

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 25 OCTOBER 2020



**BUSINESS | 5**  
**RJD anarchy drove away Nitish: Nadda**



**WORLD | 7**  
**Biden promises free vaccine if elected**

**SPORTS | 8**  
**Madrid beat Barcelona in Clasico**



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**DC WISHES**  
ITS READERS A VERY HAPPY DASARA

## HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of **DECCAN CHRONICLE** will remain closed today for Dasara. There will be no edition on Monday, October 26, 2020

## WEATHER

**Max:** 33.2°C  
**Min:** 20.3°C  
**RH:** 54%  
**Rainfall:** Nil  
**Forecast:** Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temperature 33.2/20.3 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+51,997)	(+626)
78,62,483	1,18,535
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,273)	(+5)
TS: 2,30,274	1,303
(+3,342)	(+22)
AP: 8,04,026	6,566

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,27,54,704
DEATHS
11,52,536
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
213
worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Titih:** Nija Ashwavyuja Shuddha Navami till 7.42 am  
**Star:** Danishta till 4.23 am (Monday)  
**Variyam:** 6.56 am to 8.39 am  
**Durmuhurtam:** 4.12 pm to 4.58 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 4.30 pm to 6 pm  
**HJRI CALENDAR**  
**Rabbi-ul Awwal 7, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 5.11 am  
**Zohar:** 12.10 pm  
**Asar:** 4.12 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.54 pm  
**Isha:** 7.02 pm  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.12 AM**  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.47 PM**  
**MOONSET 12.56 AM**  
**MOONRISE 2.12 PM**

## COUNTER POINT



**I promise to get a Covid vaccine manufacturing unit in your town and provide jobs!**

## SHORT TAKES

### TRP: Broadcasters against CBI probe

**New Delhi:** The News Broadcasters Association on Saturday urged the government to withdraw the CBI probe into alleged manipulation of Television Rating Points (TRP), saying the speed with which the investigation was transferred to the agency raises doubts about intentions. In a statement, the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) expressed serious concern at "the open-ended FIR registered by the Uttar Pradesh Police against the media for alleged TRP manipulation".

## INSIDE

**CITY... PAGE 3**  
**Covid-19 fails to dent spirit of Bathukamma**

## Dasara celebrations



A Ravana's effigy is all set to be burnt on the eve of the auspicious occasion of Vijayadasami in Hyderabad on Saturday. — P. SURENDRA

## AP STUDENT TOPS TS EAMCET; TOP 3 RANKERS GIRLS

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

A student from AP topped the agriculture and medical stream of the Telangana state Eamcet, the results of which were released on Saturday. Girls bagged the top spots in the test which was conducted by the JNTU-H on behalf of the TS Council of Higher Education. Guthi Chaitanya Sindhu of Tenali secured the first rank, while Bareddy Sai Thrisha Reddy of Sangareddy and Tummalala Snikitha of Hyderabad secured the second and third ranks, respectively.

■ **Page 2:** All three are NEET All India rankers

## DRUNKARD BEHEADS MOM FOR LIQUOR CASH

**Hyderabad, Oct. 24:** A man allegedly beheaded his 65-year-old mother and ran away with the severed head after she refused to give him money to buy liquor, police said on Saturday. The incident was reported from a village in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana in the wee hours of the day, the police said. The 45-year-old was caught near a tank with the chopped-off head found hurled into bushes, they said. A case has been registered and a complaint lodged by the man's older brother. —PTI

## Siddipet collector shifted out ahead of byelection

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

Just ahead of the byelection to the Dubbaka Assembly seat, the government transferred Siddipet collector P. Venkata Rami Reddy on Saturday night. He has been replaced by Bharati Hollikeri collector of Mancherial. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the government transferred the Siddipet collector following directions from the

● **UNCONFIRMED REPORTS** indicate that the government transferred the Siddipet collector following directions from the Election Commission. Dubbak segment falls under the Siddipet district.

Election Commission. Dubbak segment falls under the Siddipet district.

## AP takes over 40 acres of GITAM 'encroached' land

**K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC**  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 24

In a midnight operation that lasted till the early hours of Saturday, revenue officials in the presence of police demolished a compound wall facing the beach road and the main gate of the campus of the GITAM deemed-to-be university to free 40 acres of encroached land. The campus houses an engineering college, a dental college, a medical college and educational institutions spread over 120 acres of prime land. The university was founded by late TD MP M.V.V.S. Murthy and is being run by his grandson and TD leader M. Sri Bharat. A GITAM official said no notice was served to them before demolishing the walls. An official statement is yet to be issued. Before

carrying out the meticulously planned 'Operation Demolition', the beach road leading to the educational institutions was barricaded. The hospital belonging to the medical college houses several Covid-19 patients. Revenue divisional officer P. Kishore and his team conducted an inquiry and reportedly found that the GITAM campus had encroached 40.51 acres of land at Rushikonda and Yendada of Vizag city. GITAM authorities constructed compound walls and some structures in the allegedly encroached acres of worth government lands. Based on the RDO report, a special investigation team is also probing into the matter. The RDO said that in 1981, the GITAM management applied to the AP government for allotment of 71.15 acres of land at Rushikonda and Yendada

trict. Venkata Rami Reddy was posted as collector of Sangareddy district in place of M. Hanumanth Rao who has been posted as district collector of Medak in the existing vacancy. Sikta Patnaik, Adilabad collector, was placed in full additional charge of Mancherial. Karimnagar collector K. Shashank was placed in full additional charge as collector of Peddapalli district.

## Festival gift: Centre okays interest sop

Interest on interest for loans up to ₹2 cr waived

## Dec. 31 deadline to file I-T returns

**New Delhi, Oct. 24:** In a relief to borrowers at the onset of Diwali, the government late on Friday night announced waiver of interest on interest for loans up to ₹2 crore irrespective of whether moratorium was availed. The Department of Financial Services came out with operational guidelines in the backdrop of SC's direction to implement the interest waiver scheme, which is likely to cost the exchequer ₹6,500 crore. Borrowers who availed the six-month moratorium will be compensated for the compound interest they will be charged by banks while those who paid on time will get as cashback the notional interest on the interest that they paid. The government said that banks will credit the amount into the customer's account and later claim it from the government. If the borrower has fully repaid the loan in between, the benefit will

**New Delhi, Oct. 24:** The government on Saturday further extended the deadline for filing returns by individual taxpayers for FY 2019-20 by a month till December 31. Also, the due date of furnishing Income-Tax Returns (ITRs) for taxpayers whose accounts require to be audited was extended till January 31, 2021. Earlier in May, it extended various due dates for filing ITRs for FY 2019-20 from July 31 to November 30. The due date for ITRS for "the taxpayers (including partners) who are required to get their accounts audited [for whom the due date is October 31, 2020] was extended to January 31, 2021", it added. —PTI

be calculated for the moratorium period when the loan was outstanding. The rate of interest will be the rate contracted in the loan. As per the guidelines, the scheme can be availed by borrowers in specified loan accounts for a period from March 1 to August 31, 2020. As per the eligibility criteria mentioned in the guidelines, the accounts should be standard as on February 29 which means that it should not be Non-Performing Ass=et. Housing loan, education loans, credit card dues, auto loans, MSME, consumer durable loans and consumption loans are covered under this. —Agencies

## Chakrasnanam to the Lord



TTD archakas perform Chakrasnanam to the processional idols of the Lord of the Seven Hills and his consorts in the newly built Pushkarini inside the holy shrine in Tirumala on Saturday. The Navaratri Brahmotsavams ended on Saturday.

## TRS tells youth leaders to scout for young aspirants

**MADDY DEEKSHITH DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

While the Opposition is busy criticising the government's failure in handling the urban flooding, the TRS is quietly moving ahead to strengthen the party cadre by motivating the young leadership to launch a membership drive in the GHMC area and attract aspiring leaders in each division to join the ruling party. TRS sources said that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had a

● **THE CM** had a survey conducted among the youth cadre to study if they have been distancing themselves from party activities. survey conducted among the youth cadre to study if they have been distancing themselves from party activities at the field-level. Rao invited aspiring young leaders to Pragathi Bhavan recently for an extended pep talk that lasted about six hours.

Sources said that he asked them to focus on the GHMC divisions to identify efficient young leaders from other parties who can help drive the TRS towards victory. Sources said the young TRS leaders were asked to take up a membership drive to attract youth across party lines. They are to assure the newcomers that the TRS would recognise hard-working leaders and offer them good positions. ■ **Page 4:** Veterans told to stay away

## EXPERT TALK 46% area inundated for 1st time, OU study shows

## Interlinked lakes key to halt flood

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

Interlinking the 185 waterbodies remaining in Hyderabad and diverting floodwater using advanced technology are the only ways to prevent flooding in the future in the state capital which is becoming increasingly prone to very heavy rainfall.

This was the view of engineers that emerged at a meeting convened by the Institute of Engineers, Telangana state chapter, on Saturday. Prof. M. Gopal Naik, head of Osmania University's civil engineering department, presented a startling data on the floods that occurred after the 32 cm of rain on October 13 and 14 in the

city. About half the areas — 46 per cent — was inundated for the first time, and water stood at these areas for two to five-feet for more than 24 hours. Another 32.72 per cent areas were inundated two to five times previously. Seven per cent of the areas had suffered inundation six to 10 times in earlier years. Areas which had an

inundation history of more than 10 times comprised 14 per cent. Prof. Naik said that 40 per cent of the affected areas had water standing at two feet, 46 per cent had two to five feet and 12 per cent areas suffered inundation of more than five feet. ■ **Page 2:** Evaluate lake capacity: Expert

## Srisaillam power unit ready

**D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC**  
MAHBUBNAGAR, OCT. 24

The Srisaillam Left Bank Hydropower Station (SLBHP), which caught fire two months ago, is all set to start production. The power unit is run by the Telangana state government. Two turbines which were damaged in the fire have been repaired, said an official. Trial runs have been going on and

from Monday the power plant will go on stream. With this, 300 megawatts of power would be generated, said M. Prabhakar Rao, chief engineer, SLBHP. The power plant was shut down on August 22 after the accident in which nine people died. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Rao said that the plant has a capacity to generate 900 MW of power by running six turbines of 150 MW each. The plant

has lost 60 days of generation though the Srisaillam reservoir has unprecedented floodwater. With the additional 300 MW power generated by hydropower, the supply position of the TS Generating Corporation (TS Genco) has eased quite a bit, Rao said. The facility had been producing power continuously from July 20 till the time of the accident, according to sources.



## OTHER STORIES

## ALL 3 EAMCET RANKERS ARE NEET TOPPERS

FROM PAGE 1

All three are NEET rank holders. Sindhu was ranked 6 in NEET and Thrisha was placed 14th and Snikitha second.

This year, 78,981 candidates registered for the Eamcet A&M stream, of whom 63,857 appeared and 59,113 qualified.

Meanwhile, the first phase of counselling for engineering and pharmacy admissions ended on October 22. Of the 74,094 seats available, 50,288 were allotted — 50,137 for engineering courses and 151 to pharmacy. There are 19,998 engineering and 3,808 pharmacy seats left over.

## ONIONS TO BE SOLD AT ₹35 AT RYTHU BAZAARS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

The state government will sell onions at ₹35 per kilo at Rythu Bazaars in the city following the sharp rise in prices in the open market, according to a decision announced on Saturday.

The subsidised onions would be available at 11 Rythu Bazaars in the state capital, an press release said. Two kilos of onions would be sold per person and the consumers have to show any identity card.

The release quoted agriculture minister S. Niranjan Reddy as saying that the decision had been taken without any profit motive.

Deccan Chronicle had reported on the people's woes during the festival due to the rising onion prices.

## ₹70L IN GOLD SEIZED FROM AIR PASSENGERS

Hyderabad, Oct. 24: Gold worth over ₹70 lakh was seized from two passengers who arrived in the city airport in a flight from Visakhapatnam, Customs officials said on Saturday.

The passengers were intercepted on Friday based on specific information that they were carrying foreign-marked gold, a press release from the Customs said. The two were found with four cut pieces of gold weighing 1,386.32 gms valued at ₹70.95 lakh.

The gold had been concealed in the aircraft by the two international passengers travelling from Dubai to Visakhapatnam and the same aircraft was flying to Hyderabad, it said. Further investigations have begun, the release said. — PTT

## EVALUATE LAKE CAPACITY: EXPERT

From Page 1

To prevent this, Prof. Naik suggested evaluation of the capacity of the lakes and reduction in the tank outlet spillway depth without affecting residential colonies in the full tank level. He stressed immediate desilting of nalas and drainage systems and improving the capacity of nalas by constructing or raising the retaining walls. Vulnerable tanks must be identified and their embankments strengthened, he said.

The other experts at the meeting were Prof. P.G. Shastri, Warangal National Institute of Technology former director, Saibaba Reddy, former vice chancellor of JNTU, and Prof. Lakshman Rao among others. The meet was organised at the residence of TS Planning Board vice-chairman B. Vinod Kumar.

The experts suggested preparing a disaster mitigation action plan for all water bodies. They should be evaluated for the capacity of their overflow weirs, strength of the earthen embankments as well as emergency arrangements to deal with breaches to the bunds. All municipalities should plan for stormwater drainage and upgrade the existing systems. They recommended that experts meet every year after the monsoon season to take stock of the situation.

They suggested that citizens should be made responsible for conservation of rainwater as this would increase the groundwater levels. They suggested that the government make it mandatory to build rainwater conservation pits in each structure bigger than 200 square yards. They said that the micro-tunnelling system initiated by the Hyderabad Metro Water Works and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB), which could not be completed for various reasons.

## Traders cash in as rains dampen stored cotton

Offer ₹3,000 to ₹4,500 per quintal; TS yet to start purchasing cotton centres for Cotton Corporation of India

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, OCT. 24

Unseasonal rains in the state have only brought sorrow for cotton farmers, who were confident of a great festival season with outcome of crops being good.

The state government, which had promised minimum support price (MSP) for farmers, is yet to start purchasing centres for the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). Rains have in the meantime led to picked and stored cotton becoming black due to moisture. Because of this, farmers have started bringing their cotton to Ennumamula agriculture market.

Traders are cashing in on the situation and citing many reasons to bring down the cotton prices.

The government had announced ₹5,825 per quintal MSP for cotton, which has eight percent moisture, and ₹5,582 if the moisture is 12 percent. Traders are, however, offering ₹3,000 to ₹4,500 per quintal, citing that the amount of moisture in cotton is high.

Farmers complain that the price being offered by traders will barely cover their payments made to workers and transport charges for bring their produce to market.

"As suggested by government officers, I cultivated cotton and spent ₹10,000 per acre on my crop. But I have not received the MSP promised by the government. I got only ₹4,000 per quintal because of moisture and blackening of my produce. I have not even got back what I have invested," an unhappy B. Saidulu from Geesugonda complained.

Cotton Corporation of India had set up 70 purchase centres last year in the erstwhile Warangal district. Warangal Urban district alone is expected to harvest 90,000 metric tonnes of cotton, whereas the proposal is to set up 28 CCI centres in the district.

The corporation is expected to start purchasing cotton after Dasara festival, when a large quantity of cotton is expected to be brought to the market yard.

● **THE GOVERNMENT had announced ₹5,825 per quintal MSP for cotton, which has eight percent moisture, and ₹5,582 if the moisture is 12 percent.**



Above: A farmer takes back his cotton after he was offered a very low price from the Ennumamula agriculture market.



Left: BJP state president and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar inspects the damaged paddy crop in Huzurabad mandal in Karimnagar district.

— DC

## No bumper crops this kharif

A. RAVINDRA SESHU  
KHAMMAM/KOTHAGUDEM,  
OCT. 24

The prediction of bumper crops in kharif has been dampened in Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts due to the excess rains, followed by floods.

Breaches of canals and tanks at 25 places in both the districts due to overflowing rain waters and floods meant that farm officials' expectations of 6.75 lakh tons of paddy raised in 3.5 lakh acres in the two districts have been destroyed.

Sattupalli assembly segment is the worst affected where breaches took place in more than a dozen places.

The most damage took place in the last of the three spells of rain.

Mandals like Kamepalli, Kamepalli, Julurpad, M u l a k a l a p a l l i, Manuguru, Charla, Burgumpahad and Kothagudem were affected in the first and second spells.

The crops in Sattupalli, Vemsoor, Penuballi, Chintamani, Tirumalayapalem, Errupalem, Konigerla, Kalluru and Madhira were damaged in the third spell.

Almost 2.5 lakh farmers were hit either with floods or with the heavy rains. Small and marginal farmers have been

mostly affected by the calamity.

N. Nageswara Rao, a farmer from Chintakani, said "We faced losses way more than the amount being paid to us by the state government under Rythu Bandhu. We need serious financial assistance to get some relief."

Rathonicheruvu tank in Penuballi mandal, Betupalli tank in Sattupalli mandal, three tanks in Kalluru and rivulets in Madhira, Nelakondapalli and Enkoor overflowed.

The river Munner and Kinnerasani also witnessed heavy flooding.

Preliminary estimates state that the loss to agriculture is more than ₹100 crore and paddy, cotton and chilli are worst-affected.

The rains have destroyed paddy production, reducing it by nearly one lakh tons, with paddy plants being washed away and damage to paddy in one lakh acres in the two districts.

Experts predict heavy losses to cotton and chilli in the farm markets. Chilli prices may touch new heights in the season. C. Sridhar, farm market expert, said that farmers who kept their chilli in cold storages are lucky enough as they will get good prices for their produce as the rains have damaged the current crop in the two districts.

## White gold turns black across many districts

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC  
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 24

Frequent rains for past two months capped by recent heavy downpours have badly damaged cotton and paddy crops in erstwhile Karimnagar district.

Most farmers had opted to cultivate paddy and cotton after the state government issued guidelines in this regard.

Initial rains made farmers happy, but they suffered a shock due to heavy downpours when their crops reached their harvesting stage.

White gold turned into black in many regions while in some areas, budding cotton dropped off due to heavy rains. Standing paddy crops and harvested paddy got totally soaked the rain water. Thus, damage to both the crops was heavy.

According to official figures, farmers cultivated cotton crop over 98,000 acres during this Kharif

season in Rajanna Sircilla district.

But frequent rains at growing, fruiting and flowering stages damaged the crop in more than 20,000 acres.

In Peddapalli district, cotton was cultivated over 74,500 acres but rains

damaged crops over 10,000 acres.

In Karimnagar district, while cotton crop was planted across 72,000 acres, 13,000 acres was damaged due to rains.

Cotton was grown over 21,000 acres in Jagtial district of which 360 acres of

the crop was damaged.

Likewise, paddy farmers also faced huge losses.

The crop damaged in Karimnagar district extended over 20,302 acres, followed by 3,932 acres in Peddapalli district, 2,559 acres in Rajanna Sircilla district and 8,766 acres in Jagtial district.

After inspecting the damaged paddy crop in Huzurabad, state BJP chief and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar accused the TRS govern-

ment of not paying any compensation for damaged crops since the past six years. It is only wasting time in the name of forming committees, he said.

The MP pointed out that the central government had introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to help farmers avoid losses. But the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government is not interested in creating awareness about the scheme in the state, he alleged.

## Women keep Bathukamma spirit alive despite Covid

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

Lakes and tanks across the city and the Musi river were largely deserted during the nine-day Saddula Bathukamma festivities due to Coronavirus pandemic.

Women restricted themselves to functions within their bylanes. Only a few stepped out while adhering to physical distancing rules.

However, 'Naivedyam', including five types of rice dishes, were offered to the Goddess amid dance performances and a variety of programmes across the city.

Saturday also saw temples being decked up for Dasara on Sunday, which will mark the celebration of Lord Rama's victory over Ravana and slaying of Mahishasura by Goddess Durga.

Local festival committees, including the Bengali Samithi, have drawn up various programmes for the day — Puja for household and work tools, books, vehicles and other articles.

Traffic police have asked commuters to follow alternative routes owing to the immersion ceremony to be held on Tank Bund and along Necklace Road. Traffic coming from Panjagutta, Somajiguda and Raj Bhavan Road will proceed via Niranankari, Old Saifabad PS, Iqbal Minar, Ambedkar Statue towards Secunderabad and Basheerbagh.

Traffic from Iqbal Minar, Liberty and Telugu Thalli will proceed via Old Saifabad PS and Lakdikapul towards Mehdiapatnam or Khairatabad.

Vehicle traffic coming towards Tank Bund from



Top: Women take the ghatam for immersion at the Hussainsagar. Above right: A priest performs puja at the Vaishno Devi temple at Mahendra Hills. Below right: The decorated idol at the Bhagyalakshmi temple at Charminar. Below: Puja is performed to a Durga idol at a pandal organised by the Bangiya Sanskritik Sangha at Mahbub College on Saturday.

Secunderabad side will be diverted at Children's Park towards Lower Tank Bund based on the density of vehicles carrying Durga idols for immersion.

A report from Warangal said that women residing in apartments played Bathukamma within their complexes and in parking places instead of going to temples.

"This time our celebrations were subdued because of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, we must keep the festival spirit alive and ensure the traditions are followed," said C. Hema Sree of Kashibugga, Warangal.





## OTHER STORIES

## MAN DIES AFTER CONSUMING LIQUOR IN A CHALLENGE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 24

In a bizarre incident, a 40-year-old person consumed 750 ml liquor in a bet and succumbed. According to sources, Someshwaram Sailoo of Shanthinagar in Banswada town went to his agriculture fields on Friday with five other friends and consumed liquor.

Sailoo accepted a challenge from his friends and consumed 750 ml liquor, at a go, without water or soda.

After which, he fell unconscious, and his friends brought him home. Later, he was admitted, to the Government Area hospital in Banswada.

While undergoing treatment, he died on Friday night. Banswada police registered a case and investigation is on.

## BHEEM'S STATUE TO BE INAUGURATED ON NOV. 2

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, OCT. 24

Adivasis of Lokari (B) village in Gadeguda mandal have extended invitation to all the Adivasi political leaders and MLA's and MPs and collector and SP to attend the inauguration of Komaram Bheem's statue at Lokari (B) village on November 2.

A team of villagers led village Patel Mesram Roopdev, Sarpanch Mesram Jaru and event organizers on Saturday met the collector Sriktha Patnaik, SP Vishnu S Warrior and MP Soyam Bapurao and extended their invitation requesting them to attend the program. The villagers invited the Asifabad MLA Atram Sakku and ZP Chairperson Kova Laxmi for the event.

## AP MIN OFFERS SILK ROBES AT SRISAILAM TEMPLE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL OCT. 24

Andhra Pradesh minister for Labor Gummanur Jayaram offered silk robes (pattu vashtalu) to Lord Mallikarjunaswamy and Goddess Sri Bhramaramba Devi in Srisailem on Saturday on behalf of state government on the occasion of Dasara festival.

The minister, along with family members, arrived at the Srisailem temple on Friday night. On Saturday, the minister, offered special prayers to God and Goddess.

Later the he told media that the Srisailem temple would be developed on par with Tirumala temple and the chief minister has made a special focus to develop the Srisailem temple in all aspects, he added.

On the other hand, the temple authorities were setting up all arrangements to perform the Dasara festival on Sunday in a traditional manner.

● **THE MINISTER**, along with family members, arrived at the Srisailem temple on Friday night. On Saturday, he, offered special prayers to God and Goddess.

● **LATER HE** told the media that the Srisailem temple would be developed on par with Tirumala temple.

## Covid-19 fails to dent spirit of Bathukamma

Women gathered in their neighbourhoods and danced

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, OCT. 24

Despite the Coronavirus scare, women wore their best attire, gathered in small groups carrying flowers of different colours and species arranged in a cone shape within their lanes and in front of their homes to play Bathukamma the festival of flowers.

Bathukamma reflects the culture and tradition of Telangana.

Flowers available during the season like Cassia (Thangedu), Marigold (Banthi), Crossandra (K a n a k a m b a r a m ), Hibiscus (Mandhara), Celosia (Gunugu), N e l u m b o (Thamara) and other flowers were used to arrange the Bathukamma.

Women gathered danced in small circles, clapping and singing Bathukamma songs.

Traditionally women would gather in large numbers at the Thousand pillar temple, the Padmakshi temple and the Bhadrakali temple.

This year, attendance



Women play Bathukamma at Kashibugga in Warangal.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

was minimal at these venues, as women restricted themselves to playing in their neighbourhoods.

Women residing in apartments played within their complexes and parking lots instead of going to the temples.

C. Hema Sree of Kashibugga said, "This

time our celebrations were subdued because of the Coronavirus pandemic. We must keep the festival spirit alive and ensure that traditions are followed.

"Hence, we came out to play the only festival which defines the self-respect of women."

● **TRADITIONALLY** women would gather in large numbers at the Thousand pillar temple, the Padmakshi temple and the Bhadrakali temple.

## MIM leaders confident of winning more seats in Bihar

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC  
ADILABAD, OCT. 24

MIM leaders who are campaigning for the Bihar elections are expecting that the party will win 10 seats out of the 24 in which it is contesting in the 243-member Assembly. The MIM is in the fray as part of the Grand Democratic Secular Front (GDSF) that has four other parties, including the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

The MIM had won the Kishanganj seat in a byelection while its candidate Aktharul Imaan stood second, securing nearly 3.82 lakh votes, in the Seemanchal Lok Sabha seat in 2019.

Many leaders from Telangana state, particularly from Adilabad, are campaigning for party candidates in Bihar.

MIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi attracted large gatherings in the five public meetings he addressed on Saturday.

Former municipal vice-chairman from Adilabad, Farooq Ahmed, who was campaigning in Amour, said MIM Bihar president Aktharul Imaan was contesting from the Amour seat and was poised to win.

Former Hyderabad mayor Majid Hussain is the party in-charge for the Bihar elections.

The MIM has allocated six seats for Dalits, Other Backward Classes and Adivasis.

Party leaders assert that they have been pressing for unity between the communities.

Party leaders point out that they are contesting in Bihar elections in order to spread its wings in other states and to unite all mar-



Youth take a selfie with AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi after he addressed a public meeting in Bihar on Saturday ahead of the elections.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

ginalised sections.

The MIM won two MLA seats and one MP seat in Maharashtra in the previous elections.

● **THE MIM** had won the Kishanganj seat in a byelection while its candidate Aktharul Imaan stood second, securing nearly 3.82 lakh votes, in the Seemanchal Lok Sabha seat in 2019.

## Farmers raise doubts over maize prices in Telangana

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 24

The procurement and sale of maize have raised doubts among the farming community in Telangana state. The steep fall in the prices of maize has affected farmers. It is alleged, a few influential persons are involved in controlling the maize prices.

Maize is the second major crop cultivated in Telangana on 14 lakh acres, producing annually 16 lakh metric tonnes.

Usually, farmers in undivided Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Adilabad districts sown maize as an intercrop along with turmeric. The crop is cultivated in the Vanakalam (Khari), and Yasangi (Rabi) seasons. The production of baby corn is also on the rise.

To ensure minimum support price for maize, the state government set up the TS Marked as the nodal agency to procure

● **FARMERS WERE** forced to sell maize for as little as ₹900 to ₹1,100 per quintal, as it is difficult to stock maize.

maize from the farmers.

However, a few influential people are controlling the prices and stocks of maize in the state. As a result, farmers are unable to get the remunerative price for the crop. In the last week, farmers held protests and agitations in Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Jagtial districts.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao relented. He said, "Maize will be purchased by the government agencies at ₹1,850 per quintal."

He expressed displeasure that the crop was overcultivated and said, "The government has repeatedly advised farmers not to sow the crop in the monsoon season."

The government spent ₹1,668 crores last year for

maize procurement. Lack of demand for maize has led the TS Markfed to incur a loss of ₹845 crores."

Speaking to this newspaper, B. Ganga Reddy, a farmer from Armoor said that majority of the farmers sold maize for ₹900 to ₹1,100 per quintal, as it is difficult to stock maize. Unfavourable climatic conditions damaged the crop, taking advantage traders decreased the prices to an all-time low. "If the state government would have procured maize by Markfed, at least the prices in the market would have stabilised," he said.

There is not much difference in the purchasing price offered by traders and the procurement centres. Traders purchase it for ₹1,150 per quintal and procurement centres at ₹1,850. If there is a demand, the government should not sell the stocks at lower prices, farmers opined.



Above: Vehicles seized from the house of the accused. Left: Rice bags found in the house.

— DC

## 800 bags of PDS rice worth ₹9,20,000 seized, 8 booked

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, OCT. 24

The Warangal police Commissionerate's Task Force wing officials on Saturday raided a house of one Ragi Santosh Kumar from Peesara village under Velair police station limits, and found bags of government-supplied rice, being unloaded from a tractor trolley.

The police seized a total of 800 bags of rice weighing 400 quintals worth ₹9,20,000, a tractor and a

● **SANTOSH TOLD** the police that he collected the PDS rice from the surrounding villages and stored it in this house.

Tata Ace vehicle.

According to the Task Force inspectors B. Nandi Ram and G. Madhu, the primary accused Ragi Santosh Kumar along with the drivers were immediately arrested and

interrogated.

Santosh told the police that he collected the PDS rice from the surrounding villages and stored it in this house. He would inform one Raju of Rajavaram village in Chilpur mandal, who would pick up the bags and sell it in other states.

The police booked eight persons in the case. Task Force team members Somalingam, Srikanth, Srinivas, Raju and Vijay along with the inspectors took part in this raid.

## AP REGISTERS 3,342 NEW CASES, 22 DEATHS

**Vijayawada:** Andhra Pradesh registered 3,342 new Covid-19 positive cases scaling up tally to 8,04,026 and 22 deaths taking the toll to 5,666 in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities released Covid-19 bulletin on Saturday, reporting that out of 74,919 samples tested, 3,342 persons were found infected with the virus. Of a total of 75,02,933 samples tested so far, 7,65,991 patients were discharged.

## TD leader visits farmers burnt fields, offers ₹10,000

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC  
SIRCILLA/KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 24

Telugu Desam state chief L. Ramana inspected the paddy crop damaged due to pest and viral infection in Gambhiraoepet mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district on Saturday.

Mr Ramana visited the paddy field of Nagaraju, a farmer from Gambhiraoepet, who had burnt his agriculture field.

He consoled the farmer and handed over ₹10,000 as financial aid. Nagaraju had cultivated a fine variety of rice, suggested by the state government in the new agriculture policy. However, he faced loss due to attack by pests and viral infection.

Even after taking several steps, he was unable to protect his crop and burnt it. Speaking to the press in Karimnagar, Mr Ramana demanded the state government to pay ₹30,000 per acre to farmers who faced losses immediately.

He said, "It is the minimum responsibility of any government to help farmers who face loss due to natural calamities. Instead, the government is deceiving the farmers by not paying the premi-

● **RAMANA** demanded the state government to pay ₹30,000 per acre to farmers who faced losses immediately.

um amount of the insurance. As a result, farmers are unable to get insurance for their insured crops."

He said that the government failed in estimating the losses incurred due to the recent rains, attack by insects and pests along with viral and fungal infection. Mr Ramana alleged that the state government did not send officials from the agriculture, revenue and horticulture department to estimate the crop loss and send the report to the central government.

Even after the formation of a separate Telangana state, farmers continue to committing suicide. The government is not taking any steps to prevent farmer suicides in the state. If the TRS government continues to behave stubbornly towards the farming community and refuses to give compensation of ₹30,000 per acre to farmers who faced loss, the TD will intensify agitations and lay siege to the Telangana Bhavan, he warned.

## POLITICAL MOVE

Uttam welcomes Rao's decision to buy maize at MSP, says victory of the people

## Dubakka bypolls forced CM to buy maize: Cong

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

The state Congress said that the forthcoming Dubbaka Assembly byelections have forced Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to purchase maize at the minimum support price of ₹1,850 per quintal.

Similarly, the Chief Minister agreed to release one instalment of dearness allowance for government employees only due to the fear of defeat, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

In a media statement on Saturday, Reddy welcomed the decisions and described it as a moral victory of the people of Dubbaka.

He said that Rao had expressed anger over farmers who cultivated maize and claimed that it was being sold for ₹1,200 per quintal in the market. However, he was forced to announce the setting up of procurement centres in all villages to purchase maize fearing a backlash in the byelection.

"If one byelection could bring Rao to his knees, people could imagine his reaction if the Telangana



Rashtra Samithi (TRS) loses Dubbaka.

Therefore, the people of Dubbaka should defeat the TRS if they want Rao to fulfil all his electoral promises,

especially those made with the farmers and employees," maintained Reddy.

Reminding the people that Rao had once compared the employees with a dog's tail,

Reddy asked, "Is it the dog that wags the tail or the tail that wags the dog?"

The fear of defeat in Dubbaka bypolls has transformed Rao into a 'pro-

● **REMINDING THE** people that Rao had once compared the employees with a dog's tail, Uttam Kumar Reddy asked, "Is it the dog that wags the tail or the tail that wags the dog?"

● **THE FEAR** of defeat in Dubbaka bypolls has transformed Rao into a 'pro-employee' Chief Minister who cleared one of three pending dearness allowance (DA) instalments, said Uttam Kumar Reddy.

employee' Chief Minister who cleared one of three pending dearness allowance (DA) instalments, said Reddy.

The Dubbaka results would bring a lot of changes in state politics. The TPCC president said that the government did not fulfil several promises it made to the people. Employees were yet to get a new pay revision commission and two DA instalments. Extending his greetings on the occasion of Bathukamma, Reddy hoped that the festival brings happiness and prosperity among the people of Telangana state.





## Buggana eclipsing Vijaysai role in Delhi

There seems to be more than meets the eye in Andhra Pradesh finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy's frequent trips to the national capital. Within a short span, the FM called on several Union ministers, officials and NITI Aayog representatives in New Delhi. In his latest trip, he met Union minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep S. Puri and request-

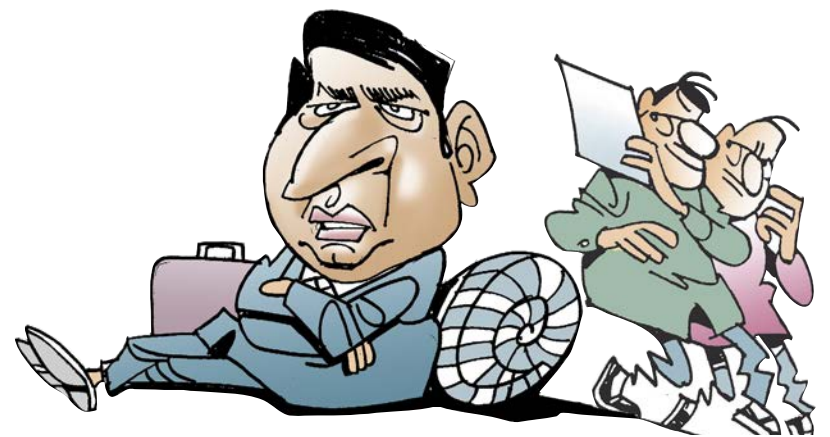
ed him to expedite clearances for the Bhogapuram international airport near Visakhapatnam and Orvakallu airport in Kurnool district. In his previous visits, he met Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat. A little bird says that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has given Buggana the important

task of coordinating with the Centre, and he would be going to Delhi frequently. Buggana is an ideal pick for the job as he is knowledgeable and more articulate than the other Cabinet ministers. With facts at hand, Buggana, a former chairman of the powerful Public Accounts Committee during the Naidu regime makes a better presentation of the state's requirements. What is

curious, however, is the absence of V. Vijayasai Reddy during Buggana's meetings at Delhi. Apart from being the parliamentary party leader of the YSR Congress, Vijayasai Reddy was also earlier designated the special representative of AP to pursue issues relating to the state with the Centre. Does it mean further dimming of Saireddy's 'aura' in the ruling dispensation?

## NOW, 'PAY AND WORK' IN CONG

Several Congress Squealed before Manickam Tagore, the new in-charge of Telangana state party, trying to curry favour. They claimed that they had been working hard at winning the Dubbaka byelections for the party. That they thought would be enough to put them in his good books. Tagore seemed to oblige and made many of them in-charge of booths at Dubbaka. But the sting was in the tail. Tagore made it clear that they have to improve the party status, for which they would get a good position in the party, by loosening their purse strings. They cannot expect financial help from either the All India Congress Committee or the state unit to build up the party. Their hard work will be suitably rewarded in the future, Tagore told them. The leaders are now reeling under the "zorka jhatka dheere se" (a slow and steady approach).



## AP babu hangs out at the CMO

A P bureaucrat Karthikeya Mishra may set a record of sorts for frequenting Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's residence-camp office in Tadepalli, surpassing his senior and special chief secretary (agriculture) Poonam Malakondaiah. Mishra served as industries commissioner during the Naidu regime and used to be in the news for his foreign jaunts with Nara Lokesh. He also got

the important post of East Godavari collector in the previous regime. The Jagan government somehow did not include him in the group of officers whom it branded as "TD men" and kept without posting for a long period. Mishra became commissioner, health and family welfare, and, after some time, was moved to finance. He has been given the most important task of mobilising finances to meet the ever-growing

welfare budget. Grapevine has it that Mishra is not enthused with his job and wants to go back as collector to any district. Normally, officers go to the camp office only on being called for a meeting by the CM or to discuss important files with his officials. But it has come to the CM's notice that Mishra is loitering around the camp office, making him wonder why the official is seen more often than needed.



## REGION

### SHORT TAKES

#### 2nd counselling at Manuu's ITI

**Hyderabad:** The Industrial Training Institute (ITI) of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) is conducting the second counselling for admissions in different trades on October 28. Dr Arshia Azam, principal, said the application forms can be obtained from Manuu and ITI, Hyderabad, or can be downloaded from the university website manuu.edu.in. The last date for submission of filled in application forms is October 26.

#### One injured in small explosion

**Hyderabad:** One person was reported injured in an explosion of a small container at Asbestos Colony in Jagatghirigutta on Saturday morning. Police said that the explosion occurred when the victim, Yousuf Ali Khan, got down from an autoricknear the compound wall of a house, and stepped on the container. "The man sustained an injury on his leg following the explosion. We suspect it to be a chemical explosion. The material was seized and sent to laboratory for analysis," said A. Ganga Reddy, station house officer

## VETERAN LEADERS ASKED TO STAY AWAY

From Page 1

Sources also said that veteran leaders were asked to stay away from party activities during the upcoming municipal polls to make space for the young leadership.

That the move comes just a months before the GHMC elections is significant. The TRS lost two Lok Sabha constituencies in the city — Secunderabad and Malkajgiri — which was the last test for the party in the capital, besides some Assembly constituencies earlier. The CM's plan appears to be to bridge any gaps that may have opened up since the 2016 GHMC elections and now.

On the flipside, the Opposition has been busy in criticising the government. The Congress claimed the TRS had turned the global city, into a 'garbage city'.

## Infra gets ready for Covid shots

Med device makers rush to meet targets

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

Manufacturing of syringes, needles, and maintaining a cold chain is being undertaken by medical device manufacturers in the country to ensure that Covid-19 vaccine administration is not delayed due to lack of these devices.

Fifty-six million needles, auto-disposable syringes are being manufactured and will be available by March 2021. The total demand is estimated as 140 million for the vaccine alone.

The medical device industry is under a lot of stress as the manufacturers are having only 30 per cent human resources at the factories.

While the demand has doubled in the healthcare sector for these medical devices the supply is not as required. There are problems faced by small manufacturers across who are not able to pool in their human resources because of Covid-19.

A manufacturer in Hyderabad on condition of anonymity said, "Indian govern-

## TS registers 1,273 cases, 5 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

With fewer people coming forward for testing, the state recorded 1,273 new Covid-19 cases and five deaths due to the disease on Friday. The toll now stands at 1,303 and the tally at 2,30,274. On Friday, 35,280 were samples tested in the state.

According to the state health bulletin issued on Saturday, the state has 19,937 active cases. Of these, 16,809 are in home and institutional isolation and only 3,000 receiving treatment at hospitals.

ment has to start creating a separate stockpile for the Covid-19 vaccine.

This is already set in motion by other countries. This will ensure that once the vaccine is available there will not be any problem in administering."

Indian government has so far taken stock

The highest number of cases continue to be reported from the GHMC limits at 227, followed by Medchal-Malkajgiri at 104 and Ranga Reddy at 102 cases. There has been a decline in cases in rural areas.

Though the case numbers are falling, the government has urged people to be cautious and follow precautionary measures. The government has asked people not to give up on the habit of wearing masks. Physical distancing and frequent hand sanitising were also stressed upon.

of the capacity of each of the manufacturers and their ability to upscale it.

But there is very little aid in terms of the gap created by human resources. Till the workers come in full force the capacity will be only 30 per cent in the production.

## Rescue workers need antifungal medicines

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

Anti-fungal medicines are urgently required for residents and volunteers cleaning the muck and slush from Babanagar, Nallabagh, Alinagar, Osmannagar and Al Jubail Colony in the Old City.

Cleaning of knee-deep slush has been a challenge and many of them are suf-

fering from fungal infections. It is stated that 70 per cent of the residents and volunteers are complaining of severe fungal infections, which causes itching and rashes.

Manual removal of the muck is being taken up as the machines cannot enter these small colonies. The stagnating water is drying very slowly and the outlets are still choked.

The areas are now covered with muck, slush and waste which the floodwater carried along with it. Sewage, sand, carcasses of animals and waste is now being removed but it is also adversely affecting the workers.

Azam Khan who is working with volunteers in Babanagar, says "Along with the residents, there are students, doctors, engineers,

techies who are volunteering for cleaning. There is still a lot of much to be removed."

Only a few of them have protective gumboots and gloves. Most of them are suffering from severe scratching and itching and need creams which will help them.

Volunteers estimate that the work will continue for another week at least.

## Congress calls Central team visit an 'eyewash'

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

The Congress has called the visit of the Central team to assess the damage caused by torrential rains and floods an eyewash. The party said the Central team had failed in assessing the damage in a scientific manner.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Congress spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan said that the Central team had made a mockery of the suffering of lakhs of people.

He wondered how visiting officials could study such largescale loss caused by rains across the state in just two days.

"The Congress welcomed the team and wished that it would tour the state extensively to assess the largescale damage inflicted by the recent rains and bring relief to the suffering people. But

■ CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON Dr Dasoju Sravan said that the Central team had made a mockery of the suffering of lakhs of people. He wondered how visiting officials could study such largescale loss caused by rains across the state in just two days.

we are extremely disappointed to know that the visit was a mere eyewash and a drama enacted by TRS and BJP governments to fool people to hide their failures. How they can arrive at the real picture by depending on government officials, who failed to deliver their duty when rains and floods struck people," Dr Sravan asked. "Rao is probably the only Chief Minister in history who did not visit the flood-hit

areas and did not bother to console those who lost their lives due to rains. Rao did not even take up an aerial survey," said Dr Sravan.

Alleging that the Central team had not given an appointment to the Congress, which stood by the people during the floods, Dr Sravan alleged that the team members sat in a star hotel and prepared reports based on the briefing given by state officials. Demanding that the Centre announce the recent rains and floods as a national calamity, Dr Sravan urged the Central team to make more visits to the state and speak to wider sections of people to make a proper assessment of the damage.

Though Rao has promised to pay ₹10,000 as compensation to every family affected during rains, TRS MLAs and corporators are distributing much lesser amounts in the form of cash, he claimed.

## JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI DEMANDS MORE AID FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 24

The Jamaat-e-Islami claimed that 400 of its workers are extending assistance in the rescue and relief operations in rain-affected areas of Hyderabad.

It has also decided to distribute 3,000 kits containing essential items valued at ₹4,000 each to the needy families.

Moulana Hamid Mohammed Khan, state president, Jamaat-e-Islami, told the media, "In the second stage, we plan to distribute aid of ₹10,000 to those who suffered heavy damages. We have distributed more than 50,000 food packets so far."

He said the financial aid given by the government is not sufficient and demanded the government to sanction ₹25 lakh ex gratia to the next of kin of rain victims. The government should take a serious note of the damages and evolve concrete strategies to protect the people from such disasters, he said.

He asked the government to explore a permanent solution for draining out stormwater and protecting habitats from inundation.

■ MOULANA HAMID Mohammed Khan, said the financial aid given by the government is not sufficient and demanded the government to sanction ₹25 lakh ex gratia to the next of kin of rain victims.



GHMC staff sanitising public places in Musheerabad, Hyderabad, on Saturday as a preventive measure against Covid-19. — P. SURENDRA



## SHORT TAKES

### CORRECTION

The headline for the report on *INS Kavaratti* published in these columns on Friday, October 23, should read as 'INS Kavaratti commissioned into Indian Navy' and not as rendered. The error is regretted.

— Editor

## MUMBAI WOMAN SLAPS TRAFFIC COP, ARRESTED

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 24

A woman rained slaps on a traffic policeman alleging that he abused her, soon after he had intercepted their two-wheeler for riding without a helmet in south Mumbai's Kalbadevi area on Saturday. The video of a woman beating up the policeman went viral following which the 30-year-old woman and her 26-year-old friend were taken into custody. The officials stated that the policeman had not abused them and had asked for a penalty to be paid for riding without a helmet.

The officials said that the policeman Eknath Parte who was posted at the busy Kalbadevi Naka when he intercepted the two-wheeler being driven by Mohsin Khan on which Sadhavika Tiwari was pillion. When Eknath stopped them and confronted the rider not wearing a helmet, he picked up a fight with the official. Sadhavika got violent and manhandled Ekanth alleging he had hurled abuses at her. Soon after she began slapping him with people witnessing the same.

Meanwhile, the traffic police in an official statement, said that Ekanth had not used foul language and had addressed both the accused in a polite manner. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Yashasvi Yadav praised the constable for not losing his temper and being patient while being thrashed.

## SURVEILLANCE DRONE SHOT DOWN BY ARMY AT LOC

**Srinagar, Oct. 24:** A surveillance drone of Chinese make was on Saturday shot down by Army troops shortly after it crossed into this side of the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

The DJI Mavic 2 Pro drone, fitted with cameras, was spotted hovering in air by the alert troops in Keran sector and subsequently shot down, the officials said. They said the drone was seized and further investigation is on.

There has been a spurt in the use of drones from Pakistani side over the past few months to smuggle arms and narcotics.

Earlier in June, an attempt to drop weapons through drone was scuttled by BSF personnel

— PTI



## MLA PUTS UP SIGNBOARD IN TULU LANGUAGE

GURURAJ A PANIYADI | DC MANGALURU, OCT. 24

While people and elected representatives from coastal Karnataka have been pressing to add the Tulu language in the 8th Schedule and holding various types of campaign, Belthangady MLA Harish Poonja has gone a step ahead by putting up his office signboard in Tulu language.

Though there are scriptures and inscriptions of Tulu script, it has been almost forgotten during recent years. For the last few years, Tulu activists have been toiling to familiarise the script and many have shown interest in learning and writing in Tulu script. Techies too have developed fonts for computers. Though Tulu is a spoken language, people use Kannada and English script to write in Tulu language also. However, the unique move of Harish Poonja has now gone viral on social media and received appreciation from the people.

Tulu is the language of the Dravidian family, spoken in Dakshina Kannada, Southern part of Udupi district, and Northern part of Kerala's Kasargod district. People from this region are settled in various parts of the country and abroad.

## Unfazed by threats, Nusrat lights up Durga Puja



Actress and Trinamul MP Nusrat Jahan (2nd from right) along with other women takes part in Maha Ashtami celebrations at a community Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata on Saturday. Last month she had received death threats on social media for dressing up as Goddess Durga for advertisements for a clothing line that she posted on Instagram on September 17. Dismissing criticism she was quoted as saying: 'I'm God's special child. I celebrate all festivals. I respect humanity and love more than anything.'

— PTI

## J&K PARTIES FORM ALLIANCE, ELECT FAROOQ AS ITS PRESIDENT

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 25

Jammu and Kashmir's half-a-dozen mainstream regional political parties along with the CPM's local unit on Saturday formally structured their alliance and unanimously elected former chief minister Farooq Abdullah as its president.

Abdullah who heads the erstwhile state's oldest political party National Conference told reporters, "Ours isn't an anti-national group. Our aim is to ensure that the rights of people of J&K and Ladakh are restored."

He alleged that attempts are being made to drive a wedge between various communities in what are now known as twin Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh and said that the new alliance would defeat such designs as well. He said, "Attempts of dividing us in the name of religion will fail. It's not a religious fight."

The signatories of 'Gupkar Declaration' met at the residence of former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti here earlier to discuss the political situation and other important issues faced by J&K and Ladakh. A spokesman of the group said that during the meeting the participants put forth their valuable suggestions.

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 24

The BJP has demanded arrest of former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti after she said that she wouldn't hold any other flag unless and until Jammu and Kashmir's state flag is restored.

The Congress also criticised her for showing disrespect to the national flag. She has been trolled widely also on social media platforms for her

remarks.

On Friday, Ms Mufti had while addressing her maiden press conference after her release from a 14-month-long detention said that she wouldn't raise any flag other than that of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir till its special status is restored.

"I won't hold any other flag until our state flag is returned," she said when asked about her statement that there would be no one left in J&K to raise the

Indian national flag if Article 370 was abrogated that she gave days before the erstwhile state was stripped of its special status and split up into two Union Territories on August 5 last year.

Narinder Raina, president of BJP's J&K unit, termed Ms Mufti's remarks as "seditious" and said that she should be booked for the same and arrested immediately. Asserted that "no power on earth can either hoist the state flag again or

restore Article 370", he told reporters in winter capital Jammu, "I request lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha to take cognisance of the seditious remarks of Mehbooba Mufti, book her for the seditious act and put her behind bars."

Mr Raina pledged to "shed every drop of our blood for our flag, country and motherland" and said that J&K is an integral part of the country and, therefore, only one flag can be hoisted here.

## Why are Gandhis mum over Punjab rape: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 24

Questioning the "complete silence" of the Congress leadership over the rape and attempt to burn the body of a six-year-old Dalit girl of a migrant labour from Bihar in Punjab's Hoshiarpur, the BJP on Saturday asked where are the "brother sister duo" (Rahul Gandhi-Priyanka Gandhi) who had shown "enthusiasm almost as though they were going for a picnic" to reach Hathras in Uttar Pradesh.

Taking on the Congress, in particular its former president Rahul Gandhi, Union minister and BJP leader Nirmala Sitharaman said "Not a

word from the tweet friendly leader Rahul Gandhi (on the Hoshiarpur incident)... no outrage on this no picnic on this... In Hathras, 35 senior MPs from all over the country, flamboyant in their statements on Twitter, wanting to go marching to Hathras asking for justice... where are those 35 today. No sense of outrage if it's a Bihari Dalit child and because the unfortunate incident happened in Punjab." Ms Sitharaman also took on the RJD and its leader Tejashwi Yadav, who had shared dais with Mr Gandhi on Friday during a campaign rally, and asked whether or not Mr Yadav was answerable for the Bihari family

## RJD manifesto is Hamara Pran

### RJD anarchy drove away Nitish: Nadda

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, OCT. 24

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav reiterated his commitment for 10 lakh jobs to state's youth and promised overall development of Bihar while releasing his party's separate manifesto for Bihar elections on Saturday.

Major points included in the RJD manifesto titled 'Hamara Pran' (our pledge) is employment, scrapping of farm laws enacted by the central government, better education and health system, smart villages and infrastructure development for the growth of industries and agriculture.

"This is our pledge, not a manifesto. Our party's resolution is to bring overall

development in Bihar," RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said while releasing his party's manifesto in Patna.

Using the occasion to lash out at the BJP for promising 19 lakh jobs in its manifesto which was released a week earlier, Tejashwi Yadav said that "the BJP is trying to fool people by its fake commitment."

He said, "There is a difference between employment and earning. Providing 10 lakh jobs to state's youth is our top priority which we will sanction immediately after the grand alliance is elected to power. We could have promised more than 50 lakh or one crore jobs but our party doesn't make false commitments."

## UNITY IN | DIVERSITY

### Fellow villagers from all faiths cooperate to make puja a grand success, says Kohinoor Islam

## Muslim leads Dasara festivities in Odisha's village

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BARIPADA, OCT. 24

A 65-year-old Muslim man has been at the forefront of the Dasara festivities for decades at Tentulidinda village near Baripada in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Kohinoor Islam diligently supervises each and every detail of the Durga Puja, from the selection and making of idols to their immersion.

While the Sarbajanina Saradiya Durga Puja Pandal or community puja pandal at Tentulidinda village epitomises the communal harmony between Hindus and Muslims in the region, Kohinoor appears to be the torchbearer.

It all started in 1984 when Kohinoor evinced his interest in organising the puja at his village.

With the support from elders, he went ahead in promoting communal harmony with this unique idea.

Since then Kohinoor has been initiating special measures for the conduct of puja in the village.

"On the request of villagers, I took the responsibility of conducting the Dasara festival at the Sarbajanina Saradiya Durga Puja Pandal. None has ever any issues with me leading the arrangements as people from both the communities live together peacefully. I get full cooperation from all my fellow villagers to



Kohinoor Islam at the Durga Puja pandal in Odisha's Tentulidinda village.

make this puja a grand success," Kohinoor said. He is not only known for his organisational skills, but he can also recite several Vedic slokas (hymns)

and mantras at ease.

"Kohinoor Islam has been doing a great job in promoting communal harmony. Despite being a Muslim, he has acquired

lot of knowledge about Hindu rituals and even the Bhagwad Gita. He is no different from anyone of us in the village," said Anil Nayak, a resident.

During the festival people of all communities visit the pandal and offer prayers. They also share together the bhoga or offering given to Goddess Durga.

"The uniqueness of our Dasara festival here has given us a different identity. Not only people from our neighbouring villages come here, but also curious devotees from West Bengal also arrive here to see for themselves how two communities are celebrating this festival with equal zeal and fervor," said the locals.

## India sees 53,370 Covid-19 cases, 650 deaths in a day

DC CORRESPONDENT New Delhi, Oct. 24

India's national recovery rate has reached close to 90 per cent after 70.16 lakh persons have recovered from Covid-19 out of the total positive cases detected so far. On Saturday, India's total Covid-19 tally reached 78.15 lakh with detection of 53,370 fresh cases. In comparison to fresh cases, 67, 549 persons were discharged from medical supervision taking the national recovery rate to 89.78 per cent.

The total deaths due to the virus has reached 1.18 lakh out of which 650 fatalities took place in the

last 24 hours. The Covid-19 case fatality rate has further declined to 1.51 per cent.

According to the Union health ministry, the active cases are less than seven lakh for the second consecutive day and stand at 6.81 lakh and active cases comprise only 8.71 per cent of the total positive cases of the country. Sixty-one per cent of the total recovered cases are from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Maharashtra has contributed the maximum with more than 13,000 single day recovery.

## FADNAVIS TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 24

Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis who is also the BJP's in-charge in Bihar assembly election campaign, has tested positive for Covid-19. Keeping his promise that he will not go to a private hospital for Covid treatment, Mr Fadnavis got himself admitted to state-run St George hospital.

In a series of tweets, Mr Fadnavis said, "I have been working every single day since the lockdown but now it seems that God wants me to stop for a while and take a break! I have tested #COVID19 positive and in isolation. Taking all medication & treatment as per the advice of the doctors. Those who have come in contact with me are advised to get covid19 tests done. Take care, everyone! (sic)."

Dr T.P. Lahane, director and nodal officer (COVID-19), Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER) said, "Mr Fadnavis is admitted at St. George. He is symptomatic and his oxygen levels are normal."

On Friday, Fadnavis got himself tested after returning from Bihar poll campaigning.

## DELHI SCHOOLS NOT TO OPEN FOR NOW: KEJRIWAL

**New Delhi, Oct. 24:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday ruled out reopening of schools in the national capital for now.

"Schools are not reopening for now," Kejriwal told reporters on sidelines of an event.

The government had earlier announced that schools will continue to remain closed till October 31 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16, when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of the measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

A nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25.

While several restrictions have been eased in different phases of "unlock", educational institutions continue to remain closed. However, as per "unlock" phase guidelines, states can take a call about reopening schools in phases.

Earlier, schools were allowed to call students from class 9 to 12 to school on voluntary basis from September 21. However, the Delhi government decided against it.

— PTI

Prasad, who then held the health portfolio in Bihar.

"The RJD is predisposed towards anarchy and lawlessness. And they remain unrepentant. It is the very reason why Nitish Kumar had to dump them and return to the BJP after which the state resumed its march towards progress", the BJP said in Lakhisarai district.

Kumar, the JD(U) president, had resigned in July, 2017 after his then deputy and Prasad's younger son Tejashwi Yadav's name cropped up in a money laundering case.

— PTI

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 24

For the first time in the history of Shiv Sena, the party will hold its annual Dasara rally closed doors in an auditorium. Owing to the coronavirus-induced restrictions, the Sena will not organise the rally at the Shivaji Park ground at Dadar, the traditional venue of the event.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who is president of the Shiv Sena, will address the party workers from Swatantryaveer

Savarkar auditorium opposite the Shivaji Park ground at Dadar at 7pm. A select group of 50 people will have the access to the auditorium, including ministers and leaders. The event will be telecast live on all the social media accounts of the party.

There were apprehensions whether Shiv Sena will be able to hold its Dasara rally this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The party was also contemplating to hold a virtual rally with Uddhav addressing activists.



## DECCAN Chronicle

25 OCTOBER 2020



Kushalrani Gulab

Off the beaten track

## A woke Navaratri, and a happy Dasara!

As a responsible citizen aiming to be a non-participant in the pandemic (I suffer absolutely no FOMO or fear of missing out, particularly when it comes to Covid-19, thank you very much), you will not be surprised to learn that I have set not so much as the tip of a toe anywhere near a puja pandal this Navaratri/Durga Puja.

To be fair to the SARS-CoV-2 virus — which has had bad press since the moment it was born and needs to be shown by us woke people that circumstances of birth alone is no reason to be cast out of society — I also have not been near any puja pandal in the last 30 years if not longer, because I am the Indian version of Scrooge. From the moment we hit August every year, which, depending on what the lunar calendars are up to at the time, marks the beginning of the festive season, you hear me bah, humbugging all over the place, with emphasis on the 'bah'.

I do not enjoy crowds. I especially do not enjoy crowds in a hot and sweaty climate punctuated by distinctly uncooling monsoon showers that set my sinuses aflame and cause me to sneeze like a machine gun on speed. I do not enjoy amplified *aartis* by priests so *besura* that even Cacofonix the bard would be dashing about with gags and ropes to tie them to trees while Asterix and Obelix stuff their ears with broccoli and tuck into roast boar. I do not enjoy the 'talent shows' organised by cooperative housing societies in which uncles attempt stand-up comedy so bad that the YouTube shows look good in comparison, aunts explore their inner item girl and give themselves displaced vertebrae for life and children run even more amuck than they normally do, only this time on a stage with amplifiers.

Finally, I absolutely do not enjoy my eardrums being shattered day after day by the techno-Bollywood remixes that our gods and goddesses are apparently fond of, according to puja and dandiya organisers, with *Sheila ki jawani* at No. 1 on the pandal charts, *Lungi dance* at No. 2 and *Chammak challo* at No. 3, all at ear-splitting volume.

So I was delighted when I read the rules for Navaratri in Mumbai this year. Keep it low key, urged the state government. Do not do anything that involves mass gatherings; there will be no garba and no dandiya; discuss viruses and dengue-bearing mosquitoes whenever it appears that a crowd is gathering — that will send everyone home.

Meanwhile, in Kolkata, the High Court demanded barricades outside the pandals and a maximum of only 45 people inside at any point depending on the size of the pandal, thus ensuring that 90 per cent of the population of the city would push and shove their way to the barricade, thus maintaining what we might now name 'antisocial distance' just to add another virus-related phrase to the Oxford English Dictionary.

"Aha," said my Scrooge, rubbing its hands with glee as it read these rules in the newspapers. "Maybe I'll get through this year with my eardrums and sanity intact."

And so far, dear reader, this whole puja season I have not had to use my ear plugs at all. Instead, there is a blessed silence every day — or at least what passes for silence in urban India with its daily aural mix of shattering power drills, blaring car horns, screaming food processors, piercing pressure cooker whistles and the occasional cawing crow.

And I have to admit it: I am bored witless.

Where are the social media posts about divine *bhogs* that I look forward to every year with my tongue hanging out? *Bhog* is not permitted, say the state governments. It might contain a certain virus.

How will I know if *Sheila ki jawani* is still No. 1 on the pandal charts 10 years after it first released or if *Chammak challo* has finally climbed to the top, pulling the lungi down and revealing its underwear and banian, all modesty damned?

How can I perfect my sneer at the residents of my cooperative housing society when it's time for them to display their untalents on Navaratri nights? (Note for grammar Nazis: if you can unfriend people on social media, you can certainly display an untalent.) I usually get a refresher course during the festive season, but not this year.

I feel so bereft without everything I hate about Navaratri and the pujas, that I might actually do the unthinkable today: 30 years or more after I told my parents that if I was old enough to vote, I was old enough to stop participating in the annual family pandal hop, I might just step out of the house and visit a puja pandal. Since it's the last day of the puja, I doubt if there will be a crowd.

And with a little bit of luck, I will not be hit by an unseasonable monsoon shower, find my sinuses inflamed, sneeze like machine gun on speed, and be arrested for spreading a certain virus.

*Kushalrani Gulab is a freelance editor and writer who dreams of being a sanyasi by the sea*

Subhani

AIR IN INDIA IS FILTHY — TRUMP

COVER YOUR NOSE PROPERLY



## Will the BJP use Nitish to get own CM in Patna?



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

There are two somewhat related perspectives to keep in mind with regard to the coming Bihar Assembly elections, where the first votes are to be cast on Wednesday, October 28. These have been largely overlooked in the media and in the facile opinion polls, which appear to have partly relied on the 2015 polling data on caste arithmetic as if this was the sacred *gayatri mantra* itself, besides strongly hinting that the presumed magic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi could safely take the ruling alliance home.

As we'll see below, at least some crystal-gazers may be rather hoping that it will be just one part of the NDA — namely the BJP — that will reach the dry shores, no matter what the overt optics.

The first consideration stares us in the face, though we have been oblivious. It is quite simply the fact that the failure of the three-time chief minister Nitish Kumar's government in coping with the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic, besides the mass return home of the poor from the country's major cities regarded by Bihar's massive pool of the labour force as the nation's employment capitals in the absence of any worthwhile prospects at home, and the recent floods that played havoc with people's already wretched lives, are stark truths that frame the real narrative for this election. Without ambiguity

these point to the Nitish government's casual disregard of the suffering of some of the poorest people that there are in the country. This can be seen in leaders of the ruling alliance speaking without pause about roads repaired or built more than 10 years ago, and their breathlessly recalling the serious uptick in crime that was relevant two decades ago, before the new generation of voters was born.

Parroting pre-history is part of an untidy and scarcely convincing strategem of the JD(U) and BJP to hide policy failures and executive inaction, and meant to help them smoothly glide over the wretchedness they have presided over for most of their 15 years in office — in other words, to trick voters.

Does the trick work? Among some sections, yes — defined in the main by class. The bulk of these are the state's upper caste and upper crust, not that anyone's vote can still be thought of as being immutable.

But ordinary folk have not forgotten the humiliation and the hurt caused by the CM urging them not to come trudging back to the state though, with the national lockdown suddenly announced by the Prime Minister in March, it was clear that they had no money to pay rents in metropolitan cities and no money to eat. They also calculated that, if the disease took them, it was better to die in their unpretentious homes in

the village than on the uncaring roads of the big cities. Mr Kumar's self-serving statements are being recalled at election time.

With the aim of building a strong caste support base of the poorest sections in his favour, Mr Kumar's self-serving administrative decisions divided and sub-divided big chunks of the OBCs and the SCs into super-fine strips till they could not be sliced up any further and gave them some benefits in the early part of his tenure to secure their undying loyalty.

However, if the wildly cheering, pressing, crowds at the poll rallies of young RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, the CM candidate of the Mahagathbandhan — the alliance of the RJD, Congress, and all shades of the Left in Bihar, which are ranged against the ruling NDA — are any indication, then attempts to chisel the caste arithmetic may prove to be of little avail for the chief minister.

And the reason for this is plain enough. Mr Yadav speaks only of the crushing burden of unemployment, which has made even the upper castes reel, as he promises a million jobs on arrival (as CM — replacing Mr Kumar). It is this which makes the sentiment for "*badlao*" (change) in Bihar palpable, although elections

**Ordinary folk have not forgotten the humiliation and the hurt caused by the CM urging them not to come trudging back to the state after the national lockdown was suddenly announced by the Prime Minister**

are notoriously hard to call. The media, except in the past few days, and the opinion polls, missed this, though it was out there, large as a football.

So gobsacked is the ruling alliance that the BJP is now promising the Covid vaccine free (only) for Bihar, such is the desperation. In the event of an anti-climax, it is the EVM factor that is likely to be blamed, and people are watching keenly. The political timbre and mak-eup of Bihar is different from next-door Uttar Pradesh, although both are Hindi-speaking. Bihar can be volatile across the board. This is where Jayaprakash Narayan's all-encompassing movement was bred, and also Communists of every hue.

The second factor to watch out for, mentioned above — relating to JD(U) leader and CM Nitish Kumar's unravelling — is the ambition nursed in the BJP's bosom to have its own chief minister in Bihar for the first time, even if as part of an alliance. Other than Punjab and J&K (now, alas, only a UT), Bihar is the only state in North India where there has never been a CM from the BJP. That is Bihar's uniqueness among the Hindi-speaking states.

If this is understood, then the side-court play — the Chirag Paswan phenomenon and the rushing of key RSS people to get the election nomination of Mr Paswan's LJP, otherwise no great shakes as a political force — does not remain obscure. It is not clear how it will pan out, but one thing is clear — Mr Kumar may get to rue that he let the BJP ride the waves stepping on his shoulders even as he fooled himself that he stood for secular politics and secular values while canoodling with the BJP-RSS.

LETTERS

### PM MODI'S FRIENDS

Two great friends that Prime Minister Narendra Modi embraced he sat on a jhula with one and for the other he spent a huge sum of money to construct a wall so that he should not see our poverty — have both stabbed him in the our back. One intruded into our country and other called us filthy.

**Rajinder Bakshi**  
Secunderabad

### DISTANT DREAM

The proposed overhaul of Tank Bund is a distant dream (*Tank Bund road to be improved by HMDA, DC, Oct. 24*). Hussainsagar has been at the receiving end of apathy of every citizen. From throwing plastics, wrappers, left-overs, ashes and human waste, it has taken everything down its drain absorbing and settling down its shore for eons. I wish the government implements its proposal to overhaul the arterial road connecting Hydera-bad and Secunderabad. The money spent will be worth it.

**Deepesh Surana**  
Secunderabad

### DHARANI PORTAL

People are anxiously waiting for registration of properties to begin. Now, the launch of the much-acclaimed Dharani portal is again postponed (*CM to launch Dharani portal on Oct.29, DC, Oct.24*) and the CM is yet to decide when registrations will start. Why are registrations stopped?

**N. Bhaskara Ramam**  
Hyderabad

### VACCINE POLITICS

Governments in the past took responsibility to fight pandemics and supplied vaccination across the country free of cost but the BJP government promises free vaccine only to a particular state that is going to polls shortly (*BJP vows free Covid vaccine for all in Bihar, 19 lakh jobs, DC, Oct. 23*). The move is nothing but blackmailing people of Bihar to vote for it. It is a shame that the BJP wants to encash on fears of people when majority of them have lost livelihood.

**Kshirasagara Balaji Rao**  
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

### Pakistan to use U.S. arms against India

UNITED NATIONS, OCT. 24 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and US Secretary of State William Rogers discussed for forty minutes last night on Indo-American problems. During the talks Mrs. Gandhi expressed concern over U.S. arms sales to Pakistan.

Mrs. Gandhi reportedly told Mr. Rogers that this was bound to affect Indo-US relations, hamper Indian efforts to normalise and establish friendly relations with Pakistan, and as in 1965 might even encourage Pakistan to use the arms against India.

Meanwhile Pakistan made clear today that it was seeking arms only to use against India and force India to give up Kashmir. This made nonsense of Mr. Rogers' explanation to Mrs. Gandhi that the arms were intended to wean Pakistan away from China.

The Gandhi-Rogers meeting took place in Hotel Carlyle.

Rana Mitter



## Xi's world: How Covid accelerated China's rise

Back in February, the Chinese State appeared in trouble. A terrifying virus had infected thousands of people and the country's social media exploded in anger against the authorities faster than Chinese censors could scrub away the critical comments. Like governments elsewhere, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) turned to the emergency analogy of choice, the Second World War. Channelling Mao Zedong's guerrilla campaign against the Japanese in the 1930s, state media declared that China was fighting a "people's war" against the virus.

As in that earlier war, China's conflict with the virus has shifted from a defiant retreat to a declaration of victory. Nor is this just bluster. The latest economic figures suggest its economy is the only one in the world that will make a full recovery from the virus — growing by two per cent while America's falls by five per cent, the Eurozone by eight per cent and Britain by 10 per cent. Justin Yifu Lin, former chief economist of the World Bank, thinks China is on track to become the world's biggest economy by 2030. Beijing can now look forward, while other major economies are

still working out how to manage the damage while racking up staggering amounts of debt.

None of this could have happened had China not dealt so swiftly (often brutally) with Covid-19. This week, the Chinese media has been full of images of people queuing for the new anti-viral vaccine — it feels there that the crisis is genuinely over.

Yet when I call friends in Shanghai, they point out that after the institution of an efficient (and highly intrusive) track-and-trace system and harsh lockdowns, life is pretty much back to normal.

Back in the spring, observers queried whether China's high figures for suppression of the virus could possibly be real. Xi Jinping, China's President and CCP secretary-general, can survey the state of his country and reflect that it is far better off than anyone might have expected when the pandemic started. The regime will have been further encouraged by opinion polling that suggests positive ratings for the government's performance among Chinese citizens, with one survey suggesting 80 per cent satisfaction rates. The CCP has used this to justify doubling down on surveillance of its citizens, and the

pandemic will almost certainly be taken as a pretext to clamp down on dissidence.

Not so long ago, it seemed as if Xi's grand Belt and Road Initiative — designed to bring billions of dollars of infrastructure investment to a swath of territory from Western Europe to Southeast Asia by way of East Africa — might not live up to his grand ambitions. Had he overreached? But the pandemic has changed the balance of global trade in ways that might now make China seem like an attractive partner for developing nations.

China's opportunity is clear. Previously, the Western world could dangle the prospect of generous investment to countries such as Pakistan or Myanmar through institutions such as the World Bank, tied as they are to norms of good governance and democracy. In a post-Covid world, in which there will be less trade, less travel, less globalism, how can the West continue to influence such countries?

Xi's China has ended up in a strange position; expecting a lower growth rate than was predicted at the end of 2019, yet relatively stronger than many of its global rivals in terms of capacity to act. Still, there is no clear path from

here to the next "people's victory". The impressive economic figures conceal a longer-term problem, as the economist George Magnus has argued, of an unbalanced economy marked by under-consumption, a rising trade surplus, and debt still rapidly rising.

The "dual circulation" idea that China can simply separate its domestic and international economies is unsustainable in the long term; major structural reforms will still be needed. And there are other issues, such as pollution, climate change, and demographic decline — from 2029, there will be five million fewer Chinese per year, and the population will be rapidly ageing.

China's higher global status creates new vulnerabilities too. Beijing is having to come to terms with the reality that the oppression of the Uighurs and the constraining of freedoms in Hong Kong are not simply internal matters for a country that wants to achieve global influence through "a community of common destiny", because the result is that Chinese businesses and investment become negatively associated with the authoritarian values of their homeland. The single greatest obstacle to the

CCP's power, however, lies not in Beijing but in Washington. A second Donald Trump term, more virus-driven economic panic, and more chaos in the liberal global order, could end up further boosting Beijing's message of economic success and authoritarian government. A Joe Biden administration may find it easier to bring China-sceptic forces together.

The fear of a new US administration may be behind the latest war metaphors coming out of Beijing. On VJ day in August, China stressed internationalism when it commemorated its founding role in the UN in 1945. This autumn, however, the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 has dominated China's official media channels. In Chinese, that conflict is known as Kangmei — the "Resist America" war. In Beijing's mind, the US is down, not out. America remains the only real challenge to China's global future.

*Rana Mitter is a professor of history professor at Oxford University and the author of China's Good War: How World War II is Shaping a New Nationalism. By arrangement with the Spectator.*



## IN BRIEF

## Actor Arnold feels 'fantastic' after op

**Los Angeles:** Veteran Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger has revealed that he underwent a second heart operation and is now feeling absolutely fine. In a post on Instagram, the 73-year-old actor said he had been given a new aortic valve. "Thanks to the team at the Cleveland Clinic, I have a new aortic valve to go along with my new pulmonary valve from my last surgery," Schwarzenegger said. "I feel fantastic and have already been walking the streets of Cleveland enjoying your amazing statues. Thank you to every doc and nurse on my team!" he added. The actor also shared photos that showed him giving a thumbs-up from his hospital bed and exploring Cleveland.

## Cameroon arrests ivory smugglers

**Yaound:** Cameroon authorities arrested four ivory smugglers attempting to transport nearly 120 elephant tusks through the country's south, officials said on Friday. The group had trafficked nearly 675 kilograms (1,500 pounds) of the illicit cargo from neighbouring Gabon, which is home to more than half of Africa's remaining forest elephants. They hid their haul in the bottom of a van with a false compartment, state television reported. It was the biggest ivory seizure in the West African nation for five years, customs officer Jean-Claude Ekoube said. Ivory trafficking is fuelled by strong demand in Asia and the Middle East, where elephant tusks are used in traditional medicine.

## Roadside bomb kills 9 in Afghan

**Kabul:** A roadside bomb killed nine people in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, after it struck a minivan full of civilians, a local official said. Ghazni province police spokesman Ahmad Khan Sirat said that a second roadside bomb killed two policemen, after it struck their vehicle that was making its way to the victims of the first explosion. Sirat added that the bombings had wounded several others, and that the attacks were under investigation. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. The provincial police spokesman claimed the Taliban had placed the bomb. The upsurge in violence between Taliban and Afghan forces comes as representatives of the two warring sides are beginning peace talks in Doha to end the decades-long war in Afghanistan.

## INDIAN BOY'S EASY SOLUTION TO HANG HEAVY OBJECTS

**Dubai, Oct. 24:** A sixteen-year-old Indian boy based in the UAE has come up with an innovative solution to hang weighted items from the wall without drilling holes, as part of a school assignment, which has now become a business idea for his family, according to a media report.

Ishir, a student of GEMS World Academy in Dubai, had to submit an innovative project for his Grade 10 International Baccalaureate (IB) course when he noticed how walls get damaged when nails are drilled into them, the *Khaleej Times* reported. "While screw and nails have been in use since time immemorial, they pose problems for people on a daily basis such as damage to walls, outsourcing labour, dust pollution and other dangers of drilling," Ishir told the daily, adding that he wanted a non-intrusive solution to this issue.

Though Ishir had a fair idea as to how he wanted to execute the project, he reached out to his elder brother Avik, an engineering student at Purdue University in the US, for further guidance.

"When we put our minds together, the solution, like all great ideas, was elegantly simple," Ishir told the *Khaleej Times*. The solution included two steel tapes and a strong magnet which holds the entire assembly together. "The steel tape that adheres to the wall is known as the 'alpha steel tape' and the one on the object to be hung as the 'beta steel tape'."

"The neodymium magnet holds the entire assembly together, including the object being mounted," Ishir elaborated. This non-intrusive method to hang weighted objects from the wall has been named 'KLAPIT' based on the 'clap' sound produced when the two magnets click.

## Biden promises free vaccine for everyone in US if elected

## Biden slams Trump for his policies to combat Covid pandemic

**Washington, Oct. 24:** Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that if elected as president in the November 3 election, he will ensure free Covid-19 vaccination for all Americans, laying out his pandemic response plan just days before the US presidential polls.

In a major policy speech on the Coronavirus in his home state of Delaware, Biden on Friday flayed US President Donald Trump for his policies to combat the Coronavirus pandemic that has killed over 2,23,995 people and has had a devastating impact on the country's economy. "President Trump said we're rounding the corner, it's going away, we're learning to live with it. They are quotes. But as I told him last night, we're not learning to live with it. We're learning to die with it. This is a dark winter ahead," Biden, 77, said.

Already more than 2,20,000 people in the US have lost their lives to this virus. Worse yet, a new study from Columbia University suggests that between 1,30,000 and 2,10,000 of those deaths were avoidable, he said.

"Once we have a safe and effective vaccine, it has to be free to everyone, whether or not you're insured," the former vice president said. He said that if elected, he would direct the federal government to "bulk-purchase as many doses as necessary of the Covid-19 vaccine so we can provide it free to those who are uninsured, under-insured or Medicaid-eligible."

"Covid-19 dwarfs anything we've faced in recent history and it isn't showing any signs of slowing down. The virus is surging in almost every state. We passed 4.8 million cases. And when Trump was asked this week what he'd do differently to get the pandemic response right from the start his answer was and I quote, 'Not much. Not much.'" he



Jeremy Bines, choir director of the Deutsche Oper, and singers from the choirs of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the choir soloists of the Komische Oper Berlin and the RIAS Kammerchor Berlin sing with protective face masks during an acappella demo concert #KulturVerbindetAlle (Culture brings all together) at the Gendarmenmarkt on Saturday.

— AFP

## US sets infection record as fatalities near 2,24,000

**Boise (US), Oct. 24:** The US Coronavirus caseload has reached record heights with more than 83,000 infections reported in a single day, the latest ominous sign of the disease's grip on the nation, as states from Connecticut to the Rocky Mountain West reel under the surge. The US death toll, meanwhile, has grown to 2,23,995, according to the Covid-19 Dashboard published by Johns Hopkins University. The total U.S.

caseload reported on the site Friday was 83,757, topping the 77,362 cases reported on July 16.

The impact is being felt in every section of the country — a lockdown starting on Friday at the Oglala Sioux Tribe's reservation in South Dakota, a plea by a Florida health official for a halt to children's birthday parties, dire warnings from Utah's governor, and an increasingly desperate situation at a hospital in northern

Idaho, which is running out of space for patients and considering airlifts to Seattle or Portland, Oregon.

"We've essentially shut down an entire floor of our hospital. We've had to double rooms. We've bought more hospital beds," said Dr. Robert Scoggins, a pulmonologist at the Kootenai Health hospital in Coeur d'Alene. "Our hospital is not built for a pandemic."

— AP

## Indian-Americans stand with Biden, call Trump 'foe'

**Washington, Oct. 24:** Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris have the best understanding of the Indian-American community, the diaspora leaders supporting the two Democratic candidates have said, describing US President Donald Trump as a "foe" who criticises India on the world stage.

With less than a fortnight to go for the November 3 presidential election, Indian-Americans on Friday asserted that Biden, first as a US Senator and thereafter as the vice president, has a strong track record of helping the community.

"After four years of the Trump administration, we know our children and

grandchildren will not have the same opportunities as we had. We need a leader who understands our community, our values, our pride and appreciates our hard work and gives equal opportunity and say in his administration," said Ajay Jain Bhutoria, a Silicon Valley-based entrepreneur. Bhutoria said that Biden and Harris are the leaders who will lead the country

out of this mess and restore its soul, revive the middle-class economy and re-establish America's leadership on the world stage and best relationship with India. Referring to the final presidential debate between Trump and Biden on Friday, Bhutoria said that the president criticised India on the world stage. "The community understands who the real friend of India is, who the foe. Trump is a foe. Most recently on the debate stage saying: you cannot trust India's Covid-19 numbers and India is filthy. He has suspended the H1 Visa Programme, put trade deals with India in jeopardy, and has used (Indian Prime Minister Narendra) Modi's friendship for photo opportunities only," he alleged.

Americans have always done: come together and meet the challenge with grit, compassion, and determination," he said. Revealing his plan, Biden said he would immediately put in place a national strategy that will position the country to finally get ahead of this

virus and get back the lives. Biden said he will ask the new Congress to put a bill on his desk by the end of January with all the resources necessary to see how both the public health and economic response can be seen through the end what is needed.

Los Angeles, Oct. 24: After months of meticulous tracking, authorities in the western US state of Washington on Friday said they had uncovered the first ever nest of the deadly Asian giant hornet in the country.

The nest was found on Thursday by Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) entomologists on a property in Blaine, near the border with Canada, the agency said in a statement. It added that an attempt to eradicate the nest of wasps — the world's largest hornet species also known as the "murder hornet" — would take place on Saturday. "The successful detection of a nest comes after a WSDA trapper collected two live Asian giant hornets on October 21

## US finds first ever nest of hornets

(Wednesday), caught in a new type of trap the agency had placed in the area," the statement said. "Two more hornets, also living, were found in another trap the morning of October 22 when WSDA staff arrived in the area to tag the previously trapped hornets with radio trackers and follow one back to its nest," it added. Scientists in the state have been actively searching for the Asian giant hornet since the first such insect was detected in December 2019 and after one of the wasps was trapped in July in Whatcom County, where Blaine is located. Several more of the invasive pest not native to the US were subsequently caught, all in the same region.

While it was unclear when the Duda was infected, he attended an investment forum in Tallinn on Monday where he met Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid and Bulgarian President Rumen Radev.

— AFP

## EU, W.H.O. SOUND ALARM AS VIRUS CASES SURGE

**Stockholm, Oct. 24:** The European Union's disease control agency has joined frantic health workers to sound the alarm over a Coronavirus surge across the continent, as the World Health Organisation warned of an "exponential" rise in infections.

Even countries that avoided severe outbreaks during Europe's first wave of contagion in the spring have watched their case numbers surge, with Germany's death toll passing 10,000 on Saturday.

Governments have reintroduced containment measures to slow the renewed spread of the virus in nations that only weeks earlier believed they had triumphed over the crisis.

— AFP

## POLAND'S PREZ TESTS COVID POSITIVE: AIDE

**Warsaw, Oct. 24:** Poland's President Andrzej Duda has tested positive for Coronavirus, an aide said on Saturday, as the EU country faces a record rise in cases and mass protests despite a ban on public gatherings intended to stem infections. "Ladies and Gentlemen, as recommended President @AndrzejDuda was tested yesterday for the presence of Coronavirus. The result turned out to be positive. The president is fine," Blazej Spychalski, secretary of state in the president's office, said on Twitter.

While it was unclear when the Duda was infected, he attended an investment forum in Tallinn on Monday where he met Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid and Bulgarian President Rumen Radev.

— AFP

## Ethiopia says will not 'cave in' after Trump slams dam

**Addis Ababa, Oct. 24:** Ethiopia vowed on Saturday not to "cave in to aggressions of any kind" after US President Donald Trump lashed out over the country's Nile River mega-dam and suggested Egypt might destroy it.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office defended the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, set to become Africa's largest hydropower plant, and said Ethiopia was working to resolve longstanding issues over the project with downstream neighbours Sudan and Egypt.

"Nonetheless, occasional statements of belligerent threats to have Ethiopia succumb to unfair terms still abound. These threats and affronts to Ethiopian sovereignty are misguided, unproductive, and clear violations of international law," his office said in a statement. "Ethiopia will not cave in to aggressions of any kind," the statement added. A separate version of the statement issued in Amharic featured more muscular language.

"There are two facts that the world has certified. The first is that there has been no one who has lived in peace after provoking Ethiopia. The second is if Ethiopians stand united for one purpose, it's inevitable, they will triumph," it said.

Abiy's office did not explicitly mention Trump, but its statement came the morning after the US president weighed in on the dam dispute in support of Egypt. "It's a very dangerous situation because Egypt is not going to be able to live that way," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office Friday during a

ceremony marking a breakthrough normalisation deal between Israel and Sudan.

— AP

— AFP

## UK's famous Diwali event turns virtual

**London, Oct. 24:** They are referred to as the biggest Diwali celebrations outside of India but this year the city of Leicester in the UK will be marking the festival of lights virtually, in keeping with the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

Leicester City Council said that with strict measures in place to stop the spread of Coronavirus, crowds will not be gathering on Belgrave Road this year for the traditional entertainment and fireworks.

But instead Leicester residents and others are being invited to be part of the city's first virtual "Diwali Day" celebration from the "safety of their homes". "We all need to find different ways to celebrate important festivals like Diwali and Christmas this year. Although we can't meet up with our extended families in person this year, our virtual Diwali celebration will help bring people together for an experience they can share with a family member or a friend — wherever they are in the world," said Leicester's Indian-origin Deputy City Mayor, Councillor Piara Singh Clair.

As part of the celebrations for Diwali Day on November 14, people can send in their personal video messages, which could feature in an hour-long package of entertainment that will be streamed on the Visit Leicester portal.

People are being encouraged to use their video to wish a friend, or a family member, a Happy Diwali — or they could share their tips for a socially-distanced, yet joyful, Diwali celebration with people around the world.

"We hope that people will enjoy recording their messages, and we look forward to sharing as many of them as possible as part of our Diwali Day programming," added Singh Clair.

— PTI

## HUNGRY | BIRDS

## More than 400 diners checked in at Changi Airport for lunch

## Travel starved diners eat in parked jets

**Singapore, Oct. 24:** Hundreds of travel-starved diners ate lunch and watched seat-back films aboard two parked Singapore Airlines jets turned into pop-up restaurants on Saturday.

With the aviation industry in deep crisis due to the Coronavirus pandemic, airlines have turned to alternative ways to raise cash, from offering "flights to nowhere" to tours of aircraft.

Singapore's flag carrier, which has cut thousands of jobs and grounded nearly all its planes this year, offered passengers the chance to dine on board two A380 superjumbos — the world's biggest passenger jet.

On Saturday more than 400 diners checked in at Changi Airport and went through the usual security checks before arriving at



A Singapore Airlines stewardess smiles while serving food in business class during the inaugural lunch at Restaurant A380 on board a Singapore Airlines Airbus A380 plane at Changi International Airport in Singapore on Saturday.

— AFP

the aircraft for lunch. "The food is pretty amazing, it's better than the one they serve during the flight," Zhou Tai Di, a 17-year-old student in econo-

my class, said as he tucked into his soy sauce-glazed chicken with spicy fried eggplant and rice.

Some settled in for a nap while waiting for their

meals to be served, while others watched movies on the seat-back entertainment systems.

About half the seats were left empty, in keeping with social-distancing guidelines.

Calvin Teo, a 29-year-old civil servant and aviation buff, paid Sg\$321 (\$236) to be served a six-course meal in business class, saying he missed flying and hoped to recreate the experience.

"Of course the feeling of actually flying will be better, because there's the excitement of going to a new destination, to explore a new destination, and even though we can't do it now due to Covid, this is a good substitute for now, to recreate the feels of taking a long-haul flight," he said.

The most expensive option is a Sg\$642 eight-

course meal in a first-class suite, while the cheapest costs Sg\$53 and consists of a three-course meal in economy class. A limited number of diners were also able to tour the double-decker aircraft and take selfies with pilots in the cockpit.

The tarmac meals proved surprisingly popular — the airline announced six additional sessions after more than 900 lunch tickets sold out within 30 minutes of bookings opening earlier this month.

The airline is also offering home deliveries of plane meals, but it has ditched plans for "flights to nowhere" — short journeys starting and ending at the same airport — following an outcry over the potential environmental impact.

— AFP



SHORT TAKES

Dhoni's chin up despite defeats

**Sharjah:** The usually indefatigable Mahendra Singh Dhoni conceded to being hurt at the way Chennai Super Kings' IPL campaign has hurtled from one disaster to another but ruled out benching himself from the remaining three games, saying "a captain can't run away". CSK are all but out of reckoning from a play-offs spot and Dhoni said the three remaining games would be an exercise in understanding how the side should plan for the next season. "We have to make the most of the next three games and it is good preparation for the next year. Identify the batsmen, who will bowl at the death and hopefully the players will soak up the pressure," he said after the 10-wicket loss to Mumbai Indians here on Friday. "Captain can't run away, so I'll be playing in all the games," he added. — PTI

Indian teams in online chess final

**Chennai:** B. Adhiban and R. Vaishali shone bright as the top-seeded Indian men and women teams entered the finals of the Asian Nations (Regions) Online chess championship with victories over Kazakhstan and Mongolia respectively on Saturday. While the men beat Kazakhstan 2.5-1.5 and 3-1, the women's side posted 3.5-0.5 and 4-0 wins over Mongolia. Adhiban notched up important victories over Rinat Jumabayev on the top board in both his matches. In the first match, India rode on Adhiban's win while Nihal Sarin, S.P. Sethuraman and K. Sasikiran drew their games. The Indian team, led by Surya Sekhar Ganguly, faces Australia in Sunday's final. In the women's semifinal, India won both the matches comprehensively. —PTI

Honda's Nakagami clinches first pole

**Akaniz, Spain:** Japanese rider Takaaki Nakagami grabbed his maiden MotoGP pole position for Sunday's Teruel Grand Prix, while championship leader Joan Mir could only qualify in 12th place on Saturday. The 28-year-old Nakagami, who signed a new deal with Honda's satellite team earlier this week, posted a fastest lap of one minute and 46.882 seconds. "It's an incredible feeling," he said. "Everything is going pretty well so far. I'm very proud but the most important thing is tomorrow (Sunday)," he added. Italian Franco Morbidelli, who was quickest in practice, qualified second, just 0.063 seconds slower, as Alex Rins rounded out the front row. — AFP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Chennai Super Kings from 3.30 pm; Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Arsenal vs Leicester from 12.45 am (Monday) on Star Sports Select 2, HD

FORMULA ONE

Portuguese Grand Prix: Main Race from 6.35 pm on Star Sports 3, 2 HD

WWE

Hell In A Cell: Bouts from 4.30 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

Varunaway victory

Chakravarthy's fiver demolishes DC as KKR win big

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 24:** Leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy dished out the best bowling performance of this IPL with a five-for after his batting colleagues stepped up in style as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Delhi Capitals by 59 runs here on Saturday. Promoted to open the innings, Nitish Rana revelled in his new role as he overcame a personal tragedy to smash a whirlwind 81 and shared a game-changing 115-run stand with Sunil Narine (64) to lift KKR to an imposing 194/6 after being put in to bat. Chasing a stiff target, Chakravarthy (5/20) and Pat Cummins (3/17) gave the Delhi Capitals batsmen a torrid time to restrict them to 135 for 9 in 20 overs. Cummins gave a perfect start, dismissing both the openers Ajinkya Rahane (0) and in-form Shikhar Dhawan (6) in his first two overs. Then Chakravarthy played the finisher's act in the back-end of the innings to choke the DC run chase. Coming on the back of a horror batting show against Royal Challengers Bangalore when they crumbled to 84/8, KKR ticked all the boxes to keep their playoff hopes alive by securing their sixth win, with three matches left. For the Capitals, this was their second successive loss but they still maintained the second spot. — PTI



Varun Chakravarthy of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates the wicket of Shimron Hetmyer of Delhi Capitals in an IPL match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Saturday. — BCCI

SCORECARD	
<b>Kolkata Knight Riders:</b> Shubman Gill c Patel b Nortje 9, Nitish Rana c Deshpande b Stoinis 81, Rahul Tripathi b Nortje 13, Dinesh Karthik c Pant b Rabada 3, Sunil Narine c Rahane b Rabada 64, Eoin Morgan c Rabada b Stoinis 17, Pat Cummins (not out) 0. Extras (LB-1, W-6) 7. <b>Total (for 6 wickets, in 20 overs) 194.</b>	
<b>FoW:</b> 1-11, 2-35, 3-42, 4-157, 5-194, 6-194.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Tushar Deshpande 4-0-40-0, Anrich Nortje 4-0-27-2, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-33-2, Axar Patel 1-0-7-0, Marcus Stoinis 4-0-41-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 3-0-45-0.	
<b>Delhi Capitals:</b> Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Cummins 0, Shikhar Dhawan b Cummins 6, Shreyas Iyer c Nagarkoti b Varun 47, Rishabh Pant c Shubman Gill b Varun 27, Shimron Hetmyer c Tripathi b Varun 10, Marcus Stoinis c Tripathi b Varun 6, Axar Patel b Varun 9, Kagiso Rabada c Tripathi b Cummins 9, Ravichandran Ashwin (not out) 14, Tushar Deshpande c Morgan b Ferguson 1, Anrich Nortje (not out) 0. Extras (LB-1, NB-2, W-3) 6. <b>Total (for 9 wickets in 20 overs) 135.</b>	
<b>FoW:</b> 1-0, 2-13, 3-76, 4-95, 5-95, 6-110, 7-112, 8-132, 9-135.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Pat Cummins 4-0-17-3, M Prasadh Krishna 2-0-19-0, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 2-0-11-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-30-1, Sunil Narine 4-0-37-0, C.V. Varun 4-0-20-5.	

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	10	7	3	0	14	+1.448
Delhi Capitals	11	7	4	0	14	+0.434
Royal Challengers Bangalore	10	7	3	0	14	+0.812
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	6	5	0	12	-0.476
Kings XI Punjab	11	5	6	0	10	-0.110
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	4	7	0	8	+0.035
Rajasthan Royals	11	4	7	0	8	-0.620
Chennai Super Kings	11	3	8	0	6	-0.733

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

RAJASTHAN FACE MIGHTY MUMBAI IN MUST-WIN TIE

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 24:** Skipper Rohit Sharma's fitness would be a concern for defending champions MI as they aim to continue their dominant run, while a depleted RR would hope to stay afloat when the two teams clash in an IPL match here on Sunday. MI roared back to form by crushing CSK by 10 wickets on Friday after their Super Over loss to the KXIP RR, on the other hand, lost to the SRH by 8 wickets in their last game. MI eyes play-offs but the game is crucial for RR, who are languishing at seventh place and a loss would mean a step closer to elimination. Questions remain on whether Rohit, who suffered a hamstring injury and missed the game against CSK, will be available on Sunday for MI. In the course of the season, RR have made constant changes at the top and that has hurt them badly. — PTI

SRH meltdown hands Punjab a thrilling win

**Dubai, Oct. 24:** Arshdeep Singh and Chris Jordan took three wickets each as KXIP bowled out SRH for 114 and kept their playoff hopes alive in an IPL match here on Saturday. Chasing 126, skipper David Warner (35) and Jonny Bairstow (19) added 56 runs for the opening wicket partnership but after that the Sunrisers failed to produce any solid partnership as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. All the five bowlers scalped wickets for KXIP with Mohammed Shami, M. Ashwin and Ravi Tandon taking one apiece. Earlier, Sunrisers bowlers also produced a clinical performance to restrict Kings XI Punjab to a modest 126 for 7. SRH bowlers responded impressively to their skipper Warner's decision to field first, picking

SCORECARD	
<b>Kings XI Punjab Innings:</b> KL Rahul b Rashid Khan 27, Mandeep c Rashid Khan b Sandeep Sharma 17, Chris Gayle c Warner b Holder 20, Nicholas Pooran not out 32, Glenn Maxwell c Warner b Sandeep Sharma 12, Deepak Hooda st Bairstow b Rashid Khan 0, Chris Jordan c Ahmed b Holder 7, Murugan Ashwin run out 4, Ravi Bishnoi not out 0. Extras (B-1, LB-1, W-5) 7. <b>Total (for 7 wickets in 20 overs) 126.</b>	
<b>FoW:</b> 1-37, 2-66, 3-66, 4-85, 5-88, 6-105, 7-110.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Sandeep Sharma 4-0-29-2, Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-31-0, Jason Holder 4-0-27-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-14-2, T. Natarajan 4-0-23-0.	
<b>Sunrisers Hyderabad:</b> D. Warner c Rahul b R. Bishnoi 35, J. Bairstow b M. Ashwin 19, M. Pandey c J. Suchith b Jordan 15, A. Samad c Jordan b M. Shami 7, V. Shankar c Rahul b Arshdeep 26, J. Holder c Mandeep b Jordan 5, P. Garg c Jordan b Arshdeep 3, Rashid Khan c Poorab v Jordan 0, Sandeep c M. Ashwin b Arshdeep 0, T. Natarajan not out 0, K. Ahmed run out 0. Extras (W-4) 4. <b>Total (all out in 19.5 overs) 114.</b>	
<b>FoW:</b> 1-56, 2-58, 3-67, 4-100, 5-110, 6-112, 7-112, 8-114, 9-114, 10-114.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Mohammed Shami 4-0-34-1, Arshdeep Singh 3.5-0-23-3, M. Ashwin 4-0-27-1, R. Bishnoi 4-0-13-1, Jordan 4-0-17-3.	

wickets at regular intervals to control the innings. KXIP skipper K.L. Rahul (27), Mandeep Singh (17) and Chris Gayle (20) all got starts but their innings never got going as they failed to grab the momentum.

SRH perfectly planned Gayle's dismissal who came at one down. They kept the big-hitting batsman quiet for a long time, consistently bowling wide of the off stump and in the process frustrated him. — PTI

EMBATTLED CSK TAKE ON RCB IN SEARCH OF PRIDE

**Dubai, Oct. 24:** Their house in complete disarray after eight defeats from 11 outings, CSK will look to give their forgettable campaign a semblance of respectability when they take on in-form RCB in the IPL here on Sunday. The three-time IPL winners have struggled in all departments of the game, leading to heavy criticism towards skipper MS Dhoni for not showing enough faith in the youngsters. They run into a RCB squad which has grown in confidence as the tournament has progressed. Virat Kohli and his men are placed third on the points table with 14 points, the same as the table toppers MI and DC. They will aim to grab the two points on offer, while also trying to improve their net run-rate, which could play a vital role in deciding the top two teams heading to the playoffs. — PTI

Barca bashed up in Clasico

**Barcelona, Oct. 24:** Real Madrid averted a crisis in the best possible way on Saturday by beating Barcelona 3-1 in the first empty Clasico, landing an early blow in La Liga's title race. Barca had the chance to inflict a third consecutive defeat on their rivals and increase the pressure on Zinedine Zidane. Instead, Madrid's win earns them a six-point lead over the Catalans, having played one game more. Sergio Ramos' penalty and a late Luka Modric goal finished off Barcelona after Federico Valverde and Ansu Fati had traded early strikes in a frantic game that defied those expecting further evidence of two heavyweights in decline. Barcelona might feel hard done by, especially as Ramos' penalty was awarded after a check by VAR and a hugely exaggerated fall by Madrid's captain after Clement Lenglet tugged his shirt. But aside from an impressive spell in the first half, when an inspired Lionel Messi threatened to win the game on his own, Madrid were dominant for longer spells and pulled away when it mattered. This was Ronald Koeman's first Clasico as Barcelona coach and some of the pressure Zidane would have felt from a loss is now transferred to the Dutchman, who has overseen only three wins from his first six games in charge. Barcelona face Juventus on Wednesday in the Champions League, without the suspended Gerard Pique. Every Barca set-back is now seen through the lens of Messi's future too. The Argentinian, who failed in his attempt to leave last summer, has still to score from open play this season. Mundo Deportivo had declared the match "The least Clasico of Clasicos" on its front page on Saturday morning. The coronavirus pandemic meant the biggest football stadium in Europe was silent for the game that La Liga president Javier Tebas had claimed is "still the biggest football match in the world". In the previous week, Real had lost to Shakhtar Donetsk and newly promoted Cadiz, while Barca were beaten by Getafe last weekend. — AFP



Lionel Messi (centre) of Barcelona vies for the ball with Real Madrid players Raphael Varane and Nacho (right) during their Spanish League 'El Clasico' match at Camp Nou in Barcelona on Saturday. — AP

Hami on pole for record win bid

**Portimao (Portugal), Oct. 24:** Lewis Hamilton claimed a thrilling last-gasp pole position on Saturday to give him the perfect launchpad for his bid to win a record 92nd race in Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix. In denying his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas in the final seconds of qualifying, Hamilton moved to within three of his 100th career pole. The six-time champion, who had trailed the Finn in all three practice sessions and in the two opening parts of qualifying, reeled off a stunning best lap in one minute and 16.652 seconds at the new Algarve International Circuit. It was enough to outpace the Finn by 0.102 seconds and, as so often this year, to deliver heartbreak again after the pair had swapped from soft to medium tyres for their final runs. Hamilton had gone out ahead of Bottas for the final session and took advantage by taking two flying laps, the second completed after the chequered flag fell producing his clincher. Hamilton's ninth pole of the season sets him up to move clear of Michael Schumacher's 14-year-old record of 91 which he equalled in the Eifel Grand Prix at Nurburgring last time out. Max Verstappen took third for Red Bull ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Sergio Perez of Racing Point. — AFP

Milestone



Trainees and guests pose at the conclusion of a three-day Dussehra tennis camp which coincided with Academia Sports Village's fifth anniversary celebrations at the Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club on Saturday.

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IPL MID-TOURNAMENT SUMMARY, STANDINGS

TEAMS	RCB			CSK			DC			SRH			KKR			MI			KXIP			RR		
	M	Date	Pt	M	Date	Pt	M	Date	Pt	M	Date	Pt	M	Date	Pt	M	Date	Pt	M	Date	Pt	M	Date	Pt
RCB				25	10-Oct	0	19	05-Oct	2	3	21-Sep	0	28	12-Oct	0	10	28-Sep	0	6	24-Sep	2	15	03-Oct	0
				44	25-Oct		55	02-Nov		52	31-Oct		39	21-Oct		48	28-Oct		31	15-Oct	2	33	17-Oct	0
CSK	25	10-Oct	2				7	25-Sep	2	14	02-Oct	2	21	07-Oct	2	1	19-Sep	0	18	04-Oct	0	4	22-Sep	2
	44	25-Oct					34	17-Oct	2	29	13-Oct	0	49	29-Oct		41	23-Oct	2	53	01-Nov		37	19-Oct	2
DC	19	05-Oct	0	7	25-Sep	0				11	29-Sep	2	16	03-Oct	0	27	11-Oct	2	2	20-Sep	0	23	09-Oct	0
	55	02-Nov		34	17-Oct	0				47	27-Oct		42	24-Oct	2	51	31-Oct		38	20-Oct	2	30	14-Oct	0
SRH	3	21-Sep	2	14	02-Oct	0	11	29-Sep	0				8	26-Sep	2	17	04-Oct	2	22	08-Oct	0	26	11-Oct	2
	52	31-Oct		29	13-Oct	2	47	27-Oct					35	18-Oct	2	56	03-Nov		43	24-Oct	2	40	22-Oct	0
KKR	28	12-Oct	2	21	07-Oct	0	16	03-Oct	2	8	26-Sep	0				5	23-Sep	2	24	10-Oct	0	12	30-Sep	0
	39	21-Oct	2	49	29-Oct		42	24-Oct	0	35	18-Oct	0				32	16-Oct	2	46	26-Oct		54	01-Nov	
MI	10	28-Sep	2	1	19-Sep	2	27	11-Oct	0	17	04-Oct	0	5	23-Sep	0				13	01-Oct	0	20	06-Oct	0
	48	28-Oct		41	23-Oct	0	51	31-Oct		56	03-Nov		32	16-Oct	0				36	18-Oct	2	45	27-Oct	
KXIP	6	24-Sep	0	18	04-Oct	2	2	20-Sep	2	22	08-Oct	2	24	10-Oct	2	13	01-Oct	2				9	27-Sep	2
	31	15-Oct	0	53	01-Nov		38	20-Oct	0	43	24-Oct	0	46	26-Oct		36	18-Oct	0				50	30-Oct	
RR	15	03-Oct	2	4	22-Sep	0	23	09-Oct	2	26	11-Oct	0	12	30-Sep	2	20	06-Oct	2	9	27-Sep	0			
	33	17-Oct	2	37	19-Oct	0	30	14-Oct	2	40	22-Oct	2	54	01-Nov		45	25-Oct		50	30-Oct				
TOTAL																								
Run Rate				14		6			14		8		12					14		10				8

This table (to be read vertically) encapsulates the performances of teams against each opponent and lists out the remaining matches. (Key: M = match number. Pt = points) — Conceptualised and contributed by Deccan Chronicle reader Yawar Ali

