


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | THURSDAY | 15 OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER




Max: 24.8°C
Min: 21.4°C
RH: 93%
Rainfall: 0.4 mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 28/21 °C

COVID-19 CUNT


CASES	DEATHS
(+64,786)	(+655)
73,01,870	1,11,272
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,446)	(+8)
TS: 2,16,238	1,241
(+3,892)	(+28)
AP: 7,67,465	6,319

CASES AROUND THE WORLD




3,85,98,519

DEATHS



10,94,040

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES



213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula
Trayodasi till 8.31 am; Adhika
Ashwayuja Bahula Chaturdasi till 4.52
am (Friday)
Star: Uttaraphalguni till 5.54 pm
Varjyam: 1.16 am to 2.40 am (Friday)
Durmuhurtam: 10.05 am to
10.52 am; 2.45 pm to 3.31 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Safar ul Muzaffar 27, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.08 am
Zohar: 12.12 pm
Asar: 4.16 pm
Maghrib: 5.59 pm
Isha: 7.08 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.09 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.54 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 4.25 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 5.02 PM

COUNTER POINT

Flashback



What negligence... We will make life jacket compulsory for all citizens!
Subhani, who began CounterPoint on December 11, 1992 and took only one break from work in his entire career, is on personal leave of bereavement.
We present some of his best cartoons of rib-tickling wisdom published on Page 1 and on the Edit Page till he returns.

IN BRIEF

Enforce interest waiver soon: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday said the Centre should implement “as soon as possible” interest waiver on loans of up to ₹2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the pandemic, saying the common man’s Diwali is in the government’s hands. The apex court sought know from the Centre if the benefit of loan interest waiver for borrowers of up to ₹2 crore during the moratorium period has “percolated” to the common man.

Sobha Naidu passes away

Hyderabad: Renowned Kuchipudi exponent Sobha Naidu, a recipient of Padma Shri and numerous other awards, passed away here on Wednesday.
Naidu, who was in her sixties, was undergoing treatment at a private hospital and the end came around 1 am on Wednesday, sources close to her said.
Sobha Naidu’s major achievements include choreography and presentation of ballets.



NATION | 4

Mufti, Abdullahs to put up joint front



WORLD | 5

Feel like ‘Superman’, says Trump

SPORTS | 8

Srikanth sails into Round 2 of Denmark open



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30 killed in TS; rain pounds Hyd

19 confirmed dead in GHMC area, 5 yet to be traced; gates of irrigation projects lifted due to heavy inflows

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT 14

The incessant rain has claimed the lives of at least 30 people in various districts, including Hyderabad, since Tuesday.
In Greater Hyderabad limits alone, 19 were confirmed dead while five are yet to be traced.
Many streams and rivers, particularly the Musi river, are in full spate, even as tanks started overflowing due to heavy inflows. Authorities in almost all the projects in the state lifted the gates following heavy inflows.

The government has placed the entire administration on high alert and initiated relief and rescue measures across the state. Two helicopters were kept on standby while boats were deployed to evacuate people stranded in low-lying areas that were inundated.

Officials breached the bund of the Musi project near Rudhrapuram in a bid to save the medium irrigation project in Suryapet district after inflows increased to 1.83 lakh cusecs in the early hours of Wednesday.

On Tuesday night, nine persons, including three children, died at Ghousnagar in Bandlaguda of Hyderabad Old City, when a boundary wall collapsed on two asbestos-roofed houses adjacent to the wall. Eight members of a family, including two children and two women, were washed away when Palle Chervut at Falaknuma overflowed in the midnight of Tuesday.



Residents of Saroornagar look at cars that got piled up in front of their houses on Wednesday after they drifted away from another colony in the floodwaters following incessant rains. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Out of the eight, the bodies of two women were found at Falaknuma bridge on Wednesday.

A three-year-old drowned in the cellar of an apartment in Dil Sukhnagar on Wednesday. The cellar was inundated. The rain also claimed the life of a postman in the city.

Three persons died in erstwhile Nizamabad district and three more, including an 11-year-old boy, were washed away in floods in Yadadri-Bhongir district on Wednesday.

■ Page 2: Coal production halted in state

Lake bed colonies devastated

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Colonies which came upon the catchment area of lakes were most adversely affected by the recent rains. Half of the Tolichowki area is still submerged.

Rainwater entered into the houses in Nadeem colony, Ahmed Colony, Balreddy nagar, Rahul Colony, Niraja Colony, Nizam Colony, Hakeempet kunta, Chabra enclave,

Virat nagar, Virasat nagar and parts of MD lines and Golconda areas.

Many posh colonies in Tolichowki remain under six-seven feet of stormwater despite the fact that the rain has stopped.

These areas flood whenever there are heavy rains.

Most colonies in the area are on the banks or catchment areas of lakes and ponds.

There is no proper channel to discharge stormwa-

ter which flows from the upper areas like Banjara Hills.

The civic body could not find a solution to drain the stormwater in two decades.

One of the reasons for this is the choked and incomplete drains. Residents had to suffer immensely due to continuing rain and subsequent water-logging.

■ Page 2: Many people still confined to their homes

FOUR RESCUED FROM CAR THAT WASHED OUT

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 14

Four persons who tried to cross an overflowing stream over the Chitakoduru reservoir in a car were washed away on Tuesday midnight in Jangaon.
Luckily for the inmates, the car got stuck between some trees and came to a halt in the flowing water.

The locals informed the police on seeing the headlights of the vehicle and hearing the screams of those inside and a rescue operation was launched.

Efforts to rescue them with the help of a rope failed.

Later, the local disaster management team too reached the site and after five hours of combined efforts throughout the night, managed to rescue all four persons in the car.

They were identified as Reddobaina Nares, Reddobaina Kanakaraju, Putta Ravi, Ventrana Venkatesh, residents of Sundaraiah Nagar in Wadlakonda village in the district.

West zone deputy commissioner of police, B. Sreenivas Reddy, monitored the rescue operation.

He said that the four persons were going from Vadlakonda village to Jangaon town in the car.

“The local police officers installed barricades at Vadlakonda culvert barring vehicles from crossing. However, these irresponsible people moved the barricades and went ahead to cross the flooded culvert. They lost control of the vehicle due to the heavy flow of water and were washed away,” said Reddy.

Rains damage paddy, soyabean

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 14

Heavy rains damaged crops in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts for the last two days.

Paddy and soyabean crops were devastated. Harvested paddy was water-logged in different parts of both districts. In a few villages, paddy was damaged due to water-logging and sand casting. Farmers harvested the paddy as the Vanakalam (kharif) season is ending.

Agriculture department officials carried out an instant survey on crop damage.

They identified that crops in 1,561 acres were damaged in Nizamabad district. They said that around 1,124 farmers in 60 villages were affected by the heavy rains. Morthad, Kotagiri, Armoor, Chandur, Varni, Mosra and Rudrur mandals were worst affected by the heavy rains.

Paddy was damaged in 11 villages in Mupkal, Morthad, Kammarpally and Armoor mandals.

METER | DOWN

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, OCT. 14

Private taxi operators are making a killing by transporting passengers from Kurnool to Hyderabad and back. With the stalemate between the APSRTC and TSRTC continuing over inter-state transportation, the festival season is going to be a costly affair for those planning to go to their homes.

The distance between Kurnool and Hyderabad is 200 km on NH-44.

As the road is straight



A farmer checks paddy crop that was damaged due to heavy rains in Sirikonda mandal on Wednesday. — DC

Preliminary reports indicate that 119.2 acres belonging to 77 farmers were damaged. Thota Linga, a farmer from

Sirikonda mandal, urged the state government to purchase damaged and discoloured paddy. “Ensure minimum sup-

port price for the damaged paddy,” he said, adding “Farmers are in distress over heavy rains during the harvesting of paddy.”

Stalemate between APSRTC and TSRTC continues over inter-state transportation

Taxi operators make most of AP, TS impasse

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, OCT. 14

without any difficult terrain, the RTC buses complete the journey in 4 hours while the Indra bus service takes just 3.5 hours.

The buses of private travelers and cars can complete the journey in just 3 hours.

It is because of this time factor, many prefer private vehicles over RTC buses.

It is a common sight to see hundreds of cars and tempos waiting at the Bellary junction, the starting point in Kurnool to carry passengers to Hyderabad. On normal days, cars charge ₹500 for one way while Toofan

vehicle, which has a seating capacity of 15 persons, charges ₹300 per passenger.

Festival season provides the best opportunity for private bus operators to make a killing by jacking up the prices.

During last Dasara, one-way trip between Kurnool and Hyderabad was priced at ₹1500-₹2,000. This Dasara too the same fares would be collected, said Jamaluddin, a car operator. He said due to Coronavirus in the last six months, they had literally no business. He said that

they hope to make a decent business during the festive season. “I hope to make three trips per day,” he said.

Normally, the APSRTC runs about 74 buses from Kurnool to Hyderabad. During the festive season and special occasions, the Corporation runs additional bus services.

Last year, the RTC had increased the fare by 1.5 per cent during the Dasara and earned an additional revenue of ₹1.5 crore, said an RTC official. About 751 buses were pressed into service during Dasara from

Kurnool last year while Telangana RTC ran 431 buses.

There is no clarity on the number of buses to be operated this season, said the official.

The stalemate between the TSRTC and APSRTC is continuing as Telangana RTC is insisting that AP buses should reduce their services to just 1 lakh kilometers against the existing 2.61 lakh km in Telangana state.

This impasse has given an opportunity for the private buses and car operators to make the extra bucks, said

an RTC official.

The stretch between Kurnool-Hyderabad is prone to accidents as the vehicles travel at high speed of not less than 100 kmph at any given time. Passengers demand that speed guns must be erected at vantage points throughout the stretch to check the cruising vehicles.

A passenger said buses coming from Karnataka could cover the distance between Kurnool and Hyderabad in less than 3 hours between 3 am and 7 am.

■ Page 2: Sub stations flooded leading to blackout

across the city to rescue centres set up in community and function halls in different localities.

The IMD has only four monitoring stations in the city.

■ Page 2: More rains in city compound misery

Priority for e-ticket holders at Srisaillam

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, OCT. 14

Srisaillam temple is all set for Dasara festivities, with Covid-19 restrictions, said executive officer K.S. Rama Rao.

He appealed to the people to book their tickets online (e-tickets) so that better arrangements could be made. He said all the sevass

to goddess Brahmaramba and Mallikarjuna Swamy would be performed as Ekanta Sevass and that the public would be allowed to have darshan of the presiding deity. No outside processions would be taken up due to Covid-19 restrictions, Rama Rao said.

The nine-day Dasara Utsavass will commence on October 17 and continue till October 25.

The festivities will begin with Goddess Brhamaramba in Shailla Putri avatar with dazzling radiance. This is the first of nine avatars of Nava Durga. Bhringi Vahana Seva will be performed to the processional deities in the

evening, he said. The nine-day festival will start with special pujass like Ustava Sankalpam and Ganapati pooja and Siva Sankalpa at Yagasala. The temple officials and main priest would offer special pujass for Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and his consort Sri Brahmarambha Devi, as part of Mahotsavass.

These utsavass will end with Chandiyagam and Purnahuti event.

Elaborate arrangements are being made and all facilities are being provided for the devotees visit the shrine during the Utsavass. The important events of the utsavass are Chandiyagam, Rudrayagam, Navadurga alankaras to Goddess and Vahana Sevass to God and Goddess, besides several special pujass.

Goddess Bramaramba is mainly worshipped in these utsavass. On every day of celebrations, various religious rituals like Srichakra-rachana, Navavarana puja, Anustanam, Devi Saptasathi Parayanass, and others.

SHORT TAKES

TS RECORDS
1,446 NEW COVID
CASES, 8 DEATHSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

There have been 1,446 new cases and eight deaths due to Coronavirus in Telangana. With this, the total number of cases has reached 2,16,238, while the death toll has risen to 1,241. Total recoveries are 1,91,269.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has recorded 252 of the new cases. Ranga Reddy accounted for 135 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 131, and Karimnagar 74 cases. These districts have been constantly recording a high number of cases, indicating how the virus has been rampant in these districts.

Despite heavy rains, 40,056 samples were collected to test for Covid-19.

Government has been constantly advising people to continue wearing masks in a proper manner and avoid unnecessary travel, as these are the best measures to avoid contracting Coronavirus.

COAL PRODUCTION
GETS HALTED IN
TELANGANA

From Page 1

One person entered a watery grave while trying to cross the overflowing weir of Rathoni tank in Khammam on Tuesday night.

A 40-year-old farmer was electrocuted when he accidentally came into contact with a live wire while switching on an electric motor in his field at Rebbenapalli village, Dandepalli mandal on Wednesday.

A 11-year-old boy was washed away in Peddavagu, a rivulet, when he and his friend were picnicking at a religious structure near Kaghaznagar town on Wednesday.

An old couple and their grandson died when their house collapsed in Kummera village of Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday night.

A 14-year-old boy was washed away in the flood waters of Peddachervu in Bhongir and his body was fished out by the authorities with the help of a JCB and locals.

Coal production was halted in the Singareni mines across the state and road connectivity was snapped on several arterial roads, including the Hyderabad-Vijayawada national highway.

SUB STATIONS
FLOODED LEADING
TO BLACKOUT

From Page 1

The primary reasons for the large-scale blackouts were because of flooding in the 15 33/11 KV sub-stations, forcing the electricity authorities to shut them down to prevent any accidents due to the water, in some cases reaching up to the transformers in the sub-stations.

Banjara Hills, Saroornagar, S.R. Nagar, Ibrahim Bagh, Medchal, Charminar were among the worst-affected areas, TSSPDCL officials said. During the 24 hours, on Tuesday and Wednesday, officials said their control room received around 12,000 complaints. Other areas of the city affected more than others include Mehdiapatnam, Malakpet, Punjagutta, Indira Park, Ameerpet and Sainikpuri.

"A total of 189 section-wise disaster management wings, comprising 25 members each, are working on resolving the issues," Reddy said. Meanwhile, authorities have advised people to be vigilant about power poles, transformers and wires around which where rain water has accumulated. TSSPDCL should be notified immediately if wires are found cut on roads or buildings anywhere.

Fluctuations in voltage, or power outages must be reported to the special control room 7382072104, 7382072106, 7382072106, 7382071574, along with the 1912/100 /Local fuse off call office.

● **BANJARA HILLS,** Saroornagar, S.R. Nagar, Ibrahim Bagh, Medchal, Charminar were among the worst-affected areas, TSSPDCL officials said. During the 24 hours, on Tuesday and Wednesday, officials said their control room received around 12,000 complaints. Other areas of the city affected more than others include Mehdiapatnam, Malakpet, Punjagutta, Indira Park, Ameerpet and Sainikpuri.



People throng the Himayatsagar reservoir where the gates were opened on Wednesday following heavy inflows from the catchment areas. — R. PAVAN



Water gushes out of the Hussainsagar lake as its gates were opened following incessant rains in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The full tank level was crossed on Tuesday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

13 gates of Himayatsagar opened

Inflows have been playing hide and seek but reached the FRL on Tuesday midnight, says official

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Thirteen of the seventeen gates of the Himayatsagar reservoir in Hyderabad were opened as the influx of water continued due to heavy rains on Wednesday morning. The decision was taken on Tuesday midnight as the water level touched full reservoir level (FRL) at 1763.500 feet.

Four gates were opened at midnight, after the evacuation of people from the low-lying areas around. According to Hyderabad metropolitan water supply and sewerage board (HMWSSB) officials, with increasing trends, the inflow into the reservoir is 21,450 cusecs and outflow is 22,145 cusecs.

Water from the Himayatsagar reservoir was released into the Musi river. The inflows in the reservoir had gradually reduced by afternoon and seven gates were closed. Authorities have been releasing 10,290 cuses through six gates by lifting it six feet from the reservoir. The total water storage capacity of Himayatsagar is 2.97 TMC, and till 7.30 am, the full reservoir level was maintained.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, water board officials monitoring the Himayatsagar said that they have been preparing to open the gates for 15 days. He said that the inflows have been playing hide and seek but finally reached the FRL on Tuesday midnight. The official said that the HMWSSB has alerted revenue, police and the

● **THE GHMC** has been releasing highly contaminated water into the downstream areas. Taking the opportunity, industries in upstream areas have been releasing untreated water and the pungent smell combined with froth is evidence, said officials.

● **THE HUSSAINSAGAR** too reached beyond its full tank level (FTL) at 513.700 feet on Tuesday, and GHMC irrigation wing officials said that it has still a few meters to reach the maximum water level of 514.91 feet.

Greater Hyderabad municipal corporation (GHMC) officials prior to the release of water and if downstream areas still had people in them, it would not be the board's responsibility.

The GHMC has been releasing highly contaminated water into the downstream areas. Taking the opportunity, industries in upstream areas have been releasing untreated water and the pungent smell combined with froth is evidence, said officials.

The Hussainsagar too reached beyond its full tank level (FTL) at 513.700 feet on Tuesday, and GHMC irrigation wing officials said that it has still a few meters to reach the maximum water level (MWL) of 514.91 feet. Currently, the lake reached 513.700 feet and half a meter rise in the water level would be a matter of concern.

Officials said that if the rain continues, it would have to lift the sluice apart from rehabilitating residents living in the low-lying areas. The corporation has already lifted the vent and sluice gates on Tuesday afternoon to avoid sudden floods in the low-lying areas.

However, officials speak of submergence of low-lying areas for at least two days though they claim that there will be no need for panic and the corporation has been maintaining FTL on any given day and excess water is leaving from the sluice and diversion nala near Marriott hotel. Officials said there was no danger but residents would be alerted and requested to shift to nearby rehabilitation centres if the level crosses 514.91 feet.

The lake has two outflow points: one at the hotel and the other at the GHMC head office. The 21 channels that lead to the vent near the hotel end up in the surplus nala that winds its way over 5.5 kms to Golnaka.

Release of a large quantity of water could endanger people, especially those living along the canal in Amedkarnagar, Sabarmatinagar, Arundhatinagar, Subash Chandrabose, parts of Domalguda, Bapujinagar, parts of Himayatnagar, Dattanagar, Sriramnagar, Satyanagar, Ratnanagar, Shivanandanagar and Ganganagar. The situation would depend up on the inflows from Kukatpally nala and other upstream lakes which were encroached upon.

RAINS SUBMERGE
LOCALITIES,
FLOOD EATERIESHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Localities submerged, stores and restaurants inundated, lakes overflowing - such were the scenes in central Hyderabad in the areas of Begumpet, Ameerpet, Panjagutta after over 24 hours of heavy rains that the city witnessed on Wednesday.

The underground parking area of Chutneys restaurant in Begumpet was completely submerged till its 12-foot-high roof on Wednesday morning. The owners had to shut down operations for a day to pump out water. However, no further damages were reported.

Several houses in low-lying areas of West Marredpally were also affected and were seen pumping out storm water that had collected overnight. Residents in several areas, living on the ground floor, had to vacate to upper floors for safety.

In Chikoti Gardens, links to several localities were cut off due to major inundation. The Brindavan society, consisting of approximately 100 flats, was submerged in over 10-foot-high stormwater on Wednesday morning, with cars in its cellar completely overrun by water. The road to Holy Trinity church in the same area was also cut off. The church was also surrounded by high water levels after the heavy rains.



After the heavy rains, police and NDRF teams rescue driver of a washed away lorry in Peddamberpet on Wednesday.

Truck gets washed
away, driver rescuedSANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The force of the floods following the incessant rains that gripped Telangana state on Tuesday left some motorists and vehicle drivers struggling for their lives as they attempted to cross the inundated sections of the roads.

A lorry was washed away by the force of water as its driver attempted to negotiate the road near Peddamberpet lake. The heavy goods vehicle, that was pushed off the road by the surging water, turned on its side with its driver

stuck inside the vehicle. People watching the scene dialled 100 even as a patrol van from the Hayathanagar police station that was nearby, rushed to the scene. Police officials managed to get the lorry driver, identified as 35-year-old Yasa Ramreddy, a resident of Nalgonda district, out of the vehicle to safety.

Ramreddy, had just completed a run unloading sand at Koheda village and was driving on the road towards Peddaamberpet when the flood water pushed it off the road, the police explained.

3-YEAR-OLD
DROWNS IN
APARTMENTSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

A three-year-old boy drowned in an apartments cellar in Kodanaramnagar on Wednesday morning. Saroornagar police inspector said, "The boy, Aditya Sai of Sahitha Apartments, had gone down at 9.15 am but suddenly found himself in neck deep water. When he started shouting his mother tried to pull him out. However, he had swallowed lot of water."

The boy was taken to a hospital where they declared him dead.

People still confined
to their homes

From Page 1

Residents of many houses in Al-Hasnat colony near the house of Indian cricketer, Mohammed Siraj, remained confined to their homes as the entire lane was submerged in rain and drain water for two days. Residents of these colonies have no water to drink or anything to eat.

Even when the rain stopped, there was no trace of reduction as the stormwater found no way to flow. Several residents of these colonies had to move out of their homes to

safe places. There was no power in these areas for hours.

Mohammed Mansoor Ali, a resident of Al-Hasnat colony, said, "We have never seen flooding like this in my lifetime. It rained heavily two decades ago but many colonies were not affected. The ground floors of many houses in nearby colonies are completely flooded. Many vehicles have been washed away in the water. Legal action should be taken against the developers of these colonies who sold plots developed on what once were lakes."

House wall crashes,
woman escapesATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

A wall of a house adjacent to the historic Akkanna Madanna Temple at Hari Bowli collapsed on Wednesday following incessant rains. A woman passing by had a narrow escape.

The CCTV camera footage of the incident which had gone viral on social medias shows the women who

escaped unhurt appeared to be in a state of shock.

Detective inspector of Moghalpura police station R. Devendar said, "The woman, who could not traced, was passing by when the wall of an old building adjacent to the temple suddenly collapsed. She managed to escape by rushing to the other side of the road in time."

More rains across city compound misery

From Page 1

Even as the city breathed a sigh of relief for much of the day on Wednesday after the pounding it received from heavy and incessant rain on Tuesday and the subsequent flood that ravaged large parts of Hyderabad and power outage, the night brought with it another round of steady rain across the city raising prospects of further misery to the people.

According to the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDFS) areas like Hayathnagar, Abudulapurmet and Saroornagar received rainfall to the tune of 300 mm, 298.8 mm, and 275.3 mm respectively.

The rain, at times, was accompanied by gusty winds, with officials reporting that Hayathnagar witnessed wind speeds of up to 65.1 kmph or 35.15 knots. With widespread destruc-

tion in terms of flooding of residential areas that left people desperately in need of help, the State Government called for help, a call that Indian Army promptly responded to deploying its columns along with boats and medical teams into service in Bandlaguda, one of the worst hit areas.

Even as the state government ordered that all educational institutions shut down and also stop their

online classes for two days, and told offices to close down to avoid people coming onto the roads, many of them flooded, the Nehru Zoological Park too suffered its share of the damage from overflows from Mir Alam Tank adjacent to it, flooding the zoo. The zoo said it would remain closed on Thursday as it tries to mop up the dirty and highly polluted water from the tank, but assured that all the ani-

mals were safe.

Meanwhile, the IMD said that for Thursday and Friday, Telangana can expect to experience some light to moderate rain or thunder showers at a few places over the state. The deep depression that first formed over Bay of Bengal in the east and moved over the peninsula to settle over Hyderabad by Tuesday night, has since moved on towards Maharashtra, the IMD added.

CM: RESTORE
POWER SUPPLY
IMMEDIATELYDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Wednesday asked officials and staff of Telangana Genco and Transco to be on high alert, so that they can take immediate steps for restoring power supply in areas affected by heavy rains and floods across the state.

Following large-scale disruption in power caused due to unprecedented rains hitting the state, CM spoke to D. Prabhaakar Rao, CMD of Genco and Transco, to inquire about the situation. The CMD informed the CM that the entire electricity organisation is on high alert and is involved in restoration works.



SHORT TAKES

EIGHT FROM A FAMILY WASHED AWAY IN HYD

ATHER MOIN DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Eight members of a family, including two children, in Ali Nagar, Bandlaguda under Mailardevpally police station limits, were washed away on Wednesday. Two bodies have been found while the remaining persons are untraced.

A person, who was caught on camera while being washed away, was rescued by the youth in Ghazi e Millat Colony, Falaknuma.

The visual surfaced from the Falaknuma area, showing a man trying in vain to hold on to a pole, swept away by a strong floodwater wave. He was tossed two kilometres away. However, he was rescued by the youth.

Spokesperson of Majlis Bachao Tahreek (MBT) Amjadullah Khan presented the rescued 60-year-old Abdul Tahir Qureshi before the media. Qureshi said that when the walls of the backyard of their house collapsed, family members came out to reach a safer place. "All of us were standing on the platform in front of the house, but all of sudden the platform displaced," he said.

He said his younger brother Mohammed Abdul Qureshi tried to rescue him but he also was washed away. Bodies of Darkish Qureshi (32) and Farzana Tabassum (26) were found but there was no trace of Mohammed Abdul Wajid Qureshi (32), Mohammed Wasay Qureshi (33), Humera Tabassum (24), Abdul Wahab Qureshi (5), Amara Bibi (7) and Mohammed Abdul Qureshi (55).

Amjadullah Khan said that he tried to contact the Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development K.T. Rama Rao and Commissioner of Police Anjani Kumar but they did not respond. He appealed to them to come forward to trace the remaining family members. The two bodies were kept in Deeni Madarsa Jamiat ul Bannaat.

● **THE RESCUED 60-year-old Abdul Tahir Qureshi said that when the walls of the backyard of their house collapsed, family members came out to reach a safer place.**

● **ALL OF us were standing on the platform in front of the house, but all of sudden the platform displaced.**

POLICE FLAG DAY TO BE CELEBRATED FROM OCT. 21

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 14

The Police Commemoration week is now going to be celebrated, as the Police Flag Day from October 21 to 31.

Earlier, celebrations for the Police Commemoration week would begin on October 15 and conclude on October 21. However, this year to mark National Unity Day celebrated on October 31, which is the birth anniversary of the first deputy Prime Minister of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the commemoration celebrations will conclude.

Nizamabad police commissioner Kartikeya said on Wednesday said that the 'Smriti Parade' will be held on October 21.

"DGP M. Mahender Reddy has directed that celebrations will be held for 10 days, to mark the Police Commemoration Day," he said. Nizamabad, Armoor and Bodhan division police will conduct various programmes.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the programmes will be held, following the Coronavirus protocol. Explaining the police duties and sacrifices, he said, "Online open house programmes will be held, in all the police stations. We will also discuss, the use of technology, in law and order, police services for public safety, and friendly policing."

Besides, online essay writing competitions, the police troupes will hold blood donation camps and cultural programmes in the villages. While interacting with the villages, the police will help resolve their problems, Mr Kartikeya said, adding we will meet the family members of the police martyrs and recall their sacrifices.

Documentaries, short films, photos and articles on the services on the police are invited. Entries should reach the police public relations officer by October 19. For information, participants can call on 94400 01827. Police cultural teams will give performances from October 21 to 31.



Floodwater at 100 feet road in Hanamkonda on Wednesday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

GWMC manages to reduce damage by floodwaters

Residents of the affected areas, shifted to various shelters

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 14

The Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) mayor Gunda Prakash Rao said full-scale flood control was possible in Warangal city due to the measures taken by the GWMC.

The main reason for the low-lying areas in Warangal city to get inundated in August this year was the occupation of the drainage canals.

The mayor said, "As many as 415 illegal structures were found on the canal. So far 340 of them have been removed. As a result only a few areas of the city was flooded. The GWMC is taking all measures to avert the threat of floods and the people need not worry."

Residents of the affected colonies were shifted to various rehabilitation centres.

GWMC commissioner Pamela Satpathy has directed the authorities to provide necessary facilities to the people in the rehabilitation centres.

She visited the rehabilitation centre set up at the Santoshi Mata Garden for flood victims in NTR Nagar and Santoshi Mata Colony. Meanwhile, the DRF teams rescued 10 people in Gundla Singaram. The teams cleared fallen trees in Kadipikonda, Ayodhya puram, Dharmaram and Sthambampalli areas.

● **GWMC commissioner Pamela Satpathy visited the rehabilitation centres set up.**



People being rescued with the help of ropes at Gundla Singaram.



GWMC teams removing fallen trees in Warangal.

● As many as 415 illegal structures were found on the canal. So far 340 of them have been removed.

— GUNDA PRAKASH RAO, GWMC mayor

Senior CPI leader Gunda Mallesh dies

DC CORRESPONDENT
KUMARAMBHEEM
ASIFABAD, OCT. 14

Senior CPI leader and former MLA Gunda Mallesh, 73, has died of ill health while undergoing treatment at NIMS in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, his last rites were done, in Bellampalli town. Hundreds of people, including party workers, took out a rally, paying respects to their leader in Bellampalli town, which remained close.

Asifabad ZP chairperson Kova Laxmi, Bellampalli MLA Durgam Chinniah, and CPI leader Kunamneni Sambashivarao, AITUC leaders Seetha Ramaiah, Gattiah, and leaders of various political parties were present to bid him adieu.

Gunda Mallesh was a popular trade union leader in United Andhra Pradesh.

For 48 years, he was active in politics. He interacted with everyone and led a committed life without amassing wealth.

Till recently, whenever he would travel for party work, he would use public transport and stay in the party's offices.

A native of Rechni village in Tandur Mandal, Gunda Mallesh came from a humble background. In search of a job, he shifted to Bellampalli town, where he began his career as a lorry cleaner

and later as a driver.

Before getting into active politics, Gunda Mallesh also worked for the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

It was while with the SCCL, that he got involved in Trade Union politics and was an active leader of the AITUC. He later, resigned from the SCCL to get into mainstream politics, where he rose to be a four-time MLA and floor leader for the CPI in the Assembly. He was elected, thrice as MLA from Asifabad (SC) and once from Bellampalli (SC) constituencies.

He first contested as an MLA from the Asifabad seat (SC) in 1978 and was defeated. In total, he contested eight times as MLA and was elected four times, in 1983, 1985, 1994 and 2009. In 2018, he contested from Bellampalli and lost to the TRS candidate Durgam Chinniah. His fans and close associates say, "Gunda Mallesh died without fulfilling his dream of becoming the CPI state secretary, even though he contributed to the party for 50 years and held various positions."

Minister for forest Allola Indrakaran Reddy and Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna paid rich tributes to Gunda Mallesh and expressed their deep condolences to his family members.

Gunda Mallesh is survived, by wife Saroja, two daughters and a son.

IN VIEW OF HEAVY RAINS, TSNPDCL SETS UP CONTROL ROOM

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, OCT. 14

In the wake of heavy rain forecast by the Meteorological Department in the state, the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TSNPDC) has set up a special control room for electricity-related complaints.

TSNPDC chairman and managing director Annamaneni Gopal Rao said, "In case of any interruption in power supply, people can lodge a complaint with the local fuse call office and the special control room of the department of power by dialling 9440811244/9440811245/1912/18004250028.

He said, "In the case of cut wires on roads, fluctuations in voltage or noise at the transformers, people must notify the company immediately. People walking on the road should be vigilant about power poles, power cords, transformers and service wires." The district superintending engineers and divisional engineers have been instructed to monitor the power supply condition by liaising with the field staff from time to time.

● **BE CAREFUL OF power poles, power cords and service wires while walking on roads.**

Illegal abortion bid on minor exposed, nursing home seized

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 14

The Akshaya Nursing home in Kothawada in Warangal has been seized for violating the allopathic medical care establishment and Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) laws, said District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO), Dr K. Lalitha. She said, "We received information that a minor girl will be undergoing abortion at the hospital. "We raided the place on

Tuesday at midnight along with the police and found a minor girl and a woman being prepared for termination of their pregnancy.

"She was interrogated in the presence of the child welfare department officials."

"The hospital has poor management of records. At the time of the raid, not a single doctor was available. Importantly, the preparations for the abortion were done, without due permissions.

In view of all this, the registration of the hospi-

tal has been terminated and the hospital seized," Dr Lalitha said.

The minor girl and woman were given tablets related to abortion and were moved to the Government CKM maternity hospital for treatment.

Additional DMHO Dr T Madan Mohan Rao, District surveillance officer Dr T. Krishna Rao, Warangal Tahsildhar Md Iqbal, sub-inspector of police Srinivas Reddy, DEMO V. Ashok Reddy, CDPO Vishwaja took part in the raid on the hospital.



Above: A lorry stuck on a washed out road on the Jangaon-Suryapet road. Left: The RTC bus which fell in a ditch

RTC bus falls into ditch, 15 escape

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, OCT. 14

An RTC bus carrying 15 passengers including the driver and conductor, overturned on Tuesday night in a ditch dug for the construction of a new bridge between Jangaon and Suryapet.

The passengers escaped with minor injuries.

According to the police, the RTC bus was on its way to Hanmakonda from Hyderabad. It was supposed to halt at Jangaon. However, the bus had to take a diversion towards Nellutla junction as the highway entering Jangaon was inundated.

On the way, the bus encountered a lorry stuck on a washed out road on the Jangaon-Suryapet road. With no other way to enter Jangaon, the driver decided to turn back and take the bus directly to Hanamkonda via Nellutla village.

As it was dark and rain-

ing heavily, the bus driver did not notice a ditch dug for the construction of a new bridge on the Jangaon-Suryapet road and drove into it, resulting in the bus falling on its side.

Jangaon rural inspector Balaji and Lingala Ghanpur SI Devender, along with their staff, rushed to the spot immediately and began rescuing the passengers, driver and conductor from the overturned bus.

Passengers who sustained minor injuries received treatment at the local government hospital before sending them onward to their respective destinations in another RTC bus.

With the help of a crane, the police moved the bus to the Jangaon bus depot and managed to avoid traffic issues on the highway.

Passengers thanked the police for their timely response in saving them.

CENTRE FAULTS TELANGANA FOR FAILED RTE

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Union government accused the Telangana State government of non-implementation of Right To Education (RTE) Act in the state, and referred to it not submitting the details of the eligible students for free education under the RTE Act.

The Centre on Wednesday submitted to the High Court that it was ready to bear 60 per cent of the expenses to the admissions for the poor students as per the RTE Act, which mandates all the private schools to reserve 25 per cent of the seats for children between the age 6 to 14 years who come from economically weaker sections. The expenses for these seats should be borne by both Union and State government in the ratio of 60:40.

The division Bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy was dealing the long pending batch of petitions related to non-implementation of RTE Act in Telangana.

Though the Act came into effect on 1 April 2010, throughout the country, in Telangana it was not implemented. Petitioners urged the Court to direct the Union and State government to take necessary action into this issue, forthwith.

Namavarapu Rajeshwara Rao, assistant solicitor general, on behalf of the Union government told the court that 'Telangana government has been delaying the submission of details of the eligible students to it since 2018.

Adivasis take out rally, oppose LRS

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, OCT. 14

Hundreds of Adivasis took out a massive rally in Utnoor town on Wednesday opposing the implementation of the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS), property survey and the new Telangana Revenue Acts in the Agency areas.

Adivasis from nine Adivasi groups participated in the rally.

They raised slogans against the state government's efforts to dilute Land Transfer Regulations 1 of 70 (LTR), Panchayats (extension) to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Acts in the agency areas and for collecting details of the properties of non-tribals' in the agency areas.



Adivasis take out a massive rally in Utnoor town on Wednesday opposing the implementation of LRS, property survey and the new Telangana Revenue Act in the Agency areas in the state.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

Surprisingly, Adivasi women in large numbers participated in the rally. There was heavy police

bandobast in Utnoor town, and police security was provided to the rally to avoid any untoward inci-

dents.

The Adivasi who had gathered at the Kumarambheem complex

MARKET ENTRY 300-acre site at Kongara Kalan to sell horticulture products

Horticulture gets boost from KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Chief Minister K. Chandrabab Naidu has directed a qualitative change in cultivation of horticulture crops and asked authorities to prepare a comprehensive horticulture cultivation policy.

He announced setting up of a major market that will be on the lines of Azadpur Market in Delhi, in Kongara Kalan village spread over 300 acres for

selling horticulture products.

At a review meeting with officials of the horticulture department here on Wednesday, Rao asked them to bring a qualitative change in cultivation of horticulture crops, training officers and strengthening the department. He said that since Telangana is blessed with a wide variety of soil, good rainfall and skilled farmers, such advantages should be utilised to optimal levels.

He stressed the need to bring in revolutionary changes in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, flowers and other horticulture crops. Rao assured that all necessary steps needed to strengthen the department would be taken by the government.

He pointed out that despite having sufficient water, suitable soil and good rainfall, Telangana is still importing vegetables, fruits, flowers, spices, and oil seeds.

"This situation should change. Telangana should become self-sufficient in horticulture crops. It should develop in such a way that it should be able to export to other regions, including abroad, after meeting the demand within the state," he said.

"In Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana and Netherlands horticulture crops are being cultivated successfully. One should visit these places to learn about the techniques,

marketing methods and their rich experiences. We should follow the best practices.

Send officials to Indian Institute of Horticulture Research in Bangalore for training," he added.

Emphasising the need to expand the horticulture department he said the state government is ready to appoint one horticulture extension officer for every mandal. He asked the officers to prepare proposals.

SHORT TAKES

CORONAVIRUS RECOVERIES CROSS 63L-MARK

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

India’s overall cases of Coronavirus reached 72.39 lakh on Wednesday after 63,509 new infections were detected in a day. The Covid-19 death toll reached 1,10,586 with the virus claiming 730 lives in the last 24 hours. India is just behind the US in terms of the highest number of cases in the world. The US has close to 81 lakh total cases till now.

The number of people who have recovered from Covid-19 has crossed 63 lakh taking the recovery rate to 87.05 per cent while for the sixth consecutive day now the active cases have remained below 9 lakh.

There are 8.27 lakh active cases of Covid-19 infection in the country which comprises 11.42 per cent of the total case-load. The case fatality rate was recorded at 1.53 per cent.

Union health ministry officials said India is registering new recoveries more than the new cases consistently in the recent days, as a result, the active cases are steadily declining and comprise only 11.42% of the total positive cases of the country. “74,632 Covid cases have recovered and discharged in the last 24 hours whereas the new confirmed cases stand at 63,509. Higher number of recoveries has aided the national Recovery Rate to further improve to 87.05%,” officials said.

BIEGUN STRESSES ON INDIA-US PARTNERSHIP

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

Ahead of the Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue at the Foreign and Defence ministerial level that could take place towards the end of this month before the United States Presidential elections, US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E. Biegun—who completed a three-day visit to India on Wednesday—“underscored the importance of the US-India partnership, particularly in advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific” and also “emphasized” the importance of the four-nation Quad “toward a region protected and made prosperous in equal measure by strong and peaceful nations in the Indo-Pacific”, a veiled reference to the Chinese military threat in the region.

Interestingly, Mr. Biegun also met Bhutanese Ambassador to India Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel to “reaffirm the United States’ close relationship with the people of Bhutan”. China has a territorial dispute with Bhutan too which is a decades-old close friend of India. The US official will now visit Bangladesh.

Mr. Biegun had also held an important meeting with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla earlier on Tuesday in which they had “reviewed the entire gamut of engagements under the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, including political, security and defense, economic, commercial, technology and people-to-people contacts”.

SENTENCING OF DILIP RAY ON OCT. 26

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 14

The CBI special court, New Delhi, on Wednesday reserved its verdict on the quantum of punishment against former union minister Dilip Ray and others who were convicted in the coal block allocation case, till October 26.

On October 6, the court had convicted Ray, two former senior officials of the union coal ministry — Pradip Kumar Banerjee and Nitya Nand Gautam — and director of Castron Technologies Ltd (CTL) Mahendra Kumar Agarwalla and Castron Mining Ltd (CML) in the case pertaining to allocation of 105.153 hectares of abandoned coal mining area in Brahmadiha coal block in Giridih district of Jharkhand to CTL in 1999.

Special Judge (CBI), Bharat Parashar held Ray guilty of offences like cheating, criminal conspiracy and breach of trust.

The CBI had framed charges against Ray and others under sections sections 120-B and 120-B/409/420 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 13 (1) (c) and 13 (1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.



Former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and president of People's Democratic Party Mehbooba Mufti interacts with J&K National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and leader Omar Abdullah at her residence in Srinagar on Wednesday.

— PTI

Mufti, Abdullahs to put up joint front

Signatories of the ‘Gupkar Declaration’ to meet on Thursday to discuss future strategy

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 14

Jammu and Kashmir’s mainstream political icons and former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti have resolved to put up a joint front along with other like-minded political parties and leaders against the Centre’s “onslaught” against the erstwhile state’s unique identity, the political and economic interests of its people and for seeking restoration of the special status it enjoyed prior to August 5, 2019.

The Abdullahs on Wednesday called on People’s Democratic Party (PDP) Mufti at her official residence here to discuss briefly with her the contours of a broader alliance, the foundation of which would be the ‘Gupkar Declaration’.

‘Gupkar Declaration’ is a pledge of Kashmir’s mainstream parties which they took at a meeting held at Senior Abdullah’s residence along Srinagar’s Gupkar Road on August 4, 2019, a day before the state was stripped of its special status and split up into two Union Territories (UTs).

It had warned the Centre that abrogation and even modification of Articles 35A and 370 of the Constitution and delimitation or trifurcation of the state would be seen as an “aggression” against its people and fought back tooth and nail.

The meeting had also unanimously declared that all the parties would be united in their resolve to protect and defend identity, autonomy and special status of the J&K against all “attacks and onslaughts”.

Last month, the leaders of National Conference

(NC), PDP, Peoples National Conference, CPIM and Congress issued a joint statement here saying that they are “wholly bound” by the ‘Gupkar Declaration’ and “will unwaveringly adhere to it.”

Earlier, the NC’s political affairs committee had authorised its president Farooq Abdullah “to widen the acceptance of the ‘Gupkar Declaration’ among all the sections in Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh”.

The signatories of the declaration are scheduled to meet at Farooq Abdullah’s residence here on Thursday afternoon to discuss their future strategy. Mufti, who could not attend the last meeting, will also participate in the deliberations, the PDP and NC sources said.

This will be the third meeting of the political parties which are part of ‘Gupkar Declaration’.

Omar Abdullah tweeted, “My father & I called on @MehboobaMufti Sahiba this afternoon to enquire about her well-being after her release from detention. She has kindly accepted Farooq Sb’s invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories tomorrow afternoon”. (sic)

Mufti retweeted Abdullah’s tweet with her comment, “It was nice of you & Farooq sahab to come home. It gave me courage listening to him. I’m sure together we all can change things for the better”.

Soon after her release from a 14-month-long detention on Tuesday night, Mufti had in an audio message put on her twitter handle sought restoration of J&K’s pre-August 5, 2019 constitutional position and resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Mufti, 61, termed August 5, 2019 as a “black day” in the history of J&K and the move taken by the central government on that day as “black” too and said it continued to cause smack her heart and soul during her incarceration.

She said all the people of Jammu and Kashmir “must have been passing through the same situation”.

She said, “None of us will ever forget the dacoity committed and dishonour shown to us on that day. Now everyone has to renew and reiterate our pledge to fight for the return of what was snatched from us undemocratically, unconstitutionally and illegally by Delhi darbar on August 5 last year”.

Seeking an urgent resolution of the Kashmir problem, for which, she said, people have rendered enormous sacrifices, she asserted though this was not an easy task ahead she was quite confident that the unwavering and determination of the people will make the journey easy.

Mufti was among hundreds of politicians and other activists taken into preventive custody ahead of abrogation of Article 370 on August 5 last year.

Many of these leaders and activists including the PDP president were subsequently formally detained under J&K’s stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

Although most key political figures including two other former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah were freed earlier this year, Mufti remained incarcerated even after being shifted to her home in capital Srinagar which had been declared a ‘subsidiary jail’ in April.

Art. 370: Karan Singh hits out at Farooq Abdullah

New Delhi, Oct. 14: Senior Congress leader Karan Singh on Wednesday said National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah’s remarks on restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir were “totally unacceptable” and could provoke “unrealistic expectations” among the people of Kashmir.

“My old friend Farooq Abdullah has made an astounding statement to the effect that Article 370 will be restored with China’s support,” Singh said.

“I can understand his rage and frustration at recent events, including the fact that he was under house arrest for a year, an emotion that large sections in the Kashmir Valley share. However, his recent articulation is totally unacceptable. It will tend to, once again, provoke totally unrealistic expectations among the people of Kashmir,” he said in a statement.

The NC has denied Abdullah said Article 370 would be restored with “China’s support”.

It asserted that Abdullah never justified China’s expansionism or its aggression during his interview to a TV channel on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Singh, the former Sadr-e-Riyasat and ex-governor of J&K, welcomed the release of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba

Mufti after 14 months in detention and hoped she and Abdullah will strengthen the democratic process by taking their agenda to the people once elections take place.

“That is the only way political stability can be restored in the state so that developmental activities in both the regions can gather momentum,” he said.

In a related development, the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal held a protest against National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here against his alleged statement that Article 370 would be restored with the help of China.

Amid chants of *desh ke gaddaro ko, goli maro saalo ko* (shoot the traitors), dozens of RBD activists led by their leader Rakesh Bajrangji appeared at the Residency Road here and tried to move towards the headquarters of the National Conference.

However, policemen who were posted in strength foiled their attempt and pushed them back.

“Our protest is against the National Conference president Farooq Abdullah for his recent statement that Article 370 would be restored with the help of China. Jammu belongs to nationalist people and we will not tolerate such kind of statements, Bajrangji told reporters.

BJP WARNS ABDULLAHS AFTER MEET WITH MUFTI

Jammu, Oct. 14: Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina reacted sharply to the meeting between NC president Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday and warned them of “serious consequences” for conspiring to “bleed Kashmir”.

“Farooq and his son Omar Abdullah met Mufti and discussed how to carry forward the Gupkar Agenda, which is the agenda of anti-national elements and an agenda of Pakistan. The people of J&K had nothing to do with this agenda,” the Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief said in a statement here this evening.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have already “thrown this agenda to the dustbin”.

“They want to save themselves and hide their sins (under this agenda). They are making conspiracies and those who are behind conspiracies cannot save themselves,” he said.

Raina said the people in J&K want peace and development and upholding of the communal harmony.

“Over the past 70 years, Article 370 has done great injustice with Pakistani refugees, Gujar and Bakerwal communities, Valmiki and Gorkha communities, women and nationalists and also gave birth to terrorism and separatism in Jammu and Kashmir,” the BJP leader said, adding that the Article has become a history and can never be restored.

SHIVRAJ FLAYS KAMAL NATH FOR ‘CALLING HIM NAMES’

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 14

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday took a dig at his predecessor and Congress veteran Kamal Nath for ‘calling him names’, even as Chouhan launched no-holds-barred attack against him while campaigning for his party for the November 3 by-elections in 28 Assembly constituencies in the state.

Chouhan has accused Nath of getting personal while criticising him at his election meetings.

“I am a 5-time-MP, 5-time-MLA and 4-time-Chief Minister. Is it appropriate to call me names? Nath calls me an accomplished actor in real life”, Chouhan said.

Nath had earlier poked fun at Chouhan for kneeling down before people in his election meetings, saying that the Chief Minister was a very good actor in real life and can even beat the likes of Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan in acting.

He had earlier also taken a jibe at Chouhan for going on a spree of laying foundation stones for various projects ahead of the November 3 Assembly by-elections, saying “the Chief Minister carries a coconut with him wherever he goes and cracks it whenever he gets the opportunity”.

“Nath sees wrong in whatever I do. I exhort him to advise me what to do, whether to stand or sit. I will certainly accede to his suggestion”, Chouhan said.

SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE STILL CRITICAL

Kolkata, Oct. 14: The health condition of veteran actor Soumitra Chatterjee continued to be “critical” on Wednesday, though his parameters are normal, doctors attending to the thespian said.

The 85-year-old Dadasaheb Phalke awardee is in a “confusional state” but his fever has subsided, they said. “He is stable but critical. He had slept well last night. All of his parameters are normal but sodium-level is high. We are keeping a close watch on his health condition,” they said.

Intermittent non-invasive ventilator support is being provided to the veteran actor whose oxygen saturation has improved, the doctors said. He is likely to undergo another Covid-19 test during the day, they said. “Chatterjee is still in a confusional state which is progressive in nature with Covid-related encephalopathy and metabolic encephalopathy. He continues to be restless, arousable and has mild agitation and involuntary limb movements but no focal or generalised seizure event occurred,” they said.

15-year-old Dalit gangrape victim ends life in Chitrakoot

UP GOVT. URGES SC TO MONITOR CBI PROBE INTO HATHRAS GANGRAPE

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

Ahead of Supreme Court hearing on Thursday on the gangrape and murder of a teenage Dalit girl in a village of Hathras, the Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday has urged the top court to monitor CBI probe into the incident.

In an affidavit filed on Wednesday, the state gov-

ernment has urged the top court to seek a fortnightly report from the CBI.

In an affidavit filed in pursuance to the top court’s order to provide security to the victim’s family and witnesses, the state government has said the family has been given a 3-layered security and assured the court that it is committed to give full security to the family.

— PTI

Minor girl held captive for 22 days, raped by 2

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 14

Odisha police on Wednesday rescued a minor girl who was allegedly held captive by two youths in an abandoned poultry farm for 22 days and raped several times by the accused.

As per sources, the victim was rescued by a team of the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate police from an abandoned poultry farm at Gatiroutapatna in Cuttack city, 40 km from here.

The police later handed over the victim to Childline officials.

During counselling by the Childline authorities, the 15-year-old revealed that she hailed from Tirtol area of Jagatsinghpur district. She had recently come to Cuttack and was staying with her elder sister. However, after some altercation, she was asked by her sister to return to the village.

While on her way back, she came in contact with a stranger, who took her to Badambadi on the pretext of providing a job.

The youth later took her to the poultry farm where he along with one of his associates raped her.

One of the youths allegedly recorded a video of the incident and blackmailed her and repeatedly abused her for 22 days.

On Wednesday, the police after receiving some inputs, raided the area and rescued the girl.

Based on the allegations by the girl, Childline authorities have filed a complaint at Chauhlaganj Police Station in connection with the incident.



IN BRIEF

Holocaust aid for survivors

Berlin: Germany has agreed to provide more than a half billion euros to aid Holocaust survivors struggling under the burdens of the Coronavirus pandemic, the organisation that negotiates compensation with the German government said Wednesday. The payments will be going to approximately 240,000 survivors around the world, primarily in Israel, North America, the former Soviet Union and Western Europe, over the next two years, according to the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also referred to as the Claims Conference. With the end of World War II now 75 years in the past, Holocaust survivors are all elderly, and because many were deprived of proper nutrition when they were young today they suffer from numerous medical issues.

Lebanon, Israel begin border talks

Naqoura (Lebanon): Lebanon and Israel began indirect talks Wednesday over their disputed maritime border, with American officials mediating the talks that both sides insist are purely technical and not a sign of any normalisation of ties. The US has been mediating the issue for about a decade, but only earlier this month was a breakthrough reached on an agreement for a framework for US-mediated talks. The development comes against the backdrop of Lebanon's spiralling economic crisis and following a wave of US sanctions that recently included two influential former Cabinet ministers allied with the militant Hezbollah group. Israel, the United States, as well as some other Western and Arab countries consider the Iran-allied Hezbollah a terrorist organisation.

Copters collide, 9 Afghan troops die

Lashkar Gah (Afghanistan): Two Afghan army helicopters collided while transporting wounded soldiers in the southern Helmand province, killing nine Afghan service members, the country's Defence Ministry and local officials said Wednesday. The two Soviet-era Mi-17 helicopters crashed due to technical problems while taking off in Nawa district, the Afghan Defence Ministry statement said. The nine dead were all Afghan crew and soldiers who had been on board the aircraft. Omer Zwak, a spokesman for Helmand's provincial governor, said the helicopters were carrying wounded soldiers when they crashed late Tuesday. He said that over the past week, Taliban fighters have launched coordinated attacks in different parts of Helmand province, which have intensified in recent days. Three local officials in Helmand province said the helicopters were deploying Afghan commandos to repel a Taliban attack in Nawa district.

CANNIBALISM: LIFE TERM FOR GUILTY MAN

Jeffersonville (US), Oct. 14: A southern Indiana man convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend and eating parts of her body was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison without parole.

Joseph Oberhansley was found guilty September 18 of murder and burglary in the death of Tammy Jo Blanton.

Clark Circuit Judge Vicki Carmichael sentenced Oberhansley based on a jury recommendation.

The body of Blanton, 46, was found at her home the morning of September 11, 2014, badly mutilated with more than 25 sharp force injuries and multiple blunt force injuries, authorities have said.

Oberhansley testified that "two Black guys" had been at the victim's home when he arrived around 4 a.m. that day and said they were responsible for Blanton's death and knocking him out. He awoke when police knocked on the door looking for the victim.

Oberhansley also was sentenced to six years to be served concurrently on the burglary charge, the News and Tribune reported. Prosecutors dropped an attempt to seek the death penalty last year.

Jurors were drawn from Allen County in northeastern Indiana because of the intense media coverage the case has received in the southern part of the state.

Sea of protesters in Bangkok

Pro-democracy protesters take part in an anti-government rally in Bangkok on Wednesday.

— AFP

Feel like 'Superman': Trump**President boasts about new immunity after experimental treatment**

Washington, Oct. 14: US President Donald Trump has said that he felt like a "Superman" after his experimental Covid-19 treatment and boasted about his new immunity to the disease which has claimed the lives of 216,000 Americans. Trump, who tested positive for Covid-19 on October 1 and was admitted to a military hospital for three nights and four days, declared himself cured after he was treated with an experimental antibody drug cocktail.

White House doctors have now cleared him for holding election rallies. Holding his second rally since contracting coronavirus, Trump told a crowd of his supporters packed onto an airport tarmac in Johnstown, Pennsylvania that he felt like "Superman" after the treatment. Trump was briefly forced to pause his re-election campaign after he tested positive for Covid-19 and he returned to the campaign trail from the battleground State of Florida on Monday.

Addressing his supporters in Pennsylvania, another battleground state, Trump, 74, thanked the doctors that treated him. "All I know is I took something, whatever the hell it was, I felt good very quickly. I don't know what it

OVER 4 MN TESTS CONDUCTED IN CHINA'S QINGDAO

Beijing, Oct. 14: Over 4 million Coronavirus tests have been conducted in China's Qingdao city where a local virus cluster was detected over the weekend, officials said. The Coronavirus has killed 4,634 people with 85,611 confirmed infections, including 241 active cases, in China.

No additional Covid-19 cases have been reported in Qingdao as of Tuesday, following an outbreak of new cases that appeared over the weekend, officials said, adding that over 4.2 million people in the city have been tested out of its 9 million population.

— PTI

was, antibodies, antibodies. I don't know. I took it, I said I felt like Superman," Trump said. "Then I said, let me at 'em. Nah, and I could've been here four or five days ago. It's great, we have great doctors. I want to thank the doctors at Walter Reed and Johns Hopkins, and — great doctors," he said.

Trump said, that "one

Don playing with people's lives: Joe

Washington, Oct. 14: Donald Trump's handling of the Coronavirus pandemic has been "erratic" just like his presidency, his Democratic challenger Joe Biden has said, terming the US president's leadership as "chaotic and divisive" that has cost Americans far too much.

The former vice president said Trump was playing games with people's lives and "the only senior Donald Trump seems to care about" is himself.

"His handling of this Coronavirus pandemic has been erratic just like his presidency. And it has prevented Florida seniors and people all across the

country from getting the relief that they need," Biden said at a campaign event in Florida on Tuesday.

Florida is a battleground State which was won by Trump in the 2016 elections. According to Real Clear Politics, which tracks major opinion polls, Biden is leading the state by 3.7 percentage points. However, Trump has been attracting thousands of people to his election rallies in Florida, despite coronavirus social distancing measures in place. Biden claimed that Trump just hasn't been willing to do the work.

— PTI

great job." Boasting about his new immunity to the disease, Trump said, "And now I'm immune they tell me. I'm immune. I could come down and start kissing everybody. I'll kiss every guy — man and woman. Look at that guy how handsome he is. I'll kiss him. Not with a lot of enjoyment." — PTI

WB APPROVES \$12B TO FINANCE VIRUS VACCINES

Washington, Oct. 14: The World Bank has approved \$12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute Coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to 1 billion people. The \$12 billion "envelop" is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to \$160 billion to help developing countries fight the Covid-19 pandemic, the bank said in a statement late Tuesday. The World Bank said its Covid-19 emergency response programmes are already reaching 111 countries.

Citizens in developing countries also need access to safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines, it said. "We are extending and expanding our fast-track approach to address the Covid emergency so that developing countries have fair and equal access to vaccines," said bank's president, David Malpass. "Access to safe and effective vaccines and strengthened delivery systems is key to alter the course of the pandemic," he said. — AP

Pompeo defends Hong Kongers

Hong Kong, Oct. 14: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended the 12 Hong Kong residents who were detained by China while allegedly trying to flee to Taiwan by boat in August, saying that they had "committed no crime." "They simply believe that they are worthy of freedom and the unalienable rights due to every person," Pompeo said in virtual remarks delivered at the John S. McCain Freedom Award Ceremony on Wednesday.

"They aren't alone in that belief. America stands with them." The 12, some of whom are linked

CHINA WANTS UNIPOLAR WORLD WITH ALL NATIONS TRIBUTARIES: U.S. OFFICIAL

Washington, Oct. 14: China ultimately wants to have a unipolar world wherein every country is some sort of a tributary to it, a top American National Security Advisor has said, asserting that nations across the globe are starting to realise what Washington is up against

with Beijing. US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said the world was slowly entering into a multipolar situation. "They want to have a P-2 instead of P-5. I don't think we're going to have a bipolar situation in the world right now," O'Brien said. — PTI

to anti-government protests and were facing charges in Hong Kong prior to their arrest, are being held in the southern city of Shenzhen where they await prosecution. Two of them are suspected of organising an illegal border crossing, while the other 10 are suspected of entering mainland waters illegally. The group was believed to have been headed for self-governed Taiwan when they were arrested, following China's imposition of a sweeping national security law targeting political expression in semi-autonomous Hong Kong.

Taiwan is a popular choice among Hong Kong residents looking to leave the city. Relatives say that they are being held incommunicado and have not been granted access to lawyers. — AP

ed of organising an illegal border crossing, while the other 10 are suspected of entering mainland waters illegally. The group was believed to have been headed for self-governed Taiwan when they were arrested, following China's imposition of a sweeping national security law targeting political expression in semi-autonomous Hong Kong.

Taiwan is a popular choice among Hong Kong residents looking to leave the city. Relatives say that they are being held incommunicado and have not been granted access to lawyers. — AP

China, far left desperate for Biden win: Don

Washington, Oct. 14: China and the far left are "desperate" for Joe Biden's win as the Democratic presidential candidate will "surrender" jobs to China, President Donald Trump said as he returned to the battleground State of Pennsylvania after being treated for Covid-19. In his first political rally in Pennsylvania, which sends 20 electoral college votes, after he was tested positive for Covid-19, Trump on Tuesday hit hard at his political opponent, alleging that the former vice president is known for "surrender".

"Biden will eliminate tariffs on China. He's already said he's going to take the tariffs off China. There goes your steel industry. There goes your aluminum industry. There goes everything. Allowing them to plunder without consequence," he said, addressing thousands of his supporters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "The one constant in Biden's platform is surrender. He surrenders. He surrenders, whether it's China, whether it's Cuba. How about Cuba? How about the deal they made with Cuba? How bad was that one? I ended it," he said. "That's why both China and the far left are desperate for a Biden win because he will surrender our jobs to China. China will own the US if that sleepy guy gets the position, okay," Trump said.

Trump said that over the next four years, he will make America into the manufacturing superpower of the world. "And

BIDEN IS WORST CANDIDATE IN U.S. POLITICS

Washington, Oct. 14: US President Donald Trump has described his presidential challenger Joe Biden as "the single worst candidate in the history of America", referring to a few recent gaffes of the Democratic leader who is challenging him.

Republican incumbent Trump, 74, and challenger Biden, 77, are locked in a close contest for the November 3 elections. "I'm running against the single worst candidate in the history of American presidential politics and you know what that does? That puts more pressure on me. Can you imagine if you lose to a guy like this?" Trump told his supporters in the battleground state of Pennsylvania on Tuesday.

— PTI

we'll end our reliance on China once and for all. That's already happening. We'll hire more police, increased penalties for assault on law enforcement, and we will ban deadly sanctuary cities that people don't want," he said. "Unlike 'sleepy' Joe Biden, I will never abandon our nation, and I would never abandon its values. My goal is not to make friends in the DC swamp. My goal is to fight for you and fight for your family," he said. — PTI

Pak re-elected to UN rights body

Islamabad/United Nations, Oct. 14: Pakistan along with China, Russia and Cuba won seats on the UN Human Rights Council despite strong opposition from activist groups over their abysmal human rights records. In a secret-ballot voting in the 193-member UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Pakistan secured 169 votes, Uzbekistan received 164, Nepal 150 and China 139. Saudi Arabia lost the race with just 90 votes.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo slammed the UN body for electing China, Russia and Cuba to the agency tasked with defending human rights. "The election of China, Russia, and Cuba to the UN Human Rights Council validates the US decision to withdraw from the Council in 2018 and use other venues to protect and promote universal human rights." At #UNGA this year, we did just that," Pompeo tweeted.

"US commitment to human rights is far more than just words. We have identified and punished human rights abusers in Xinjiang, Myanmar, Iran, and elsewhere, and call for all nations to take this moment to recommit to the #UDHR," he said in another tweet.

Last week, a coalition of human rights groups from Europe, the US and Canada called on UN member states to oppose the election of China, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Cuba and Uzbekistan, saying their human

Washington, Oct. 14: The "creeping coup" in Pakistan is a result of the powerful military trying to safeguard its economic interests which might not be protected in a federal and democratic system, the spokesperson of an opposition party has said while calling for changing the basis of the country's relations with India.

Addressing the conference of South Asians Against Terrorism and for Human Rights, Pakistan People's Party spokesman Farhatullah Babar said parliament was unable to hold the military accountable. He said that the protests against the army that started in Pashtun tribal regions have now reached Punjab. — PTI

rights records make them unqualified. "The bad news: Governments just elected China to the UN Human Rights Council despite its severe repression in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong. The good news: the number of governments voting for it declined from 180 last time to 139 now. The fear is melting." Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth tweeted after the vote. Pakistan is currently serving on the HRC since January 1, 2018. — PTI

ORBITING | OUTPOST Astronauts trying a two-orbit, three-hr approach to Int'l Space Station**Russian-US crew launches to the space station**

Moscow, Oct. 14: A trio of space travelers has launched successfully to the International Space Station, for the first time using a fast-track manoeuvre to reach the orbiting outpost in just three hours. NASA's Kate Rubins along with Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchikov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos lifted off as scheduled Wednesday morning from the Russia-leased Baikonur space launch facility in Kazakhstan for a six-month stint on the station. For the first time, they are trying a two-orbit, three-hour approach to the orbiting space outpost. Previously it took twice as long for the crews to reach the station. They will join the station's Nasa commander, Chris Cassidy, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner, who have been aboard the complex since April and are scheduled to return to Earth in a week.

Speaking during pre-launch news conference at Baikonur, Rubins emphasised that the crew spent weeks in quarantine at the Star City training facility outside Moscow and then on Baikonur to avoid any threat from the Coronavirus. "We spent two weeks at Star City and then 17 days at Baikonur in a very strict quarantine," Rubins said. "During all communications with crew members, we were wearing masks. We made PCR tests

twice and we also made three times antigen fast tests." She said she was looking forward to scientific experiments planned for the mission. "We're planning to try some really interesting things like bio-printing tissues and growing cells in space and, of course, continuing our work on sequencing DNA," Rubins said. Ryzhikov, who will be the station's skipper, said the crew will try to pinpoint the exact location of a leak

at a station's Russian section that has slowly leaked oxygen. The small leak hasn't posed any immediate danger to the crew. "We will take with us additional equipment which will allow us to detect the place of this leak more precisely," he told reporters. "We will also take with us additional improved hermetic material which will allow to fix the leak."

In November, Rubins, Ryzhikov and Kud-Sverchikov are set to greet Nasa's

SpaceX first operational Crew Dragon mission, bringing NASA astronauts Mike Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Soichi Noguchi to the space station aboard the Crew Dragon vehicle. It follows a successful Demo-2 mission earlier this year. The Crew Dragon mission was pushed back from Oct. 31 into November, and no new date has been set yet. — AP

A new mantra?
Seek, and you
shall find; ask,
it will be given

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,794.74	0.42
Nifty 50	11,971.05	0.31
S&P 500*	3,488.24	-0.67
Dollar (₹)	73.30	0.08
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.55	1.10
Euro (₹)	86.08	0.43
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,367*631	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.02	0.57
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.900	-0.004
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.717	-0.010

India's public debt ratio to rise to 90%: IMF

India's public debt ratio, which remained stable at around 70 per cent of the GDP since 1991, is projected to jump by 17 percentage points to nearly 90 per cent due to higher public spending due to Covid-19, IMF said. "In our projections, the increase in public spending, in response to Covid-19, and the fall in tax revenues and economic activity, will make public debt jump... to almost 90 per cent of GDP, Vitor Gaspar, a director of IMF, said.

WPI inflation hits to 7-month high of 1.32% in Sept.



Spiralling prices of food items, especially vegetables, pushed up the wholesale inflation to a seven-month high of 1.32 per cent in Sept. and cements the likelihood that the Reserve Bank will continue with status quo on interest rates. The Wholesale Price Index-based inflation was at 0.16 per cent in Aug. The WPI-based inflation seems moving in sync with CPI -based retail inflation, which rose to 7.34 per cent in Sept.

FlexPay offers credit on UPI for salaried class

Hyderabad-based NBFC Vivifi India Finance Pvt Ltd has launched FlexPay, which offers credit on UPI. Anil Pinapala, founder and CEO of Vivifi, said FlexPay facilitates instant fund transfer between two bank accounts on a mobile platform. The 'Scan Now & Pay Later' feature of FlexPay enables the salaried class and the self-employed to use a line of credit when they do not have money available in their bank accounts.

India to have 60,000 start-ups, 100 unicorns

India is expected to have 60,000 start-ups and 100 companies with valuation of over \$1 billion by 2025, a TIE Delhi-NCR report, in association with Zinnov, said. It business recovery of start-ups is back on track after the lockdown. However, 12-15 per cent of start-ups are facing risk of survival and a similar percentage of start-ups have closed their business. There are around 38,000 active start-ups today.



Firm raises annual revenue forecast Infosys profit jumps 26.6%

VIBHUTI SHARMA BENGALURU, OCT. 14

Infosys Ltd on Wednesday raised its annual revenue growth forecast, after the Indian software services firm posted a better-than-expected quarterly profit, buoyed by growth in client demand for its digital services during the pandemic. The company revised its annual revenue forecast to between 2 per cent and 3 per cent in constant currency terms, from an earlier expectation of revenue being flat to up 2 per cent. Bengaluru-based Infosys, which provides services such as cloud, data and analytics to companies across the world, said it will also roll out salary increases and promotions across all levels effective January 1. "Infosys results today ... signifies how important it has become for enterprises to invest in IT to weather any disruptive situation—be it pandemic or an economic recession," Forrester analyst Ashutosh Sharma said. Infosys reported quarterly operating margin of 25.4 per cent, up from 21.7 per cent last year, following rivals Tata Consultancy Services that posted a 2.2 per cent rise in operating margin to 26.2 per cent while Wipro saw its margin rise to 19.2 per cent for the period. Consolidated net profit for Infosys in the September quarter climbed 26.6 per cent to Rs 4,845 crore (\$661.35 million). Analysts



TO ROLL OUT SALARY HIKES FROM JAN.

New Delhi, Oct. 14: India's second-largest IT services firm Infosys on Wednesday said it will roll out salary hikes and promotions across all levels from January 1. Infosys is also giving 100 per cent variable pay, along with a special incentive for the second quarter. The firm has 2,40,208 employees as of the September quarter. "Recognising the continuing stellar commitment from our employees during these times, we are paying out variable pay for the quarter at 100 per cent. We will pay a one-time special incentive in Q3 for our junior employees," Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said during a virtual briefing. The salary hike process will restart now and will be effective on January 1, 2021, he added. "We restarted promotions in the last quarter at our junior levels, and this will now be expanded to all our levels," Parekh said. Infosys had earlier said it was suspending promotions and pay hikes amid the epidemic-led slowdown in business. Infosys COO Pravin Rao said the quantum of salary hikes will be identical to those seen in previous years. —PTI

on average had expected a profit of Rs 4,519 crore, according to Refinitiv data. The company's upbeat profit this quarter comes in contrast to peers TCS and Wipro, which saw their profit drop 7.1 per cent and 3.4 per cent, respectively. Revenue for Infosys climbed to Rs 24,570 crore from Rs 22,629 crore in the quarter. This compares with analysts' estimate of Rs 24,191 crore. During the quarter, Infosys had a gross addition of 96 clients. —Reuters

Honda Amaze Spl edition for ₹7 L



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 14

Japanese car giant Honda has launched the special edition of its family sedan Honda Amaze to lure customers in this festive season priced between Rs 7 lakh and Rs 9.10 lakh at Delhi showroom. The Honda Amaze competes with other compact sedans like the Maruti Suzuki Dzire, Hyundai Aura, Ford Aspire and Tata Tigor in the market. The Honda Amaze special edition, costs Rs 12,000 more than the equivalent S trim. For this price you get features such as a 7-inch touchscreen infotainment system with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, unique seat covers, a sliding centre front armrest, body graphics on the doors and a special edition badge over the regular S variant.

Isuzu drives in BS6 D-Max



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 14

Isuzu Motors, the Japanese automaker, on Wednesday introduced the BSVI-compliant D-Max range of models priced between Rs 7.84 lakh and Rs 10.07 lakh at Mumbai showroom. While the D-Max Regular Cab range starts from Rs 7.84 lakh, the D-Max S-Cab trims are priced at Rs 9.82 lakh and Rs 10.07 lakh. A new variant D-Max Super Strong priced at Rs 8.39 lakh has also been introduced with a 1,710 kg payload.

Labour codes could come in force from April '21: Secy

New Delhi, Oct. 14: All four labour codes are likely to be implemented in one go from April 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year, labour secretary Apurva Chandra said on Wednesday. Parliament in its just concluded session passed three labour code bills: the Industrial Relations (IR) Code; the Social Security Code; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSH). The Wage Code Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament last year. Last month, labour minister Santosh Gangwar had said that efforts would be made to implement the all four labour codes by December this year. Talking to reporters, Chandra said, "We have started work on firming up draft rules of the recently passed three labour codes in Parliament. We are trying to notify draft rules by middle of November to seek feedback. We will give 45 days time for feedback." He further said that the four codes are likely to be implemented from April 1, with notification of firmed-up rules. Initially, draft rules under a law is notified with a stipulated time period (45 days) to receive feedback. Thereafter, these rules are finalised and implemented for bringing the law into force. —PTI

RBI lists eligible cases for loan restructuring

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, OCT. 14

- Loans that are not standard as of March 1 are excluded
- Farm credit for allied activities, viz., dairy, fishery, poultry and bee-keeping, are excluded
- Loan against property included if it's not personal loan

The central bank has clarified that loan accounts which have remained standard without any defaults as of March 1, 2020, will be eligible for restructuring under the resolution framework for Covid-19 related stress. The scheme was announced by the RBI on August 6. "Borrowers should be classified as standard, but not in default for more than 30 days with any lending institution as on March 1, 2020. The actual debt that may be considered for resolution will be outstanding as on the date of invocation," said the Reserve Bank in a clarifications issued late Tuesday. The RBI said that all the farm credit exposures of all lending institutions, including NBFCs, except for loans to allied activities, viz., dairy, fishery, animal husbandry, poultry, bee-keeping and sericulture are excluded from the scope of the 'resolution framework.'

However, loans given to farmer households would be eligible for resolution under the scheme if they do not meet any other conditions for exclusions specified by the central bank. Loans against property will also be eligible for recast if they don't fall under the personal loan category. All microfi-

nance institution/self-help group loans meeting the basic eligibility criteria, unless covered by the specific exclusions, are eligible resolution but personal loans from these categories will not be recast. Similarly investment exposures that are credit substitutes like corporate bonds and commercial papers are also eligible for resolution, the RBI said. Similarly, restructuring of under-implementation project loans involving deferment of date of commencement of operations (DCCO) are excluded from the scope of resolution framework and that such accounts will continue to be governed by the Feb. 7, 2020, and the other relevant instructions. Also, in case of multiple lenders to a single borrower whose resolution is undertaken, all lending institutions will have to enter into an intercreditor agreement.

GST: Tamil Nadu gets nod to raise ₹9,600 cr

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 14

Tamil Nadu has joined the list of states that have accepted Option-1 suggested by the Centre to raise funds to meet the revenue shortfall arising from GST implementation. The Ministry of Finance on Wednesday granted permission to Tamil Nadu to raise an additional amount of Rs 9,627 crore through open market borrowings. On Tuesday, Centre had granted permission to had

issued permission to 20 states to raise Rs 68,825 crore through open market borrowings. With Tamil Nadu also joining the list, permission has been granted 21 states to mobilise Rs 78,542 crore so far. Apart from TN, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura,

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Union territories Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir have also settled for Option-1. Punjab, West Bengal, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Telangana are some of the states opposing the Centre's options. The borrowing permission issued to the 21 states is over and above the borrowing permission of around Rs 1.10 lakh crore to meet the revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation.

US watchdog probes Page Inds.

SACHIN RAVIKUMAR & CHANDINI MONNAPPA BENGALURU, OCT. 14

A top apparel industry watchdog has launched an investigation into underwear maker Jockey International's Indian partner Page Industries Ltd following allegations of human rights abuses at one of its factories, the watchdog told Reuters. The investigation by US-

based Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (Wrap) comes after Norway's \$1 trillion sovereign wealth fund dropped Page from its investment portfolio due to concerns of human rights violations at "Unit-III" - one of Page's Jockey manufacturing sites in Bengaluru. Page has denied wrongdoing and called allegations of verbal abuse and workplace intimidation

here against employees as "outrageous". It did not answer questions about the Wrap probe, but said it has evidence which "flatly disproves" the allegations. In an email, Wrap spokesman Seth Lennon said such violations could normally result in a factory losing its certification. Wrap said it makes certification decisions on a facility-by-facility basis. —Reuters

E-COMM VOLUMES GROW 31% IN SEPT. QUARTER

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 14

Increased usage of digital platforms due to the pandemic has helped e-commerce industry witness an order volume growth of 31 per cent for the September 2020 quarter as compared to the same period last year. However, the growth in gross merchandise value was a tad below at 24 per cent as the average order volume declined 5 per cent in the September quarter year-on-year, according to Unicommerce, e-commerce-focused SaaS platform.



While people are ordering more online, they are ordering lesser value products. Further, the category mix also has changed, and the higher share of personal care and health & pharma categories is driving the overall order value down. Tier-III and beyond cities have showed a

growth of over 90 per cent, almost double the growth recorded in the Unicommerce' annual report released in August. Unicommerce expects this growth to taper down in the coming months when the workforce, which had gone to their hometowns, start returning to metro and tier I cities. "The pandemic has changed the dynamics of the retail ecosystem substantially. E-commerce is no longer the supporting vertical and has now taken a front seat," said Kapil Makhija, CEO Unicommerce.

KILLER | APP The iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 Pro will come out on Oct. 23 iPhone 12 models win praise for lower prices

MARK GURMAN & JERAN WIT-TENSTEIN OCT. 14

Apple Inc. unveiled its latest range of iPhones, a product line that Wall Street expects will kick off a new cycle of sales growth for the world's largest technology company. At a virtual event on Tuesday, the company showed off the iPhone 12 in black, red, blue, green and white with a 6.1-inch screen. It starts at \$799. A smaller version, the iPhone 12 mini, costs \$699. The phones use aluminum sides. There's also an iPhone 12 Pro, starting at \$999 and a iPhone 12 Pro Max that costs at least \$1,099, both with stainless steel edges. The Max has a 6.7-inch (17 cm) screen, Apple's largest ever, while the regular Pro has a 6.1-inch display. They come in blue, gold,



graphite or silver. Some analysts praised Apple's pricing strategy, especially the \$699 mini handset which may entice users with older, smaller iPhones to upgrade. "The pricing dynamics are the killer app for the phone launch," Harsh Kumar of Piper Sandler & Co. wrote in a research note. "Pricing was lower than our expectation, which is important in the current global pandemic."

Cheaper devices may help increase Apple's installed base of devices, driving further growth of more profitable services, he added. The front of the phones looks similar to last year's iPhone 11, but the edges are now flat instead of curved. They all support 5G, a new wireless standard that can transmit data as much as 10 times faster than the current 4G LTE technology. The Cupertino, California-based technology giant has generated relatively little sales growth from its marquee product in recent years as consumers hold onto their phones for longer. Quarterly revenue from this segment peaked in the first quarter of Apple's 2018 fiscal year. This year's crop of new iPhones marks the first major redesign in three years, which could prompt more upgrades and a new spurt of

growth. Investors and analysts are also bullish on sales in China, where 5G networks are more built-out than in the US. "With our estimation that 350 million of 950 million iPhones worldwide are currently in the window of an upgrade opportunity, we believe this will translate into an unprecedented upgrade cycle for Apple," Dan Ives, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, said. The handsets have a faster A14 processor and updated cameras and use sharper OLED screens, an improvement from last year's cheaper LCD screens, Apple said. The company showcased major improvements to the iPhone 12 Pro Max cameras, including with video recording and zooming in during picture taking. The iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 Pro come out on Oct. 23, while the iPhone 12 mini and iPhone 12 Pro Max arrive Nov. 13. —Bloomberg

STATES TOLD TO CUT REALTY STAMP DUTY

New Delhi, Oct. 14: Housing and urban affairs secretary Durga Shanker Mishra on Wednesday asked states to reduce stamp duty on registration of properties, as it will help reduce the overall real estate cost and boost housing sales. Addressing a Credai webinar, Mishra said the government has taken various measures in the past six years for revival of this sector such as enactment of realty law Rera. "Measures taken during the past six years and also during the lockdown have started showing results," Mishra said. The secretary noted that the property registrations in Mumbai have improved and are back to pre-Covid-19 level. He said Maharashtra has taken a good decision to reduce the stamp duty. —PTI

SHORT TAKES

Joshna enters quarters in Egypt

Cairo: India's leading squash player Joshna Chinappa, playing her first tournament in six months, has reached the quarterfinals of the CIB Egyptian Open here.

The world number 11 was pushed to the limit by 38th ranked Farida Mohamed who staged a valiant comeback after losing the first two games to level the match.

In the decider, the Indian managed to see off the Egyptian for a 11-7, 11-6, 7-11, 10-12, 11-9 win in the third round.

Joshna meets world number two Nour El Sherbini in the quarterfinals.

India's highest-ranked male player, Saurav Ghosal, lost his third round match against Egypt's Mezan Hashem 8-11, 9-11, 8-11.

It was the first event too for Ghosal since March when the COVID-19 outbreak led to a nationwide lockdown. — PTI

NZ cricket great Reid dies at 92

Auckland: New Zealand's oldest surviving Test cricketer and former captain John Reid has died here at the age of 92, the country's cricket board said on Wednesday.

Reid, regarded as one of the world's best all-rounders during his heyday in the fifties and early sixties, captained New Zealand in 34 Tests including, most notably, the country's first three victories.

"He was, and will remain, a household name in this country, having helped pave the way for everything that has come in his wake," New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White said in a statement offering his tributes.

The NZC release, however, did not specify the cause of Reid's death. Born in Auckland, and educated in Wellington, Reid played 246 first-class games and scored 16128 runs at 41.35, including 39 centuries, while taking 466 wickets at 22.60. — PTI

Another 1st round exit for Murray

Cologne, Germany: Andy Murray suffered another first-round elimination, this time at the Cologne Indoors at the hands of out-of-form veteran Fernando Verdasco.

Verdasco exploited Murray's fragile serve to win 6-4, 6-4 in a match which finished after midnight German time.

Verdasco, at 36 one of the few players older than the 33-year-old Murray in the tournament, broke Murray's serve four times once to love and three times to 15. Murray lost in the second round of the U.S. Open and in the first round of the French Open. He used wild cards for both of those Grand Slam tournaments and again in Cologne for his first loss on an indoor hard court since the 2015 tour finals.

Verdasco will take on top-seeded Alexander Zverev in the second round after the German player had a bye in the first round. — AP

Golfer Johnson tests Covid +ve

North Las Vegas: Dustin Johnson became the most prominent player to test positive for the coronavirus since golf resumed in June, forcing him to withdraw from the CJ Cup at Shadow Creek.

The PGA Tour said in a statement that Johnson notified officials he was experiencing Covid-19 symptoms and was given another test that came back positive. Johnson is the No. 1 player in the world and the reigning PGA Tour player of the year after winning the FedEx Cup for the first time. He has not played since he tied for sixth at the U.S. Open last month. "Obviously, I am very disappointed," Johnson said. "I was really looking forward to competing this week, but will do everything I can to return as quickly as possible. I have already had a few calls with the tour's medical team and appreciate all the support and guidance they have given me."

— AP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

BADMINTON

Denmark Open: Matches from 5.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

TENNIS

St Petersburg Open: Matches from 3.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

DELHI DELIGHT

Capitals beat Royals by 13 runs to regain top spot

Dubai, Oct. 14: Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 13 runs in an Indian Premier League game on Wednesday.

Batting first, Shikhar Dhawan (57 off 33 balls) and skipper Shreyas Iyer (53 off 43 balls) scored half-centuries but Delhi lost momentum towards the end to be restricted to 161 for seven.

Jofra Archer (3/19) and Jaydev Unadkat (2/19) were impressive with ball for Rajasthan.

In reply, Rajasthan Royals scored 148 for 8 in 20 overs with debutant Tushar Deshpande taking 2 for 37. Ben Stokes top scored with 41 off 35 balls for the Royals.

Earlier, Dhawan and Iyer hit stroke-filled half-centuries but Delhi Capitals lost momentum towards the end to be restricted to 161 for seven.

Earlier, DC had a disastrous start to their innings after opting to bat as they lost Prithvi Shaw off the first ball of the match with a gem of a delivery from Archer that jagged back in after pitching and crashed into the middle stump after getting an inside edge.

To make matters worse for DC, Ajinkya Rahane was holed out to Robin Uthappa off Archer at mid-on an over later.

But then skipper Iyer (53 off 43) joined hands with Dhawan (57 off 33) and the duo initially played cautiously before opening up

● **Shikhar Dhawan (57 off 33 balls) and skipper Shreyas Iyer (53 off 43 balls) scored half-centuries to take Delhi to 161/7. In reply, the Royals could manage just 148 for 8.**

to take DC forward.

They shared 85 runs for the third wicket off 55 balls to keep DC's momentum going after the early jolts. Dhawan looked in great nick from the onset, often finding the boundary with his trademark pulls and shots square off the off side.

In the process he scored his 39th fifty in the IPL off just 30 balls but soon after reaching the feat he departed while trying to force the pacer, caught at short third man by Kartik Tyagi off leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal.

His runs came off 33 balls which had six boundaries and two hits over the fence. After Dhawan's dismissal, Iyer took the onus on himself and upped the ante with some lusty hits and in the process got to his fifty off 40 balls in the 15th over bowled by Jaydev Unadkat, that yielded 17 runs, including two sixes.

But soon after, Iyer departed, caught by Archer at long-off off Kartik Tyagi as he went for another big hit. — PTI



Ravichandran Ashwin (left) of Delhi Capitals celebrates the wicket of Rajasthan Royals captain Steve Smith in an Indian Premier League match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. — BCCI

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: P. Shaw b Archer 0, S. Dhawan c Tyagi b Gopal 57, A. Rahane c Uthappa b Archer 2, S. Iyer c Archer b Tyagi 53, M. Stoinis c Tewatia b Archer 18, A. Carey c Archer b Unadkat 14, A. Patel c Tyagi b Unadkat 7, R. Ashwin (not out) 0. **Extras:** (lb-2, w-6, nb-2) 10. **Total (for 7 wks, in 20 overs) 161.**
FOW: 1-0, 2-10, 3-95, 4-132, 5-153, 6-157, 7-161
Bowling: Archer 4-0-19-3, Unadkat 3-0-32-2, Tyagi 4-0-30-1, Stokes 2-0-24-0, Gopal 4-0-31-1, Tewatia 3-0-23-0.
Rajasthan Royals: B. Stokes c sub (Lalit Yadav) b Deshpande 41, J. Buttler b Nortje 22, S. Smith c & b Ashwin 1, S. Samson b Patel 25, R. Uthappa b Nortje 32, R. Parag run out (Patel) 1, R. Tewatia (not out) 14, J. Archer c Rahane b Rabada 1, S. Gopal c sub (Lalit Yadav) b Deshpande. **Extras:** (b-1, nb-1, w-3) 5. **Total (for 8 wks, in 20 overs) 148.**
FOW: 1-37, 2-40, 3-86, 4-97, 5-110, 6-135, 7-138, 8-148.
Bowling: K. Rabada 4-0-28-1, T. Deshpande 4-0-37-2, A. Nortje 4-0-33-2, R. Ashwin 4-0-17-1, A. Patel 4-0-32-1.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	8	6	2	0	12	+0.990
Mumbai Indians	7	5	2	0	10	+1.327
Royal Challengers Bangalore	7	5	2	0	10	-0.116
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	4	3	0	8	-0.577
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	0	6	+0.009
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.390
Rajasthan Royals	8	3	5	0	6	-0.844
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

IT WAS CLOSE TO PERFECT GAME FOR US: DHONI

Dubai, Oct. 14: Relieved and ecstatic in equal measure, Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni lauded his team's "close to perfect" show in the triumph over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Tuesday that infused fresh life into its faltering IPL campaign.

"Ultimately what really matters is you getting two points. Today I felt we did a very good job even in batting," said Dhoni after the match.

Before Tuesday's game, Dhoni had likened his side to a sinking ship with too many holes to plug, listing batting as the main worry.

"There was some purpose with the bat and the batsmen assessed the situation very well.

"The fast bowlers did the job, the spinners came into play and it was one game that was as close to being perfect." — PTI

Gayle set for IPL 2020 debut

Sharjah, Oct. 14: Kings XI Punjab will be hoping that Chris Gayle fires on his much-awaited return and they, for once, put up a complete performance in their must-win game against a high-flying Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

The inability to produce an all-round show and close out games they should have won has led to KXIP losing six out of their seven matches.

But KXIP can take confidence from the fact their only win in the tournament has come against RCB, who look a much more potent squad since their last meeting on September 24.

Though the Sharjah wicket has been slowing gradually, the smaller ground dimensions are ideal for someone like Gayle to go on a six-hitting spree.

However, it certainly won't be easy for the 41-



NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD OVERALL: ● Matches: 25. ● Punjab: 13. ● Bangalore: 12	FOR THE RECORD ● Lokesh Rahul's unbeaten 132 in the first meeting against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Dubai was the highest ever individual score in the IPL. ● Virat Kohli, who hits 494 fours in 176 innings of 184 matches, needs six fours to become only the second batsman to hit 500 or more fours in the IPL. — S. PERVEZ KAISER
MEETING IN 2019 ● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Kings XI Punjab by 8 wickets in Mohali ● Bangalore beat Punjab by 17 runs in Bangalore	MEETING IN 2020 ● KXIP beat RCB by 97 runs in Dubai.

Neymar hat-trick fires Brazil past Peru

Montevideo, Oct. 14: Neymar scored a hat-trick to become the second highest scorer in Brazil's history as the Copa America champions won 4-2 away to 10-man Peru in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

The goals took Neymar to 64 international strikes, two more than Ronaldo but still well behind Pele's record of 77.

Elsewhere, Joaquin Correa scored the winner 11 minutes from time as Argentina labored to a 2-1 victory over Bolivia to maintain their clean record after two matches.

Peru twice took the lead through Andre Carrillo and a heavily deflected strike from Renato Tapia, but two controversial Neymar penalties, an injury time third and a close range strike from Richarlison maintained the Selecao's winning start to qualifying for



Brazil's Neymar (left) celebrates with teammate Roberto Firmino after scoring a goal against Peru during a qualifying match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at the National Stadium in Lima, Peru, on Tuesday. — AP

Qatar 2022. Carrillo opened the scoring on six minutes with a dipping volley from 20 yards after latching onto

Marquinhos's weak clearance.

FARCICAL EQUALISER
Lionel Scaloni's

Argentina earned a second narrow victory in a row following Thursday's 1-0 win over Ecuador. Marcelo Moreno

year-old to get going from ball one, having not played earlier in the competition.

He would have played the last two games but could not due to food poisoning. Having recovered fully, it will be interesting to see who he replaces in the side.

Benching a yet to fire Glenn Maxwell is one option or the team can bring Gayle at the expense of an overseas bowler and replace him with the available Indian talent.

KXIP are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K.L. Rahul (387 at strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner Mayank Agarwal (337 at 48.14).

They run into a RCB squad which has grown in confidence by leaps and bounds since their last meeting. — PTI

DENMARK OPEN | BADMINTON

Srikanth sails into Round 2

Odense (Denmark), Oct. 14: Indian ace Kidambi Srikanth on Wednesday outclassed England's Toby Pentty in straight games to enter the Denmark Open second round here and likened his return to international badminton after a coronavirus-forced hiatus to "an adventure".

The former world number one, who had claimed four Super Series titles in 2017, beat Toby 21-12, 21-18 in 37 minutes, as the sport finally got going after a seven-month-long break.

"I started off well, but he was good in the second game. I'm playing after a long time. It's like an adventure. This situation is something new. I've never been away for this long, and I'm happy with the way it went," he told Badminton World Federation.

The fifth seed will face either fellow Indian Subhankar Dey or Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue in the next round. "The last time I played was at the All England where I lost in the first round, so I've not had much of match practice. But I think I'm slowly getting back.

"It will definitely take some time, as there are no tournaments after this one. There will be a pause in the

● **The former world number one, who had claimed four Super Series titles in 2017, beat Toby 21-12, 21-18 in 37 minutes.**

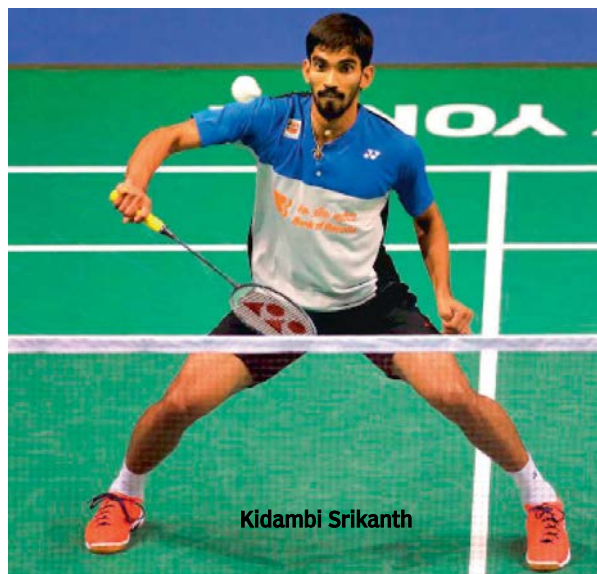
season, so it might take time to get used to the match feeling."

Srikanth spent the early part of the lockdown at his home town, where he was unable to train at his normal level. It was an opportunity for him to reflect on life outside badminton.

"I was trying to enjoy whatever came my way. You couldn't go out, do anything, so you had to say at home. People started to like what they have. That's something very important.

"After the All England I went back to my home town (Guntur), and was there for four months. I returned to Hyderabad in the first week of August, so I trained for that month thinking of the Thomas Cup," he said.

"I wasn't able to train at top intensity at all. At my place, there aren't many facilities, so I couldn't train at the highest level. But when I came back to Hyderabad I had to take time to get back to my past intensity." — PTI



JAPAN SWIM CHAMP SETO SUSPENDED FOR AFFAIR

Tokyo, Oct. 14: Japan's top Olympic swimmer Daiya Seto has been barred from competitions and official training until the end of the year as punishment for an affair exposed by a tabloid.

The star athlete was caught on camera in September by a gossip magazine, which chronicled the married 26-year-old's movements as he picked up his girlfriend, took her to a "love hotel", then went to pick up his daughter from nursery.

Seto apologised for his "irresponsible behaviour" in a statement on Tuesday, saying he accepted the sanctions from the Japan Swimming Federation, which include events at home and abroad.

It means that Seto — the

reigning world champion in the 200m and 400m individual medley — will miss a national competition in December.

But he will still be allowed to take part in the Games next summer and can also practise in private, the swimming federation said.

Seto will also have to complete the Japan Olympic Committee's "integrity education" programme among other courses, according to his management. "I intend to sincerely give my full attention to swimming... So that I may regain the trust of my family, whom I hurt deeply with my irresponsible behaviour, and regain the acceptance of my family as well as all of you as a swimmer," Seto said. — AFP

Pressure on Loew as Germany hold Swiss

Cologne (Germany), Oct. 14: Joachim Loew's 14-year reign as Germany head coach is under pressure after his side's run of poor results continued on Tuesday as they had to come from two goals down to limp to a 3-3 draw against Switzerland in the Nations League.

Germany have drawn four of their last five games — surrendering the lead on three occasions — to leave them second in their Nations League group behind Spain.

They squeezed past Ukraine 2-1 in Kiev on Saturday and after a 3-3 friendly home draw

against Turkey last Wednesday, Loew's side were once again guilty of poor defending.

SPAIN GO DOWN IN UKRAINE

Substitute Viktor Tsygankov's strike gave Ukraine a surprise 1-0 win over Spain in their Nations League clash in Kiev.

The 22-year-old Dynamo Kiev player had not long been thrown into the fray by coach Andriy Shevchenko when he latched onto Andriy Yarmolenko's superb through ball and fired past an exposed David de Gea in the 76th minute. — AFP

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