

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
VISAKHAPATNAM | THURSDAY | 22 OCTOBER 2020

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES
4,13,01,999

DEATHS
11,32,951

**COUNTRIES,
AREAS WITH
CASES**
213

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Max: 33.0°C
Min: 26.6°C
RH: 78%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Mist.
Max/Min temp.
33/26 °C

Visakhapatnam: The low pressure area over central parts of Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood lay as well marked low pressure area over west central Bay of Bengal off AP coast on Wednesday evening. It is likely to move north-east towards northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha and West Bengal coasts and concentrate into a depression during the subsequent 24 hours. Before crossing Odisha and West Bengal, the system would be intensified into a deep depression, the IMD report said. Under its influence, rainfall with heavy falls is likely over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha during the next two days. Fishermen were advised not to venture into the sea during the next three days.

New Delhi: The Indian Army late Tuesday night handed over the Chinese soldier who had strayed across the Line of Actual Control to the People's Liberation Army at the Chushul Moldo meeting point in Ladakh. The Chinese soldier, identified as Corporal Wang Ya Long, was handed back to China after the completion of all formalities. He was caught by the Indian Army in the Demchok sector of eastern Ladakh on Monday.

Priests offer Pattu Vastrams (silk robes) to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy after Goddess Kanakadurga darshan in Moola Nakshtram as part of Dasara celebrations in Vijayawada on Wednesday. — C. NARAYANA RAO

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday launched the YSR Bima scheme, which would benefit 1.41 crore families by providing insurance cover.

Speaking at the launch, Jagan said that the state government will be paying ₹510 crore every year as a premium, despite the Central government hav-

ing withdrawn from the scheme. Terming the loss of the primary bread earner as the worst nightmare for any family, Jagan said that the state government will stand by such families in the hard times by providing financial assistance through insurance cover.

Assuring them that the claim amount will be directly credited into their bank accounts within 15 days of the claim

being made, Jagan also announced that immediate assistance of Rs 10,000 to families through village and ward secretariats.

All families with white ration cards are eligible for this scheme and village/ward volunteers will visit the families and enrol the names of the primary householders.

■ **Page 2: CM moved by plight of poor families**

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Big boulders fell from the hill beside a Durga temple on the hilltop Indrak-eeladri minutes before the scheduled visit of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the temple on Wednesday in Vijayawada. Three persons were injured and officials started a rescue operation to see if anyone was stuck beneath the boulders.

The temple officials installed tents for the media and others and sanitation workers were pressed into work in view of Jagan's visit. Suddenly, big boulders fell onto the ground and people ran out of the tents to save themselves. Minister, Kodali Venkateswara Rao, alias Nani and Krishna district collector, A. Md. Imtiaz, rushed to the spot to speed up the rescue operation. A major mishap was averted as there were no rush of devotees due to cancellation of darshan to masses in view of Jagan's visit.

Scheduled to visit the Durga temple at 3.45 pm to present silk robes to the goddess, sanitation workers were engaged in clean-

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy visited a Durga temple to present silk robes on behalf of the government though it was delayed due to the sudden falling of boulders on the hilltop Indrakeeladri on Wednesday.

Kanaka Durga, adorned as Saraswati devi, goddess of knowledge and music and arts, and also regarded as Vagdevi, goddess of sound, speech, consciousness and wisdom is prayed to on the auspicious moola nakshatram

day, on Wednesday. Temple officials decided to allow extra devotees due to auspicious day extending the time from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Jagan started from his house in Tadepalli at 4.45 pm and reached the Durga temple at 5 pm. He was welcomed by the temple trust board chairman, Pyla Somi Naidu, temple executive officer, M. V. Suresh Babu, and the temple chief priest, Siva Prasad Sarma, in a traditional manner.

■ Page 2: CM inspects landslide areas

ing the site for Jagan when the boulders fell to the ground, collapsing the temporary tents. The people in the tents ran in panic and three workers were stuck in the debris.

Few sanitation workers who miraculously escaped with simple injuries said that the incessant rains

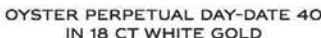
for one week turned dangerous as boulders earlier also fell on October 13 on the temple ghat road. They said that they observed the slipping of the boulders and informed the temple officials.

■ Page 2: Officials rush to rescue of staff

New Delhi, Oct. 21: The government on Wednesday decided to give ₹3,737 crore bonus to 30.67 lakh Central government employees to encourage spending during the festival season and add to demand in the economy.

New Delhi, Oct. 21: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the adoption of a home ministry order modifying the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, that will strengthen local bodies with a three-tier power structure that will be directly elected by the people in the UT as in other parts of the country.

■ Full report on Page 4



Chosen by presidents, world leaders and visionaries since 1956, the Day-Date was the first watch to display the date and day in full. Available exclusively in 18 ct gold or platinum, and in 26 different languages, it continues its legacy as an icon of achievement.

#Perpetual



ASTROGUIDE

Sarvati: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Shuddha Shashti
 till 7.41 am
Star: Poorvashada till 1.01 am
 (Friday)
Variyam: 10.46 am to 12.21 pm
Durmuhuram: 10.05 am to
 10.51 am; 2.41 pm to 3.28 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 4, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.50 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Maghrib: 6.15 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.31 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.52 AM
MOONSET TODAY 10.43 PM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 11.25 AM

COUNTER POINT



Selling onions is more profitable and safe!

OTHER STORIES

PRINCIPAL ADVISER LODGES COMPLAINT WITH DGP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Principal Adviser to CM, Ajeya Kallam lodged a complaint with AP DGP Gautam Sawang against a gang misusing his name to deceive job aspirants.

Mr Ajeya Kallam in his complaint said that he received many viral messages in WhatsApp groups stating a gang of few persons from Mangalagiri collected money from unemployed youth promising jobs of Junior Line Man etc. He said that these messages also state that the gang has allegedly used my name to give credence to their activities. He said that he don't know the truth behind these allegations and if the allegations are proved right on inquiry, there is an urgent need to take action on the culprits involved.

He sought if the messages are fake, obviously, the source of origin of these messages need to be identified and the concerned have to be brought to book for further legal action. Mr Kallam sought the officials concerned to take up inquiry and take necessary action as required by law.

PRIORITY FOR PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT: MIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Minister for power, forest, science and technology, Balineni Srinivas Reddy said that the state government is giving utmost priority to environmental protection besides industrial development. He said this after laying the foundation stone for the construction of a field and zonal office of AP Pollution Control Board at Vijayawada on Wednesday.

The minister warned of stern action against those causing pollution. The 20,000 sq ft zonal office will be completed in 18 months at an estimated cost of ₹22.47 crore.

Mr Reddy said that APPCB has constructed its own office buildings in Visakhapatnam and Kakinada while construction is in progress at Tirupati and Kurnool. He said it is now proposed to construct office buildings to accommodate zonal and regional offices with zonal laboratories for extending better services to people.

TD SLAMS JAGAN'S ANTI-AMARAVATI GAME-PLAN

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Telugu Desam politburo member Varla Ramaiah while addressing media on Wednesday accused the Chief Minister Jagan of resorting to baseless propaganda against Amaravati Capital City only out of political vengeance against his predecessor N. Chandrababu Naidu. He said that the CM has stooped so low that he is using caste factors to defame Amaravati during his recent visit to Delhi.

Protection of women, children and elderly is first priority: CM

Chief Minister says vacancies in the police force would be filled by Jan. next

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, affirmed that the protection of women, children and the elderly is the first priority of the government. He commented that anyone who committed a crime against them should be brought to justice immediately.

Addressing the police martyrs' day celebrations at the Indira Gandhi stadium in Vijayawada on Wednesday, Jagan said it is a day to remember police martyrs all over the country. He paid homage to the martyrs at the police memorial and took the guard of honour.

The government has taken a bold step in curbing crime against women by bringing in the Disha act, said Mr Jagan, and expressed hope that the centre would soon clear it. He said 18 Disha police stations were set up in the state, appointing women police officers and special public prosecutors to deal with cases of crimes against women. Steps were also being taken to set up special courts for women.

The reduced crime rate is also an indicator of development as is in the cases in Finland, Norway



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, home minister M. Suchraitha, DGP Gautam Sawang pay tributes to Martyrs at the Police commemoration day at IGMCI Stadium in Vijayawada on Wednesday.

— C. NARAYANA RAO

and Switzerland. He stated that we cannot achieve that overnight, but our police force is working hard to bring down the crime rate. He added that vacancies in the police force would be filled by January next.

Notifications would be issued to fill vacancies in the police department and Mr Jagan directed the DGP to issue the schedule by next January to fill

6,500 posts annually in four years. He announced that the pending funds for the police welfare for the past three years will be cleared soon.

Maintaining law and order is a top priority of the government and no one would be spared on that count, Mr Jagan reiterated that special focus would be laid on the protection of children, women and the aged and

there would be no compromise in the protection of weaker sections.

He assured severe action would be taken against anti-social elements and crime in the name of caste, creed and against women would not be tolerated.

Recalling sacrifices by police personnel, Mr Jagan said, "The motto of *Satyameva Jayate* embedded on the caps of the police indicates their serv-

ice to the people. The police are in the forefront during the pandemic, bracing to meet the challenges being thrown by modern technology besides working hard in checking illegal activities in sand and liquor." Minister M. Sucharita, DGP, Gautam Sawang, Chief Secretary, Nilam Sawhney, and other officials were among those present and contributed to the police welfare fund.

CM INSPECTS LANDSLIDE AREAS

From Page 1

Mr Jagan, in traditional attire, with the chanting of holy mantras by priests, offered the silk robes on his head, conducted a special puja to goddess Durga in Saraswati Devi avatar. Temple priests, Ch. Aanjaneya Ghanapati, K. Narasimha Avadhani, Ramanath Ghanapati, Ch. Chandrasekhar Avadhani and Ramadatta Avadhani performed special pujas for the prosperity and development of AP.

Mr Jagan took blessings from the priests in the temple. He remained in the sanctum sanctorum till the completion of the rituals with ministers Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Kodali Venkateswara Rao, alias Nani, AP Brahmin welfare corporation chairman, Malladi Vishnu, and others. CM Jagan unveiled the 2021 calendar of Durga Malleswara Swamy temple.

The CM inspected the landslide-hit location at Durga Temple ghat road and directed officials to take measures for the safety of the pilgrims. He also instructed the officials to release funds for the master plan of the Durga temple.

Temple trust board chairman Somi Naidu said that Mr Jagan sanctioned ₹70 crore for the development of the temple, orders pertaining to the funds will be issued soon. The funds will be used for development activities like strengthening the hill through revetment works, establishing solar power for the Nitya Annadanam kitchen, establishing a tonsuring centre and other work.

Temple officials stated that there was a huge rush of devotees for darshan of the goddess on this auspicious day.

More than 13,000 devotees who obtained online tickets visited the temple to have darshan from 6 am to 9 pm with a break during Jagan's darshan.

● **CHIEF MINISTER** Jagan unveiled the 2021 calendar of Durga Malleswara Swamy temple.

● **The CM sanctioned ₹70 crore for the development of the temple, orders pertaining to the funds orders will be issued soon. The funds will be used for the development activities.**



Police and Fire Department personnel clear the boulders atop Indrakeeladri ghat road in Vijayawada on Wednesday.

—DC

Rajamahendravaram to get Heritage City tag soon

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Rajamahendravaram is to get the Heritage City tag soon, with state archaeological authorities collecting concrete evidence of the city being once ruled by Chalukya dynasty in 10th and 11th centuries. Proof of this, along with evidence of ancient monuments, will be submitted to the centre, so that it could declare Rajamahendravaram as Heritage City.

Archaeological department has prepared a plan to look for remnants of Chalukya dynasty in the city. It is seeking permission from Archaeological Survey of India to undertake excavations near Chitrangi Palace for unearthing antiquities and relics. Authorities are confident of finding relics of Buddha underneath the city, as Buddhism was practiced in the area during the 2nd Century BC.

An underground tunnel was also there from Chitrangi Palace to Sarangadhara Metta, which could form part of the proof.

● **State archaeological authorities are preparing a comprehensive project report, which will be submitted to the Union ministry of culture for declaring Rajamahendravaram as Heritage City.**

Rajamahendravaram has many historic structures from subsequent periods, like Royal Mosque of 1353 A.D. near One Town police station, residential building of social reformer Kandukuri Veesalingam, Markendeya Swamy temple, Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple of 18th century, Mrukundeswara temple building in 1053, over 100-years' old Gautami Library, residence of Sir Arthur Cotton, Damerla Rama Rao Art Gallery, Kotilinga Ghat, Rallabandi Subba Rao Archaeological Museum, Havelock Bridge across Godavari River, Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage and Cotton Museum, among others.

Rajahmundry MP Mar-

gani Bharat Ram said, "As the city was ruled by Chalukyas in 11th and 12th centuries, and Buddhism was practiced in 2nd Century BC, we are trying to zero in on proofs in this regard. This will help us in getting Rajamahendravaram declared as Heritage City. I have already met the Union cultural secretary and explained to him the significance of the city."

State archaeology commissioner G. Vani Mohan said, "We are going to write to ASI seeking permission to take up excavations in the city for antiquities belonging to the Chalukya period as also to trace Buddhist relics. For that matter, the city already has several ancient structures. Once the centre declares Rajamahendravaram as Heritage City, it will help us to get funds from the centre under Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana. All findings discovered in the process will be preserved and put on display for general public," Ms Vani Mohan stated.

NAADU | NEDU

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, OCT. 21

Though the AP government has been contemplating opening all the state-run schools from November 2, Headmasters of the several schools across the state are wary over the move as works to give facelift to the schools under Naadu-Nedu programme are incomplete in majority of the schools.

As per the government instructions classes will be held on alternative days for

Class 1,3,5 and 7 and Classes 2,4,6 and 8 that too till afternoon in the month of November and the students will be sent home after feeding midday meals.

Under the condition of anonymity, the headmaster of a school near Nellore said that his school is in a disarray with sand and blue metal in the premises and tiles stored in classrooms for Naadu-Nedu works.

"Leave alone running classes, there is no scope to cook and serve midday

● **CUT IN syllabus and holidays to makeup loss of 80 working days.**

● **Special attention on Standard Operating Procedure to protect students from Covid-19.**

meals also till the works are completed. Moreover, we are yet to receive furniture too," the HM said while stressing that the conditions are no different in most of the schools in the region.

Referring to the stipulation from the authorities to complete the development

works before October 31, he doubted over meeting the deadline.

When contacted, District Education Officer of Prakasam, V.S. Subba Rao has expressed confidence in finishing all the pending works before the end of October.

Fines for violations revised in state

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

The Andhra Pradesh transport department on Wednesday issued a GO No 21 under the provisions of the motor vehicles (amendment) act, 2019 revising the compounding fee (penalties) for better enforcement of the provisions of the enactment.

The order empowers officers of the transport department not below the rank of the assistant motor vehicle inspector and police officers not below the rank of inspector of police and also traffic SIs to levy the revised compounding fee on violators of transport rules.

The visible violations include not wearing helmets, not wearing seat belts, speeding, using cell phones while driving among others which attract heavy penalties.

Obstruction of the checking officer in the discharge of duties and refusal to give information would attract a fine of Rs 750 for motorcycles and light motorcycles and Rs 1,000 for heavy vehicles.

Allowing unauthorised people or an underage

person to drive vehicles would attract a fine of Rs 5,000 for any vehicle. Driving a motor vehicle by a person disqualified from holding a driving license or obtaining a driving license would attract a fine of Rs 10,000.

The penalty on persons who alter vehicles in contravention to the rules and regulations would be fined Rs one lakh per motor vehicle.

Driving dangerously or using hand-held communication devices would face a penalty of Rs 1,500 for the first offence and Rs 10,000 for subsequent offences. Not only driving dangerously, if anybody causes any person to drive at excess speed, Rs 2,000 would be fined. Racing or trials of speed would invite a fine of Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 for subsequent offences.

Rs 2,000 is the fine for plying a vehicle without insurance for the first offence and Rs 4,000 for subsequent offences. Driving vehicles exceeding permissible weight attracts a fine of Rs 20,000 plus Rs 2,000 per every tonne of excess load. Rs 40,000 is the fine for a driver who refuses to stop to have the load weighed.

SEC moves HC for release of funds

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission has moved the High Court complaining about non-release of funds for conduct of free and fair elections and also non-cooperation from the state government to do so and sought direction to it for release of funds.

The High Court bench headed by justice B. Devanand heard the petition filed by the State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar here on Wednesday.

Counsels for state election commissioner and SEC D.V. Sitharama Murthy and N. Ashwani Kumar respectively informed the court that though an amount of ₹40 lakh was sanctioned by issuing GO RT No. 35 dated 17-01-2020 to the SEC, it was kept pending for release deliberately resulting in the SEC facing acute paucity of funds.

The petition mentioned that failing to release sanctioned amount and render proper assistance and cooperation to facilitate smooth conduct of elections, was arbitrary, abuse of power, position and process of law and also gross violation of the Article 243K of Constitution of India.

In reply, government pleader Suman informed the court that the state government had released more than ₹39 lakh to the SEC out of the sanctioned amount of ₹40 lakh and said that the writ petition

● **COUNSELS FOR** state election commissioner and SEC D.V. Sitharama Murthy and N. Ashwani Kumar respectively informed the court that though an amount of ₹40 lakh was sanctioned by issuing GO RT No. 35 dated 17-01-2020 to the SEC, it was kept pending for release deliberately resulting in the SEC facing acute paucity of funds

was not maintainable.

Counsel N. Ashwani Kumar asked the court to issue an order directing the state government to cooperate and assist the State Election Commission to discharge its duty to conduct elections in a free and fair manner.

However, the government pleader intervened and argued that such an order was not necessary.

But, another counsel D.V. Sitharama Murthy informed the court that the conduct of the state government for the last six to seven months reflected no cooperation to the SEC and asked for such an order as it was required.

The court directed the state election commissioner to file a counter affidavit with details on non-cooperation from the state government and posted the next hearing in the case to Thursday.

CM moved by plight of poor families

From Page 1

Jagan asked for the list of enrolled insurance holders to be displayed in the village secretariats. He explained that under this scheme, the insurance amount for accidental death and total permanent disability for people aged between 18-50 years is ₹5 lakh and for those between 51-70 years is ₹3

lakh. He stated that, similarly, for natural death cases (18-50 years) ₹2lakh and for partial permanent disability in an accident case (18-70 years) ₹1.5 lakh assistance will be provided.

Moved by the plight of poor families facing hardships due to the lack of insurance coverage, Jagan at the elections had promised to bring in an

insurance coverage scheme. YSR Bima fulfils that promise, provides security for families in need and stands by them.

Deputy CM Dharama Krishnadas, ministers Botla Satyanarayana, Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Gummamuru Jayaram, chief secretary, Nilam Sawhney, officials and bankers were present at the launch event.

Meanwhile, education minister Adimulapu Suresh said, "we are planning to cut the syllabus as well as holidays for schools to cover the loss of 80 working days and NCERT has been working on the modalities."

He said they are also paying special attention to SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) to protect the students from the dreaded virus as the schools are being opened in the backdrop of prevailing Coronavirus.

IN BRIEF

Planting mine foiled, one held

Visakhapatnam: The Chintapalli police of Visakhapatnam foiled an attempt of planting a land mine between Rallagadda and Korukonda in Balapam Panchayati of Chintapalli mandal. On information, a police team was dispatched immediately to foil the bid. The police team observed the militia members approaching the place and after serious efforts to apprehend them, they caught one person and the rest of them fled away. The person who was caught was identified as Koda Krishna Rao of Labadampalli village.

Demand for Saibaba release

Visakhapatnam: Several activists representing rights organisations demanded release of Prof. G.N. Saibaba who is serving life sentence in Nagpur jail after being convicted for sedition. Convener of Mahila Chetana K. Padma, POW convener M. Lakshmi and IFTU leader K. Venkateswarulu said Prof. Saibaba has been facing health problems and jail officials at Nagpur were not taking any care. Letters written by his wife is also not being delivered to him. Saibaba was arrested by the Maharashtra (Gadchiroli) police for alleged Maoist links in 2014.

TRIBUTES PAID TO POLICE MARTYRS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 21

Police observed Police Commemoration Day on Wednesday. The Vizag city and rural police organised a commemoration parade near the Police Martyrs' Memorial, Beach Road in the city on Wednesday.

Police personnel, their families, senior officials from the district administration and few others paid rich tribute to the police martyrs on the occasion.

Commissioner of police Manish Kumar Sinha said that the sacrifices of police personnel won't go waste and the personnel who have been working in the frontline since the outbreak of Covid-19 have performed bravely. He asked the police personnel to discharge the duties with dedication, courage and honesty to win the hearts of the people. He expressed that the biggest tribute police personnel can pay to the police martyrs' would discharge the duties with dedication.

DIG (Visakha Range) L.K.V. Ranga Rao and Superintendent of Police (Visakha Rural) B. Krishna Rao and few other police officers paid tribute to the police personnel who sacrificed their lives. They recalled the services of the police personnel, especially during the pandemic.

The police have urged the people to recognise the services of police and around 12 police personnel had died while on duty during the pandemic from three districts — Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam. The police said that a series of programmes will be conducted from October 21 to November 1, marking the day, following the safety norms.

New warship Kavaratti to be commissioned

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 21

The last of four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvettes *INS Kavaratti* under Project 28 (Kamorta class) is scheduled to be commissioned into the Indian Navy by General Manoj Mukund Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam on Thursday.

Touted as a potent Stealth ASW Corvette, *Kavaratti* is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Directorate of Naval Design and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, and portrays the growing capability of the Indian Navy, GRSE and the nation in becoming self-reliant through indigenisation accentuating national objective of "Atmanirbhar Bharat". The ship has up to 90 per cent indigenous content and the use of carbon composites for the superstructure is a commendable feat achieved in Indian shipbuilding.

AP to touch 8L Corona cases

State recorded 3,746 Covid cases, 27 deaths taking the death toll to 6,508

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Andhra Pradesh will touch eight lakh mark of total Covid-19 positive cases shortly. The state recorded 3,746 new Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to 7,93,299 and 27 deaths taking the death toll to 6,508, in the last 24 hours.

The state's Covid-19 bulletin on Wednesday reported that out of 74,422 samples tested, 3,746 individuals tested Covid-19 positive.

Out of 72,71,050 samples tested so far in the state, 7,54,415 patients were discharged after recovery from the hospitals while 32,376 patients are still active with the virus and are undergoing medical treatment.

Among daily cases of confirmed coronavirus, East Godavari continues to lead with 677, followed by 519 in West Godavari, 503 in Krishna, 437 in Chittoor, 396 in Guntur, 301 in Anantapur, 167 in Srikakulam, 166 in Kadapa, 138 in Visakhapatnam, 134 in Vizianagaram, 127 in Prakasam, 116 in Nellore and 65 in Kurnool.

In terms of cumulative cases of confirmed coronavirus, East Godavari continues to be the worst affected with 1,11,694, followed by 80,621 in West Godavari, 74,931 in Chittoor, 63,464 in Guntur, 63,111 in Anantapur, 58,961 in Kurnool, 58,542 in Nellore, 57,325 in Prakasam, 54,304 in Visakhapatnam, 50,374 in Kadapa, 43,010 in Srikakulam, 38,451 in Vizianagaram, 35,616 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery among Covid-19 infected patients has been good in East Godavari with 1,05,053 patients having recovered, followed by 76,864 in West Godavari,



Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney participates in Covid-19 awareness rally on Bandar Road in Vijayawada on Wednesday. — C. NARAYANA RAO

AP LAUNCHES 10-DAY COVID AWARENESS PROGRAMME

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

AP government on Wednesday launched a 10-day Covid awareness programme across the state, which will last till October 31. Chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, along with Krishna district collector A. Md. Imtiaz inaugurated a rally in this regard at PWD grounds on Wednesday.

Ms Sawhney expressed happiness that positive Covid cases are on the

decline in the state. The awareness programme will lay emphasis on the role of people and their cooperation in preventing Coronavirus from spreading.

She stated that as per instructions of Chief Minister, the district administration is conducting a special drive for the next 10 days starting from Wednesday to create awareness about the deadly disease.

The chief secretary suggested that everyone

should be made aware of what to do when a person contracts Covid-19. People must wear masks, maintain physical distance and wash their hands frequently to prevent Coronavirus from spreading.

District collector Imtiaz said for the past six months, doctors, health workers, police, village / ward volunteers, and sanitation workers have been working relentlessly in dealing with the Covid pandemic.

tnam and West Godavari.

Among cumulative death cases, Chittoor recorded the highest with 752, followed by 594 in Guntur, 593 in East Godavari, 563 in Prakasam, 542 in Anantapur, 537 in Krishna, 495 in Visakhapatnam, 485 in West Godavari, 483 in Nellore, 480 in Kurnool, 420 in Kadapa, 338 in Srikakulam and 226 in Vizianagaram.

The state health authorities discharged 4,739 Covid-19 infected patients after recovery from various hospitals in the last 24 hours. AP carried out 1,36,162 Covid-19 tests per one million population and recorded a positive rate at 10.91. Maharashtra tested 66,063 samples and has a positive rate at 19.51 and Telangana tested 99,207 samples and has a positive rate of 5.76.

infected patients followed by three each in Anantapur, Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Nellore and Prakasam and one each in Kadapa, Srikakulam, Visakhapa-

SRINIVAS TAKES CHARGE AS NEW DY CONSERVATOR OF PORT

Visakhapatnam: Captain T. Srinivas has taken charge as deputy conservator of Visakhapatnam Port Trust on Wednesday. He had earlier served as harbour master and deputy conservator of Deendayal Port, Kandla, Gujarat. He is an alumni of the illustrious Training Ship Rajendra and holds MBA degree.

DEFER SAINIK SCHOOLS TEST: RIGHTS FORUM

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 21

The Child Rights Protection Forum has demanded the National Testing Agency to postpone the entrance test to be conducted for admission into the Sainik schools.

People belonging to poorer sections could not train their children through online classes due to lack of facilities, the Forum said.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
NAVAL DOCKYARD, VISAKHAPATNAM
(Telephone: 0891 2816329, 6371
Fax: 0891 2511140)

E-TENDER NOTICE

QUOTING NO: MSIT/4110/01 Dated 15 Oct 20

1. Digitally sealed tenders through E-Procurement are invited for **Hiring Services of Three in No. Web Designer and Three in No. Application Tester at Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam for period of one year.**

2. The E-Tender documents can be downloaded from the web "www.defproc.gov.in." The demand draft of **Rs. 1,15,000/-** from a Nationalised Bank is also to be attached along with offline tender document towards payment of Earnest Money Deposit.

3. Offline sealed tenders are required to be dropped in tender box marked as "MIT" kept at Vijayanagar Gate of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam or be sent by Registered Post so as to reach this office by **07 Nov 20 (1830 Hrs).**

davp 10702/11/0052/2021

DGM (MS)

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

B-14/A, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhawan, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016

25th September 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Caution against fraudulent offers in the name of PFRDA/ NPS

It has come to notice that some unscrupulous elements are making phone calls in the name of PFRDA promising to release large sum of money lying with NPS/ PFRDA and these unidentifiable callers also provide deceitful explanations to extort money for release of payments.

This is to inform that PFRDA is a statutory body which regulates National Pension System (NPS) and the general public is hereby cautioned not to fall prey to the designs of such unscrupulous elements who are trying to dupe the unsuspecting citizens in the name of NPS/ PFRDA.

PFRDA NEVER MAKES CALLS TO INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING THEM TO DEPOSIT MONEY FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM NPS/ PFRDA. ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION RECEIVED TO DEFRAUD MAY BE INFORMED TO POLICE IMMEDIATELY.

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Davp 15102/11/0007/2021

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SHORT TAKES

INDO-US 2+2 TALKS CONFIRMED ON OCT. 26, 27

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

United States secretary of state Michael R. Pompeo and secretary of defense Mark T. Esper will indeed visit New Delhi on October 26 and 27 and will hold talks with their Indian counterparts S. Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh on October 27 as part of the Indo-US 2+2 talks at the foreign and defence ministerial level, New Delhi finally announced on Wednesday, adding that the agenda would "cover all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest".

In a separate late evening statement, the US said the talks were "to advance the US-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and expand cooperation to promote stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and the world".

Pompeo, meanwhile, will separately visit Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia after his visit to India.

The tense situation on the Sino-Indian border in the Ladakh sector and Chinese military brinkmanship in Asia are bound to figure during the talks, observers point out.

FAROOQ ABDULLAH INTERROGATED AGAIN BY ED

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 21

Former chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah was on Wednesday again summoned by the Srinagar wing of Enforcement Directorate (ED) where he was grilled by its officials in connection with an alleged multi-crore scam in Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

This was the second time in three days that the octogenarian politician and three-time chief minister of J&K had to face the cross-examination by the ED officials, termed by the NC as "part of a coercive plot." His son and NC vice president Omar Abdullah lamented, "This on a day when my father turns 84!"

On Monday, Senior Abdullah was interrogated by the ED for seven hours over his alleged role in misappropriation of ₹113.66 crore (including bank interest) received by J&KCA from the BCCI between April 2002 and December 2011.

NOTICE TO MP GOVT OVER INDUCTION OF NON-LEGISLATORS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 21

Madhya Pradesh high court on Wednesday issued notice to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and state Assembly speaker Rameswar Sharma over induction of 14 non-MLAs as ministers in the state government. 14 Congress MLAs had resigned from Assembly in March leading to the fall of 15-month-old Kamal Nath government. They later quit Congress and joined BJP.

They were inducted in the Shivraj ministry later. The court has set December 14 this year as the next date of hearing in the case. The court was responding to a petition filed by one Aradhana Bhargav seeking suspension of the ministers from their posts.

INDIA RECORDS STEADY DIP IN COVID-19 CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

As several European countries have started witnessing resurgence of a second wave of Coronavirus, India seems to be slowly coming out of its first wave as the fresh Covid-19 cases and deaths in the country continue to decline. On Wednesday, India's overall Covid-19 tally crossed 76.51 lakh with 54,044 new cases and 717 fatalities in a day. Total deaths in India so far due to the virus has been 1.16 lakh.

"India has sustained its trend of maintaining the active cases below the 7.5 lakh mark for the 2nd successive day. With a high number of Covid-19 patients recovering every day, India's steady trend of posting high levels of daily recoveries also continues. 61,775 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours in the country compared to 54,044 new confirmed cases," said the officials of Union health ministry.

HC relief



Dhakis, traditional drummers, wait to be booked by members of community puja pandals for performance during the Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata on Wednesday. The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday partly modified its order on community Durga Pujas, allowing drummers to perform within the no-entry zones of the marquees. — PTI

PLA soldiers find it difficult to adapt to high altitudes

Soldiers confused, completely disoriented due to hypothermia in cold

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Extreme climatic conditions in the high altitude areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh — which has been witnessing massive build-up of troops both by Indian Army and the People's Liberation of Army (PLA) since the last few months — has started to take a toll on the PLA soldiers.

Corporal Wang Ya Long of the PLA, who was apprehended by the Indian Army when he strayed across the LAC in Demchok sector on Monday — was heavily disoriented due to the extreme weather, which led him to cross over the LAC, hardly realising that he had walked over to the Indian side.

After more than 36 hours in custody of the Indian Army who interrogated him, the Corporal of the PLA was handed over to the Chinese military at the Chushul-Moldo border point on Tuesday night.

Sources in the know of the developments disclosed to *Deccan Chronicle* that Wang Ya Long was heavily disoriented and gasping for breath when he was caught by the Indian troops at Demchok on Monday. This was precisely why the Indian Army provided medical assistance including oxygen besides warm clothes

Indian Army hands over captured Chinese corporal

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

The Indian Army late on Tuesday night handed over the Chinese soldier who had strayed across the Line of Actual Control to the People's Liberation Army at the Chushul Moldo meeting point in Ladakh.

The Chinese soldier,

and food. "But for the timely medical assistance, the Chinese soldier could have died," they said. Discounting the theory that the Chinese Corporal was on an espionage mission, they said there is nothing to suggest that it was a deliberate act by the Chinese side. However, all standard procedures of interrogating a Prisoner of War was followed by the Indian Army and it was only after making it extremely clear that there was nothing suspicious about the Chinese soldier that he was handed back to his military.

While China claimed that their soldier "went missing while helping the local herdsman find lost yak near the India-

China border," there could also be a possibility of Corporal Wang Ya Long making an attempt to desert his Army, unable to bear the extreme climatic condition, but inadvertently ended up on the Indian side. "He appears to have genuinely lost his way and we do not rule out the possibility of he being a deserter or at least making an attempt at that," sources said adding that the Yak theory by the Chinese was not convincing.

Over the last month, ever since massive mobilisation of men and material began taking place on both sides, multiple obstacles and barbed wire fences have been put in place by both the armies, making it impossible for anyone to

reme altitude and harsh climatic conditions.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Tuesday at a press briefing that China hoped India would hand over the soldier soon and works with China to promote implementation of the consensus reached at the seventh round of talks.

cross over from those points. But the Corporal in PLA is said to have strayed across the LAC from the mountainous terrain, away from the points where obstacles have been put up.

Deployment on the high altitude regions can have a tremendous impact on the mental health of the soldiers. "Confusion or disorientation which is a symptom of advanced hypothermia is the main problem in the extreme cold. In such a condition, the individuals do not realise what is happening to them. It has a dysfunctional impact on the personality and psychological integrity of an individual which leaves little or no control over the situation they are in," sources explained.

PAK INCREASES FORCES ALONG BORDER: INTEL

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

Intelligence agencies have cautioned that Pakistan Army has increased its presence both along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) over the last few weeks.

Basis specific intelligence inputs, sources say Pakistan Army has deployed special units of Border Action Teams (BATs) close to the LoC, primarily to push more militants into the Kashmir Valley. It is a known fact that Pak Army deploys BATs to help militants sneak into the Valley.

Sudden increase in presence of Pakistan Army near the LoC and the IB is being linked to a major infiltration being planned before the onset of winter in Kashmir, when most mountain passes get blocked due to inclement weather.

Both intelligence agencies and Army have concrete inputs that at least 250 to 300 militants are waiting at their launch pads close to the border areas, waiting for an opportunity to sneak into India.

Cabinet approves amendments to J&K panchayat Act

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

In a significant decision, the Union cabinet on Wednesday approved the amendments made by the home ministry in the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989, that enables setting up of a directly-elected 14-member district development council (DDC), which has led to fears that this will curb the powers of MLAs and members of legislative bodies. The amendments were made by the home ministry on October 16.

In another major decision, the Cabinet also approved the payment of bonus for 2019-2020 to 30.67 lakh Central government employees, which will cost ₹3,737 crores, and it is hoped will encourage spending during the festival season and add to demand in the economy. The government hopes that the bonus, ahead of Durga Puja, Dussehra and Diwali, will encourage the middle class to go out and spend, and thus add to demand in the economy, Union minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters after the Cabinet meeting. The bonus will be disbursed in a week's time.

The Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB) for 2019-2020,

with a financial implication of ₹2,791 crores, will benefit 16.97 lakh non-gazetted employees of commercial establishments like the Railways, Posts, Defence, EPFO, ESIC, among others. The non-PLB, or ad-hoc bonus, which is given to non-gazetted Central employees, will benefit 13.70 lakh staff. It will cost the exchequer ₹946 crores.

In Kashmir, meanwhile, after the changes made in the panchayati raj law, the DDCs will replace the district development boards, which were chaired by a Cabinet minister or a minister of state, and included MPs, MLAs and MLCs.

The decision to accept the amendments to the legislation was taken at the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. Javadekar said the decision was people friendly and another step towards assimilation of the region's people with the mainstream after Article 370 was abolished in August last year and J&K was made a Union Territory, separating it from Ladakh, which too was made a Union Territory.

There are no legislative bodies in the region as they were abolished when Jammu and Kashmir was carved up into two Union Territories.

GJM quits NDA, to support TMC

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, OCT. 21

In a dramatic move, absconding Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) founder Bimal Gurung on Wednesday took a U-turn and dealt a heavy blow to the BJP ahead of the Assembly election in West Bengal next year. Accusing the saffron party of not fulfilling its "commitment" towards the separate statehood demand of "Gorkhaland", he quit the NDA, leaving the BJP stumped.

With talk of an alliance with Trinamul Congress, Gurung also offered full support to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to help her return to power for the third consecutive time. His announcement came after he surfaced in Kolkata in the afternoon for the first time in three years,

when he was on the run with more than 150 cases, including under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, against him for spearheading a violent movement in Darjeeling for "Gorkhaland" in the middle of 2017.

Travelling by car, Gurung went to Gorkha Bhavan in Salt Lake first.

However, he could not enter as the police personnel were guarding the building.

Later, at a hotel, he alleged, "Though we were a constituent of the NDA 2009 onwards, the Central government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not fulfil its commitment of finding 'Gorkhaland' as a permanent political solution for the hills. It has not included 11 Gorkha communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes. We were cheated. So we are quitting the NDA."

Kaziranga National Park open for tourists

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, OCT. 21

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday formally opened the Kaziranga National Park for the tourists and flagged off jeep safari which has been allowed to ply in two — Kohora and Bagori ranges of the national park while other two ranges would be opened from November for the visitors where elephant safari will also be started.

● **SARBANANDA SONOWAL** flagged off jeep safari which has been allowed to ply in two — Kohora and Bagori ranges of the national park while other two ranges would be opened from November for the visitors where elephant safari will also be started.

● **SONOWAL HOPES** that Assam's tourism sector will be able to overcome the setback of Covid-19 lockdown soon.

stopping rhino poaching to a great extent in the last four and half years and he thanked the people of the nearby areas for extending their full cooperation in eliminating poaching incidents. He also called on the people to maintain all Covid-19 protocols while visiting the Kaziranga National Park and other such places of tourist interest so that the spread of the pandemic can be contained.

He also requested the media to spread the news of the opening of Kaziranga National Park for the year 2020-21 so that tourists from various places of the country and abroad can come and enjoy the natural beauty of the park while also contributing to revival of Assam's tourism industry.

The Chief Minister also took a jeep safari into the national park and he was accompanied by local MLA and agriculture minister Atul Bora, water resources minister Keshab Mahanta, industries and commerce minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, MLA Rituparna Baruah, PCCF (Wild Life) A. M. Singh among others.

EC ticks off parties for violating Covid norms

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

The Election Commission of India has ticked off political parties in Bihar for violating social distancing norms during their poll campaigns and addressing public meetings without wearing masks.

In an advisory to the presidents and general secretaries of the recognised national and state political parties, the ECI expressed unhappiness over the complete disregard of its guidelines issued earlier and said chief electoral officers and the district machinery would be expected to invoke appropriate and relevant penal provisions against candidates concerned as well as organisers responsible for such violations.

In its advisory on October 9, the ECI had asked political parties to follow instructions related to pandemic Covid-19 at all stages, especially wherever public interface in physical form is involved.

LJP releases party's vision document

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 21

LJP Chief Chirag Paswan on Wednesday released his party's manifesto for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

During the event, Chirag Paswan said that the manifesto was based on his party's vision of "Bihar first Bihari first" which will resolve many serious

problems being faced by the people of the state.

The manifesto promises to create job opportunities, better policies for education, health and industrial growth in the state. The vision document also emphasises on constructing a grand Sita temple in Sitamarhi on the lines of Ram Temple in Ayodhya to promote religious tourism in Bihar.

"Observance of the preventive measures including wearing a mask, use of sanitiser, observance of social distancing is a duty cast upon all the stakeholders in the larger interest of public health," the ECI had said.

However, visuals of huge gatherings at campaign rallies in Bihar have left ECI miffed.

"Instances of such public meetings have come to notice of the ECI, where large number of crowds have assembled in utter violation of social distancing and the political leaders/campaigners are addressing the gathering without wearing masks in complete disregard of the guidelines/instructions issued by ECI", it said.



IN BRIEF

Houston club shooting: 3 dead

Houston: Three people were killed in a shooting at a Houston nightclub where about 30 people had gathered for an open mic night and authorities were searching early Wednesday for suspects, police said. Police had been called to the DD Sky Club at about 9:45 p.m. Tuesday on reports of multiple people dead inside, Houston Police Commander Caroleta Johnson said. Once there, officers found three people dead at the scene and a fourth person in critical condition, Johnson said. Investigators believe two men opened fire after a fight broke out, but officers don't yet have a clear description of the shooters. Kade Trammell, who was inside the club attending the open mic show, said he heard seven to 10 gunshots before he and his friends dropped to the floor and then fled. "We got really scared, we ran for our ... lives," he said. "Everybody starting running for their lives after the gunshots," he said.

Five killed in Pak explosion

Islamabad/Karachi: A powerful explosion ripped through a four-storey building in Pakistan's Sindh province, killing at least five people and injuring 20 others, police said. At least two floors of the building near Maskan Chowranghi in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area in Karachi were severely damaged, leading authorities to fear that the toll may rise. The death toll in the incident has increased to five, Faisal Edhi of the Edhi Ambulance Service said. Seven of the injured are said to be in critical condition. The security forces have cordoned off the area after the explosion. Police chief Mushtaq Mahar said the bomb disposal squad and anti-terrorism officials are yet to determine the cause of the explosion. A police official said that initial investigations suggested that the explosion could have been caused due to a gas leak. The official said that no trace of an improvised explosive device (IED) was found at the scene. The incident happened a day after five people were injured when an IED bomb exploded.

UK navy seizes 450 kg meth

Dubai: A British royal navy vessel seized 450 kilograms (990 pounds) of methamphetamine in the northern Arabian Sea in the largest-ever bust by a joint maritime operation in the region, officials said Wednesday. The HMS Montrose seized the drugs hidden aboard a stateless dhow, a traditional cargo ship that plies the Persian Gulf and surrounding waters, the joint task force said in a statement. The seizure took place last Wednesday. The task force said it was unable to say where the drugs came from, who manufactured them or their ultimate destination. However, Iran over the last decade has seen an explosion in the use of methamphetamine, known locally as "shishah" or "glass" in Farsi. That's bled into neighbouring Iraq as well. While drug lab busts have dropped in recent years in Iran, there appears to be an uptick in meth drug labs in Afghanistan.

NASA CRAFT LANDS ON ASTEROID

Washington, Oct. 21: After a four-year-long journey, NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft successfully touched down on the rugged surface of asteroid Bennu on Tuesday, and unfurled its robotic arm to collect a sample of rocks dating back to the birth of our solar system to bring back to Earth, the US space agency said. The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft briefly touched the near-Earth asteroid to collect dust and pebbles from its surface for delivery to Earth in 2023.

Asteroid Bennu is currently more than 321 million kilometres from the Earth. It offers scientists a window into the early solar system as it was first taking shape billions of years ago and flinging ingredients that could have helped seed life on Earth, NASA said. If Tuesday's sample collection event provided enough of a sample, mission teams will command the spacecraft to begin stowing the precious primordial cargo to begin its journey back to Earth in March 2021.

Pope nod for same-sex civil unions in interview**Says homosexual people have the right to be in a family**

Rome, Oct. 21: Pope Francis endorsed same-sex civil unions for the first time as Pope while being interviewed for the feature-length documentary *Francesco*, which premiered on Wednesday at the Rome Film Festival.

The papal thumbs-up came midway through the film that delves into issues Francis cares about most, including the environment, poverty, migration, racial and income inequality, and the people most affected by discrimination. "Homosexual people have the right to be in a family. They are children of God," Francis said in one of his sit-down interviews for the film.

"What we have to have is a civil union law; that way they are legally covered." While serving as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Francis endorsed civil unions for gay couples as an alternative to same-sex marriages. However, he had never come out publicly in favour of civil unions as pope. The Jesuit priest who has been at the forefront in seeking to build bridges with gays in the church, the Rev. James Martin, praised the pope's comments as "a major step forward in the church's support for LGBT people."

"The Pope's speaking positively about civil unions also sends a strong message to places where



Pope Francis arrives for his weekly general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Wednesday. — AFP

the church has opposed such laws," Martin said in a statement. One of the main characters in the documentary is Juan Carlos Cruz, the Chilean survivor of clergy sexual abuse whom Francis initially discredited during a 2018 visit to Chile.

Cruz, who is gay, said that during his first meetings with the Pope in May 2018, Francis assured him that God made Cruz gay. Cruz tells his own story in snippets throughout the film, chronicling both Francis' evolution on understanding sexual abuse as well as to document the Pope's views on gay people. Director Evgeny Afineevsky had remarkable access to cardinals, the Vatican television archives and the Pope

himself. He said he negotiated his way in through persistence, and deliveries of Argentine mate tea and Alfajores cookies that he got to the pope via some well-connected Argentines in Rome.

"Listen, when you are in the Vatican, the only way to achieve something is to break the rule and then to say, 'I'm sorry,'" Afineevsky said in an interview ahead of the premiere. The director worked official and unofficial channels starting in early 2018, and ended up so close to Francis by the end of the project that he showed the pope the movie on his iPad in August. The two recently exchanged Yom Kippur greetings; Afineevsky is a Russian-born Jew who lives in Los Angeles. But

"Francesco" is more than a biopic about the Pope.

Wim Wenders did that in the 2018 film *Pope Francis: A Man of His Word*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

"Francesco," is more a visual survey of the world's crises and tragedies, with audio from the pope providing possible ways to solve them. Afineevsky travelled the world to film it: the settings include Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh where Myanmar's Rohingya sought refuge; the US-Mexico border and Francis' native Argentina. "The film tells the story of the Pope by reversing the cameras," said Vatican communications director Paolo Ruffini, who was one of Afineevsky's closest Vatican-based collaborators on the film.

Ruffini said that when Afineevsky first approached him with the idea of a documentary, he tried to tamp down his hopes for interviewing the Pope. "I told him it wasn't going to be easy," he said. But Ruffini gave him some advice: Names of people who had been impacted by the Pope, even after just a brief meeting. "I told him that many of those encounters had certainly been filmed by the Vatican cameras, and that there he would find a veritable gold mine of stories that told a story," Ruffini said.

— AP

Trump paid \$1.8L tax in China for licensing deals

Washington, Oct. 21: President Donald Trump spent a decade unsuccessfully pursuing projects in China, operating an office there during his first run for president and forging a partnership with a major government-controlled company, *The New York Times* reported Tuesday.

China is one of only three foreign nations — the others are Britain and Ireland — where Trump maintains a bank account, according to a *Times* analysis of the president's tax records. The foreign accounts do not show up on Trump's public financial disclosures, where he must list personal assets, because they are held under corporate names. The Chinese account is controlled by Trump International Hotels Management LLC, which the tax records show paid \$188,561 in taxes in China while pursuing licensing deals there from 2013 to 2015. In response to questions from *The Times*, Alan Garten, a lawyer for the Trump Organisation, said the company had "opened an account with a Chinese bank having offices in the United States in order to pay the local taxes" associated with efforts to do business there.

He said the company had opened the account after establishing an office in China "to explore the potential for hotel deals in Asia." "No deals, transactions or other business activities ever materialised and, since 2015, the office has remained inactive,"

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ALAN GARTEN, lawyer for the Trump Organisation

Garten said. "Though the bank account remains open, it has never been used for any other purpose." Garten would not identify the bank in China where the account is held. China continues to be an issue in the 2020 presidential campaign. — AP

Don says will win by 'bigger' margin

Erie (US), Oct. 21: US President Donald Trump has exuded confidence that he will win the November 3 election by a bigger margin than that of 2016 and urged his supporters to deliver a "thundering" defeat to his Democratic challenger Joe Biden. In his hour-long speech at an election rally here, Trump reiterated that his challenger Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris, if elected, would convert the

US into a socialist country. "It's time to send a message to these wealthy liberal hypocrites by delivering Joe Biden, sleepy Joe, a thundering defeat on November 3rd. Got to get out and vote," Trump told his supporters in Pennsylvania on Tuesday. Trump asserted that his victory on November 3 is going to be bigger than that of 2016. "This is going to be bigger than four years ago." — PTI



Qamar Javed Bajwa

PROBE INTO ARREST OF NAWAZ KIN

Karachi, Oct. 21: Pakistan's Sindh Police chief has deferred his leave and asked his officers to set aside their leave applications for 10 days "in the larger national interest" after Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa ordered an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the arrest of former premier Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, an issue that brought the paramilitary forces and police in direct conflict in the country's largest city.

In a series of tweets, Sindh Police said on Tuesday that the "unfortunate incident" that occurred on the night of 18/19 October caused "great heartache and resentment" within its ranks, referring to the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Sharif's son-in-law Capt (retd) Muhammad Safdar.

Opposition parties have alleged that the Sindh police chief was reportedly forcibly taken away by paramilitary Frontier Corps from his home in Karachi in the wee hours of Monday and pressurised to order for the arrest of Safdar.

"As a result, IG Sindh decided to proceed on leave and subsequently all ranks decided that they would also apply for leave to protest the humiliation meted out to Sindh police," it said.

It added, "This was a spontaneous and heartfelt reaction and made on an individual rather than a collective basis, because every single member of the department felt an acute sense of disrespect." — PTI

PAK MAY NOT EXIT FATF GREY LIST: REPORT

Islamabad, Oct. 21: Pakistan may remain on the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as it has been unable to comply with six of the 27 points in the global terror financing and money laundering watchdog's action plan, a media report said on Wednesday.

The Paris-based global watchdog will hold its virtual plenary session from October 21 to 23. It will review Pakistan's progress on the 27-point action plan. The FATF had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019, but the deadline was extended later on due to the Covid-19 pandemic. — PTI

Support for Thai royals

Royalist supporters take part in a rally to show support for the Thai royal establishment in Su-ngai Kolok District in Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat on Wednesday. — AFP

Europe records weekly high of 927K cases

Geneva, Oct. 21: The World Health Organisation says Europe again reported a new high in the weekly number of Coronavirus cases during the pandemic last week, recording more than 927,000 cases.

The UN health agency said in its latest global report on the deadly Coronavirus pandemic that the continent saw a 25 per cent spike in confirmed cases last week and was responsible for 38 per cent of all new cases reported worldwide. Russia, the Czech

Republic and Italy accounted for more than half of new Coronavirus cases in Europe.

The WHO report says the number of deaths in Europe also "continues to climb," and increased by one-third from the previous week.

The health agency says Slovenia reported a 150 per cent increase in cases in a week with a record 4,890 cases.

Slovenia also reported 1,924 Coronavirus deaths, compared to one week before. — AP

CDC: 300K more deaths in US

New York, Oct. 21: A new government report shows that since the Coronavirus pandemic began, the US has seen 300,000 more deaths than it usually would. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has been tracking how many deaths have been reported and comparing them with counts seen in other years. Usually, between the beginning of February and the end of September, about 1.9 million deaths are reported. This year, it's closer to 2.2 million — a 14.5 per cent increase. The CDC says the Coronavirus was involved in about two-thirds of the excess deaths. CDC officials say it's likely the virus was a factor in many other deaths too.

For example, someone with heart attack symptoms may have hesitated to go to a hospital that was

busy with Coronavirus patients. The largest segment of the excess deaths, about 95,000, were in elderly people ages 75 to 84. That was 21.5 per cent more than in a normal year. But the biggest relative increase, 26.5 per cent, was in people ages 25 to 44. Deaths in people younger than 25 actually dropped slightly. Deaths were up for different racial and ethnic groups. — AP

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NEW ANALYSIS

Sub-Saharan Africa has households that struggle to survive on \$1.90 a day**One in six children live in extreme poverty: UN**

United Nations, Oct. 21: An estimated one in six children — or 356 million globally — were living in extreme poverty before the Covid-19 pandemic began, and this is set to worsen significantly, according to a new World Bank Group and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) analysis. Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty: An Update', notes that sub-Saharan

aran Africa, with its limited social safety nets, accounts for two-thirds of children living in households that struggle to survive on an average of \$ 1.90 a day or less per person — the international measure for extreme poverty, while South Asia accounts for nearly a fifth of these children. The analysis shows that the number of children living in extreme poverty

decreased moderately, by 29 million, between 2013 and 2017.

However, UNICEF and the World Bank Group warn that any progress made in recent years, has been "slow-paced, unequally distributed, and at risk" due to the economic impact of the pandemic. "One in six children living in extreme poverty is one in six children struggling to

survive," UNICEF Director of Programmes Sanjay Wijesekera said.

"These numbers alone should shock anyone. And the scale and depth of what we know about the financial hardships brought on by the pandemic, are only set to make matters far worse. Governments urgently need a children's recovery plan to prevent countless more children and their families from reaching levels of poverty unseen for many, many

years," Wijesekera said. Although children make up around a third of the global population, around half of the extreme poor are children. The youngest children are the worst off — nearly 20 per cent of all of them below the age of 5 in the developing world live in extremely poor households, the report highlights. — PTI

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SHORT TAKES

Anju vice-prez of athletics body

New Delhi: Incumbent Adille Sumariwalla is set to be elected unopposed as Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president for his third term while former long jumper Anju Bobby George will be made senior vice-president in the national governing body's polls on October 31. Sumariwalla and Anju were the only candidates who filed their nomination papers for their respective posts till the deadline of 4 pm on Wednesday. Returning officer Vijayalakshmy K. Gupta issued the list of nominated candidates after the deadline. The deadline for withdrawal of nominations is 6 pm on Friday. For Anju, the lone Indian to win a medal in the World Championships (a bronze in 2003), it will be her highest post in the AFI executive committee. She was in the executive committee of last term by virtue of being a member of the Athletes' Commission. The AFI constitution mandates at least one woman among five vice-presidents, five joint secretaries and eight executive committee members. — PTI

Bravo out of IPL with groin injury

Dubai: Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has been ruled out of the ongoing IPL with a groin injury, dealing a massive blow to the already struggling side which has very slim chances of advancing to the play-offs. The 37-year-old, an integral part of the CSK team for years now, couldn't bowl the final over against Delhi Capitals in a match in Sharjah on October 17. Skipper MS Dhoni was forced to bowl Ravindra Jadeja, who conceded three sixes. "Dwayne Bravo is ruled out of the IPL due to a groin injury," CSK CEO Kashi Viswanathan said. Bravo played six games and scored only seven runs in two innings. However, he got six wickets in six games. — PTI

Covid-recovered F1 racer returns

Silverstone, England: Formula One driver Lance Stroll said he intends to race at the Portuguese Grand Prix this week after finishing a period of self-isolation following a positive test for the coronavirus. Stroll, who drives for Racing Point, pulled out of the Eifel Grand Prix at the Nürburgring a day before the October 11 race because he felt unwell and said Wednesday he later tested positive for Covid-19. In a post on Instagram, Stroll said he spent 10 days at home in self-isolation with mild symptoms and returned a negative test on Monday. "I feel in great shape," the Canadian driver wrote, "and I can't wait to be back with the team and to race in Portugal." — AP

Coco in second round at Ostrava

Prague: American teenage sensation Coco Gauff beat Czech doubles specialist Katerina Siniakova in straight sets to clinch a second-round spot at the Ostrava Open WTA tournament on Tuesday. Gauff squandered her first three match points but the Czech hit the net on the fourth to bow out. Gauff will face third-seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, the world number 12, in the second round. Daria Kasatkina of Russia saw off sixth seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, while her compatriot Veronika Kudermetova upset Croatia's Donna Vekic 6-2, 6-4. — AP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

Europa League: Young Boys vs Roma from 10.25 pm on Sony Six; Rapid Wien vs Arsenal from 10.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Leicester vs Zorya Luhansk from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 3; Celtic vs AC Milan from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1; Tottenham Hotspur vs LASK from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2; Hoffenheim vs Crevna Zvezda from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six

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SIRAJ'S SHOW

Seamer wrecks KKR as RCB win big

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 21: Pacer Mohammed Siraj's fiery opening spell, accentuated by two rare wicket-keeper maidens, set up Royal Challengers Bangalore's dominant eight-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders, here on Wednesday.

Siraj virtually killed the contest, running through the KKR top order in a stunning display of swing bowling.

He ended with enviable figures of 4-2-8-3 and in the process emerged as the first bowler in the history of IPL to bowl two wicket-keeper maidens.

After Siraj's furious display, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (2/15) stymied KKR's revival hopes as RCB restricted them to their second lowest total of 84 for eight.

In reply, RCB completed the formalities in 13.3 overs, securing their seventh win from 10 matches and moved up a place to second in the table with 14 points.

RCB lost their opener Aaron Finch (16) after the Powerplay overs with Lockie Ferguson striking in his first over. Devdutt Padikkal (25) was run out as RCB lost two wickets in the same over. But skipper Virat Kohli (18 not out) and Gurkeerat Singh (21 not out) ensured there were no more hiccups as RCB won with 39 balls to spare.

It was a forgettable day for KKR who capped a slew of dubious records that included registering the lowest score in a 20-over IPL innings without a team getting bowled out.

It was for the first time a team played four maiden overs in a T20 innings. They also scored their lowest Powerplay score of 17 for 4.

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: S. Gill c Morris b N. Saini 1, R. Tripathi c de Villiers b M. Siraj 1, N. Rana b M. Siraj 0, T. Banton c de Villiers b M. Siraj 10, D. Karthik lbw b Y. Chahal 4, E. Morgan c Gurkeerat b Sundar 30, P. Cummins c Padikkal b Y. Chahal 4, K. Yadav run out 12, L. Ferguson not out 19. **Extras:** (LB-2, WD-1) 3. **Total (for 8 wickets in 20 overs) 84.**

Bowling: C. Morris 4-16-1, M. Siraj 4-2-8-3, N. Saini 3-0-23-1, I. Udana 1-0-6-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-15-2, Washington Sundar 4-1-14-1.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: D. Padikkal run out 25, A. Finch c Karthik b Lockie Ferguson 16, Gurkeerat Singh not out 21, Virat Kohli not out 18. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-3) 5. **Total (for 2 wickets in 13.3 overs) 85.** FoW: 1-46, 2-46.

Bowling: Pat Cummins 3-0-18-0, M. Prasidh Krishna 2-3-0-20-0, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-28-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-17-1

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	10	7	3	0	14	+0.774
Royal Challengers Bangalore	10	7	3	0	14	+0.182
Mumbai Indians	9	6	3	0	12	+1.201
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	5	5	0	10	-0.828
Kings XI Punjab	10	4	6	0	8	-0.177
Rajasthan Royals	10	4	6	0	8	-0.591
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	+0.008
Chennai Super Kings	10	3	7	0	6	-0.463

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

Must-win game for SRH & RR All set for Andhra T20 League today

Dubai, Oct. 21: The inexperienced young guns of both RR and SRH would like to put their hands up in testing times when both teams square off in a must-win IPL game on Thursday. Whether it is Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad of Sunrisers or Kartik Tyagi, Riyan Parag of the Royals, the youngsters from both sides will be feeling the pressure of doing something out of the box in case their illustrious seniors fail in that pursuit.

SRH are currently tottering at the second last place in the eight-team table with just six points from nine games while Royals are a notch ahead with eight points after their comprehensive win over CSK in the previous game.

While SRH can't afford to slip up even one bit with five games remaining, RR would be hoping to continue the winning momentum. — PTI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 12
● Rajasthan: 6
● Hyderabad: 6

MEETING IN 2019

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Rajasthan Royals by 5 wickets at Hyderabad
● Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 7 wickets at Jaipur

MEETING IN 2020

● Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 5 wickets at Dubai

FOR THE RECORD

● David Warner who scored 331 runs at an average of 41.37 in nine innings of as many matches, is the highest run-getter for Sunrisers Hyderabad in this IPL.
● Steven Smith who hit 99 sixes in 178 innings of 202 matches, needs just one six to complete a century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.

— S. PERVEZ KAISER

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

With an objective to give players a competitive platform to showcase their skills, the Andhra T20 League, conducted by the Andhra Cricket Association, begins on Thursday at RDT Sports Complex in Anantapur.

Six teams — Titans, Champions, Chargers, Warriors, Legends and Kings — will play 33 matches over 18 days with the final scheduled for November 8.

Teams will play each other twice before the top four contest the semifinals, winners of which will play the title match.

Matches will start at 9.30 am and 1.30 pm. Spectators are not allowed at the games. However, the entire tournament will be streamed live on FanCode app.

● Six teams — Titans, Champions, Chargers, Warriors, Legends and Kings — will play 33 matches over 18 days with the final on November 8.

K. S. Bharat (India cricketer), Ricky Bhui (former IPL player, Sunrisers Hyderabad), B. Ayyappa (former IPL player, Delhi Capitals), B. Sumanth (former IPL player, Sunrisers) and other Ranji Trophy cricketers will participate in the event.

"The tournament is planned in a bio bubble environment in view of the Covid 19 pandemic situation. The Andhra Cricket Association is following prescribed precautionary measures for the smooth conduct of the tournament," M. V. Siva Reddy, ACA CEO, said.

Holder rues no concern for BLM movement in IPL

Dubai, Oct. 21: West Indies captain Jason Holder has expressed his disappointment over none of the IPL teams taking a knee in solidarity with the "Black Lives Matter" movement, which, he feels, has gone unnoticed in the world's most glamorous cricket league.

Holder, who is member of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, made the statement while receiving the prestigious Peter Smith Award on behalf of the West Indies cricket team in a virtual ceremony organised by the Cricket Writers' Club.

The Peter Smith Award is an annual honour which recognises outstanding contribution to the presentation of cricket to the public.

"To be honest, I haven't had one conversation up here around it (BLM). Sometimes it seems it has gone unnoticed, which is a



Jason Holder

sad thing," Holder said in his address posted on Cricket West Indies website.

"Cricket West Indies has done an excellent job in continuing awareness of it. The women had a series in England where they wore the Black Lives Matter logo and continued to push the movement as well," he added.

Taking a knee as a gesture of support to Black Lives Matter started in the West Indies' Test series in England this summer.

It followed the global furore over African American George Floyd's death at the hands of a white police officer in Minneapolis.

But it was later discontinued for the subsequent tours of Pakistan and Australia.

"...it's a long debate, a long hard challenge, a long road. We as people need to continue to come together... and genuinely find ways to fix the inequalities in the world," Holder further added. — PTI

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