S. Santosh brought the stage home with a 23rd place finish. The first full stage of the Rally kicked-off from the Rally Headquarters at Villamartin, covering 59 kms in liaison to reach the start line near the town of Moron De La Frontera. The special stage of 258 km exposed the competitors to almost all types of terrains, including technical sections, sand, open tracks, narrow piste and even vegetation.

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## TENNIS

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

## FOOTBALL

**Euro Qualifiers:** Georgia vs Belarus from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; Iceland vs Romania from 12.15 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 3, HD; Slovakia vs Ireland from 12.15 am (Friday) on Sony Six, HD

**International Friendlies:** Sweden vs Russia from 10 pm on Sony Six, HD; England vs Wales from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

## KNIGHTS PIN KINGS

## KKR ride on Tripathi knock; Chennai misfire yet again

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7:** Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

Batting first, KKR were all out for 167 despite Rahul Tripathi's 51-ball 81. In reply, CSK were stopped at 157 for 5 in the stipulated 20 overs.

Chasing a tricky target of 168 on a pitch that seemed to have slowed down, CSK were off to a brisk start with Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis adding 30 runs in less than four overs.

Watson made 50 off 40 balls, while Ambati Rayudu contributed 30 off 27 balls, but the others could not do much as CSK fell short.

Earlier, batting first, KKR lost three wickets in the last over with Dwayne Bravo removing two of them.

Bravo, a CSK veteran, celebrated his 37th birthday by returning impressive figures of 3/37 in his quota of four overs.

Tripathi enjoyed his promotion to the top with an excellent fifty but Chennai Super Kings bowlers applied the brakes to bundle out Kolkata Knight Riders.

Tripathi picked up from where he left off against Delhi Capitals and raced to his fifth IPL fifty in 31 balls to give KKR a solid foundation after Dinesh Karthik called it right at the toss.

At 93 for two at the mid-way stage, KKR looked set for a big score but Bravo struck after that.

Leg-spinner Karn Sharma (2/25), Shradul Thakur (2/28), Sam Curran (2/26) claimed two wickets each as the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side bounced back in the back 10 by taking eight wickets while giving away just 74 runs.

— *PTI*

## CAPTAIN SMITH PENALISED FOR SLOW RATE

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7:** Rajasthan Royals captain Steve Smith has been fined ₹12 lakh for his side's slow-over rate during their Indian Premier League match against Mumbai Indians here.

Rajasthan Royals suffered a 57-run loss to defending champions Mumbai Indians on Tuesday.

Given that this was his team's first offence of the season, Smith was fined ₹12 lakh under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences.

"Rajasthan Royal's Captain Steven Smith has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their IPL match against Mumbai Indians in Abu Dhabi on 6 October 2020," the IPL said in a media statement. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr. Smith was fined ₹12 lakh," it added. — *PTI*



Rahul Tripathi of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot against Chennai Super Kings during their Indian Premier League at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday.

— *BCCI*

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	0	8	+1.060
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	3	2	0	6	+0.002
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	3	2	0	6	-1.355
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.371
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	-0.417
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	0	4	-0.826
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	0	2	+0.178

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

## SCORECARD

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** R. Tripathi c Watson b Bravo 81, S. Gill c Dhoni b Thakur 11, N. Rana c Jadeja b Sharma 9, S. Narine c du Plessis b Sharma 17, E. Morgan c Dhoni b Curran 7, A. Russell c Dhoni b Thakur 2, D. Karthik c Thakur b Curran 12, P. Cummins not out 17, K. Nagarkoti c du Plessis b Bravo 0, S. Mavi c Dhoni b Bravo 0, V. Chakravarthy run out 1. **Extras:** (LB-4, W-6) 10. **Total:** (all out in 20 overs) 167. **FoW:** 1-37, 2-70, 3-98, 4-114, 5-128, 6-140, 7-162, 8-163, 9-166. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 4-0-47-0, Sam Curran 4-0-26-2, Shardul Thakur 4-0-28-2, Karn Sharma 4-0-25-2, Dwayne Bravo 4-0-37-3.

**Chennai Super Kings:** Shane Watson lbw b 50, Faf du Plessis c Karthik b S. Mavi 17, A. Rayudu c S. Gill b Nagarkoti 30, M. S. Dhoni b Varun 11, S. Curran c Morgan b Russell 17, K. Jadeja not out 7, R. Jadeja not out 21. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-2) 4. **Total:** (for 5 wks in 20 overs) 157. **FoW:** 1-30, 2-99, 3-101, 4-129, 5-129. **Bowling:** P. Cummins 4-0-25-0, S. Mavi 3-0-32-1, C. Varun 4-0-28-1, K. Nagarkoti 3-0-21-1, S. Narine 4-0-31-1, A. Russell 2-0-18-1.

## My ailing dad told me to get back to field: Stokes

**London, Oct. 7:** Star England all-rounder Ben Stokes has revealed that his ailing father, for whom he took a break from cricket, encouraged him to return to action in the IPL by telling him that he was duty-bound "to do the job".

Stokes took compassionate leave in the middle of the home Test series against Pakistan in August and travelled to New Zealand to attend to his father who has been diagnosed with brain cancer. After spending five weeks with his family, Stokes, who is contracted with Rajasthan Royals, has landed in the UAE and is currently in quarantine.

"Saying goodbye to my dad, my mum and my brother in Christchurch was tough. It has been a difficult time for us as a family, but we've pulled together and supported each other as best we can," Ben Stokes wrote in his column for the



Ben Stokes of Rajasthan Royals in this file photo.

*Daily Mirror.*

"And I was able to get on the plane with my parents' love and blessing after we reached the decision, for me to get back playing, as a family with no external influences," he added.

Recalling the conversation he had with his parents in New Zealand, the 2019 Ben said, "My dad was also very strong on the responsibilities I have. He told me I have a

duty to do the job that I do and I have a duty as a husband and father as well."

Talking about his current quarantine in the UAE, he said, "Sitting in a hotel room in quarantine once again after leaving New Zealand is not how I thought I would be arriving at the IPL, but here I am and all things considered, I'm in a good place."

— *PTI*

## ROHIT HEAPS PRAISE ON SURYAKUMAR

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7:** Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma feels that Suryakumar Yadav's shot selection was perfect during their team's comprehensive win over Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here.

Yadav was back among the runs with a 47-ball 79, propelling Mumbai Indians to 193 for 4. Then, their bowlers led by Jasprit Bumrah bundled out RR for 136 to register a 57-run win.

"It (a big knock) was coming, I spoke to him (Surya) before the game as well. He was batting really well all these games. He got off to a good start and it was just about making sure that the shot making sometimes can be very important and today his shot-making was perfect," Rohit said.

"We wanted him to bat till the end because of those innovative shots that he has, it was quite handy towards the end," he added. — *PTI*

## Bottom placed KXIP face SRH

**Dubai, Oct. 7:** Their bowling attacks struggling to find form, Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad will look towards their power-hitters to do the job when the two erratic teams go head to head in an IPL match here on Thursday.

KXIP are currently languishing at the bottom of the table after losing four of their five games, while SRH are only slightly better at sixth following two wins and three losses so far.

KXIP's strength has been in a formidable opening duo. Skipper K. L. Rahul has been in scintillating form this year, scoring two fifties and a century, while Mayank Agarwal also has a half-century and a ton to his credit. The two have done the heavy-lifting for the team.

But despite the solid batting performances, KXIP have been unable to win because of their disappointing bowling attack. Apart from Mohammed Shami, all the other bowlers have failed to take wickets.

And come Thursday, Sunrisers, who are blessed with a strong top order comprising Jonny Bairstow, David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson, will look to exploit a low-on-confidence KXIP's bowling unit.

However, the Orange Army was dealt a massive

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

● Matches: 14

● Hyderabad: 10

● Punjab: 4

## MEETING IN 2019

● Kings XI Punjab beat

Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6

wickets at Mohali.

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat

Kings XI Punjab by 45 runs at

Hyderabad.

## FOR THE RECORD

● Sandeep Sharma who took

97 wickets at an average of

24.21 in 81 innings of as many

matches for Kings XI Punjab

and Sunrisers Hyderabad,

needs just three wickets to

become the 15th bowler to

complete a century of wickets

in IPL.

● Lokesh Rahul with 302 runs

at an average of 75.50 and a

strike rate of 141.78 in four

innings is only batsman to

cross 300-run mark in this IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

blow when senior pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was ruled out of the tournament with a thigh muscle injury.

In Bhuvneshwar's absence, Sunrisers struggled with their bowling. Apart from T. Natarajan, pacers Sandeep Sharma and Siddarth Kaul leaked runs. Going ahead, there will be added pressure on yorker specialist Natarajan and star spinner Rashid Khan. — *PTI*



This file photo was taken on Saturday, which was released by the Melbourne Cricket Club on Wednesday, shows a small group of family members attending a ceremony for late Australian cricketer Dean Jones as a hearse transporting his coffin makes one last lap around the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne following his death at the age of 59 on September 24 in Mumbai. — *AFP*

## Farewell for Dean in last lap of MCG

**Melbourne, Oct. 7:**

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones has been farewelled in a poignant final lap of an empty Melbourne Cricket Ground following his sudden death last month.

The casket of Jones, who collapsed and died aged 59, was draped in an Australia flag and carried in a white hearse adorned with flowers spelling "324", his Test cap number and his highest first-class score, achieved at the MCG.

"Rocket Man" by Elton John — a friend of Jones — echoed through the 100,000-capacity arena as the hearse, followed by only 10 mourners due to anti-coronavirus rules, proceeded around the field on Saturday.

"We have been deeply moved by the outpouring of love for Dean over the last week and can't thank everyone enough for their support and for sharing their memories with us," Jones's widow Jane said.

"We will forever miss

Dean's energy, his zest for life, passion for cricket and his love for us as a family," she added.

The father of two, a colourful and popular character who played regularly for Victoria and Australia at the MCG, died while working in Mumbai as a commentator for the Indian Premier League.

He played 52 Tests from 1984-1992, amassing 3,631 runs at an average of 46.55, while his 164 one-day internationals yielded 6,068 runs at an average of 44.61.

Known universally as "Deano", and an inspiration for his aggressive batting, Jones was remembered as a fierce competitor whose knockabout demeanour concealed a keen cricketing mind.

At Chennai in 1986 Jones, vomiting and shaking at the crease, defied severe heat and dehydration to score 210 and save Australia's hopes in only the second tied Test in cricket history.

— *AFP*

## Nadal, Nadia breeze into semifinals

**Paris, Oct. 7:** Rafael Nadal reached his 13th Roland Garros semifinal early Wednesday with a straight sets win over Italian teenager Jannik Sinner but claimed it was "dangerous" to finish at 01:30 in the morning when the temperature had plummeted to 12 degrees (53°F).

Nadal, the 12-time champion, defeated 19-year-old Sinner 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-1 to clinch a 98th victory in his 100th match at the French Open.

He will next face Diego Schwartzman, the diminutive Argentine over whom he holds a 9-1 career advantage, as he moves closer to equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 majors.

However, Nadal, more accustomed to the bright sunshine of Mallorca than the autumn chill of a



Rafael Nadal celebrates after defeating Jannik Sinner in the men's singles quarterfinal match of French Open in Paris on Tuesday. Nadal won 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-1. — *AFP*

French Open pushed back four months due to the Coronavirus pandemic, was unhappy with organisers who scheduled five matches on the main Court Philippe

Chatrier. "I know footballers play under these conditions, but they are all the time moving," said Nadal after the latest ever finishing match

at the tournament.

Argentine 12th seed Schwartzman defeated US Open champion and third seed Thiem in a five-hour epic to reach his first ever

Grand Slam semifinal. The 28-year-old Schwartzman triumphed 7-6 (7/1), 5-7, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

It was one marathon too many for Thiem, the runner-up in Paris for the last two years, who had needed five sets and three and a half hours to draw world number 239 Hugo Gaston in the fourth round.

The 5ft 7in (1.70m) Schwartzman's success came on the same day that compatriot Nadia Podoroska, the world 131, reached the last-four of the women's singles.

Having never won a main-draw Grand Slam match before last week, Podoroska could hardly believe it after her 6-2, 6-4 quarterfinal victory over third-seeded Elina Svitolina on Court Philippe Chatrier. — *AFP*

## Match-fixing investigation looms over French Open

**Paris, Oct. 7:** The Paris prosecutor's office has opened a police investigation into suspicions of match-fixing at the French Open.

The office said the investigation is being conducted by a French police unit that specialises in betting fraud and match-fixing probes and which, among other investigations, has previously worked with Belgian authorities in investigating suspected fixed matches at the lower levels of profes-

sional tennis. But match-fixing probes targeting Grand Slam tennis are comparatively rare.

The Paris prosecutor's office said the investigation is centered on suspicions concerning one match at Roland Garros and also casting a broader look for any other evidence. It did not specify the match.

German newspaper *Die Welt* and French sports daily *L'Equipe* said there were suspicious betting patterns in the first round

of a women's doubles match on September 30.

Played on Court No.10 at Roland Garros, it opposed Romanian players Andreea Mitu and Patricia Maria Tig against Madison Brengle of the United States and Yana Sizikova of Russia. In the match, Sizikova is broken to love serving in game five of the second set, during which she double faults twice.

The police are investigating possible charges of organised fraud. — *AP*

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