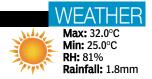
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VIJAYAWADA | THURSDAY | 22 OCTOBER 2020



Forecast: Rain. Max/Min temp. 32/25 ºC





7,93,299

11,32,951

Vol. 32 No. 141 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

SHORT TAKES

Low pressure to be

deep depression

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 northeast 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

Chinese corporal returned by Army

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.





WORLD 5
Pope endorses same-sex civil unions in interview

| Section | Sectio



2,26,124 (+1,579) 1,287 (+5) 1,287



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Three injured near Indrakeeladri temple

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

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

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

ers were engaged in clean-

goddess, sanitation workwith simple injuries said

Jagan presents silk robes at temple day, on Wednesday. Temple officials decided

pm to 9 pm.

to allow extra devotees

due to auspicious day

extending the time from 6

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 tem-

ple chief priest, Siva Prasad Sarma, in a tradi-

tional manner.

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

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

that the incessant rains

■ Page 2: CM inspects landslide areas 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

₹3,737 CR FESTIVAL **BONANZA FOR CENTRAL 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.

The decision to give a productivity-linked bonus and non-productivity-linked bonus for 2019-2020 was taken at the Union Cabinet meeting, minister of information and broadcasting Prakash Javadekar told reporters. The bonus ahead Vijayadashami and Diwali will encourage the middle-class to go out and spend and thus add to the demand in the economy, he

CABINET APPROVES CHANGES IN J&K PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT

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



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 Viiavawada on Wednesdav.

YSR Bima will benefit 1.41 crore families: CM

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

for this scheme and village/ward volunteers will visit the families and lage/ward enrol the names of the

primary householders.

being made, Jagan also announced that immedi-

ate assistance of Rs 10,000

to families through vil-

lage and ward secretari-

All families with white ration cards are eligible

Page 2: CM moved by plight of poor families







THE DAY-DATE

PRESIDENT BRACELET

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



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 con-

travention to the rules

and regulations would be

fined Rs one lakh per

Driving dangerously or using hand-held commu-

nication 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

plying a vehicle without insurance for the first offence and Rs 4,000 for

Driving vehicles exceed-

ing 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 driv-

er who refuses to stop to

offences.

subsequent offences.

subsequent

motor vehicle.

Fines for violations

revised in state

DC CORRESPONDENT

Andhra Pradesh

transport department on Wednesday issued a GO

No 21 under the provi-

sions of the motor vehi-

cles (amendment) act,

2019 revising the compounding fee (penalties) for better enforcement of

the provisions of the

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 inspec-

tor of police and also traf-

fic SIs to levy the revised compounding fee on vio-

lators of transport rules.

The visible violations

include not wearing hel-

mets, not wearing seat

belts, speeding, using cell phones while driving

among others which

checking officer in the

discharge of duties and refusal to give informa-

tion would attract a fine

of Rs 750 for motorcycles

and light motorcycles and

Rs 1.000 for heavy vehi-

Allowing unauthorised

Obstruction of

enactment.

STATE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Shuddha Shashti Star: Poorvashada till 1.01 am

Varjyam: 10.46 am to 12.21 pm Durmuhurtam: 10.05 am to 10.51 am; 2.41 pm to 3.28 pm Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR Rabbi-ul Awwal 4, 1442 AH

> Fajar: 5.35 am **Zohar:** 1.30 pm **Asar:** 4.45 pm

Maghrib: 5.56 pm **Isha:** 8.15 pm SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.02 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM MOONRISE TODAY 11.33 AM MOONSET TOMORROW 11.53 PM



Selling onions is more profitable and safe!

OTHER STORIES

ADVISER LODGES PLAINT 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 cul-

prits 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 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 JAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Minister for power, forest, science and technology, Balineni Srinivas Reddy said that the state government is giving utmost priority to environment protection besides industrial development. He said this after laving 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 mem-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 stadi-um 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

CM INSPECTS

LANDSLIDE

AREAS

goddess

Avadhani

From Page 1

Mr Jagan, in traditional

attire, with the chanting of holy mantras by priests, offered the silk robes on his head, con-

ducted a special puja to

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 bless-

ings from the priests in

the temple. He remained

in the sanctum sancto-rum till the completion

of the rituals with min-

isters Peddireddy Rama-

chandra Reddy, Kodali

Venkateswara Rao, alias

Nani, AP Brahmin wel-

fare corporation chair-

man, Malladi Vishnu,

and others. CM Jagan

unveiled the 2021 calen-

dar of Durga Malles-

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

Temple trust board

chairman Somi Naidu

said that Mr Jagan sanc-

tioned ₹70 crore for the

development of the tem-

ple, orders pertaining to

the funds will be issued

soon. The funds will be

used for development

activities like strength-

ening the hill through

revetment works, estab-

lishing solar power for

the Nitya Annadanam kitchen, establishing a

tonsuring centre and

that there was a huge rush of devotees for dar-

shan of the goddess on

More than 13,000 devo-

tees who obtained online

tickets visited the temp-

le to have darshan from 6 am to 9 pm with a break during Jagan's

CHIEF MINISTER Jagan unveiled the

2021 calendar of

Swamy temple.

The CM sanc-

tioned ₹70 crore for

the development of

funds orders will be

the temple, orders

pertaining to the

issued soon. The

for the develop-

funds will be used

Durga Malleswara

this auspicious day.

Temple officials stated

other work.

darshan.

the Durga temple.

wara Swamy temple.

Durga



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, home minister M. Suchraitha, DGP Gautam Sawang pay tributes to Martyrs at the Police commemoration day at IGMC 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

Police and Fire Department personnel clear the boulders atop Indrakeeladri ghat

Rajamahendravaram to

get Heritage City tag soon

State archaeologi-

preparing a compre-

report, which will be

culture for declaring

Rajamahendravaram

Rajamahendravaram

has many historic struc-

tures from subsequent

periods, like Royal Mos-

que of 1353 A.D. near One

Town police station, resi-

dential building of social

reformer Kandukuri Vee-

resalingam, Markendaya

Swamy temple, Lakshmi

Narasimha Swamy temple of 18th century,

Mrukundeswara temple

building in 1053, over 100-

years' old Gautami Libr-

ary, residence of Sir Arth-

ur Cotton, Damerla Rama Rao Art Gallery, Kotilin-gala Ghat, Rallabandi

Subba Rao Archaeological

Museum, Havelock Bridge

across Godavari River, Sir

Arthur Cotton Barrage

and Cotton Museum,

cal authorities are

hensive project

submitted to the

Union ministry of

as Heritage City.

there would be no comproweaker 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-

gani Bharat Ram said, "As

the city was ruled by

Chalukyas in 11th and

Buddhism was practiced in 2nd Century BC, we are

trying to zero in of proofs

in this regard. This will

Rajamahendravaram

declared as Heritage City.

I have alreadv met the

Union cultural secretary

State archaeology com-

missioner G. Vani Mohan

said, "We are going to write to ASI seeking per-

mission to take up excava-

tions in the city for antiq-

uities belonging to the

Chalukya period as also to trace Buddhist relics. For

that matter, the city alre-

ady has several ancient

structures. Once the cen-

tre declares Rajamahen-

dravaram as Heritage City, it will help us to get

funds from the centre und-

er Heritage City Develop-

ment and Augmentation

Yojana. All findings dis-

covered in the process will

be preserved and put on

display for general pub-

and explained to him the

significance of the city."

centuries, and

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

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.

OFFICIALS RUSH TO THE SPOT TO **RESCUE STAFF**

From Page 1

employees and other departments rushed to the spot and rescued K Kiran, B. Sudhakar and V. Satya Saicharan from the debris and shifted them to a private hospi-tal for treatment. The officials led by Imtiaz and Vijayawada city police commissioner, B. Srinivasulu, rushed to the spot and pressed cranes into service to clear the debris.

The atmosphere turned tense due to the impending visit but Jagan decided to visit the temple at 4.45 pm giving time for rescue operation.

Inspecting the spot wnere the boulders fell, Jagan inquired about the incident. The temple trust board chairperson Pyla Somi Naidu, said Jagan announced ₹70 crore to the temple's development. He said that the hilly areas would be modernised by installing iron meshes and fences to restrain

the falling of boulders. Temple EO M.V. Suresh Babu, refuted allegations about negligence of temple officials in the falling of the boulders. Imtiaz visited the hospital and consoled the three injured persons. He directed DM &HO, Dr M. Suhasini, to provide required treat-

SEC moves HC for release of funds COUNSELS FOR

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission has moved the High Court complaining about nonrelease of funds for conduct of free and fair elections and also non-cooperation from the state gov-ernment 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 Kumar here on Wednesday. Counsels for state elec-

tion commissioner and SEC D.V. Sitharama Murthy and N. Ashwani 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

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

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

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 amount for accidental death and total permanent disability for people aged between 18-50 years is ₹5 lakh and for those

larly, 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 provid-

Moved by the plight of poor families facing hard-ships due to the lack of insurance coverage. Jagan at the elections had

scheme. YSR Bima fulfils that promise, provides security for families in need and stands by them. Deputy CM Dharmana

Krishnadas, ministers Satyanarayana, Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Gummanuru Jayaram, chief secretary, Nilam Sawhney, officials and bankers were present

lic," Ms Vani Mohan statamong others. Rajahmundry MP Marpromised to bring in an between 51-70 years is ₹3 Renovation works taken up at several schools are yet to be completed

HMs wary over opening of schools from Nov. 2

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, OCT. 21

SAMRITAN | DC

/IJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Rajamahendravaram is to

get the Heritage City tag soon, with state archaeo-

logical authorities collect-

ing concrete evidence of

the city being once ruled

by Chalukya dynasty in

10th and 11th centuries.

Proof of this, along with

evidence of ancient mon-

uments, will be submitted

to the centre, so that it co-

uld declare Rajamahend-

ravaram as Heritage City.

Archaeological depart-

ment has prepared a plan

to look for remnants of

Chalukya dynasty in the

city. It is seeking permis-

sion from Archaeological

Survey of India to under-

take excavations near

unearthing antiquities

and relics. Authorities are

confident of finding relics

of Buddha underneath

the city, as Buddhism was

practiced in the area dur-

An underground tunnel

was also there from Chit-

rangi Palace to Sarangad-

hara Metta, which could

NAADU NEDU

form part of the proof.

ing the 2nd Century BC.

Chitrangi Palace

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 disarmetal in the premises and

"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 works before October 31, he completed. Moreover, we are doubted over meeting the yet to receive furniture too," deadline. When contacted, District the HM said while stressing that the conditions are no different in most of the

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

Attributing the delay completion works to temporary paucity for funds, he said the funds are released now to the schools to expedite the

Mr Subba Rao added that only fixing of sanitaryware and tiles is pending in most of the schools and there is enough time to execute such sundry works. He also reminded that only half the strength of the school will turn up each day because of the decision to hold classes on alternative days.

Meanwhile, 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 back-Coronavirus.

ment activities.

ray with sand and blue tiles stored in classrooms for Naadu-Nedu works.

schools in the region. Referring to the stipulation from the authorities to

complete the development

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. Laksmi 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

MAN ARRESTED FOR CHEATING WOMEN ON SM

AVINASH P SUBRAMANYAM |

TIRUPATI, OCT. 21

The Pakala circle police have arrested a 27-year-old man for committing cyber fraud and cheating women. The accused Guna Sekhar, hailing from Gollapalli, used to befriend women on social media and after promising marriage, he used to borrow large sums of money from them.

According to Pakala CI Aseerwadam, a woman has approached the Pakala police after a conman cheated her by introducing himself as Vikram Siddarth Chowdary – a software engineer working

at Google in Hyderabad. "Gayatri, a native of Pakala mandal said in her complaint that she met the man some time ago online and they were in touch through Facebook for months. He started communicating with her on the phone recently and expressed interest in getting married to her. After a while, he told Gayatri that he needed money to meet his personal needs and borrowed ₹10 lakh from the victims in several part payments online," the CI said.

When she asked him to return her money, he refused and threatened her of dire consequences if she approaches him again. She further filed a complaint with Pakala police, who immediately swung into action and arrested Guna Sekhar at Jangalapalli village. He has been booked for impersonation and extortion.

During the interrogation, police learnt that Guna Sekhar was in the habit of targeting women online and befriending them. He wins their trust and then cheats them by extorting money and gold jewellery. The accused is found to have cheated several women in AP and Telangana.

Meanwhile, police also seized two country made guns, which are in the possession of the accused. They also seized ₹5 lakh in cash and a high-end motorbike worth ₹1.5 lakh from the accused.

AP to touch 8L Corona cases

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

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN |

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

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 74,931 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 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

The rate of recovery among Covid-19 infected patients has been good in 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 C. NARAYANA RAO

AP LAUNCHES 10-DAY COVID AWARENESS PROGRAMME

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

government Wednesday launched a 10-day Covid awareness programme across the state, which will last till October 31. Chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, along with Krishna dis-trict 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

70,313 in Chittoor, 60,764 in

Anantapur, 59,118 in Guntur, 57,711 in Kurnool,

57,373 in Nellore, 53,946 in

Visakhapatnam, 47,904 in

Prakasam,

51,632

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

Srikakulam, 37,251 in

Vizianagaram, 32,126 in Krishna, 2,461 from other

states and 434 from other

Krishna registered five

cases of death of Covid-19

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 spread-

District collector Imtiaz said for the past six months, doctors, health workers, police, village ward volunteers, and sanipandemic.

tation workers have been working relentlessly in dealing with the Covid infected patients followed by three each in Anantapur, Chittoor, East

Srikakulam, Visakhapa-

ous 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 Godavari, Guntur, Nellore has a positive rate at 19.51 and Prakasam and one 99,207 samples and has a positive rate of 5.76.

tnam and West Godavari.

Among cumulative death cases, Chittoor recorded

the highest with 752, fol-

lowed by 594 in Guntur, 593

in East Godavari, 563 in

Visakhapatnam, 485

West Godavari, 483 in

Nellore, 480 in Kurnool, 420 in Kadapa, 338 in Srikakulam and 226 in

The state health authori-

ties discharged 4,739 Covid-19 infected patients

after recovery from vari-

Telangana tested

537

Prakasam,

Anantapur,

Vizianagaram.

Krishna,

Parents unaware of Corona in kids

D SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC KURNOOL OCT. 21

Twenty nine high school going students of Srisailam never knew that they had come in contact with the deadly Covid-19 virus. Nor did their parents and teachers in the school know. They were quite normal, not showing any glaring symptoms, from a running nose or high fever to coughing is how one teacher of the private school from where eight students tested positive sending shock waves among the student com-munity across the state of Pradesh, Andhra described it.

Sixteen boys and 13 girls were tested positive in private schools Srisailam.

Srisailam medical officer, Rangaiah, said they were randomly checking schools in the Sunnipenta area where out of 167 students, 29 tested positive. He said Wisdom school has 18, the highest number of positive students followed by Srisailam Mata school with eight cases detected. DAV school has three positive cases, he said and all the students were home-isolated and are doing well.

A person who was working in the state tourism office said two of his children tested positive. His daughter, a student in the eighth standard, and son in the ninth, both tested positive. He said had the testing not been done, he

would never have known that his children were infected with the coronavirus. "My children avirus. were quite normal and did not even show the slightest unease," he said. 'The medical officials gave us medical kits with detailed instructions. I have kept my son and daughter in one room and myself and my wife are living in another room. We are feeding our children protein-rich food monitoring them

another parent

whose wife is a volunteer

in Sunnipenta said his daughter was detected with coronavirus on October 12. "Ever since then, we have kept her in a secluded room in our house and provided all the required medicines and the food to keep her healthy." He also said there were no visible symptoms of coronavirus. However, he received a message from the Covid-19 testing centre that his daughter's second sample was negative and she is recovered from it. He expressed happiness that a bad phase was over in their family.

The district medical and health officer, Dr Rama Giddaiah, said home isolation is an effective solution and asked parents to take care of their children during the coming days of winter. He said they should maintain physical distance and wear masks and sanitise their hands frequently.

LORD TAKEN ON HANUMANTHA VAHANAM

DC CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI, OCT. 21

On the sixth day of Srivari Navaratri brahmotsavam. Malayappa Swamy was taken out on Hanumanta /ahanam in Kodanda Ramudu Avataram.

In the evening, Lord was taken on Pushpaka Vimanam in the guise of Govardhana Krishnudu.

The Pushpaka Vimana seva is a fete observed in Srivari temple once in three-years on the occa-Navaratri Brahmotsavams.

Tributes paid to police martyrs

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT.

Police observed Police Commemoration Day Wednesday. Vizag city and rural police organised a comparade memoration 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.

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

Commissioner

New Dy conservator for 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 in operation management. He was conferred with the National Award for Marine Evironmental Protection in 2018 for the stellar role in extinguishing major fire on oil tanker MT Genessa.

DEFER SAINIK SCHOOLS TEST: RIGHTS FORUM

DC CORRESPONDENT

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

president State Dr Gondu Sitaram, in a meeting here on Wednesday said arrangements have been made to conduct the test across the country by National Testing Agency on January 10 next year to enrol students in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice to the General Publi that according to instructions of my

pay to the police martyrs' would discharge Classes VI and IX. the duties with dedication.

client Apex Mines and Minerals its partner Boggavarapu Ankamma Rao, S/o. Veeraiah and Kurra Jogeswara Rao, S/o. Sambasiva Rao constituted above referred firm and the same was registeredd before the registrar of firm. On 3-8-2019 my clients desolved the firm, to that effect deed of disolution of firm executed and the same was YADLAPALLI KOTESWARA RAO

New warship to be commissioned

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

The last of four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvettes *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 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 selfreliant 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. The ship's weapons and sensors suite is predominantly indigenous and showcases the nation's growing capability in this niche area.

Kavaratti has state-of-theart weapons and sensor suite capable of detecting prosecuting marines.

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CHANGE OF NAME

THOTA MARY SUSMITHA W/o Thota resh, R/o D.No.1-3/7-10, CSI Church Street Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada, Krishna Dist. A.P., India. In my son's School Records, P.F A/c., etc., my name was wrongly mentioned as THOTA SUSMITHA instead of THOTA MARY SUSMITHA. My Actual Name is THOTA MARY SUSMITHA W/o Thota Naresh.



Cabinet approves

J&K panchayat Act

amendments to

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 pow-

ers of MLAs and members of legislative bodies. The amendments were made by

the home ministry on

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,

October 16.

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-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 bilat-eral, 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 brinksmanship in Asia are bound to figure during the talks, observers point out.

FAROOQ ABDULLAH INTERROGATED

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 (EC) 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. Shivraj ministry later. The court has set December 14 this

They were inducted in the 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 min-

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.

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 tne 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 oxy-

gen besides warm clothes

Indian Army hands over captured Chinese corporal

Wang Ya Long, was hand-

ed back to China after the

completion of all formalities. He was caught by

the Indian Army in the

Demchok sector of east-ern Ladakh on Monday.

He was provided medical assistance, including oxygen, food and warm

clothes, to protect him fr-

om the vagaries of ext-

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, inadvertently ended up tney said there is nothing to suggest that it was a deliberate act by the Chinese side. However, all standard procedures 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 herdsmen 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 on the Indian side. appears to have genuinelost his way and we do not rule out the possibili-ty 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 one 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 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.

climatic conditions.

Chinese foreign min-

istry 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 consen-

sus reached at the sev-

enth round of talks.

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 hich 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 Pakistan Army has increased its presence along Border International (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

tne valley Sudden increase 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

GJM quits NDA,

KOLKATA, OCT. 21

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 nongazetted Central employees, will benefit 13.70 lakh staff. It will cost the exchequer ₹946

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.

to support TMC when he was on the run with more than 150 cases, includ-

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC

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 ne surfaced in Kolkata

ing under the Únlawful 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 govern-ment 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 commu-nities in the list of Scheduled Tribes. We were in the afternoon for the cheated. So we are quitting first time in three years, the NDA."

Kaziranga National Park open for tourists

MANOJ ANAND | DC

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. Hoping that Assam's tourism sector would be able to overcome the setback of Covid-19 lockdown soon, Sonowal told reporters that the national park has been opened for both domestic and foreign tourists.

He also expressed optimism that the unemployed youths in and around Kaziranga would find meaningful employment again through jeep safari and

other tourism activities. Referring to one time financial assistance provided to people engaged in jeep safari by the state government to alleviate their economic stress brought by Covid-19, Sonowal said that the state government would take more such initiatives in future for providing succour to the people engaged in tourism sector of the state.

He also called on the people of the five districts covered by Kaziranga National Park and the local communities residing in the surrounding areas of the park to extend full hospitality to the visitors coming from outside so that the best picture of the state can be presented to the outside world.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the achievement of the state government in

 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 EC issues notice to Kamal Nath over 'item' jibe DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

The Election Commission of India has issued a notice to senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath for his derogatory comments against BJP candidate Imarti Devi. Kamal Nath, during a bypoll election rally at Dabra, Gwalior on October 18 had, without naming Imarti Devi, addressed her as "item," a comment that has not gone down well with the ECI.

The ECI has said that such a derogatory statement is a violation of the General Code of Conduct and construed as being repugnant to the honour and asked Kamal Nath to submit an explanation in the next 48 hours failing which the ECI will take

The ECI has mentioned that it has received a complaint from National

MP CONG SPLITS, **DEMAND NATH'S APOLOGY**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 21

Veteran leader Kamal Nath's 'item' jibe against state women and child development minister Imarti Devi, which triggered outrage, has divided Congress in Madhya Pradesh with an influential section of leaders demanding apology from him for his 'outrageous' utterance.

Commission of Women chairperson saying Nath has used the derogatory remark for a woman minister and has "strongly condemned such irresponsible and disparaging statement by a person holding responsible office.

violating Covid norms LJP releases party's

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.

vision document NAYEAR AZAD | DC problems being faced by

PATNA, OCT. 21

LJPChief Chirag Paswan on Wednesday released his party's manifesto for the upcoming Bihar

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

ventive

"Observance of the pre-"Instances of such pubmeasures 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

Bihar.

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

lic meetings have come to notice of the ECL 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.

the people of the state. The manifesto promis-

es to create job opportu-

nities, better policies

for education, health

and industrial growth

in the state. The vision

document also empha-

sizes on constructing a

grand Sita temple in

Sitamarhi on the lines

of Ram Temple in

Ayodhya to promote

religious tourism in

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 Chowrangi 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

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.

the cause of the explosion. A

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 largestever 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 "shisheh" 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

Francis endorsed samesex 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

EU TO UK: YOU

AND EAT IT TOO

CAN'T HAVE CAKE

Brussels, Oct. 21: The

European Union took a

defiant tone on Wedne-

sday as the standoff over

resuming post-Brexit trade negotiations with the United Kingdom intensified, telling Lond-

on that "you cannot have

your cake and eat it too."

European Council Presi-

dent Charles Michel

refused to bow to British

insistence for the EU to

fundamentally change

its negotiating stance

and cede more to UK

demands. Michel said

instead that if Britain

wants vast access to the

kets, it will equally have

to keep its waters open

to EU fishermen, some-thing the UK govern-

ment has said it doesn't want to do. In a combat-

ive display at the European Parliament, Mich-

el said: "Yes, we want to

keep access to UK waters for our fisher-

men. Exactly like the

UK, too, want to keep

access to our huge and

diversified markets for

Britain and the EU

have been attempting to

strike a new trade deal

since the UK left the bloc

on Jan. 31. Those talks

ground to a halt last week, with each side

calling for the other to

compromise in order to

secure a deal. The EU

said it was happy to keep talking, but Johnson said Friday that negotia-

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

President Charles Michel

refused to bow to British

insistence for the EU to

fundamentally change

its negotiating stance

and cede more to UK.

BRITAIN AND the EU

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since the UK left the

bloc on Jan. 31.

have been attempting to

tions were over.

its companies.

27-member bloc's



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

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 meet-ings 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 televi-

Support for Thai royals

himself. He said he negotiated his way in through 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 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 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.

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

Washington, Oct. 21: rnational Hotels Manag-President Donald Trump ement LLC, which the tax spent a decade unsuccessfully pursuing projects in China, operating an office there during his first run for president and forging a partnership with a maior 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 Inte-

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 eff-

orts 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.'

(Trump International Hotels Management LLC) had opened an account with a Chinese bank having offices in the US in order to pay the local taxes associated with efforts to do business there

> 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.

Don says will win by 'bigger' margin

Erie (US), Oct. 21: US US into a socialist coun-President Donald Trump try. "It's time to send a 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 De-mocratic 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

try. "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 support-ers in Pennsylvania on Tuesday. Trump asserted November 3 is going to be bigger than that of 2016. This is going to be bigger than four years ago.'



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 circumsta-nces surrounding the arrest of former premier Nawaz Sharif's son-inlaw, 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 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."

Europe records weekly high of 927K cases

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

rld 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

of Narathiwat on Wednesday.

Geneva, Oct. 21: The Wo-

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 all new cases reported worldwide. Czech the

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 the week New York, Oct. 21: A new government report shows that since the Coronavirus pandemic began, the US has seen 300,000 more dea-

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 Se-

ths than it usually would.

ptember, 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

CDC: 300K more deaths in US

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

other deaths too.

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

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 Wedne-

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

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

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-Sah-

United Nations, Oct. 21: 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 pover-

ty 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 imp act of the pandemic. "One in six children living in extreme poverty is one in six children struggling to 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.

survive," UNICEF Director Programmes Sanjay

"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

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

years," Wijesekera said.

Anju vice-prez of

athletics body

SHORT

New Delhi: Incumbent Adille Sumariwalla is set to be elected unopposed as Athletics Federation of India (AFI) presi-dent 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 secre-

taries and eight executive com-

mittee members. — PTI

Three U-19 Bangla players Covid +ve

Dhaka: Three Bangladesh U-19 national team cricketers have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus, while 15 others are symptomatic. In a report published in Dhakabased The Business Standard,

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) game development manager AEM Kawser was quoted as saying that all the players were part of the training camp being held at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) as a part of Junior Asia Cup preparations, a tournament which now stands cancelled. "According to our protocol, we have to isolate everyone who has come into contact with symptomatic persons," Kawser said. The BCB has shut down

Covid-recovered

the camp. -PT

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 Eife Grand Prix at the Nrburgring 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, Stroil 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

Coco in second

in Portugal." — AP

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 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

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

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: 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six

Regd. No. AP/VJA/41/24/2000.

Printed and published from Vijayawada by **K.Sudhakar** on behalf by K.Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Press, No. C 3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, VIJAYAWADA, RNI Registration No.45061/90 Editorial: 2555962, Fax: 2555234 Board: 2555284, 2555287, 2555185 Grams: CHRONICLE Editor: Kaushik Mitter

SUPER SIRAJ SHOW

Seamer wrecks KKR as RCB win big

Pacer Mohammed Siraj's fiery opening spell, accentuated by two rare wicketmaiden overs, 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

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-maiden overs. After Siraj's furious dis-

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 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

that included registering the lowest score in a 20over 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

for KKR who capped a

slew of dubious records



Mohammed Siraj (right) of Royal Challengers Bangalore celebrates taking the wicket of Tom Banton of Kolkata Knight Riders during their IPL match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

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 Ibw b Y. Chahal 4, E. Morgan c Gurkeerat b Sundar 30, P Cummins c Padiklal 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. FoW: 1-3, 2-3, 3-3, 4-14, 5-32, 6-40, 7-57,

Bowling: C Morris 4-1-16-1, 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

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

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	Р	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

Holder sad with no BLM 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 organ-ised by the Cricket Writers'

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

lic.
"To be honest, I haven't had one conversation up here around it (BLM). Sometimes it seems it has gone unnoticed, which is a sad thing," Holder said in his address posted on Cricket West Indies web-

site. "Cricket West Indies has



Jason Holder

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 ges ture of support to BLM started in the West Indies' Test series in England this summer. It folowed 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

All set for Andhra T20 League today

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.
K. S. Bharat (India cricketer), Ricky Bhui (former IPL player, Sunrisers Hyderabad), B. Ayyappa

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

Spectators are not allowed at the ground. The event will be streamed live on FanCode app.

(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 situa-tion. The Andhra Cricket Association is following prescribed precautionary measures for the smooth conduct of the tournament," M. V. Siva Reddy, ACA CEO, said.

Must-win game Bravo out of IPL for SRH & RR

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, Rivan Parag of the Royals the voungsters 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 game 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 momen-

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD OVERALL:

Rajasthan: 6 Hyderabad: 6 **MEETING IN 2019**

 Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Rajasthan Royals by 5 wick-ets 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 Sunriseres 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 QAISER Chennai Super Kings all-rounder 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-The 37-year-old Bravo, 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



Dwayne Bravo

games with an economy rate of 8.57.

CSK's campaign has already been derailed after seven losses from 10 games. They are currently currently lying at the bottom of the league table. CSK were already hamstrung by absence Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh, both

of whom pulled out citing personal reasons.

Rash rocks PSG, Barca win United had taken the

Paris, Oct. 21: Marcus Rashford once again sank Paris Saint-Germain after netting the decisive goal in a 2-1 Champions League win in the French capital on Tuesday, while Barcelona sent a message with a thumping 5-1 victory over Ferencyaros.

Rashford, who scored the winning spot-kick when United knocked PSG out in 2019, drilled home a low shot three minutes from the end which won a thrilling Group H contest at a nearempty Parc des Princes.

lead in the 23rd minute when Bruno Fernandes slotted home from the spot at the second attempt, but Anthony Martial inexplicably headed Neymar's corner into his own net 10 minutes after the break.

Ronald Meanwhile, Koeman got his first Champions League campaign as Barcelona coach off to a winning start with a confident win over Ferencearos that gives them control of Group G.

THE RESULTS

Barcelona (Lionel Messi 27-pen, Anshu Fati 42, Philippe Coutinho 52, Pedri 82, Ousmane Dembele 89) **Ferencyaros** (Kharatin 70-pen)

Manchester United (Bruno Fernandes 23pen, Marcus Rashford 87) **Paris Saint Germain** (Anthony Martial 55-og)

Chelsea

Juventus (Morata 46, 84) Dynamo Kiev

Lazio

0

23-og, Akpa Akpro 76) Borussia Dortmund (Erling Braut Haaland 71) **RB** Leipzig (Angelino 16, 20)

Istanbul Basaksehir

(Ciro Immobile 6, Hitz

KALYAN GOLD RATE ₹.4705 per g" **♦ GIVING AWAY ♦** (VALUE ADDITION) ON DIAMOND JEWELLERY FOR GOLD JEWELLERY 300 kg gold given away in the form of instantly redeemable unconditional gold vouchers/ gold coins when you shop across our outlets during the campaign period. DHANTERAS PRE-BOOK OFFER WITH RATE PROTECTION VIJAYAWADA - Opp. PWD Ground, M.G. Road. Ph. 0866-2578233 GUNTUR - Door No: 5-87-108, Ward No: 34, Lakshmipuram Opp. Reliance Smart. Ph: 0863-2223133