

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
ANANTAPUR | SUNDAY | 11 OCTOBER 2020



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RBI: Moratorium not in borrowers' interest



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Second US Prez debate cancelled

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Polish teen Iga Swiatek wins French Open



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WEATHER

Max: 31.0°C
Min: 14°C
RH: 83%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 31/14 °C

COVID-19 C O U N T

CASES	DEATHS
(+73,596)	(+905)
70,37,694	1,08,047

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,811)	(+9)
TS: 2,10,346	1,217
(+5,653)	(+35)
AP: 7,50,517	6,194

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

3,73,18,435

DEATHS

10,69,846

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana

Titthi: Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula Navami till 5.46 pm

Star: Pushyami till 10.14 am (Monday)

Variyam: 9.13 am to 10.49 am

Durmuhurtam: 4.20 pm to 5.07 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Safar ul Muzaffar 23, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.31 am

Zohar: 12.26 pm

Asar: 4.28 pm

Maghrib: 6.05 pm

Isha: 7.21 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.08 AM

SUNSET TODAY 6.25 PM

MOONSET 12.42 PM

MOONRISE 12.56 AM

COUNTER POINT

Leave it on, dad. They are paying me to watch their programme!

IN BRIEF

e-filing training for lawyers: Ministry

New Delhi: Plans are afoot to provide lawyers and the legal community hands-on training through live demonstrations on e-filing of complaints, summons and payments once the coronavirus-induced restrictions are lifted and courts resume normal functioning, a senior official said on Saturday. The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry, in association with the e-committee of the Supreme Court, plans to start such live demonstrations.

BARC scientist from AP goes missing

Bengaluru: A 26-year-old scientist working at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has gone missing for the past four days from Yelwal in Mysuru. According to his family sources, Abhishek Reddy Gulla went out on October 6 afternoon on his two-wheeler and did not return. A native of Madanapalle in Chittoor district of AP, Abhishek Reddy Gulla had joined the BARC in Mysuru about a year ago, family members said. The administrative officer-3 of BARC, Mysuru, T.K. Bose had lodged a complaint with Yelwal police based on which a case of missing person was registered, police said. In his complaint, Bose said Gulla, who was working as Scientific Officer, was absent since September 17.

Army tackles brazen Pak



Army personnel attempt to destroy a mortar shell, fired by Pakistani forces, in Dabraj village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Mankote sector of Poonch district, Saturday.

— PTI

60,000 Chinese troops near Indian border: US

Washington, Oct. 10: China has amassed 60,000 troops on India's northern border, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said as he hit out at Beijing for its "bad behaviour" and the threats it poses to the Quad countries.

The foreign ministers from the Indo-Pacific nations known as the Quad group — the US, Japan, India and Australia — met in Tokyo on Tuesday in what was their first in-person talks since the Coronavirus pandemic began. The meeting took place in the backdrop of China's aggressive military behaviour in the Indo-Pacific, South China Sea and along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. "The Indians are seeing 60,000 Chinese soldiers on

their border," Pompeo told *The Guy Benson Show* in an interview on Friday after his return from Tokyo wherein he attended the second Quad ministerial with his counterparts from India, Japan and Australia. "I was with my foreign minister counterparts from India, Australia, and Japan — a format that we call the Quad, four big democracies, four powerful economies, four nations, each of whom has real risk associated with the threats imposed — attempting to be imposed by the Chinese Communist Party . And they see it in their home countries too," he said.

Pompeo met foreign minister S. Jaishankar in Tokyo on Tuesday and they underscored the need to work together in

the Indo-Pacific and around the globe. He described his meeting with Jaishankar as "productive."

"They see, the people of their (Quad) nations understanding that we all slept on this for too long. The previous administration bent a knee, too often allowed China to steal our intellectual properties and the millions of jobs that came along with it. They see that in their country too," he said in the interview.

"We need partners and friends. They'll certainly try to react. But what the CCP had become accustomed to, frankly, for an awfully long time was watching the US bend a knee, watching us turn the other cheek and appease them," he said.

— PTI

Registration staff to give up holiday over capital

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 10

AP's three capitals issue will make officials from the department of registration lose public holidays, including Sundays, to attend to work and make up for revenue loss. As the state government has come up with a legislation to set up three capitals, legislative, executive and judiciary, at Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool respectively, it has its impact on registration of properties, with Krishna and Guntur districts showing a slight dip and Visakhapatnam witnessing good growth. The department hoped to raise revenue to the tune of ₹6,600 crore in the last fiscal in the state but

managed to generate only ₹5,000 crore. Similarly, in the current fiscal, it has targeted ₹6,336 crore and, so far, over ₹2,084 crore has been generated. There are expectations that it can cross the ₹5,000 crore mark by end of current fiscal.

The department earned nearly ₹2,084 crore by October 8 in the current fiscal against the collection of ₹2,987 crore for the corresponding period in the last fiscal, showing a deficit of 27.93 per cent.

In the current fiscal up to October 8, Krishna district earned revenue through registration of properties to the tune of ₹242.78 crore against a collection of ₹384.787 crore raised for the corresponding period in the last fiscal. Guntur had a revenue collection of

₹252.03 crore against ₹401.72 crore and Visakhapatnam collected ₹321.94 crore against ₹402.62 crore.

The department has registered 7,15,597 documents in the current fiscal by October 8 against 10,02,835 registered for the corresponding period in the last fiscal, showing a deficit of 2,87,238 documents coming up to 28.64 per cent. Krishna registered 73,307 documents so far in the current fiscal against 1,12,082 in the last fiscal. So is the case with Guntur, with 81,980 documents at present, against 1,27,332 documents in last fiscal, and Visakhapatnam with 55,193 documents against the last fiscal's 87,859 documents.

■ **Page 2: Memo to work on holidays to be issued**

CRIME | ON WOMEN **New advisory to states for justice delivery**

File 'Zero FIR', says MHA

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

Following outrage over the Hathras rape case, the Ministry of Home Affairs in an advisory to the states directed that all relevant laws and guidelines in cases of sexual assault and crime against women be strictly enforced. Any lapses, if noticed, need to be investigated and stringent action taken immediately against the concerned officers, the ministry has stated.

In the advisory issued on Saturday, the MHA has stressed on three sections of the Code of

Criminal Procedure (Cr PC) that primarily focus on "compulsory registration of FIR", completion of investigation related to rape case within 60 days along with a mandatory medical examination which should be conducted with the individual's consent by a qualified medical professional within 24 hours of receiving information of such a crime.

"It is requested that States/UTs, may suitably issue instructions to all concerned to ensure strict compliance with the provisions in the law... also requested to monitor the cases on ITSSO (an online

portal to track sexual offence cases) to ensure suitable follow up action," the notice said.

The Centre further said that "failure of police to adhere to these mandatory requirements may not augur well for the delivery of criminal justice in the country, especially in context of women safety" and warned of "stringent action" against those not following these rules.

In view of the Hathras case and some other similar incidents reported from other states over the last few days there was has been public outrage on incidents of crime

SINDHU, SAINATH TOP MED, ENGG EAMCET STREAMS

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 10

Gutti Chaitanya Sindhu from Tenali has topped the AP Eamcet medical stream and V. Sainath took the top rank in engineering stream in the results released on Saturday.

Krishna district tops in the number of students qualifying in the engineering stream, followed by Guntur. Interestingly, of the 15,731 candidates, who had registered from Hyderabad, only 7,163 had appeared for the exam and 6,768 of them have qualified.

Medical stream topper Sindhu comes from a family of doctors from Tenali in Guntur district. She is the granddaughter of famous surgeon Dr G. Subramanyam and daughter of Dr G. Koteswara Rao, ENT surgeon and Dr Sudha Rani, gynaecologist. Dr Rao was happy that his daughter got the first rank. He said she was good at studies since school. She pursued her schooling from Dr K.K.R. Goutham School and did intermediate from Sri Chaitanya institutions.

■ **Page 3: Engg topper eyes IIT-Bombay**

● **MEDICAL STREAM topper Sindhu comes from a family of doctors from Tenali in Guntur district**

New responsibility at TTD



Senior IAS officer Dr K.S. Jawahar Reddy takes charge as the Executive Officer of TTD at Tirumala on Saturday. Dr Reddy also took oath as the Member Secretary of TTD Trust Board.

Patients suffer due to acute blood shortage

V.K.L. GAYATRI | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 10

Majority of blood banks in the state have either dried up or running with low reserves, as there has been no blood donations for the past seven months. Due to the shortage, a large number of patients, particularly those of low-income groups have been adversely affected during emergencies.

Due to restrictions imposed following the lockdown on account of Coronavirus, various agencies that conduct blood donation camps across the state could not collect blood. People also did not come forward to donate blood due to fear of virus across the state.

Government-run blood banks and doctors have already alerted the government and other agencies about the need to conduct blood donation camps on a priority basis to save lives during emergencies. With lockdown restrictions lifted and traffic increasing, cases of road accident are also increasing, which necessitate the need for blood reserves being available at blood banks.

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

As the Army prepares to keep thousands of troops at forward positions against China during the harsh

NGOs get blood free, charge for screening

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 10

Severe shortage of blood in AP is leading to certain vested interests taking advantage of the situation. Some are even utilising the situation to make money.

It is learnt that a group of marketing personnel have created social media groups urging youth to donate blood and save lives during emergencies. They are also collecting addresses and phone numbers of such donors and building blood reserves.

The shocking part is that this blood is being sold at high prices to some private hospitals. People who can

afford are asking doctors to arrange blood whatever the cost. Some private and NGO-run blood banks have collected ₹4,000 and above for a bottle of blood. However, when common people approach these blood banks, their management sent them away saying that group blood is unavailable.

In fact, government has issued directions to blood banks for collecting the processing fee. For whole blood, it is ₹1,450 at private blood banks and ₹1,050 at the government blood banks.

■ **Page 3: APSACS nodal agency for blood banks**

and private agencies. As per AP's population, blood banks should at any time hold up to four lakh units of blood in reserve.

■ **Page 3: Blood shortage for many years**

Winter clothes still imported: Army

Ladakh winter, Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen. S.K. Saini said the country still had to import winter clothing and equipment "due to the lack of viable indigenous solutions."

"We are still importing cold-weather equipment, mainly due to the lack of viable indigenous solutions," he said at a webinar organised by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies.

SHORT TAKES

DEPUTY CM: KADAPA TO BE DEVELOPED AS IDEAL CITY

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, OCT. 10

Deputy Chief Minister S.B. Amjad Basha has announced that Kadapa will be developed as an ideal city in the state.

Addressing a function to mark the construction of a cement road and concrete cement drains at Mochampeta in Kadapa city, he said all illegal structures in the city will be removed, so that there could be planned development. He pointed out that because of such constructions, even drainage water is entering homes.

The deputy CM said ₹43 crore has been earmarked for various development projects to make Kadapa an ideal city. He pointed out that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has sanctioned ₹55 crore for developing the old Kadapa tank on lines of Tank Bund in Hyderabad. He said work on it will start as soon as the tender process is completed. Statues of dignitaries who rendered invaluable services to the district will line the bund, Basha said. City YSRC leaders were present at the event.

CITU: SAND BUYERS BEING CHEATED IN KADAPA DISTRICT

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, OCT. 10

Kadapa district convener of CITU-affiliated AP Building and Other Construction Workers Union, A. Ramamohan, has accused ruling YSRC party leaders of cheating people who are buying sand for constructing their houses.

Participating in a meeting of construction workers at the CITU office in Kadapa city on Saturday, he alleged that persons running the sand stockyards, in collusion with ruling party leaders, have reduced the quantity of sand supplied in tractors for construction purposes. A consumer has to pay ₹5,564 to the government for 4.5 tonnes of sand supplied in a tractor trolley. But only 3.7 tonnes is being supplied to the consumer.

The CITU leader said this way, officials and leaders are making ₹800 per tractor at a stockyard. Given that there are 10 stockyards in Kadapa district, the public is being robbed of ₹3 crore per day, he alleged.

Ramamohan said Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had brought in the new sand policy to benefit people. In addition, poor families with rice cards were to get sand free of cost if they required it. But private individuals, in collusion with ruling party leaders, are exploiting people in the name of supplying sand. He demanded that the government take over sand stockyards and ensure that there is no corruption in supply of sand.

JAWAHAR REDDY TAKES CHARGE AS TTD EO

PATHRI RAJSEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, OCT. 10

Dr K. S Jawahar Reddy was appointed the new executive officer of the Tirumala Tirupati devasthanams (TTD).

Speaking to media outside the temple after taking charge as the 26th EO of TTD, Reddy said this was his long-cherished dream while referring to his studies in Veterinary Sciences at Tirupati. "It was a long-time wish to serve in the abode of Sri Venkateswara Swamy as an ardent devotee," Reddy who studied veterinary science in Tirupati, said, adding that he would further strengthen the systems in TTD for the benefit of common devotees. Earlier he trekked the traditional path to Tirumala from Alipiri on foot on Saturday morning. Following the temple tradition, Reddy had darshan of Sri Varahaswamy and later entered Srivari temple through the Vaikuntam queue complex.

The additional EO, A.V. Dharma Reddy, who held full additional charge as EO, handed over charge to Reddy at the Ranganayakula mandapam. Later, Reddy also took oath as member secretary of the TTD trust board. TTD ex-officio member, Dr. C. Bhaskar Reddy, JEOs, P. Basanth Kumar, Sada Bhargavi, Dy. EO, Jhansirani, chief vigilance and security officer, Gopinath Jatti, TTD board member, S. Siva Kumar, Telangana IG, Nagi Reddy, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural university VC, Vishnuvardhan Reddy, were present.

YSRC joins battle, ready for debate on Vidya Kanuka

Other states keen on emulating this unique programme, says minister

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 10

Minister for Education, Adimulapu Suresh stated that while Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is bringing reforms in the education sector, Opposition leaders are bent on criticising the Vidya Kanuka scheme.

Addressing the media here on Saturday, the minister pointed out that the scheme has been drawing all-round applause for it provides a pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, school bags and workbooks to every student. He said other states were keen on emulating this unique programme.

Stating that Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu was not able to digest the fact that Jagan Mohan Reddy would remain the Chief Minister forever, Suresh said that the programme was working in tune with the aspirations of BR Ambedkar.

He said that the government was ready for a debate on Vidya Kanuka as demanded by the main Opposition party and said they were prepared for an inspection of the quality of items distributed to students.

He said that while the Centre paid for the uniforms and textbooks, the state government has given a pair of additional uniforms.

Suresh refuted claims of the Opposition that Jagannanna Vidya Kanuka is a Central scheme.

He said that 18 per cent of the state budget was allocated for the education sector and added that ₹69 crore was allocated for school bags, ₹72 crore for notebooks, ₹67 crore for shoes and socks and ₹10 crore for belts covering all students in government schools.

He said the Chief Minister desired that poverty should not be an impediment to education, and hence has launched Vidya Deevana.

The minister asked the Opposition leaders if they

MINISTER: EXCESS WATER MAY CAUSE SUBMERGENCE

PATHRI RAJSEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, OCT. 10

In view of a decision to store 60 tmc ft of water in Kandaleru dam, part of the Telugu Ganga project, located in Nellore district, water resources minister, Dr P. Anil Kumar Yadav, instructed project officials to take steps to prevent submergence of the villages close to the backwaters.

During a visit to Kandaleru dam on Saturday, he elicited information on the water level in the reservoir and advised project engineers to be on high alert as the district is poised for heavy rainfall during October and November.

Speaking to mediapersons later, Anil Kumar Yadav said that they are going to store 60 tmc ft of water in Kandaleru dam for the first time in the history of the dam.

Stressing that all the water bodies in the district are full to the brim because of excess rainfall in Rayalaseema districts in the upstream of Penna river, the water resources minister assured water for drinking and irrigation to the entire ayacut in SPSR Nellore district.

Anil Kumar Yadav had directed officials to shift people living close to the backwaters of the Kandaleru reservoir to rehabilitation centres in the district.

He also said that they have been releasing excess water in the Somasila project to the Penna river.

YSR Congress legislators, Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy, Kiliveti Sanjeevaiah and Ramireddy Prathap Reddy, were present with the minister, apart from senior officials of Telugu Ganga project.



YSRC activists take part in a bike rally in support of the Jagannanna Vidya Kanuka programme at Jagadamba junction in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. — K. MURALIKRISHNA

● **MINISTER FOR EDUCATION** Adimulapu Suresh refuted claims of the Opposition that Jagannanna Vidya Kanuka is a Central scheme.

● **HE SAID** that 18 per cent of the state budget was allocated for the education sector and added that ₹69 crore was allocated for school bags, ₹72 crore for notebooks, ₹67 crore for shoes and socks and ₹10 crore for belts covering all students in government schools.

had ever thought of a scheme like Amma Vodi, which is the brainchild of Jagan Mohan Reddy.

He said, "There was celebration all over the state for the launch of Vidya Kanuka scheme despite Covid-19. The Opposition parties were unable to think of such a unique scheme. We have allocated sufficient funds for the scheme."

YSRC govt failed to tackle Covid-19 and floods effectively, alleges Naidu

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 10

Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday expressed concern that there was no respite to the people of the state from the day to day troubles inflicted on them by the inefficient YSRC government. He said that their failures and wrongdoings were exposed during the Coronavirus crisis and floods where people were left in the lurch as the government did not provide any relief to the victims.

Addressing people's representatives and mandal in-charges of Vizianagaram Lok Sabha constituency online, Naidu slammed the government for rendering over one lakh

● Addressing people's representatives and mandal in-charges of Vizianagaram Lok Sabha constituency online, Naidu slammed the government for rendering over one lakh construction workers jobless in its very year of rule.

● He deplored that in the past six months of Covid-19, workers were thrown on to the streets with no livelihoods and no help from the government.

● Worse is that Covid-affected families were exploited and squeezed of their money, he said.

construction workers jobless in its very year of rule. He deplored that in the past six months of Covid-19, workers were thrown on to the streets with no livelihoods and no help from the government. Worse is that Covid-affected families were exploited and squeezed of their money, he said.

The TD chief alleged

that the ruling party's shadow MLAs were creating havoc with lives in every Assembly constituency and they were swooping like vultures on lands belonging to private persons. He further alleged that with their forcible collections and settlements, they were persecuting all sections of people.

Naidu said that in the

past, the rulers with one another used to compete in bringing development but now the YSRC leaders were competing to harass and torture gullible people. Only they were capable of destroying the development that was already achieved by the previous regime.

The former chief minister lamented that bribes were being collected even for performing the last rites of Covid victims. He alleged that the YSRC has no respect for people, temples and even for the Constitution and laws of the land.

Naidu stated that people were now seeing how a rule by betrayers would be and warned YSRC that they would not be able to betray everybody forever.

COVID-19 | IMPACT Huge slump in exports, many manufacturers given up trade due to lack of business

West Godavari lace industry in crisis

VADREVVU SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, OCT. 10

The famous lace industry in West Godavari, the country's major lace exporter, is in a crisis as there is a huge slump in exports and many manufacturers have given up their trade due to lack of business. Lace exports have fallen to ₹50 crore from ₹110 crore.

To make matters worse, the Covid-19 pandemic has badly hit the industry.

Narasapuram, Palakollu and Seetharamapuram areas in west Godavari are famous for making lace garments. 98 per cent of exports are made from these areas and the remaining two percent are from Uttar Pradesh, New

Delhi and other areas in the country.

Considering the importance of lace produces in West Godavari, the union ministry of textiles has provided infrastructural facilities at Narasapuram and a lace park has been established at a cost of ₹20 crore.

The self-help group women in this area, in particular Seetharamapuram village, are making products with various designs.

West Godavari SHGs have participated in several trade fair exhibitions and fetched satisfactory orders from other countries. But many of the women have now given up the manufacturing of the lace products due to lack of orders.

● **Narasapuram, Palakollu and Seetharamapuram** areas in west Godavari are famous for making lace garments. 98 per cent of exports are made from these areas and the remaining two percent are from Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi and other areas in the country.

● **Lace products made in Narasapuram area** are exported to many of the countries like Germany, Japan, Belgium, Russia, US, Canada and middle Asian countries and lace cargo is exported from Madras port or AirPort but Covid-19 has hit exports.

"Sitharamapuram village is famous for lace-making and designs for the past 80 years. It has extended to other areas. One and a half decade back, when the women did not go for higher studies, there were two lakh people engaged in lace-related work.

After the introduction of

the fee reimbursement scheme, many youth, in particular girls, went for higher studies in engineering and other courses. It resulted in the number of lace manufacturers decreasing," said Tulasi Kalvakolanu, south region convener of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). He said that

now, only 40,000 people make lace garments.

Though there was no scarcity of raw material, exports have drastically fallen in the past five years due to recession in several trades globally and lace products are not a priority any more, said Kalvakolanu, pointing out that the number of exporters has also come down from 30 to 10 at present.

Lace products made in Narasapuram area are exported to many of the countries like Germany, Japan, Belgium, Russia, US, Canada and middle Asian countries and lace cargo is exported from Madras port or AirPort but Covid-19 has hit exports.

EPCH in a recent meet-

Rajahmundry MP hits out at Raju for criticising party

VADREVVU SRINIVAS | DC
RAJAHMUNDRY, OCT. 10

Rajahmundry MP Margani Bharat has condemned the conduct of Narasapuram MP K. Raghu Ramakrishnam Raju for getting elected on the YSRC ticket and then trying to damage party's image by making outrageous statements against it.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Bharat pointed out that it has now become routine for Narasapuram MP to make derogatory statements against YSRC almost on a daily basis. That is why party MPs had requested the Lok Sabha Speaker to disqualify Raghu Ramakrishnam Raju as Lok Sabha member.

Bharat said it is clear to all that the Narasapuram MP is making false allegations against YSRC as he wants to join NDA. The Rajahmundry MP clarified

that there is no proposal for YSRC to join NDA. He maintained that neither YSRC nor any of its leaders is behind the raids by CBI against Raghu Ramakrishnam Raju. He observed that the raids may have been conducted on the basis of information in the election affidavit filed by Raju himself.

The Rajahmundry MP said the Union government is yet to release ₹22,000 crore to AP as per the Andhra Pradesh Bifurcation Act and another ₹2,000 crore dues of Polavaram project works, besides Rehabilitation and Resettlement package funds.

He said Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has discussed all these points with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The results of these discussions would soon be seen by people of the state.



Women wash greens in a flooded farm field at Undavalli, Penumaka areas near Vijayawada on Saturday. — DC

Memo to work on holidays to be issued

From page 1

The top brass of the department has recently announced that they are planning to issue a memo instructing all officials to work on all public holidays, including Sundays, with an exception for two days' vacation for the Dasara festival, with the sole aim to overcome revenue loss in the entire state.

Having got a hint of the department's plans, officials and employees are up against the top brass for coming up with such a plan claiming that people plan for the registration of their documents during auspicious times and avoid registration during holidays as they know that government offices remain closed during that time.

They also say that as the previous Telugu Desam regime wanted to develop parts of Krishna and Guntur districts as the capital city Amaravati, there was a huge activity of registration of properties worth thousands of crores at that time and now, as the YSRC regime wanted to develop Visakhapatnam as executive capital, it is witnessing a gradual rise in registration of properties compensating for the revenue loss in the Amaravati area.

A senior official said, "A good number of officials and employees are a frustrated lot in the department following harassment from top brass on

● **THE DEPARTMENT** has pending bills of telephone, hired vehicles for use of officials, rentals for office buildings and others running into crores of rupees for a long time causing several financial hardships to service providers.

● **It suffers a staff** crunch to the tune of 20-30 per cent at lower level.

● **As AP is to develop** Visakhapatnam as executive capital, investors from parts Hyderabad and Bengaluru are looking for lands to set up industrial units and to take up huge land ventures, jacking up land value.

revenue collections. Change of capital city and the Covid-19 pandemic are having negative impacts on the registration of properties and it is unfair to find fault with them and to make employees work like a factory to reach the targeted production of some commodity.

Registration and stamps inspector general, Siddharth Jain, said, "Such a proposal has come from the department and we are yet to formalise it. We opened up registrations in May after closure for Covid-19 for two months in the current fiscal and they are picking up gradually month after month in comparison with last fiscal."

ing urged the government to consider the establishment of a regulatory authority through parliament to control and monitor the pricing terms and conditions and other provisions relating to the shipment of goods as the current shipping lines are arbitrarily deciding the pricing and imposing conditions at their whims and fancies.

West Godavari district rural development agency project director, J. Udaya Bhaskara Rao, said that efforts are being made to revive the lace industry and an awareness and training programme would be given to the SHGs who are experts in lace-making in January 2021.

SHORT TAKES

MORE FUNDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH: SEX WORKER NGOS

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 10

Vimukti, a non-governmental collective working for the rights of sex workers and trafficked women, demanded that the government allocate more funds to mental health treatment services to cope with mental health challenges in the wake of Covid-19 on the occasion of World Mental Health Day on October 10.

Vimukti leaders said that it is high time to extend a helping hand to the women in sex work with necessary mental health services and moral and social support along with those poor, marginalised and weaker sections in society adversely affected in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Vimukti's state convener, Haseena, co-convenor, Munni and India leadership forum against trafficking (ILFAT) AP state convener, Durga, stated that there are more than one lakh sex workers in Andhra Pradesh who are suffering mental health issues.

This is because of the extreme pressure by brokers, brothel owners and traffickers who earn from them as parasites. They further pointed out that sex workers fall prey to mental health issues due to trauma caused by sexual assault, abuse and exploitation, physical torture by customers, poverty, sexual violence and sexually transmitted diseases (STIs).

The availability of facilities for mental health treatment services through primary health centres will be a crucial step towards ameliorating the situation.

Help project coordinator, Bhaskar, stated that according to a recent survey most women who are rescued alive from the vicious cycle of trafficking are living alone, not accepted by families and show a sense of social anxiety. He said that it is found that, 87.3 per cent are suffering with dysthymia, 12.7 per cent are depressed.

27 OF CRICKET BETTING GANG ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT ELURU, OCT. 10

Eluru Two Town police conducted raids on a lodge at Eluru in West Godavari District at midnight of Friday and arrested 27 cricket betting gang out of which seven were cricket bookies and 20 were punters. The police seized ₹21,070 cash and nine cell-phones. These accused stayed in two rooms in a lodge in the town and made betting on an IPL cricket match held between Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals in Dubai. The Eluru DSP O. Dilip Kiran told the reporters on Saturday evening that upon receiving information, the Two Town Circle Inspector Adi Prasad and Sub-Inspector Mr Nagendra Prasad conducted raids on the lodges and nabbed the cricket betting gang. They identified Bandaru Nagendrababu, Kodi Durga Prasad, Aggi Yedukondalu, Krishna Prasad alias Nani and Bokka Srinivasa Rao of Chataparru village and Tailor Ramu of Thurpu Veedhi and Medipudi Rajendra Chowdary of Vijayawada as cricket bookies and arrested them. He said that a total of 38 persons for the past three days were arrested on the charges of cricket betting and booked four cases against them. He said that stringent action would be taken against anybody into cricket betting.

He requested the people to inform them about cricket betting issues and their names would be kept secret. He said that the West Godavari Superintendent of Police K. Narayana Naick greeted the police officers and its personnel for nabbing the cricket betting gang.

The Eluru Two Town police registered a case.

POLICE TAKE OUT GRACE CANCER RUN AWARENESS

DC CORRESPONDENT ELURU, OCT. 10

The West Godavari police took out a Grace Cancer Run rally in the city to create awareness on cancer among people. The West Godavari SP K. Narayana Naick flagged off the rally at Police Parade Grounds and again it reached police parade grounds through Collectorate, Zilla Parishad Centre, fire station and other streets.

AP records 35 Covid deaths

West Godavari has registered the highest number of 823 new cases

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 10

Andhra Pradesh registered 5,653 new Covid-19 cases increasing its overall tally to 7,50,517 and 35 deaths taking the toll to 6,194 in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities issued the Covid-19 bulletin here on Saturday reporting that out of 73,625 samples tested, 5,653 individuals have been found infected with the virus. Out of 64,94,099 samples tested so far in the state, 6,97,699 patients have been discharged after recovery while 46,624 active patients are undergoing treatment.

Among daily new positive cases, West Godavari has registered the highest number of 823, followed by 706 each in Chittoor and East Godavari, 538 in Prakasam, 504 Kadapa, 470 Guntur, 468 Krishna, 351 Anantapur, 322 Nellore, 289 Visakhapatnam, 194 Vizianagaram, 163 Srikakulam and 119 in Kurnool.

East Godavari continues to have the highest total of patients with



Medical staff collects the swab from a woman for Covid testing at a Community Hall at Resapuvanipalem in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. — P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

1,05,342, followed by 74,214 in West Godavari, 69,609 Chittoor, 60,636 Anantapur, 59,411 Guntur, 57,930 Kurnool, 56,390 Nellore, 54,026 Prakasam, 52,326 Visakhapatnam, 47,601 Kadapa, 41,486 Srikakulam, 37,163 Vizianagaram, 31,488 in Krishna, 2,461 from other

states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery of Covid-19 infected patients has been good with 96,706 in East Godavari, followed by 68,099 in West Godavari, 63,005 in Chittoor, 58,401 in Anantapur, 55,951 in Kurnool, 54,032 in Nellore, 54,029 in Guntur;

49,132 in Visakhapatnam, 49,115 in Prakasam, 43,864 in Kadapa, 39,339 in Srikakulam, 34,929 in Vizianagaram, 28,202 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Among daily cases of deaths, Prakasam registered six followed by five in Chittoor, four each in

East Godavari and Krishna three each in Nellore and Visakhapatnam, two each in Anantapur, Guntur, Kurnool and West Godavari, one each in Kadapa and Srikakulam in the last 24 hours.

Chittoor registered the highest number of cumulative cases of deaths with 701 followed by 565 in East Godavari, 557 in Guntur, 523 in Prakasam, 522 in Anantapur, 491 in Krishna, 477 in Kurnool, 471 each in West Godavari and Nellore, 470 in Visakhapatnam, 393 in Kadapa, 329 in Srikakulam and 224 in Vizianagaram.

The state health authorities discharged 6,659 patients after recovery from various hospitals in the state in the last 24 hours. The State has carried out Covid-19 tests on 1,21,612 samples per one million population and has registered Covid-19 positive rate at 11.56 while Maharashtra has tested 59,947 with positive rate at 20.11 and Telangana State tested 87,784 samples with positive rate at 6.04.

RSS chief appeals for blood donation

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 10

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, participating in a meeting of RSS belonging to AP region held at Natakki in Guntur district on Saturday, released Rakt Seva mobile application of Seva Bharati. He said the application will help needy people get blood of their group during emergencies. He underlined that blood donation saves lives and people should come forward and donate blood during emergency situations.

Seva Bharati state secretary Kakani Prudhviraj said anybody who needs blood, platelets or plasma can send in a request through the Rakt Seva application.

Response to such a request will be within three hours. If there is no reply within this time, the requester can dial 040-4821-4920 call centre, which will arrange blood from donors, Prudhviraj stated.

RSS leaders Bhupatiraju Srinivasaraju, Dusi Ramakrishna, Venu Gopal Naidu and others participated in the meeting.

No driving licence cards in Kadapa since 2 months

NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA | DC KADAPA, OCT. 10

Since past two months, those clearing their driving tests in Kadapa district are being issued their driving licences only on paper and not cards. This has been the case with all the six regional transport offices located at Kadapa, Rayachoti, Badvel, Pulivendula, Rajampet and Proddutur.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Proddutur road transport officer Mogadaia Veerraju clarified that driving licence cards will not be available even during the next two to three months. He said new regulations have come into force from October 1 under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1989. Under this, motorists can show their vehicle documents, such as driving licence, registration certificate and insurance in the digital format. People can store these documents on their smartphones and display them to vehicle inspectors. RTA officials will verify these documents online.

Veerraju said the state government has already issued orders to all vehicle inspecting authorities to accept digital certificates. He asked all applicants to digitise their licenses and vehicle papers and keep them in a folder on their mobiles.



Farmworkers and farmers taking steps to irrigate their fields due to rain in the last four days at Undavalli, Penumaka areas near Vijayawada on Saturday. — DC

PUBG addict hangs himself

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, OCT. 10

A 17-year-old Intermediate student hanged himself to death allegedly after his father rejected his plea for money to buy a gun in an online game and also chided the boy for playing PUBG on the smartphone at Tirupati on Saturday.

M. Thejesh's father Bhaskar is a TTD employee, residing in BTR Puram near Mangalam in Tirupati rural limits.

The addiction of Thejesh for PUBG drew the ire of the family and on Saturday, Bhaskar warned Thejesh and asked him to put an end to online games.

Upset with the stern warning, Thejesh went into his room and

hanged himself to death.

Family members broke open the doors of the room after he failed to respond only to find him hanging to the ceiling fan.

Alipiri police rushed to the spot and shifted the body to SVR Ruia Government General hospital in Tirupati for post-mortem. Circle Inspector B.Devendra Kumar said that they had registered a case of suicide and were investigating.

He said the youngster appears to have taken the extreme step after he was scolded by his father who asked him to stop playing the PUBG game. The other version is that the boy was in depression as he was unable to compete with his friends while playing the game, he added.

Chittoor police recover property from criminal

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, OCT. 10

The Chittoor One Town police have apprehended a habitual offender involved in house break-in cases and recovered ₹30 lakhs worth of property including 500 gm of gold ornaments and one car from the accused on Saturday.

Police caught investigating the case caught hold of the accused identified as Nara Basavaraju, 41, alias Y.N. Raju of Pedda Pujarla village in Pyapili mandal of Kurnool district while investigating a robbery in the house of one C.S. Rajasekhari in B.V. Reddy Colony in Chittoor town on August 29. Rajasekhari

is the owner of Chilamkuri Jewellery shop in Chittoor. He approached the police after gold ornaments weighing 890 gm were stolen from his home.

The victim told the police that the accused had entered from the first floor into the house and robbed the gold after breaking the locks of the safety room, which is located in the bedroom.

The Chittoor One Town Police suspected the role of Basavaraju based on the modus operandi, while verifying the crime records, as he was involved in similar cases in the past. Further, the CCTV footage in the town also

gave some clues to zero on the offender. Finally, the One Town police apprehended Basavaraju in Girimpeta on Chittoor-Vellore main road on Saturday.

According to Chittoor Additional S P D.N. Mahesh, Basavaraju had been involved in house-breaking offences for more than 20 years. He was also sentenced to jail in three murder cases.

The accused had stolen valuables in houses located in Habib Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, LB Nagar, Hayath Nagar in Hyderabad and Secunderabad and also in Tirupati, Chittoor, Nellore, Proddutur town areas

SEB SEIZES 15,312 TONNES OF SAND AFTER BOOKING 453 CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, OCT. 10

Assistant Commissioner of Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) Srinivas Chowdhary said that so far 453 cases of sand smuggling have been registered in Prakasam district and 687 persons have been arrested besides seizure of 15,312 tonnes of sand.

He said they have booked 832 cases for liquor smuggling and held 858 persons apart from seizing 3,400 litres of non-duty liquor from other states. This is in addition to the seizure of 1,99,610 litres of arrack. The SEB also confiscated 873 vehicles

involved in the smuggling cases.

Mr Srinivas disclosed this during a review on SEB operations by Prakasam District SP Siddharth Kaushal in Ongole on Saturday.

The SP appreciated the SEB officers for completing the Kurichedu Sanitizer case by working along with the local police.

"Police and special enforcement officers together should act tough on such illegal activities by conducting surprise checks regularly," Mr Siddharth Kaushal asserted.

The SP told officers to put special focus on sand transport in coastal regions.

Engineering topper eyes IIT-Bombay

FROM PAGE 1

Eamcet engineering first rank holder V. Sainath wishes to pursue Computer Science Engineering at IIT-Bombay. He secured the 173rd rank in the JEE Advanced in the general category and stood 17th in the OBC quota list. Sainath said that for his studies, his family had relocated from Srikakulam to Visakhapatnam. He got immense support from his parents and a healthy atmosphere at home while he was preparing for the exams, he added.

As many as 22,156 candidates registered for Eamcet-2020 exam from Krishna district, among whom 18,457 appeared and 15,785 qualified. 20,694 candidates registered in Guntur district among whom 18,491 appeared and 15,433 qualified. Visakhapatnam district got the third place as 13,331 candidates qualified in the Eamcet-2020 exam. 17,645 candidates had applied while 15,259 aspirants appeared for the exam.

East Godavari district got the fourth place with 16,852 candidates registering for the exam, 14,867 appearing and 12,648 qualifying.

Chittoor district is in fifth place with 14,674 candidates registering, 12,901 appearing and 10,464 qualifying. West Godavari district got sixth place with registration of 12,718 candidates among whom 11,469 appeared and 9,759 qualified.

Prakasam district got seventh place with registration of 12,068 candidates. 10,897 of them appeared for the exam and 9,062 qualified. Nellore district stood eighth with registration of 10,433 candidates, 9,288 appearing and 7,746 qualifying. Kurnool district is in ninth place with 10,638 registered candidates, 9,220 of them appearing for the exam and 7,706 qualifying. Kadapa district is on tenth place with 10,032 candidates registering, 9,136 appearing and 7,488 qualifying.

Anantapur district is at eleventh place with 9,381 registering, 8,329 appearing and 6,881 qualifying. Srikakulam district is at the twelfth place with 7,253 registering, 6,444 appearing and 5,598 qualifying. Vizianagaram district is in the last place with 5,661 candidates registering, 5,032 appearing and 4,397 qualifying.

Heavy rain threat in North coastal AP

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 10

Heavy to very heavy rains like to occur in the north coastal districts on October 11 and 12. Friday's low-pressure area on Saturday was well-marked and it is very likely to be concentrated into a deep depression and expected to cross the north Andhra Pradesh as a depression on October 12.

The Indian Meteorology Department (IMD) alerted the government for taking necessary steps along the coast in the North Andhra region on both days. The government has alerted the north Andhra district administration for taking preventive measures to minimise the losses until the system crosses the coast.

Under the influence of the

adverse weather conditions, heavy to very heavy rains are likely to occur at most of the places in the north coastal districts. Squally winds speed reaching 45 to 55 kmph, gusting 65 kmph likely over West Central and adjoining north-west, south-west Bay of Bengal and along and off Andhra Pradesh and also Yanam coasts.

The condition of the sea will be rough to very rough over west-central and the adjoining north-west and the south-west Bay of Bengal and along and off of Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts. Fishers have been alerted not to venture into Andaman and east-central Bay of Bengal.

The fishermen out at sea over the Bay of Bengal are advised to return to the coasts.

BLOOD SHORTAGE FOR MANY YEARS

FROM PAGE 1

However, since past several years, blood banks have been running with 50 per cent shortage of blood, according to an official at the nodal office of blood banks in the state.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, these reserves have fallen to alarming proportions.

There is huge demand for negative blood groups across all banks in the state.

There have also been instances of death due to shortage of blood supply.

As a result, the government has issued directions to hold blood donation camps in all possible areas to tide over the short supply.

APSACS NODAL AGENCY FOR BLOOD BANKS

FROM PAGE 1

For component blood, it is ₹1,650 at private banks and ₹1,450 at government blood banks.

Andhra Pradesh Aids Control Society (APACS) is the nodal agency for blood banks. However, it deals

with only technical aspects and has no enforcement authority.

"The licensing agency for blood banks is Drug Control Authority. It is the only body that can check irregularities at blood banks, a senior officer of APACS pointed out.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER IN ACB NET

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, OCT. 10

A municipal commissioner working in Guduru municipality of Kurnool district was caught in the ACB net, red-handed at a private office in Guduru town on Saturday evening, when he accepted a bribe of ₹10,000 from a hotel owner.

ACB DSP G. Sivanarayana Swami said that the municipal commissioner B. Prahlada demanded bribe from a hotel owner Srinivasulu for an official favour. Earlier, the municipal staff seized some material like gas and other equipment from the hotel for not following norms.

The hotel owner, however, approached the High Court in this issue. As per the orders of the Court, Srinivasulu wanted the municipal officials to return the seized material and cooperate in running his hotel. But the commissioner asked him to give at least ₹10,000 out of the ₹22,000 he spent to attend court duties. Srinivasulu approached the ACB officials.

As per his complaints, they raided the commissioner's private office at Harijanawada in Guduru town on Saturday evening and caught him while he was taking a deal amount from the complainant.

31 HELD FOR LIQUOR, SAND SMUGGLING

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, OCT. 10

In simultaneous raids on illicit liquor units, Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) arrested 31 people and seized huge quantities of arrack in Kurnool district on Saturday.

The SEB led by additional SP Gowthami Sali conducted



The politics MPs play for a house

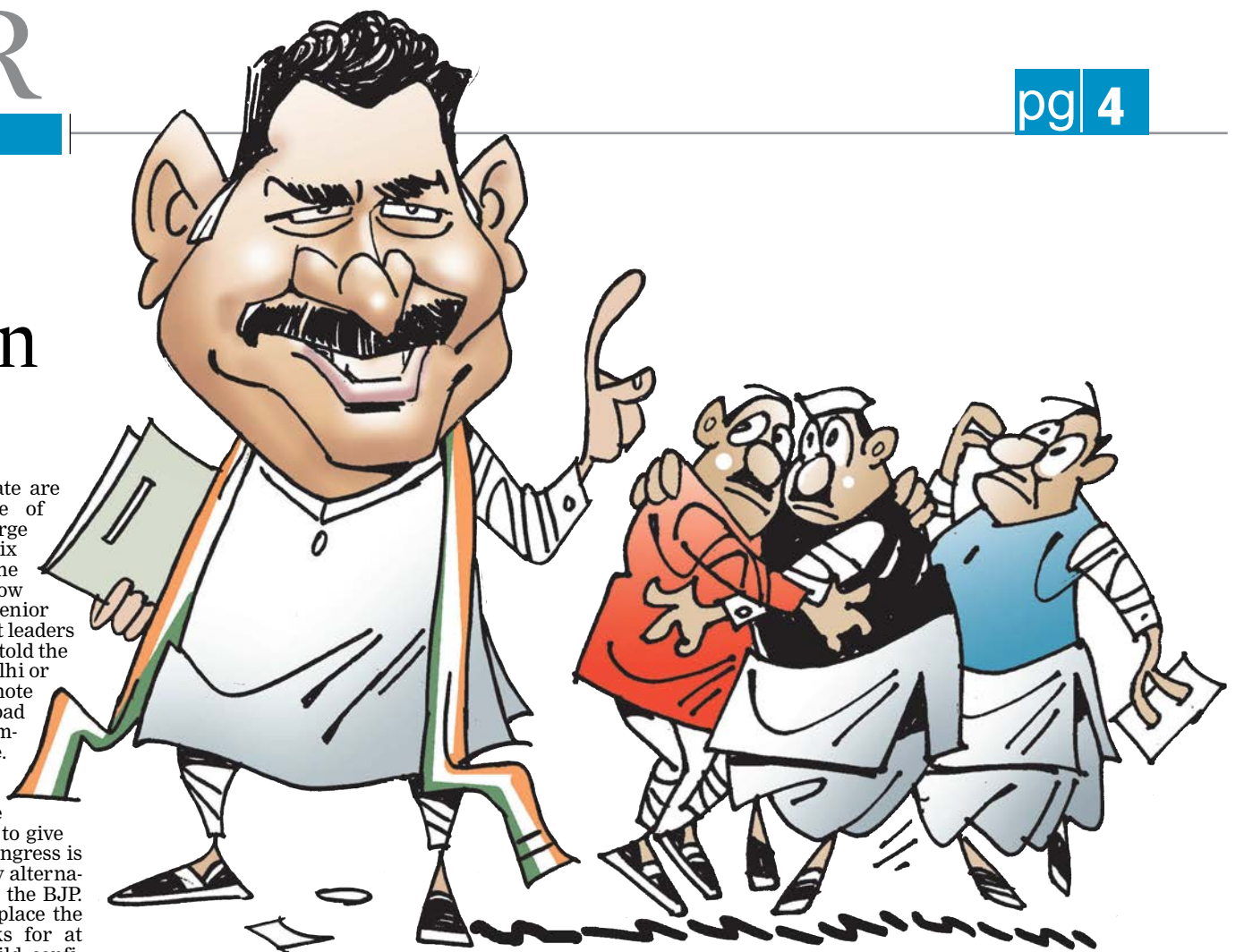
Politics sometimes get petty. The elite class, irrespective of parties, joined hands to deny Telugu Desam MP K. Ravindra Kumar, who comes from a humble background, a decent accommodation in the national capital. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat allotted to the TD member the individual quarters which was earlier occupied by Dr K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao, once a powerful lobbyist on behalf of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy during the Congress regime. Machilipatnam Lok Sabha member V. Balashowry set his eyes on the quarters which he used to frequent in view of his proximity to KVP. He is said to have approached BJP MP C.M. Ramesh with a request to get the quarters allotted to him. In Delhi circles, Ramesh and maverick YSRC MP K. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju are popular for having a say in the allotment of accommodation, and ensuring individual quarters to themselves and their friends. The idea is to help KVP retain the quarters even after retirement till the elite group manages to change the allottee. Poor Ravindra Kumar is looking to RS Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu for help.

AP's powerful babu in a 'spot'

Praveen Prakash, the most controversial bureaucrat in the Andhra Pradesh CMO, is facing a difficult situation. He no doubt enjoys enormous confidence of his boss and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Though he has often failed to achieve the results in the tasks assigned to him, the CM is happy at the go-getter attitude of Prakash. He has been given a free hand to rule babudom. He is expected to get empanelled as additional secretary at the Centre and God knows he may eventually end up in the highest bureaucratic position in the country — Union Cabinet Secretary. The empanelment of his senior Anil Singhal has cleared the route for the next batch to which Prakash belongs. Sources said he even broached his dilemma with the CM and there may be some clarity on the issue in the coming weeks.

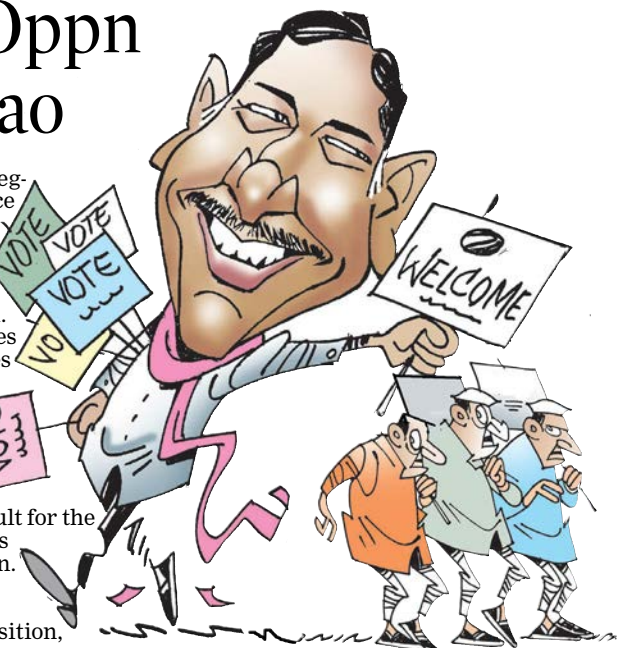
Tagore tries to make Congmen fall in line

Many Congress leaders of Telangana state are taken aback by the tough attitude of Manickam Tagore, the new AICC in-charge of party affairs. First off, Tagore, one of the six Congress MLAs from Tamil Nadu, showed that he wanted discipline by getting the leaders to follow protocol. This he did by recently snubbing a senior leader who tried to join a meeting with state unit leaders to which he was not invited. Tagore also plainly told the party leaders that he was not the one to sit in Delhi or Tamil Nadu and run the party affairs by remote control. He said he would stay put in Hyderabad and wanted the party leaders to organise accommodation that was not flashy or expensive. Having set a target of 79 seats in the 2023 Assembly elections — he even invoked Indira Gandhi to rouse the cadre — his first job appears to give the impression that the Congress is very active and is the only alternative to the TRS, and not the BJP. He can be expected to place the leaders on tenterhooks for at least six months to build confidence among people regarding the party.



When even the Oppn praises Harish Rao

The November 3 byelections to the Dubbaka segment has become a battle between finance minister T. Harish Rao versus the Congress and the BJP. After the demise of TRS MLA Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy from Dubbaka, Harish Rao entered the scene on the directions of the TRS boss and Chief Minister K. Chandrababbarao. He covered all the villages in the segment before the Opposition parties even got ready for the elections, and is now on his second round of tours. During the first round, Harish Rao ensured that many leaders of the Congress and the BJP joined the TRS. In the second round, he is wooing prominent leaders in both parties to join the TRS bandwagon. This has become difficult for the Opposition leaders to deal with. Harish Rao has become the target of their election campaign. They are even saying that the people of Dubbaka will vote for the TRS candidate for the sake of Harish Rao. Coming from the Opposition, that is high praise.



REGION

IN BRIEF

TS RECORDS 1,811 NEW COVID CASES

Hyderabad: Telangana state recorded 1,811 fresh Covid-19 positive cases and nine deaths on Friday, while 2,072 people were discharged after recovery from the disease in the last 24 hours ending Saturday.

The total number of cases is 2,10,346, the death toll stands at 1,217 and the total recoveries are 1,83,025. From the 26,104 active cases, 21,551 are undergoing treatment at home, the Covid-19 bulletin issued by the state health department said.

Approximately, 50,469 samples were tested and the cumulative testing in the state is now at 35,00,394.

The GHMC limits recorded 291 new cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 171, Ranga Reddy 138, Nalgonda 108 and Karimnagar 100 cases.

ECMO AIDS IN WOMAN'S RECOVERY

Hyderabad: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy aided in the recovery of a 58-year-old Covid-19 patient admitted in Yashoda Hospitals from Korutla in Jagtial district.

The patient was suffering from severe acute respiratory distress and oxygen levels were fluctuating from 80 to 90 per cent on ventilator support.

She was put on ECMO treatment for 10 days after which her condition improved and she recovered completely. The treatment is used in very severe cases when other medical support systems are not able to aid in recovery.

KCR ENLISTS ERRAVELLI PROPERTY INFO

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K. Chandrababbarao on Saturday enlisted details of his properties at his residence in Erravelli of Markook mandal of Siddipet district.

The Chief Minister gave all the details to village secretary P. Sidheswar when the latter approached him seeking details of his residence in Erravelli.

The details were entered on record, and the official took a photograph of the Chief Minister to be added to the Telangana State Non Agricultural Property Book (TSNPB) app.

Demand for rabbit meat

Entrepreneurs chalking out plans to set up rabbit farms for mass its production

V.K.L. GAYATRI | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 10

After the Covid-19 impact, there is a huge demand for rabbit meat, said to be a rich source of vitamins, minerals, and trace elements with high in vitamins B3 and B12, phosphorus, potassium, and selenium.

Youth in the agencies are moving into the dense forest to catch the little animal and selling the meat. People are also rushing to rural and agency pockets to buy the meat. Entrepreneurs are chalking out plans to set up rabbit farms for the production of the meat, like in Kerala.

Nutritionists say that rabbit meat has many health benefits when com-

pared to chicken. The meat has a high percentage of easily digestible protein and contains the least amount of fat among other available meats. Rabbit meat contains less calories than others.

It is almost cholesterol-free and heart patient-friendly. After Covid-19, there is a massive awareness among the people and in their search for nutrient-rich food, they have settled on rabbit meat spiking the demand for it, said, nutritionist Sruthi Latha.

Is rabbit endangered mammal?

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 10

There is a debate between the food safety and standards authority of India (FSSAI) and the animal welfare board of India (AWBI) about whether rabbit in the list of legal meats.

The AWBI is arguing for the conservation of the rabbit. However, as the mammal is not listed under the wildlife category. The demand for the meat and its hygienic and nutrient-rich quality has led the FSSAI to allowing the rabbit meat as a food

item.

However, the AWBI is alerting the government that the rabbits are also in the list of threatened species. However, as there is no categorisation of the rabbits (grown in forests and in hatcheries) as endangered, this case is weak.

"At present, the rabbit is not a scheduled animal. However, there are four to five varieties of rabbits. It is legal to buy the rabbit meat. However, the department is not allowing miscreants who are hunting rabbits in the forests. There are some loopholes

in the law," a senior forest official, on condition of anonymity, said.

A few breeds of rabbit have been protected under the international union for conservation of nature (IUCN) under the red list of threatened species, but not in India.

The demand is increasing for this mammal meat across the country and it is already a big market in Kerala, Goa, Kashmir, Maharashtra and Bihar. The market would create big business and employment opportunities in the sector, the forest official said.

Biomedical waste shoots up post-Covid

D SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC KURNOOL OCT. 10

Covid cases in Kurnool are declining but the biomedical waste generated by Covid patients is increasing. Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) or the discarded waste produced during the process of diagnosis, treatment, and immunization of humans during the months of August and September had spiked. According to official data, Covid waste in August was 1000 kgs per day. Non-Covid waste was 470 kgs per day. In September Covid waste was 1100 kgs per day. Non-Covid waste was 475 kgs. On average Kurnool generates 900 kgs of biomedical waste during normal times. Now it is around 1500 kgs per day. About 600 kgs of additional biomedical waste is generated due to covid.

Dr C Prabhakar Reddy, Covid Command Control State officials said that there has been an increasing trend of rushing off to the hospital experiencing simple symptoms—fever, cough, or running nose, which also is attributed to the common cold. Therefore, we request the infected ones to go to the hospital in case you experienced difficulties in

breathing if got fainted or are about to get fainted, experience problems in urination or relatively low flow urine.

There are 7950 hospital beds covered for biomedical waste disposal in Kurnool. The incineration waste generated on an average is 936 kgs per day.

The Government of India specifies that Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) management is part of hospital hygiene and maintenance activities.

Covid waste in August was 1000 kgs per day. Non-Covid waste was 470 kgs per day. In September Covid waste was 1100 kgs per day. Non-Covid waste was 475 kgs.

On average Kurnool generates 900 kgs of biomedical waste during normal times. Now it is around 1500 kgs per day. About 600 kgs of additional biomedical waste is generated due to covid.

With regard to Autoclaves which have been used to sterilize medical instruments for re-use like Surgical knives and clamps, the city generates 18 kilograms per day, said an official. Blue waste generated was 13 kgs per day while PPC waste was One kg per day.

4-YR-OLD ADOPTS 5 BIRDS AT NEHRU ZOOLOGICAL PARK IN HYDERABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 10

Five small birds at the Nehru Zoological Park were adopted by a four-year-old Yaksha Pediredia and her parents on Saturday. The adoption

is for a period of three months. Her father said that when they visited the zoo, she had evinced an interest in adopting the birds.

The zoo curator thanked Yaksha and her parents for the gesture.

Cancer awareness run



Policemen and women participate in 5k Run awareness drive on cancer on Bandar Road in Vijayawada on Saturday.

— C. NARAYANA RAO

Experts divided over resourcefulness of the fruit

VADREVVU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, OCT. 10

Among the most adversely hit by Covid-19 is horticulture production, particularly custard apples. Although the yield of custard apple was lower than the previous year, the sales have been a far cry and this dampened the expectations of farmers into their cultivation as they are not able to market

their produce. Many people are scared to buy or eat the fruit because of phlegm into the lungs. In desperation, farmers are resorting to distress sale of the perishable fruit.

It has been to such extremes that what is priced at Rs.400 in the morning is being sold for a throwaway Rs.100 in the evening. According to farmers, the production of the crop is very low and even the size

of fruit has gone down.

"Previously, on an average we used to sell nearly 2,000 custard apples every day and that too at good prices. But, now, in this season, we are unable to sell even 300," rued T. Subba Rayudu of Diwancheruvu on the National Highway near Rajanagaram-Diwancheruvu. Though sellers are setting up shop, there hardly any buyers

on the highway. Ramesh, a seller of Kotapadu area said that due to Covid-19, the traffic is not much on highways or other routes and those who pass are not willing to buy on the pretext that they were not good for the lungs. Meanwhile, Dr Dhanthuluri Nagendra Varma, an ayurvedic doctor, says that "As per our sciences, the seasonal fruit is not good for asthma and patients

with lung infection and because custard apple increases phlegm in lungs. Having more than one or two may damage health." But, pulmonologists do not agree with this argument. "There is no basis for such an assumption and custard apples can be eaten along with other fruits. But, diabetics should not consume too many. There is no connection with Covid-19 symptoms and

eating custard apples," maintained pulmonologist Dr Gopinath. According to allopathic doctors, custard apple is one of the few fruits that contain a well-balanced ratio of potassium and sodium and helps in regulating blood pressure and fluctuations in the body and high magnesium content in custard apple relaxes heart muscles. They are also useful in treatment of numerous

types of tumors and cancers. Horticulture assistant director Devanand said that custard apple is being cultivated in 600 hectares of mango and other gardens mostly in upland areas like Rampachodavaram and Rajahmundry. The seasonal yield is nearly 15 tonnes in East Godavari district, he said adding that heavy rains have hit the crop's quality and quantity, this time around.

SHORT TAKES

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER FROM MYSURU MISSING

M.B. GIRISH | DC MYSURU, OCT. 10

Abhishek Reddy Gulla, 26, working as scientific officer attached to Baba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mysuru has gone missing for 20 days. Police have launched a search to trace him.

According to the police, Abhishek Reddy was working as a scientific officer at the research center for over a year and was staying at a rented house in New Janata Colony, Yelwala, about 20 kms from Mysuru.

Reddy did not attend office for about 20 days. Later, BARC administrative officer T.K. Bose lodged a complaint with the Yelwala police on October 8.

In the complaint, Reddy is said to have left the house on his two wheeler (KA09 JA0013). Reddy is 5 feet nine inches in height, has wheatish complexion and is bald.

Police have ruled out the possibility of a kidnap but suspect that he might have gone missing under depression and a search is on to trace him.

ACTIVE COVID CASES BELOW 9L FOR SECOND DAY

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

With 73,272 fresh cases of coronavirus, India till Saturday had 69.79 lakh overall cases while the number of deaths were 1,07,416 after 926 new fatalities were recorded in the last 24 hours.

According to the union health ministry, 59.88 lakh people have recovered so far from Covid-19, taking the recovery rate to 85.81 per cent. The case fatality rate stands at 1.54 per cent. Union Health Ministry officials said, the number of active cases remained below 9 lakh, for the second day in a row — there are 8.83 lakh active cases in the country as of now.

“Presently the active cases comprise merely 12.65 per cent of the total positive cases of the country. These are nearly 1/8th of the total cases in the country. The total recovered cases are close to 60 lakh thereby enhancing the difference with respect to the active cases. As many as 82,753 patients have recovered and discharged in the last 24 hours whereas the new confirmed cases stand at 73,272,” officials said adding 18 states and UTs have recorded Recovery Rate more than the national average.

MAN PADDLES WIFE 90 KM TO HOSPITAL

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 10

In an incident identical to that of the 2016 Dana Majhi case, a 70-year-old man from Sakhigopal in Puri district on Friday paddled his unwell wife for 90 kms on a rented trolley rickshaw after he failed to hire an auto-rickshaw to take her for treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack.

Kabir Bhoi had admitted his wife Sukanti at the Puri district headquarters hospital. The doctors there advised him to shift her to Cuttack. As he did not have money to take Sukanti to Cuttack, Kabir brought her back home. However, when Sukanti's health worsened, he hired a trolley rickshaw for ₹50 per day and paddled all the way from Sakhigopal to Cuttack.

REPUBLIC TV MOVES SC OVER TRP SCAM

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, OCT. 10

A day after the Mumbai police issued summons to chief financial officer (CFO) of Republic TV, for being questioned in the TRP manipulation case, he did not turn up stating the media house had approached the apex court seeking relief.

The CPO also informed the police that since the Supreme Court could hear the matter in a week, the process of recording his statement should be held up until then.

The crime branch, meanwhile, recorded the statement of Madison World & Madison Communication's Sam Balsara on Saturday.

End of an era



Chirag Paswan, son of Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader late Ram Vilas Paswan, lights the funeral pyre containing the mortal remains of his father during the cremation at Digha Ghat in Patna on Saturday. Chirag fainted after lighting the funeral pyre, but was saved from crashing on to the ground by his cousins who had been beside him, helping him perform the rituals. — PTI

Soldiers posted along LAC mostly rely on foot mobility

Even in 1962, soldiers moved on foot and it has remained unchanged

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD OCT. 10

Technology and firepower aside, soldiers of the Indian Army posted in the rugged terrain along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh are mostly relying on foot mobility in the ongoing military operations.

To take on the People's Liberation Army of China (PLA), the Indian troops are sticking to the basic war principles which is advantageous in the theatre which mostly comprises mountains and ridges. When it comes to cross-country, the Indian Army is one of the best in the world.

On a day US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that China has amassed more than 60,000 troops along the LAC, highly placed sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that basic fighting principles have hardly changed in this region. This is true since the 1962 war between both the countries.

“Foot mobility continues to be the key in mountain

warfare and both sides know that too well. Helicopters will find it difficult to land as there are limited landing sites in this mountainous region. They will have to fly at lower speeds while the harsh weather will limit visibility. Despite having the best helicopters, flying through the limited approach between the valleys without being detected by the enemy is another huge task. This is precisely the reason why our soldiers are relying on cross-country,” they explained.

Ever since tensions between the two armies increased, especially after the Galwan valley clashes, Indian troops have taken up arduous journeys on foot for several kilometres, which enabled them to quickly dominate the areas and consolidate their positions.

Like it is for all armies, cross country is one of the key aspects of training of soldiers and officers of the Indian Army.

Carrying heavy loads, they are made to run several kilometres at a

stretch, non-stop. They are fully trained for survival in the mountainous regions while moving on foot, which tests the limits of physical endurance and determination.

“In this theatre, military operations will largely depend on how quickly soldiers are able to capture ground on foot. There needs to be quick link-ups between the special forces and soldiers from other units who will dominate and consolidate positions. Even in the 1962 war, soldiers moved on foot and it has remained unchanged in this region ever since. The intense training on foot mobility that a soldier or an officer undergoes during training are being put to use,” sources said.

Since moving on foot frequently requires unhindered logistical support, all logistical arrangements are in place for the soldiers who would need to sustain for several days at different points along the LAC. As winter sets in, the soldiers are fighting the harsh weather and the PLA alike.

Army says local recruitment in militant ranks up

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 10

The Army said on Saturday that even though the infiltration from across the Line of Control has been restricted to a fewer incidents due to the increased vigil being maintained by it along the de facto border, the recruitment of local youths into the militants' ranks has gone up slightly in the past one month.

Meanwhile, two Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants including a Pakistani national were killed in a gunfight with the security forces in Chinigam area of southern Kulgam district early

Saturday. In the afternoon, a brief clash took place between the security forces and the militants in Dadura area of neighbouring Pulwama district, leaving two unidentified ‘militants’ dead.

“In the past six months the recruitment of the youths into the terrorist ranks had come down but now it has again seen a little rise,” Lt. Gen. B. S. Raju, the General-Officer-Commanding of the Srinagar-based 15 Army Corps told reporters here.

At the same time, he noted with great satisfaction that many among those who are already in the militants' ranks are coming forth to surrender.

Detention centres have to be outside jail premises: HC

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, OCT. 10

The Gauhati High Court has directed that detention centres cannot be inside the jail premises and if suitable accommodations are not available, the state government should look for and hire private buildings to run the detention centre.

There are six detention centres in Assam to detain ‘illegal foreigners’ but all are inside jails.

In these six detention centres altogether 425 detainees are lodged. Following a Supreme Court's order in April to prevent congestion in jails due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 350 detainees languishing in various detention centres had been released on bail.

The high court order came in response to a batch of petitions related to detention of ‘foreigners’ in Assam.

The petitions were filed by a team of lawyers and activists, facilitated by Studio Nilima, a research collective. Renowned advocate Nilay Dutta argued the case on behalf of the petitioners.

The High Court observed that the declaration of a part of the jail premises in six districts of Assam as detention centres are not the complete requirement of the order of the Supreme Court in Bhim Singh vs Union of India case, communications of the MHA as well as the Model Manual for the Detention Centres.

The decision in the Bhim Singh vs Union of India as reported had held that detainees cannot be treated as prisoners and cannot be confined to prison and deprived of basic human rights and human dignity.

The Court noted that

● **THERE ARE** six detention centres in Assam to detain ‘illegal foreigners’ but all are inside jails.

● **IN THESE** six detention centres, altogether 425 detainees are lodged.

the directions of the Supreme Court, communications of Ministry of Home Affairs and the Model Manual for Detention Centres, 2019 provides that detention centres should be set up outside the jail premises.

“If suitable accommodation is not available, the state government may look for hiring of private buildings for the purpose,” the court stated.

Part of the jail premises in Silchar and Kokrajhar have been declared as detention centres in 2010 as a “temporary measure”.

Later, parts of the existing jail premises in Goalpara, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tezpur were also declared as detention centres for the purpose of detaining persons declared as illegal foreigners, pending their deportation.

“It is discernible that more than 10 years have gone by since a part of the jail premises in Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Silchar had been declared to be detention centres. Certainly a period of more than 10 years cannot be understood to be a temporary arrangement,” the court observed.

It may be noted that the court has directed the Home and Political Affairs Department of the state government to submit an action taken report by October 16 as to what steps have been taken to set up detention centres outside the jail premises in compliance with the law.

RBI to SC: More moratorium not in borrowers' interest

PARMOD KUMAR | DC with agency inputs NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

A loan moratorium exceeding six months might result in vitiating the overall credit discipline, which will have a debilitating impact on the process of credit creation in the economy, the Reserve Bank of India told the Supreme Court.

In its 17-page “consolidated affidavit” filed ahead of the hearing on Tuesday of the loan moratorium case, the RBI stated that extension of the moratorium beyond the six-month period that expired on August 31 will impact credit behaviour of borrowers and increase the risks of delinquencies.

The moratorium, the RBI stated, “would not even be in the interest of borrowers” as it does not address “deeper cash flow problems” of borrowers, but, in fact, “exacerbates the repayment pres-

ures”.

The RBI submitted that any waiver of interest on interest would also entail significant economic costs which cannot be absorbed by the banks without serious dent of their finances, and this, in turn, would have huge implications for the depositors and the broader financial stability.

Thus, a more durable solution was needed to rebalance the debt burden of viable borrowers, both businesses as well as individuals, relative to their cash flow generation abilities.

The banking regulator filed the affidavit in pursuance to the apex court's October 5 order asking the Centre and the RBI to place on record the K.V. Kamath committee recommendations on debt restructuring because of Covid-19 related stress on various sectors as well as the notifications and circulars issued so far on loan moratorium.

US: Talks won't make China change its stance

Washington, Oct. 10: China has attempted to “seize” control of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India by force as part of its territorial aggression, US' national security advisor has said, underlining that time has come to accept that dialogue and agreements will not persuade Beijing to change.

India and China are locked in a five-month-long tense border standoff in

eastern Ladakh that has significantly strained their relations. Both sides have held a series of high-level diplomatic and military talks to resolve the border row. However, no breakthrough has been achieved to end the standoff.

“CCP's (Chinese Communist Party) territorial aggression is also apparent on its Indian border where China has attempted to seize control

of the Line of Actual Control by force,” US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said in a remark on China early this week in Utah.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long LAC. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet, while India contests it.

The Chinese territorial aggression is also true in the Taiwan Strait where

the PLA (People's Liberation Army) Navy and Air Force continue to conduct threatening military drills, O'Brien said.

“Beijing's signature international development programme, One Belt One Road (OBOR), involves impoverished companies taking on opaque and unsustainable Chinese loans to pay Chinese firms employing Chinese labourers to build

their infrastructure, he said. Many of these projects are unnecessary, shoddily built and are “white elephants”, he said.

“And now these countries' dependence on the Chinese debt leaves their sovereignty eroded and with no choice but to hue to the party's line on UN votes or any other issue that the CCP considers a red line,” he said. — PTI

CASTE | BIAS

Since Jan., panchayat had four meetings and in all of them Rajeswari was told to sit on floor

Dalit president of TN panchayat forced to sit on floor

A. ARUL PALANI | DC CUDDALORE, OCT. 10

Atrocities and discrimination against Dalit local body members and office bearers continues unabated in the state. The women members face worse as they are not only prevented from performing their official duties but also constantly abused by men from dominant castes.

Dalit village Panchayat president, S. Rajeswari, 31, was made to sit on the floor while all others were seated on chairs in a panchayat meeting at Therku Thittai village near Chidambaram in Cuddalore district. The photo of the incident in

which she was seen sitting on the floor went viral.

It is reported that upper caste men have been preventing her from performing official duties and that they have been taking all the decisions since she assumed office in January this year.

They also abused her continuously. On a complaint from Rajeswari, the Bhuavagiri police registered a case against the Panchayat Vice-President, K.

Mohanraj and Secretary Sinthuja under 3 (1) (m) and 3 (1) (r) sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act.

As Rajeswari's photos, taken at a meeting held on July 17 went viral, the district administration swung into action with Cuddalore District Collector Chandra Sekhar Sakhamuri and Cuddalore SP M. Sree Abhinav conducted preliminary enquiry at the panchayat on Saturday.

While Mohanraj escaped from the place, Sinthuja has been placed under suspension.

The Collector said a case has been registered against perpetrators of the crime and investigation is going on. He appealed to ward members and panchayat leaders to work in unison for the wel-

● **THE INCIDENT** came to light two months after V. Amurtham, Aathupaakam village panchayat president in Tiruvallur, was prevented from unfurling the national flag on the occasion of Independence Day.

fare of the village burying caste and religious differences

The administration would take necessary action to prevent such incidents in the future and raise awareness among the people. Block Development officials will monitor the village panchayats and, if necessary, such panchayat meeting

will be monitored through CCTV cameras, he added.

The village consists of around 500 families who are mostly Vanniyars and 100 Dalit households. The panchayat was reserved for SC community.

Since January, the panchayat has conducted four meetings and in all of them Rajeswari was asked to sit on the floor while the vice-president and four members of the panchayat belonging to the dominant caste sat on chairs.

The fifth member from the Scheduled Caste community, Suganthi, member from ward 1, was also not allowed to sit on a chair. Nor was she allowed to

hoist the Tri-colour during Independence Day and the flag was hoisted by Vice-President.

Suganthi, a Dalit ward member of the panchayat said that Therkuthittai village is Vanniyar-dominated.

“They act in a rude manner against us. They consider Dalits as their servants. Besides ill-treating us they also abuse us repeatedly. In the same way, they conduct themselves in the panchayat also.”

The incident came to light two months after V. Amurtham, Aathupaakam village panchayat president in Tiruvallur, was prevented from unfurling

the national flag on the occasion of Independence Day. However, Amurtham, hoisted the Tricolour five days later after the district administration intervened.

Reacting to the incident, S. Karuppiah, State Secretary, Dalit Liberation Movement, said this is not an isolated incident. Such atrocities and discrimination are common across the state.

“Dalit panchayat presidents, especially women Dalit leaders, continuously face threats in villages. The government must provide adequate security to them and allow them to perform their duties freely,” he said.

DECCAN Chronicle

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Nilofar Suhrawardy

Off the beaten track

Papa's haircuts and other hair-raising experiences

Covid-19 has forced quite a few young fathers or fathers with small children, particularly boys, to turn into barbers. They cut their sons' hair with an apparent air of professional expertise. Interestingly, these "neo-barbers" have had no qualms about displaying photographs of their handiwork. They do so, through various social media platforms. The photos, of course, cannot hide the serious look on the fathers' faces and the puzzled, perplexed, even slightly disturbed, expression on the kids'. The latter seem disturbed about what they look like after being subjected to a first-time experience of their fathers' mercy on their hair.

Paradoxically, the father's pride and sense of achievement in becoming a "barber" is hardly pleasing to the child. So what if the father is a professional expert in the medical field, business, academics or some other area? The little ones care little when their hairstyle faces their scissors. Even toddlers of today's day and age seem fairly smart in judging their parents' expertise at whatever they may be attempting. It isn't surprising that a certain number of children have preferred going totally bald than opt for the said haircut.

The fairer sex is luckier. With the mask on, they can afford to be calous about their facial hair. Why should they care if the make-up industry is suffering from a sudden fall in demand? They have too many things to bother about — having to stay at home for too long a period, precautions to be exercised because of the pandemic, and so on. And as far as their hair is concerned, it can just be knotted into a bun or clipped as convenient. Of course, men, too, exercise the option of having long hair and styling it as they please. But leaving it loose isn't considered "safe" while Covid-19 lasts.

This hairy issue is a cause of great concern for celebrities. Covid-19 has not diminished their love for the lime-light. But it certainly appears to have had a great impact on their hair. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hairstyle and beard is no more what they used be before the vicious virus struck this country. Politically speaking, this is perhaps one way of his letting others know that he is not above board where the impact of coronavirus is concerned.

Paradoxically, his rival Rahul Gandhi's hairstyle is less wild than what it earlier used to be. Rather, sometimes, not a hair seems to be out of place.

Of course, Modi, Rahul and all other celebrities have a personal right to do what they like with their respective hairstyles and beards. The same can be said about the styling of their moustaches and sideburns. On this front, men may be said to be as lucky as women, though. For they can let their masks hide what they don't want seen.

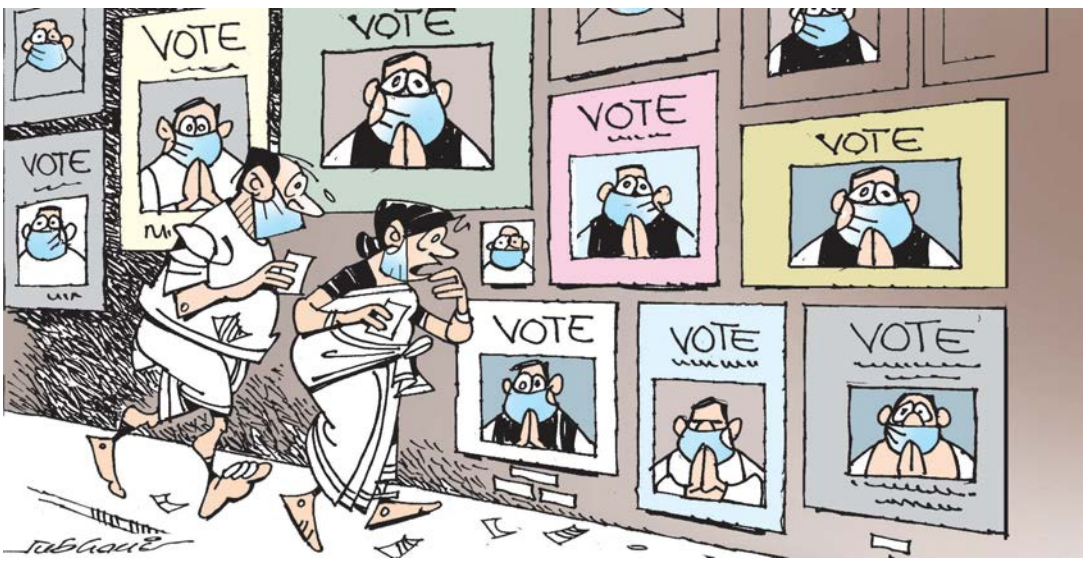
Also, till masks remain compulsory, all conscious of their looks can certainly extend their "cosmetic moves" beyond their lips — to their eyebrows and hair. They can style their hair along the forehead and around the ear. Clearly, Covid masks don't spell the end of style for both ladies and gentlemen. Amazingly, the little ones aren't far behind. Even before they learn how to walk and speak, toddlers appear to have become fairly conscious about their looks. It is not without reason that they are extra-fond of staring at their faces in the mirror. When it comes to haircuts, several adults are needed to hold down the yelling chappies throwing their arms and legs into the wind.

Also, a rudimentary analysis of such hairy issues suggests that political celebrities as well as those in the entertainment industry are almost equally conscious about this subject. After all, they are extra-concerned about presenting a "good" image of themselves before the public. Both are public figures, counting on their stars for their success in how people view them. They have the right as well as, in their perception, the "duty" to care. And the media has no other option but to play its part. It is up to the audience to notice, ignore, criticise or even praise what they are presented, including changing hairstyles, growing beards and other hairy issues.

Frankly speaking, of late, quite a few media outlets are also facing hair-raising experiences. This is not only linked with too many people losing jobs but also with the media being pushed into a corner for according too little and much importance to various issues. Now, who should be blamed for all that hair pulling that is to be witnessed? Give it a thought!

The writer is a journalist with specialisation in communication studies and nuclear diplomacy. She is also the author of several books.

Subhani



Why Eco Prize is the most prized Nobel of them all



Mohan Guruswamy

The truth is that there is no Nobel Prize in Economics, yet it is the most prized among all the Nobels. The winners of these prizes often acquire the voice of God in the intellectual discourse of nations. What is thought of as the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences is officially the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel. It is administered by the Nobel Foundation established by the Swedish inventor of dynamite. The prize was established in 1968 by a donation from Sweden's central bank to commemorate the bank's 300th anniversary. It is now easily the most awaited of the Nobels. To know who will get it in 2020 we will have to wait till Monday.

The winners last year, the husband-and-wife duo of Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, won it ironically enough for their study in eastern Odisha of one the most spectacular development economic bombs of recent times. It was a scheme to replace open-fire cooking used by three billion of the world's poorest people with more efficient, less polluting stoves. The \$400 million project was backed by the United Nations and launched by former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton in 2010. It set out to reduce indoor air pollution, which kills two million people a year, while empowering women and helping the environment. After its initial success, millions of stoves built in India were largely abandoned within four years.

Banerjee and Duflo studied the reasons for it and told the world why such an altruistic and even rational project flopped. The

reasons were quite mundane, something which the world's finest development economics and policymaking minds didn't anticipate. The new stoves needed more attention, were prone to break down and took longer to cook food. They couldn't be moved because they were tethered to fixed chimneys sending the smoke outside. I don't think Narendra Modi's genius factored the more mundane considerations when the government of India launched its colossal public toilets scheme, which we now know is also a spectacular flop. Open defecation is again rampant. It is little wonder that Mr Modi has given the duo a big avoid.

But Economics Nobel winners also spawned spectacular flops. The hedge fund Long Term Capital Management (LTCM) had a plan to apply expert knowledge and theories of academics to the real world. The collapse of this \$125 billion fund directly led to the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 1998 Russian default that brought the financial world to the brink of collapse. LTCM had recruited some of the biggest names in economics and trading, hiring people like 1997 Nobel Economics winners Myron S. Scholes and Robert C. Merton to sit on their board of directors. But the combined brilliance of the top academics and high-flier bankers couldn't spot the coming disaster. Both failures highlighted an inability to understand how ordinary people behave.

Classical economics was linked closely with psychology. Adam Smith's other great work was *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and dealt with

the psychological principles of individual behaviour. Smith emphasised the concept of empathy, the capacity to recognise feelings that are being experienced by another being. Jeremy Bentham described utilitarianism as "the greatest happiness of the greatest number that is the measure of right and wrong" and is seen by many as father of the welfare state. Classical economic theory, also known as *laissez faire*, claims that leaving individuals to make free choices in a free market results in the best allocation of resources. Since individuals made choices, the emphasis was on understanding human beings and their behaviour as individual and as groups.

Neo-classical economists based their thinking on the assumption that people have rational preferences; that individuals maximise utility and firms maximise profits; and people act independently. Consequently, neo-classical economists distanced themselves from psychology and sought explanations for economic analysis heavily based on the concept of rational expectations. For most of the past century, economics became increasingly mathematical. Much of economic theory came to be presented as mathematical models, mostly calculus, to clarify assumptions and implications.

It is not as if the switch was complete. Many great economists like Vilfredo Pareto, John Maynard Keynes and Joseph Schumpeter continued to base their analysis on psy-

chological explanations. In more recent times, this school of economics has been given greater importance and is reflected in the award of Nobels to behavioural economists like Daniel Kahneman of Princeton University and to Richard Thaler at Chicago. Banerjee and Duflo are considered development economists but the focus of their research was in how beneficiaries looked at gift horses.

The dominance of the classical school on the world of economics can be gauged by the fact that since the relatively recent inception of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1968, the Chicago economics faculty have won the Nobel as many as 12 times, twice as many as MIT, which has six Nobel laureates. Seen from Harvard's ivory tower, even MIT is considered as leaning more towards classical economic theory. Recent Harvard winners for economics like Oliver Hart (2016), Alvin Roth (2012) and Eric Maskin (2007) were rewarded for their work based on mathematical empiricism than behavioural speculation. Amartya Sen (1998) was one of the few who broke this mould and won it in recognition of his work and abiding interest in welfare economics. A well-known economist explained that Sen won it for being a good person!

Every politician worth his salt knows the national mood and perceptions are decisive in determining national outcomes. People often don't make rational choices, something that marketers of diverse products like soap and automobiles, as well as political dreams, are fully aware. But economists took their time recognising this, and the Nobel Committee even longer.

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

People often don't make rational choices, something that marketers of diverse products like soap and automobiles, as well as political dreams, are fully aware. But economists took their time recognising this, and the Nobel Committee even longer.

LETTERS

FOOT IN MOUTH

It has become common for YSRC leaders to put their foot in mouth without thinking about the consequences of their statements in public domain (*YSR saved family member of NTR involved in a crime: Parvathi, DC, Oct. 10*). Though her intention was to rebuke the TD, it amounts to an offence by a former CM to save a criminal wilfully. **Udatha Rama Chandra Rao** *Yeleswaram, East Godavari*

SOPS SPOIL PUBLIC

These days governments are competing to offer freebies to people just to strengthen their votebanks. The sops are temporary relief and not a permanent solution to problems they face. The government must take up development and job-generating programmes.

Udaya Kumar Esikela *Rayadurg, Ananthapur*

MARGINAL FARMERS

Over 86.2% of farmers in India are small and marginalised with less than 2 hectares of farm land. They are spread all over the country cultivating various crops in small groups, unorganised, and don't share a level playing field to negotiate or to demand a competitive price for their produce from the big corporates and private players. They are extremely vulnerable, with little resources and are at a great disadvantage in resolving any price conflicts, disputes that arise with private players who are profit driven.

Sri Harsha Gajjarapu *Mandapeta, East Godavari*

HUNGRY FOR PEACE

Over By conferring the Nobel Peace Prize on UN's World Food Programme (WFP), the importance of food has got global recognition. We must applaud the WFP for supplying food to 9.7 crore people across 88 countries even in the midst of pandemic. The WFP has overcome lockdown hurdles and supplied food. It is understood that food security and peace go hand in hand. Moreover, food is considered the best safety till a vaccine comes.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala *Tiruvuru, Krishna district*

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Sihanouk for direct talks with Nixon

PARIS, Oct. 10. Deposed Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk proposed direct cease-fire talks for Cambodia with Mr. Nixon in an interview broadcast here yesterday, but was not optimistic about US acceptance of the idea.

The interview was given to a Turkish journalist in Peking many days ago, just before the President's speech proposing a cease-fire throughout Indo-China.

Prince Sihanouk said he believed that only massive aid from the United States prevented his supportive fighting the Lon Nol Government in Cambodia from taking the capital Phnom Penh, and ousting the revolutionary group. "Thus it is to Mr. Nixon that we should like to speak to end this devastating war. Mr. Nixon just assumed the responsibilities for this war. Consequently we propose to him to discuss a cease-fire directly with us," he said.



Sowjanya Tamalapakula

Desexualise, don't deny caste rape

Dalits live like Jews in Holocaust Germany and Black slaves in pre-capitalist America. Yet, the world knows nothing about their pain!

Dalits live in this country without any respect and recognition of their right to life. Dalits don't have access to legal justice in the world's largest democracy since its inception.

From the first reported incident of caste violence in Independent India, the Kilvenmani massacre in Tamil Nadu in which 44 dalits were burnt alive by dominant caste landlords in 1968 for demanding a hike in wages to the Chundurur massacre of 13 dalits in 1991 in Andhra Pradesh and the Khairlanji atrocity (2006), dalits have been vainly hoping for change. The rape and murder of a dalit woman in Hathras is only the tip of the iceberg that endemic violence against dalits represents. From Khairlanji to Hathras, what dalits witnessed was manipulation of witnesses, a faulty prosecution to cover up crimes and distorted reportage by a brahminical media.

Caste is the most pertinent and compelling factor in understanding

sexual violence in India. In December 2012, a young middle class educated woman, "Nirbhaya", was gang-raped, tortured and murdered in the national capital of Delhi. The gruesome incident had shocked the nation. Nationwide protests erupted. Still, was the rape of "Nirbhaya" the first of its kind that took place in India? During the Nirbhaya protests, dalit scholars have repeatedly questioned the absence of a similar response from the general public against the Khairlanji atrocity.

A few years before "Nirbhaya", on December 5, 2006, a mob of dominant caste men and women attacked a dalit woman, Surekha Bhotmange, and her three children in the village Khairlanji, Maharashtra. Surekha Bhotmange had been fighting for her land rights against dominant castes. They had encroached on her small piece of agricultural land. Enraged by a dalit woman's assertiveness, dominant castes have dragged Surekha Bhotmange, her daughter and two sons out of their home, paraded them naked, raped them and lynched them. Burnt charcoals were inserted into the private parts

of Surekha Bhotmange and her daughter, Priyanka. Their bodies were dumped on the outskirts of the village. The participation of caste Hindu women in the rape and lynching of a dalit woman and her children shocks the human conscience. It did not shock the nation, however.

It took more than a week's time for the news of the Khairlanji massacre to appear in print. Neither did any candlelight march take place, nor did the media give a thought to changing the victims' names the option of which is given to them by the law. And, to top it off, the brahminical media actually distorted the case by reporting that Surekha Bhotmange had had an extramarital affair with her cousin that thence "justified" the atrocity. But the media, police and politicians have operated according to the interests of the dominant castes. While "Nirbhaya" was considered by the media as an innocent young person and a "pure" victim, Surekha was constructed as sexually impure by the same media.

Sexual purity/caste purity determines the value of a woman in brahminical society. Brahminical society

constructs the brahmin and caste-Hindu women as sexually pure and aims to "protect"/control their sexual purity. Dalit women are constructed outside the normative of caste purity and sexual purity as the caste system sanctions the upper caste man's access to the dalit woman's sexuality, body and labour. Endemic caste-based sexual violence against dalit women is condoned and considered normal. Dalit women are casually exploited in agricultural fields and construction sites where they toil for their livelihoods. They are also raped, paraded naked and/or lynched by dominant castes when they want to teach a lesson to dalit caste groups for transgressing the caste order. Any act of transgression ranging from dalits inadvertently entering sacred spaces such as temples to fighting for a hike in wages leads to violence against dalits.

The police, politicians, judiciary and the media have so far protected the interests of dominant caste perpetrators in every case of caste atrocity. Hathras is not another "Nirbhaya" but another Surekha.

The government's inclination to protect the interest of dominant castes is evident in the Hathras case.

While significant positions in the judiciary, politics, media and bureaucracy are occupied largely by brahmins and dominant castes, dalits are living in poverty and under inhuman conditions in Indian society. B.R. Ambedkar said, "Rights are protected not by law but by the social and moral conscience of society." Such a rise of moral conscience of the middle classes and upper castes was evident in the nationwide protests post "Nirbhaya".

But caste hierarchies have proved that women are not a monolithic category. These hierarchies determine the putative value of a woman, even her right to life. Can the middle classes and upper castes rise to fight for all women irrespective of the caste location of the victim? As long as the responsibility of fighting against caste atrocities lies solely with dalits, the dalit's access to legal justice is simply not possible.

Sowjanya Tamalapakula *teaches at TISS, Hyderabad*

IN BRIEF

Graft charges: Zuma summoned

Johannesburg: Former South African president Jacob Zuma has been issued with a legal summons to appear before an inquiry commission probing corruption charges, including the veteran politician's alleged role in assisting the controversial Indian-origin Gupta family in looting billions of rands from the state-owned entities. Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo said Zuma would be required to appear on November 16-20, adding that if the former president wished to present his evidence virtually rather than in person, it would be permitted. Zuma, 78, has evaded appearing before the State Capture Inquiry, complaining about his illness with controversial doctors' letters, as well as claims that he needed time to prepare for the separate court cases where he is facing corruption charges. Zuma's supporters have also called for Zondo to recuse himself.

UK calls back envoy to Belarus

London: Britain has joined several eastern European nations in withdrawing its ambassador from strife-torn Belarus in protest at President Alexander Lukashenko's expulsion of diplomats from Poland and Lithuania. In a tweet late Friday, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the UK "condemns Belarus' decision to expel Polish & Lithuanian diplomats". "Completely unjustified and will only isolate the Belarusian people. In solidarity, we are temporarily recalling our Ambassador for consultations on the situation in Belarus," he said. The ambassadors of Lithuania and Poland were recalled on Monday after Minsk accused them of backing mass protests that have erupted against Lukashenko since a disputed election on August 9. Following a demand from Belarus, Poland and Lithuania recalled a further 35 diplomats on Friday. Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia and Latvia have all withdrawn their ambassadors.

Anti Nuke activist Sister Platte dies

Washington: Anti-nuclear activist Sister Ardetth Platte, a Dominican nun who spent time in jail for her peaceful protests, died in her sleep on September 30. She was 84. Sister Carol Gilbert, who confirmed Platte's death, lived with her at a Catholic Worker house in Washington, D.C. Gilbert said Platte had participated in a street corner demonstration against nuclear weapons just a few days before her death. In 2010, Platte was arrested for trespassing at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, during a protest, according to the Knoxville News Sentinel. At her sentencing hearing, Platte said, "Nuclear weapons are the taproot of violence, and they must be abolished. So I refuse to be silent," the newspaper reported. She served a four-month sentence. It was one of several arrests over many years of anti-war protests.

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DELTA: MORE DESTRUCTION IN LOUISIANA

Lafayette (US), Oct. 10: Ripping tarps from damaged roofs and scattering massive piles of storm debris in the wind and water, Hurricane Delta inflicted a new round of destruction in Louisiana communities still reeling along a path Hurricane Laura carved just six weeks earlier.

Delta hit as a Category 2 hurricane, with top winds of 100 mph (155 kph) before rapidly weakening over land. By Saturday morning, it dwindled to a tropical storm with 45 mph (75 kph) winds, but storm surge and flash floods continued to pose dangers across much of southwestern Louisiana and parts of neighboring Texas. Mississippi also got its fair share of rain overnight. Delta made landfall Friday evening near the coastal town of Creole — only 15 miles (24 kilometres) or so from where Laura struck land in August, killing 27 people in Louisiana.

It then moved directly over Lake Charles, a waterfront city about 30 miles (50 kilometres) inland where the earlier hurricane damaged nearly every home and building, and where moldy mattresses, sawed-up trees and other debris still lined the streets. Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter spoke with AP as he rode out Delta's arrival downtown.

Don-Biden 2nd Prez debate cancelled**WH offers \$1.8 tn stimulus**

Washington, Oct. 9: With the presidential election fast approaching, the White House on Friday proposed a beefed-up \$1.8 trillion economic rescue plan to try to coax congressional Democrats into an agreement.

President Donald Trump, who this week has veered wildly in his position on stimulus to help the world's largest economy recover from the damage done by the Covid-19 pandemic, now seems to be making a major push to

roll out funding before he stands for re-election on November 3.

The new proposal, an improvement over the administration's previous \$1.6 trillion offer, brings them closer to the Democrats' latest package costing \$2.2 trillion.

White House spokeswoman Alyssa Farah said the administration was "willing to come up on the level" but wanted to keep the price tag "below \$2 trillion." But Trump, who is trailing in the polls against

Democratic rival Joe Biden, said he wants an even more robust plan.

"A lot of people are being hurt. I would like to see a bigger stimulus package, frankly, than either the Democrats or the Republicans are offering," Trump said in an interview with conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh.

"I would like to see money going to people. It was not their fault." That marked the latest dramatic shift from the president. — *AFP*

Ballot drop-off order blocked

Houston, Oct. 10: A US judge has blocked an order from Texas' governor cutting the number of sites voters can drop off mail-in ballots for November's presidential election, which Democrats had said amounted to voter suppression.

The order, issued in early October by Republican Governor Greg Abbott, limited the number of drop-off centres to one per county, even as mail-in voting is expected to become much more popular due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The move would help curb "illegal voting," Abbott had said, in line with views expressed by President Donald Trump, who

frequently claims without evidence that postal ballots are a source of massive vote fraud.

But in a decision published Friday following a challenge by voting rights advocates, federal judge Robert Pitman blocked the order, arguing it "restricts the rights of some voters, those who qualify to vote absentee in larger, more populous counties".

The order also added to voter confusion, Pitman's 46-page decision said, and would force voters to travel further to cast their ballot and wait in longer lines to vote, leading to greater risks of exposure to the Coronavirus. — *AFP*

Prez warnings on Columbus Day

Washington, Oct. 10: President Donald Trump's proclamation Friday commemorating Columbus Day veered from a typical White House holiday announcement, with stark warnings of "radical activists" seeking to tarnish the explorer's legacy.

Native American advocates have pressed states for years to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day over concerns that Christopher Columbus helped launch centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas.

"Sadly, in recent years, radical activists have sought to undermine Christopher Columbus's legacy," Trump said in his proclamation declaring Monday Columbus Day.

"These extremists seek to replace discussion of his vast contributions with talk of failings, his discoveries with atrocities, and his achievements with transgressions."

Trump has been projecting himself as a defender of America's history and

monuments as he seeks reelection. He signed an executive order recently to establish a commission to promote what he calls "patriotic education".

The move is in part a response to *The New York Times'* "1619 Project", which highlights the long-term consequences of slavery and the contributions of People of Colour Americans.

Trump frequently cites the commission at his campaign rallies, and he did so again in his proclamation Friday. Trump has also ordered federal agencies to end diversity training programs.

In his proclamation Friday, he said many such programs "are grounded in the same type of revisionist history that is trying to erase Christopher Columbus from our national heritage."

"Together, we must safeguard our history and stop this new wave of iconoclasm by standing against those who spread hate and division," Trump declared.

— *AP*

Military rigged '18 polls: Oppn

Karachi, Oct. 10: For the first time, Pakistan's two major Opposition parties have come out openly against the country's powerful military, accusing it of rigging the 2018 elections that brought Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party to power.

In the past, political leaders have only indirectly pointed to the involvement of the military establishment in the country's political affairs but this is the first time that the leaders of the two main Opposition parties — the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) have openly criticised the military. Former prime minister and PML-N supremo Sharif, who is in London since November last year and facing a number of corruption cases, fired the first salvo at the inaugural meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, an alliance formed by Opposition parties last month to oust Prime Minister Khan.

Sharif alleged that the military rigged the 2018 elections to bring Prime Minister Khan to power. He said interfering in politics in uniform amounts to treason under the country's Constitution. His allegations sparked an

APPEAR BEFORE NOV. 24, COURT INFORMS NAWAZ

Islamabad, Oct. 10: A Pakistani court through newspaper advertisements asked Nawaz Sharif to appear before it by November 24 to avoid being declared a "proclaimed offender" after the former three-time prime minister reportedly refused to receive non-bailable arrest warrants at his residence in London.

The Islamabad High Court on Friday noted that it was left with no option but to order issuance of proclamation for intimidating 70-year-old Sharif. — *PTI*

angry response from Khan, who said Sharif was "playing a very dangerous game" by humiliating the military and intelligence services. PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari accused the military of rigging the 2018 elections. He warned that any interference in the legislative assembly elections in Gilgit-Baltistan would result in a siege of Islamabad and a sit-in in the city. — *PTI*

DISCONTINUE TWO-FINGER TEST ON RAPE VICTIMS, SAYS LAW MINISTRY

Islamabad, Oct. 10: The Pakistan government has disapproved of the two-finger test performed on rape victims and recommended that it should not be part of any medico-legal examination report in sexual assault cases. The Ministry of Law and Justice has intimated the Additional Attorney General at Lahore, Chaudhry Is-

htiaq Ahmed Khan, about the recommendation. He will now inform the Lahore High Court about the federal government's stance. The court sought the ministry's response after going through a statement by the WHO, which has declared virginity testing as "unscientific, medically unnecessary and unreliable". — *PTI*

Protest in Ankara

Turkish police detain people during a protest marking the fifth anniversary of the twin suicide attacks in which over 100 people were killed, in Ankara on Saturday. On October 10, 2015, suicide bombers believed to be linked to Islamic State blew themselves up in a crowd of pro-Kurdish peace activists planning to hold a rally outside Ankara's main train station, killing 103 people and wounding about 500 people. — *AFP*

Taiwan: Lessen China tensions

Taipei, Oct. 10: Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Saturday she has hopes for less tensions with China and in the region if Beijing will listen to Taipei's concerns, alter its approach and restart dialogue with the self-ruled island democracy.

Speaking at Taiwan's National Day celebrations on Saturday, Tsai took note of recent remarks by Chinese leader Xi Jinping in a video message to the UN General Assembly that China would never seek hegemony, expansion or to establish a sphere of

influence. "As countries in the region and around the world are now concerned about China's expanding hegemony, we hope this is the beginning of genuine change," Tsai said in her annual address at the Presidential Office in downtown Taipei.

If Beijing can "heed Taiwan's voice, change the way it handles cross-strait relations, and jointly facilitate cross-strait reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, I believe that regional tension can surely be resolved," Tsai said. China's ruling Communist Party

claims the self-governing island as Chinese territory to be annexed by force if necessary. Beijing cut contacts with Tsai's government following her election to a first term in 2016 and has steadily increased diplomatic, military and economic pressure on the island of 23 million people to compel her to endorse its contention that Taiwan and the mainland constitute a single Chinese nation, which it refers to as the "1992 Consensus".

In Beijing, a spokesperson for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office responded to Tsai's address by

renewing China's demand for concessions and accusing her of "disrupting the exchanges and cooperation" between the sides, according to state broadcaster CCTV. Zhu Fenglian also accused Tsai of "deliberately misleading the people of Taiwan".

Tsai, of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, was reelected by a wide margin this spring, and especially since September, China has been sending warplanes and ships into areas under Taiwanese control. — *AP*

TRUCE BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN, ARMENIA FAILS

Moscow, Oct. 10: Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a Russia-brokered cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh starting on Saturday, but immediately accused each other of derailing the deal intended to end the worst outbreak of hostilities in the separatist region in more than a quarter-century.

The two sides traded blame for breaking the truce that took effect at noon (0800 GMT) with new attacks, and Azerbaijan's top diplomat said the truce never entered force. The cease-fire announcement came overnight after 10 hours of talks in Moscow sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The deal stipulated that the cease-fire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict. If the truce holds, it would mark a major diplomatic coup for Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but also cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan. But the agreement was immediately challenged by mutual claims of violations. — *AP*

WHO: Record 3.5L daily cases

Geneva, Oct. 10: The World Health Organisation has announced a new daily record high in Coronavirus cases confirmed worldwide, with more than 350,000 infections reported to the UN health agency on Friday.

The new daily high of 350,766 cases surpasses a record set earlier this week by nearly 12,000. That tally includes more than 109,000 cases from Europe alone.

In a press briefing on Friday, WHO emergencies chief Dr Michael Ryan acknowledged that even as Covid-19 continues to surge across the world, "there are no new answers".

He said that although the agency wants countries to avoid the punishing lockdowns that have devastated economies, governments must ensure the most vulnerable people are protected and numerous measures must be taken.

"The majority of people in the world are still susceptible to this disease," Ryan warned. He said countries should focus not just on restrictive measures, but also on bolstering their surveillance systems, testing, contact tracing and ensuring populations are engaged.

As the virus continues to surge across Europe and elsewhere, Ryan acknowledged that restrictive measures might be warranted

at some point. British scientists reported this week that the Covid-19 outbreak is doubling every few weeks, French hospitals are running out of ICU beds, Germany may enlist the army to help contain its outbreak and Spain declared a state of emergency in Madrid as cases soar. Ryan said lockdowns "may be unavoidable where the disease has got out of control again". — *AP*

INDIA | CONNECT**Queen's Birthday Honours List was 'most ethnically diverse'****Billionaire bros, Skipping Sikh feted**

London, Oct. 10: A pair of Indian-origin billionaire brothers, a leading Oxford University academic and a septuagenarian fundraiser fondly referred to as the Skipping Sikh, lead the "most ethnically diverse" Queen's Birthday Honours List released on Saturday.

Zuber and Mohsin Issa, who recently hit the headlines with their multi-million-pound acquisition of the UK's supermarket chain Asda, have both been honoured with CBEs for

services to business and charity. The brothers from Blackburn, whose parents moved to the UK from Gujarat in the 1970s, own the Euro Garages chain of petrol stations as part of their EG Group business.

They are joined by Yadvinder Singh Malhi, Professor of Ecosystem Science at the University of Oxford, who receives a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for his services to ecosystem sci-

ence. Malhi had been appointed Trustee of the Natural History Museum in London earlier this year. British Indians honoured with an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) include Nilay Shah, Professor of Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London for services to the decarbonisation of the UK economy, and Dr Sanjiv Nichani, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Healing Little He-

arts for services to medicine and charity.

The list, which had been deferred from its usual early June release to consider nominations of people playing crucial roles during the first months of the Covid-19 pandemic, includes numerous British Indians under this category led by Rajinder Singh Harzall. The 74-year-old "Skipping Sikh" receives an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for his inspirational

health and fitness videos during lockdown.

Harzall, who has raised nearly £14,000 for the National Health Service, is joined by Lavina Mehta, who also receives an MBE for services to health and fitness during Covid-19 for her work encouraging people to stay active during the lockdown. "The hard work and dedication of these unsung heroes has helped carry us through," UK PM Boris Johnson said. — *PTI*

SHORT TAKES

Swiatek crowned French champion

Paris: With the poise of a veteran and the shots of a champion, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek picked the perfect place for her first tour-level title: The French Open.

Unseeded and ranked merely 54th, Swiatek grabbed the last six games to beat Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the final at Roland Garros on Saturday, becoming the first Polish tennis player to win a Grand Slam singles trophy.

When she smacked one last forehand winner to the corner to end things, Swiatek placed her right hand over her mouth then crouched, shaking her head.

Swiatek is the first woman to triumph in Paris without ceding a set since Justine Henin in 2007. She lost only 28 games across seven matches, too. She is the first teen to win the women's title at the French Open since Iva Majoli in 1997. And Swiatek did it with victories over such opponents as 2018 champion Simona Halep and 2019 runner-up Marketa Vondrousova, both by scores of 6-1, 6-2. Meanwhile, world No.1 Djokovic set up a blockbuster French Open title showdown with Rafael Nadal after defeating Greek fifth seed Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 in the semifinal. — *Agencies*

Valtteri revs it up to Eifel pole

Nurburgring, Germany: Valtteri Bottas topped the times ahead of championship leader and Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton in Saturday morning's belated and sole practice session ahead of Sunday's Eifel Grand Prix.

The Finn maintained the momentum from his victory in Russia two weeks ago as he clocked a best lap in one minute and 26.225 seconds to outpace the six-time champion by a tenth of a second.

After both Friday sessions were cancelled due to fog and rain that prevented the use of the circuit medical helicopter, there was relief when on-track action began albeit with the notable absence of Racing Point's Lance Stroll, due to an unspecified illness. Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third fastest, as the Italian team showed improved form in the cold weather, with Max Verstappen fourth for Red Bull and Sebastian Vettel fifth. — *AFP*

Firmino shines as Brazil drub Bolivia

Sao Paulo, Brazil: Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino scored a brace as Brazil romped to a 5-0 victory over Bolivia in their opening 2022 World Cup qualifier on Friday. Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho and Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos also got on the scoresheet while star forward Neymar set up two goals in a totally one-sided encounter that sent Brazil top of the South American qualifying table. On 65 minutes, a cross from Coutinho flew into the net off the unlucky Jose Carrasco's chest.

In a Corinthians Arena deserted due to Covid-19 restrictions, Bolivia showed almost no ambition as Brazil dominated throughout, with PSG's Neymar starting after overcoming a back problem.

In the night's other match, Atalanta pair Duvan Zapata and Luis Muriel fired Colombia to a 3-0 win over Venezuela. — *AFP*

Heat hit back to lay Lakers low

Orlando: Jimmy Butler's triple-double propelled Miami to a 111-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday that kept the Heat alive in the NBA Finals.

Butler scored 35 points with 12 rebounds and 11 assists and the Heat withstood a 40-point performance from Lakers superstar LeBron James to deny Los Angeles a title-clinching win in the NBA's quarantine bubble at Orlando.

The Lakers still lead the best-of-seven series three games to two and can secure the title with a game-six victory on Sunday. LeBron James added 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers while Anthony Davis added 28 points and Caldwell-Pope scored 16 for Los Angeles Lakers. — *AFP*

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Knightmare for Kings

Punjab choke again to hand KKR a two-run win

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: Rahul Tripathi b Shami 4, Shubman Gill run out 57, Nitish Rana run out 2, Eoin Morgan c Maxwell b Ravi Bishnoi 24, Dinesh Karthik run out 58, Andre Russell c Simran Singh b Arshdeep Singh 5, Pat Cummins (not out) 5. **Extras:** (b-1, lb-2, w-6) 9. **Total:** (for 6 wkts, in 20 Overs) 164. **FoW:** 12-1, 14-2, 63-3, 145-4, 150-5, 164-6. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 4-0-30-1, Arshdeep Singh 4-1-25-1, Chris Jordan 4-0-37-0, Muejeb Ur Rahman 4-0-44-0, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-25-1.

Kings XI Punjab: K.L. Rahul b Prasidh 74, M. Agarwal c Gill b Prasidh 56, N. Pooran b Narine 16, P.S. Singh c Rana b Prasidh 4, G Maxwell (not out) 10, M Singh c (sub) Green b Narine 0, C Jordan (not out) 0. **Extras:** (lb-2) 2. **Total:** (for 5 wkts, 20 Overs) 162. **FoW:** 1-115, 2-144, 3-149, 4-151, 5-158. **Bowling:** Cummins 4-0-29-0, Krishna 4-0-29-3, Nagarkoti 3-0-40-0, Chakravarthy 4-0-27-0, Narine 4-0-28-2, Rana 1-0-7-0.

play with Pat Cummins bowling three of the first six overs.

Rahul was dropped by Andre Russell off the bowling of Prasidh Krishna in the second over when he was on two. Russell hurt himself while fielding after a few overs but returned in the 11th over only to leave the field again in the 13th over.

KKR were 76 for no loss at the halfway mark and the duo kept on getting the ones and twos without much trouble with the KKR suddenly finding a death over bowler less without Russell. — *PTI*



Prasidh Krishna (left) of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates the wicket of Mayank Agarwal of Kings XI Punjab during their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Saturday. — *BCCI*

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	6	5	1	0	10	+1.267
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	4	2	0	8	+0.017
Royal Challengers Bangalore	6	4	2	0	8	-0.820
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	+0.232
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	0	4	-0.588
Rajasthan Royals	6	2	4	0	4	-1.073
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

WE LET DELHI OFF THE HOOK, SAYS SMITH

Sharjah, Oct. 10: Rajasthan Royals skipper Steve Smith said they let Delhi Capitals off the hook by conceding an extra 15-20 runs in their Indian Premier League match on a slow Sharjah pitch.

Delhi posted 184 for eight, the lowest first innings total at the ground this season on Friday.

"I think the wicket did slow down a bit, probably it was not that good as it was in our first two games, but having said that, we probably let them off the hook in the first innings, we probably let them get 10-15 too many," Smith said.

Delhi Capitals' Harshal Patel agreed with the Australian run-machine at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Smith added, "During the chase, we lost wickets again, I got out, we just kept on losing wickets at regular intervals, and chasing 180 odd on a wicket that has slowed up is not easy." — *PTI*

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 11
● Hyderabad: 6
● Rajasthan: 5

MEETING IN 2019

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Rajasthan Royals by 5 wickets in Hyderabad.

● Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 7 wickets in Jaipur.

FOR THE RECORD

● David Warner, who scored 4,933 runs at an average of 42.89 in 132 innings of as many matches, needs 67 runs to become fourth batsman to score over 5,000 runs in IPL.

● Steven Smith, who hit 98 sixes in 174 innings of 198 matches, needs two more sixes to complete a century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

look to stage a comeback.

The top guns — Jos Buttler, Smith and Sanju Samson — will again need to live up to the expectations by contributing in a big way. — *PTI*

Kohli wins it for Bangalore

Dubai, Oct. 10: Virat Kohli's epic skill level complemented by peak fitness proved to be too good for Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings which slumped to their fifth defeat by 37 runs in an Indian Premier League campaign already gone awry.

It was captain Kohli's unbeaten 90 off 52 balls that powered RCB to a competitive 169 for 4 on a slowish track after opting to bat.

The CSK batting, which has been wobbly throughout the first four weeks fared no better after Washington Sundar (2/16 in 3 overs) removed Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis inside the Powerplay overs. In the end, they finished on 132 for 8 in 20 overs. Ambati Rayudu (42 off 40 balls) and rookie N. Jagadeesan (33) added 64 but the partnership never took off on a track where ball wasn't coming onto the bat.

Once the wily Yuzvendra Chahal dismissed M.S. Dhoni (10) with a brilliantly set-up plan, the match was as good as over. CSK now have four points from seven games and are in danger of missing out on Play-Offs for the first time in 11 seasons.

Once Rayudu was dismissed by a back of the hand slower from Isuru Udana (1/30 in 4 overs), the match was all over. Special mention for Chris Morris (3/19 in 4 overs), who was brilliant in his first appearance for RCB bowling tight lines with a hint of away movement from right-handers.

Earlier, Kohli, who walked in at the fall of Aaron Finch in the third

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Devdutt Padikkal c du Plessis b Thakur 33, Aaron Finch b Chahar 2, Virat Kohli (not out) 90, AB de Villiers c Dhoni b Thakur 0, Washington Sundar c Dhoni b Curran 10, Shivam Dube (not out) 22. **Extras:** (lb-1 w-10 nb-1) 12. **Total:** (for 4 wkts, in 20 overs) 169. **FoW:** 1-13, 2-66, 3-67, 4-93. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 3-0-10-1, Sam Curran 4-0-48-1, Shardul Thakur 4-0-40-2, Dwayne Bravo 3-0-29-0, Karn Sharma 4-0-34-0, Ravindra Jadeja 2-0-7-0. **Chennai Super Kings:** S. Watson b Washington Sundar 14, Faf du Plessis c Morris b Washington Sundar 8, A. Rayudu b Udana 42, N. Jagadeesan run out (Morris) 33, M.S. Dhoni (c) c Gurkeerat Singh b Chahal 10, S. Curran c 'de Villiers b Morris 0, RA Jadeja c Gurkeerat Singh b Morris 7, D.J. Bravo c Padikkal b Morris 7, D. Chahar (not out) 5, S. Thakur (not out) 1. **Extras:** (w 5) 5. **Total:** (for 8 wkts, in 20 overs) 132. **FoW:** 1-19, 2-25, 3-89, 4-106, 5-107, 6-113, 7-122, 8-126. **Bowling:** C. Morris 4-0-19-3, N. Saini 4-0-18-0, I. Udana 4-0-30-1, Washington Sundar 3-0-16-2, Y. Chahal 4-0-35-1, S. Dube 1-0-14-0.

over, led from the front with a majestic 52-ball knock that was the finest blend of skill and peak fitness. His innings had four fours and as many sixes but in searing Dubai humidity, ran four twos in the final over, a testament to the hours put in rigorous physical training.

The RCB captain was involved in two half-century partnerships — one with opener Devdutt Padikkal (33 off 33 balls) and Shivam Dube (22 off 14 balls) for the fifth wicket, an unbeaten 76-run stand, which powered the total. — *PTI*

Mumbai, Delhi in crunch clash

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 10: Many small battles are expected to unfold when the season's two most consistent teams — Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals — cross swords in a clash of equals in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

Be it a potent top-order, a strong middle-order or a lethal bowling attack, there is hardly anything that separates the two sides.

If at all one team has a slight upper hand in any department, it's the experience in Mumbai Indians' pace bowling arsenal. Both Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, with years of experience behind them, could be the difference in the most sought-after contest of this edition.

It means that Shikhar Dhawan will have to strive harder to give the Capitals a solid start. The left-handed batsman has got started in the last few games but needs a bigger innings under his belt and if it comes in a big contest, Capitals will have gained a lot.

In a way, young Prithvi Shaw and the in-form Rishabh Pant will face their first stiff test when they face Bumrah and Boult, who can trouble any

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 24
● Delhi: 12
● Mumbai: 12

MEETING IN 2019

● Delhi Capitals beat Mumbai Indians by 37 runs in Mumbai.

● Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 40 runs in Delhi.

FOR THE RECORD

● Rishabh Pant, who has smashed 99 sixes in 60 innings, needs just one more to become the 20th batsman to complete a century of sixes in the IPL.

● Quinton de Kock, who has dismissed 27 batsmen behind the wickets in 22 innings, needs one more to equal Parthiv Patel's record (28 in 40 innings) for Mumbai Indians in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

batsman with their pace and accuracy. The good news for Capitals is Shimron Hetmyer getting his touch back with the innings against Rajasthan Royals on Friday. He seemed to be the only weak link in Capitals' ranks but his six-laden knock against Royals has removed that worry. — *PTI*

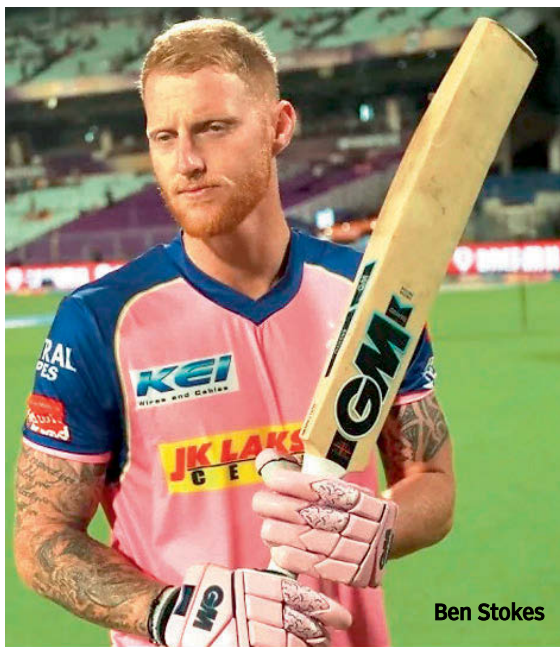
Royals bank on Ben's return

Dubai, Oct. 10 Bruised and battered after a string of defeats, Rajasthan Royals will hope the presence of Ben Stokes gets the adrenaline flowing as they seek a revival of fortunes against a charged-up Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League on Sunday.

Rajasthan are struggling at the penultimate spot on the points table after two wins and four straight defeats, while Sunrisers have won three out of their six games so far and occupy the fifth position.

The Royals will be relieved to have the services of Stokes who completes his mandatory quarantine on Saturday. His absence has severely impacted the team's campaign, as the inaugural season champions struggled to figure out their best combination.

Stokes had taken compassionate leave in the middle of England's home Test series against Pakistan in August and travelled to New Zealand to attend to his father who had been diagnosed with brain cancer.



It was Stokes' father who reminded the star all-rounder of his duty towards his job and that might be playing in the 29-year-old's mind.

It is to be seen whether the World Cup winner, who has been out of action for some time now, is afforded the luxury of some practice or is played straight up.

"Stokes hasn't had a lot of practice, he gets out of quarantine tomorrow, so we'll see if he plays the day after tomorrow," skipper Steve Smith had said after the match against Delhi Capitals.

Rajasthan, having lost to Delhi Capitals by a big margin of 46 runs, will

straight up.

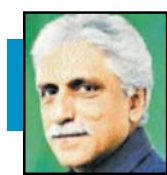
ed, but with an important difference: where last year, only uncapped players could be transferred, in IPL2020, even capped players have been made eligible.

The previous year, where franchises had shown little or no interest in the mid-season transfers, this time there is expected to be a fair amount of movement.

In fact, some franchises had planned for the rule to kick in and make their decisions accordingly. For instance, before IPL2020 began, Mike Hesson, Director of Cricket Operations with Royal Challengers Bangalore, had talked about this in a press conference conducted virtually.

"We've got a small squad and we've done that for a reason. If something was

IPL's mid-season transfer rule can bring twist in the tale



Ayaz Memon
Over The Top

The IPL's mid-season transfer rule — which comes into effect from October 13 — not only adds an interesting dimension to the league but could well end up influencing the outcome of matches. Perhaps even which team wins the title this year!

For instance, imagine Ajinkya Rahane, who is struggling to find a place in Delhi's strong batting line-up, moving to Chennai Super Kings, who have been desperate for stability and runs in the middle order. Or indeed, going

back to Rajasthan Royals who also have a fragile middle order.

A marquee name like Rahane, with a proven record could substantially alter CSK's or RR's progress in the tournament. There are several established names — along with others of good experience and newbies — eligible for such transfer. But first let's put the backdrop to what the scope and ambit of this rule is.

This is not the first time the mid-season transfer window comes into effect. In 2019 too, the rule exist-

ed, but with an important difference: where last year, only uncapped players could be transferred, in IPL2020, even capped players have been made eligible.

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For instance, before IPL2020 began, Mike Hesson, Director of Cricket Operations with Royal Challengers Bangalore, had talked about this in a press conference conducted virtually.

"We've got a small squad and we've done that for a reason. If something was

to occur, we'd certainly look at that," Hesson had said.

Managements of other franchises may not have been as vocal, but all have been seized of the possibilities that the mid-season transfer offers and have been working on how to gain from this as one gathered from some sources.

One can assume that injuries to players would not be the sole determinant in choosing or discharging players' mid-season. Form would be equally important, as well as finding the right team combination, though injury replacement could be the excuse.

One other factor which has willy-nilly come into play is that the tournament had to be shifted to the UAE because of the Covid pandemic, while

franchises chose their squads based on playing in Indian conditions. Some tweaking of personnel may become imperative.

The mid-season transfer is not a simple exchange of players between franchise but governed by a set of conditions that constitute the rule. Briefly, these are as under:

1) The transfer season comes into effect only after the half-way mark in the league phase when all franchises have played seven games each i.e. from October 12.

2) Both capped and uncapped, domestic and overseas players are eligible this year for this transfer.

3) The player to be transferred should not have participated in more than two matches.

4) Transfer will take

place with mutual consent between franchises and would be binding on the player.

5) Price for the player under transfer can't be lower than what he was sold for in the pre-season auction.

As is to be expected, there is a great deal of speculation and conjecture about how the mid-season transfer will unravel this year. Inquiries with franchise managements have been met with tight-lipped response.

Understandably, cards are being held close to the chest. But it seems inevitable that some big ticket transfers will happen, more so given the topsy-turvy nature of IPL2020 so far.

Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians are frontrunners so far in the

league — but not that far ahead that their places in the play-offs is guaranteed. The other six teams are embroiled jostling to break through from the pack, towards the top of the points table.

The tournament's still wide open, and some clever bids at this point in time could add dramatic twists and turns in the remainder of the tournament.

There's also the player's point of view to consider. Rather than just warm the bench, like say marquee names Rahane, Mitchell Santner, Lockie Ferguson — to name just three — have been doing, they are far better off playing.

Gives them opportunity to make an impact this season, and who knows, this can open up new vistas in the next.