DECCAN nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA VISAKHAPATNAM | THURSDAY | 8 OCTOBER 2020







CASES	DEATHS
(+91,030)	(+1,331)
68,32,646	1,05,551
covid19india.org	

STATE GOVERNMENT	BULLETIN
(+2,154)	(+8)
TS: 2,04,748	1,189
(+5,120)	(+34)

AP: 7,34,427 6,086 **CASES AROUND THE WORLD**



COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES worldometers.info/

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula Shashti till 4.32 pm Star: Mrigasira till 10.46 pm Varjyam: Nil Durmuhurtam: 10.06 am to 10.53 am; 2.48 pm to 3.35 pm **Rahukalam:** 1.30 pm to 3 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** Safar ul Muzaffar 20, 1442 AH

Fajar: 5.50 am **Zohar:** 1.30 pm Asar: 4.45 pm Maghrib: 6.15 pm Isha: 8.15 pm **SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.40 AM SUNSET TODAY 5.48 PM**

MOONRISE TODAY 10.15 PM



It's not costly, sir! You can enjoy the luxury of a vacant seat!



found dead New Delhi/Shimla: Former

CBI director Ashwani Kumar, who led the Aarushi murder investigation, was found hanging at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday, and officials suspect he committed suicide. The body of Kumar (69), a 1973-batch IPS officer, was found hanging at his residence in Brockhurst, near Chhota Shimla, in the evening, they added. Himachal Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Sanjay Kundu, Shimla S) Mohit Chawla and other senior police officials reached the spot. A forensic team has also reached the

Report on Page 4

entists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for developing a method of genome editing likened to

'molecular scissors" that

offer the promise of one day

curing inherited diseases

and even cancer. Working on

opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman

Emmanuelle Charpentier

and American Jennifer A.

Doudna developed a method known as CRISPR/Cas9 that

can be used to change the

DNA of animals, plants and

extremely high precision.

microorganisms



Jennifer A. Doudna, left, and Emmanuelle Charpentier.

"There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all," said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Committee Nobel Chemistry.

Report on Page 5

NATION 4

OPS names EPS as CM pick in Tamil Nadu



WORLD 5

16-year-old turns Finland PM for a day

SPORTS 6

Nadal powers into Paris semifinals



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Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with farmers during her visit to Jakkula Nekkalam village of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday while explaining the benefits of the new Farm Bills.

Reap Farm Bill sops: Nirmala FM says farmers will get good prices for Guntur chillies now

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Union finance minister, Nirmala Sitaraman, who was in Vijaywada on Wednesday, affirmed that new agriculture laws are beneficial to farmers and refuted the allegations of Opposition parties as politically motivated. She stated that farmers can sell their produce in any market in the country for good

Responding about the

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC

VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Visakhapatnam

ment in the state.

Issue of passports has fallen steeply at the various passport kendras in Andhra Pradesh. The

state has three main Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) at Vijayawada,

Tirupati, apart from 21

Post Office Passport Seva

Kendras (POPSKs), one

for each Lok Sabha seg-

Passport authorities on

an average issued 2,000–2,500 passports a day

from all these outlets before the outbreak of Covid-19, charging a fee of

₹1,500 for each passport. Following the outbreak of

Coronavirus, particularly in April and May, there

was no issue of passports as all the kendras were

However, with the num-

ber of Covid-19 cases com-

ing down and the centre

facilities.

shut down.

"unlocking"

Chemistry Nobel for

'molecular scissors'

pending funds to AP, Sitaraman said that the 14th finance commission funds was a closed chapter and that was intimated to AP finance minister, Buggana Rajendranath Reddy. She said that presently the 15th finance commission is under implementation and the union government would reconsider the pending funds to AP, including the finance commission.
The government decided

to continue the five-year,

AP sees steep fall in issue

of passports from kendras

PASSPORT OFFICIALS

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of ₹1,500 for a passport.

outbreak of Coronavirus,

particularly in April and

May, there was no issue

kendras were shut down.

• LESS THAN 1,000 pass-

passport authorities have

started receiving applica-

tions at their main pass-port offices located in

. Vijayawada, Visakhapa-

tnam and Tirupati, apart

from smaller centres at

Vizianagaram, Raj-ahmundry, Bhimavaram, Gudivada, Bapatla and

However, the issue of

passports at all these cen-

tres is less than 1,000 per

Narsaraopet.

of passports as all the

ports are being issued

now hitting revenues

FOLLOWING THE

day from all these outlets

time-bound GST compensation fund and cess beyond the five years limit, said Sitaraman, adding that regarding GST issues, another meeting would be held on October 22 to resolve the problems.

Despite the good demand for Guntur red chillies in north India and other places, farmers still failed to get good prices, said Sitaraman, but now the new laws would help farmers to get good price throughout the country.

too have fallen.

Vijayawada regional passport officer D.S.S.

Srinvasa Rao said, "Though we used to issue

2,000 to 2,500 passports a

day before the outbreak of

Covid-19, at present, we are issuing less than 1,000,

resulting in a major impact on our revenues.

However, as we are open-

ing POPSKs in places,

where the spread of Covid-

19 is relatively less, we expect turnout of a good number of people seeking

have meanwhile advised

general public not to approach any agents, fake

websites, private agencies

or computer centres for

They have asked people

authorities

passports.

Passport

Refuting objections and allegations of Opposition parties and saying that they were opposing these Bills with vested political motives, she claimed,

"These reforms are not new. Even Opposition parties put these reforms in their manifestos. But now they are opposing them. It means that they, particularly the Congress, is cheating the public."

■ Page 2: APMCs will stay relevant, says FM



DC CORRESPONDENT

On September 8, Narcotics Control Bureau had arrested her for procuring marijuana for Rajput who was her boyfriend. Along with Rhea, bail was granted to Rajput aides Depesh Sawant and

State pins school hopes on edu sop

Jagan to distribute Jagananna Vidya kits

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

The grammar of the education system in Andhra Pradesh is getting its syntax right in the form of Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits, which are to be dis-tributed by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to students from Standard 1 to X on Thursday.

The uniqueness of the scheme is that the kit comprises three pairs of uniform, a pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, prescribed text books, notebooks, belt and a school bag, which makes the student fully

ready for the new academic year. The Chief Minister will formally launch the scheme at Punadipadu government school in Krishna district. This is expected to her-

ald a new chapter to

strengthen enrollment

rate in government schools. Jagananna Vidya Kanuka puts an end to the earlier practice of erratic and non-supply of books, uniform and other essentials to students. The kits will bring relief to parents and will help them save academic expenses significantly and can motivate them to send their children to school.

Approximately, 42,34,322 kits will be distributed across the State at an estimated cost of ₹650 crore. The government hopes that this will also bring down the dropout rate.

Krishna district collector AMd Imtiaz and Vijayawada commissioner of police Battina Srinivasulu supervised the arrangements at

Punadipadu ZP School. Imtiaz said that the Chief Minister will reach the school by 10.35 am and inspect the Nadu-Nedu works. Later, he will also interact with students.

SC: No protests in public places

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

The Supreme Court on Wednesday "unequivocally" said that protests can be held at designated places only and the protesters can't occupy the public places indefinitely causing "grave inconvenience" to the public.

Referring to Shaheen Bagh protest wherein the sit-in by the protesters continued for over two

Kishan Kaul heading a three judge bench said, "We have to make it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied like this and that too indefinitely." Heading the bench also

comprising

Aniruddha Bose and Justice Krishna Murari, Justice Kaul further said that in the case of Shaheen Bagh it was not just that the protest was taking

area, but was a "blockage of a public way which caused grave inconvenience to commuters".

Speaking for the bench, Justice Kaul said, "We have, thus, no hesitation in concluding that such kind of occupation of public ways, whether at the site in question or anywhere else for protests is not acceptable and the administration ought to take action to keep the areas clear of encroachments or obstructions

US makes H-1B visa hard to get

Washington, Oct. 7: The countries like India and Trump administration China. Such a decision by the Trump administraictions on H-1B non-immigrant visa programme which it said is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries, a move which is likely to affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.

The interim final rule announced by the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday, less than four weeks ahead of the US presidential election, will narrow the definition of "specialty occupation" as Congress intended by closing the definition that allowed companies to game the system. It will also require firms to make "real" offers to "real employees," by closing loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers. And finally, the rules would enhance the department's ability to enforce compliance through worksite inspections and monitor compliance before, during and after an H1-B petition is approved. The technology compa-

nies depend on it to hire

tion is likely to have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals. Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their iobs and are headed back home during the pandemic that has severely hit the US economy. According to the Department of Homeland Security, the interim final rule to be published in Federal Register will be effective

According to the Department of Home-land Security, the US Citi-zenship and Immigration Services is forgoing the regular notice and comment period to immediately ensure that employing H-1B workers will not worsen the economic crisis caused by Covid-19 and adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed US workers, it said.

Data shows that more than half-a-million H-1B non-immigrants in the US have been used to displace US workers, which has led to reduced wages in a number of firms and the stagnation of wages in certain occupations, said tens of thousands of the Department of employees each year from Homeland Security.—PTI



JAWAHAR REDDY APPOINTED NEW TTD EO

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA. OCT 7

Senior bureaucrat K.S. Jawahar Reddy was appointed as new Chief Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Wednesday.

He is currently Special CS (Health) and held important assignments of CMO and Panchayat Raj in the past. Mr Reddy's handling of Covid-19 containment operations, in particular tracing the contacts in earlier days and massive testing, received wide appreciation.
It was Mr Reddy's

dream to serve as TTD executive head for a long time. Though there was some resistance to his appointment, the Chief Minister kept his word in this regard, sources

Known for his proximity to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's family since the days of his father late Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy, the 1990 batch officer is likely to become Chief Secretary at a later stage.

 HE IS currently
 Special CS (Health) and held important assignments of CMO and Panchayat Raj in the

 IT WAS Mr Reddy's dream to serve as TTD executive head for a long time. Though there was some resistance to his Minister kept his word in

close to the CM's family

RHEA GRANTED

BAIL, BROTHER TO STAY IN JAIL

MUMBAI, OCT, 7

A month after actor Rhea Chakraborty was arrested, the Bombay High court on Wednesday granted bail to her in a drugs case in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

Chakraborty and Avdel Basit Parihar, who supplied the marijuana,

to visit the government web portal www.pass-port.india.gov.in or use Samuel Miranda. However, it rejected bail of Showik the mPassport seva app on

their smartphones apply online and get their

BOVINE | MISHAP Unknown poachers placed explosive to kill wild boars in open field

Cow dies chewing on crude bomb

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT. 7

A cow died after its jaw was blown to pieces when it accidentally bit on a crude bomb, placed by some unknown poachers to kill wild boars, while grazing in an open field near Chandamama Palli in Tirupati rural limits. The incident occurred on

Tuesday when the cow was

grazing in the open field

near the village and acci-

dentally bit the explosive material. which was stuffed in some food mater-

The incident came to light on Wednesday after P. Rambabu, who owned the cow, lodged a complaint at the M.R. Palli police station.

"The owner of the cow heard a deafening noise and when he rushed to the spot, he saw the cow with its jaw blown away. Our preliminary investigation suggests that it was a crude

bomb which was fixed for wild boars. We are waiting for reports and we can pinpoint what kind of explosive it was only after analysing the report," M.R. Palli sub-inspector, Prakash Kumar, told this

newspaper The M.R. Palli police registered a case under Section 286 of the prevention of cruelty to animals act and also under the use of Explosives Act. A team was also formed to nab those who planted the

bomb. "This cruel method is used by local poachers to kill wild boars and other wild animals. This is definitely illegal and we will act on this. We will catch the culprits soon," Kumar added.

Meanwhile, the owner of the cow sought the help of some local veterinary doctors to check the injured cow.

Though they administered first aid to it and tied a bandage to the jaw, the cow died of its injuries

time in the district that domestic animals have been injured falling prey to poaching trap.
A 15-year-old cow also died in a similar manner at Kogileru in Peddapanjani

three hours after the incident. This is not the first

mandal three days after it bit into a crude bomb on the night of June 28. Unconfirmed reports say that about six animals have been injured and a

few dead falling prey to such traps in the district.

appointment, the Chief this regard, sources said. HE IS known to be



SHORT TAKES **YSRC GOVERNMENT CLEANEST, SAYS TAMMINENI**

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC SRIKAKULAM, OCT. 7

Speaker Tammineni Sitharam threw a challenge at the Opposition asking them to prove any corruption in the present government led by chief minister YS Jagan

Mohan Reddy.
Participating in a meeting after reviewing the works related Nadu-Medu, Rythu Bharosa and village secretariat at Shalantri and Kothakota village of Saribujjili mandal of Srikakulam district on Wednesday, the Speaker said the present government came to power 15 months ago and launched several welfare schemes. "Can the Opposition prove any corruption in these welfare schemes," the Speaker challenged. He said the schools which were in dilapidated condition got a corporate look under the Nadu Nedu programme.

LOCATION OF CAMP OFFICE CM's PREROGATIVE: AG

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

AP advocate general S. Sriram informed the High Court that the Chief Minister has the prerogative to set up his Camp Office at a place based on his

requirements of work.

A High Court bench comprising Chief Justice J. K.
Maheswari, justice Rakesh Kumar and justice M. Satyanarayana Murthy was hearing a batch of interlocutory petitions on Wednesday against relocation of executive and judiciary from Amaravati and also setting up CM's Camp Office at a place

other than Amaravati.
The AG objected to the stay order on issue of CM's Camp Office stating there is no rule that such office be located only within the jurisdiction of the state capital. He asserted that it was the prerogative of the CM to set up his Camp Office, whether at Nellore or Tirupati, based on his need to work. He maintained that there is no ban on relocation of such office as per norms of AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of all Regions

When the court raised a series of queries on the issue, the AG informed that the CM's Camp Office is located in Amaravati and at present, he is staying at his residencecum-camp office. The court wanted to know whether the state government has constructed any other offices for the CM. The AG asked the court for some time to submit details in this regard. He also sought time to file counter affidavits on relocation of offices of several corporations.

The court agreed for the same and posted the next hearing to Friday.

SPECIAL CELL TO REDRESS MARTYRS GRIEVANCES

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

The state forest department has set up a 'Special Monitoring Cell' for redressal of grievances of the family members of the forest martyrs at the office of principal chief conservator of forests in

The PCCF and head of forest forces N. Prateep Kumar has issued a memo here on Wednesday stating that they were establishing SMC with a broad intent of honouring the sacrifices made by the forest martyrs in protection of forests and wildlife.

TULASI REDDY PLEA TO REOPEN RTPP

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, OCT. 7

Rayalaseema-based Rayalaseema Thermal Power Project (RTPP) has been closed for the past seven months, said Pradesh Congress Working president Dr N. Tulasi Reddy. Speaking to mediapersons on Wednesday in Vempalle, Kadapa district, he said if the situation was like this in the CM's own district, what it would be elsewhere in the state. He said the RTPP came to Kadapa district in 1987 as a result of many struggles. RTPP has a total of six units, with a capacity of 1,650 MW and a staff of 4,000. He appealed to the Chief Minister to take immediate initiative to reopen the closed project.

Union minister urged to protect Cheyutha and Amaravati as solo capital of AP Assara all set

'Save Amaravati' women leaders submit memo to Nirmala Sitaraman

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Amaravati Parirakshana Mahila JAC women leaders met Sitaraman seeking protection of Amaravati as the solo capital of AP state. They submitted a memorandum to the Union minister and sought intervention of the union government to cancel the decision of three

capitals.
APMJAC women leaders Sunakara Padmasree, Akkineni Vanaja, Gadde Anuradha, Nrala Malathi and Chennupati Usharani dum to minister Ms. Sitaraman at Jakkula-nekkalam village of Gannavaram mandal on Wednesday.

The Union minister interacted with farmers at Jakkulanekkalam and the APMJAC women leaders met her to explain their difficulties due to three capitals decision of YSR Congress government.
Ms Padmasree said that
29,000 farmers had offered

their livelihood 33,000 acres of farmlands for the establishment of Amaravati as solo Capital of the state but chief min-ister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy decided to trifurcate the one Capital into three Capitals which is illegal. She said that it is a death blow to the 29000 farmers who sacrificed their valuable lands for

Amaravati. Ms Padmasree said that farmers with their family members have been conducting protests for the past 300 days seeking continuation of Amaravati as solo Capital of AP but the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy did not respond to their appeals.

the noble cause of

She said that farmers were continuing their battles against three capitals through petitions filed in the High Court seeking justice.

She said that the intervention of the union government will resolve the issue and sought the union government initiate measures for the protection of Amaravati.

Ms Padmasree and other women leaders said that Ms Sitaraman assured them to do justice by taking the issue to the notice

TD SAYS NO TO

STATUE OF NTR

TIRUPATI, OCT. 7

PARVATI UNVEILING

DC CORRESPONDENT

The old issue of shifting NTR statue at Musunu-ru in Kavali Assembly

constituency has once again sparked a row wi-

th Telugu Desam oppos-

ing the presence of Lak-

shmi Parvati at the upc-

oming event of unveil-

ing the same statue at

the village scheduled on

It may be recalled that

the civic authorities had

removed a statue of late

NTR during a road-wid-

ening exercise at the village some time ago.

After the incident, the

TD activists jumped into

fray and have begun demanding the reinstal-lation of the statue at

the same spot where it

Following this, the YSRC government has announced that it would

not just reinstall the

statue of late NTR, but

also decided to invite NTR's wife Lakshmi

Parvati for the unveiling. This decision sparked a row at the con-

stituency with TD lead-

ers staunchly opposing the presence of Lakshmi

Parvati at the statue

unveiling ceremony. TD Nellore city in-ch-

arge K. Srinivasulu

Reddy on Wednesday

visited Kavali town and

announced to the media

that they are strongly opposing the unveiling

of NTR statue by Lak-

shmi Parvati. He said

the TD has been insisti-

ng the statue be installed

at the same place. He claimed that Balakrish-

na too demanded the go-

vernment to install the

statues at the same place

where it used to be once.

used to be once.

October 9.



Amaravati Parirakshana Samithi women JAC leaders Sunkara Padmasree, Gadde Anuradha, Chennupati Usharani giving representation to Union minister for finance Nirmala Sitaraman at Jakkula Nekkalam village against the

APMCs will stay relevant, says FM

From Page 1

Lauding the Minister, Narendra Modi, Sitaraman said "Despite many challenges including the Covid-19 pandemic, Modi passed the amendments with a commitment to empower the farmers. Amending labour laws alone will not give proper results. That's why we have made amendments to all three bills at the same time. A farmer can now take his produce to any state and sell it anywhere in the country, without additional burden. They can utilise the e-NAM platform to get more benefit by selling his produce. At the same time, they could also go for agreements with the purchasing companies, can form farmer produce organisations (FPOs), could add value to their farm produce and do much more.' Claiming that she met some farmers "on my way

from the airport to here, they thanked Modi for the reforms as they can sell their produce anywhere in India now." Saying that

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC

With Apex Council direc-

tion to submit Detailed

Project Reports (DPRs) of

Projects on Krishna River

in Åndhra Pradesh, farm-

ers in Kurnool district

express happiness that

pending projects would get a fillip. The DPR for Gundrevula reservoir,

which has been pending,

is also being submitted to

the Apex Council, said an irrigation official.

Welcoming the Apex Council deliberations

which yielded some fruit-

ful milestones, Rayala-seema Saguneeti Sadhana Samiti (RSSS) president Bojja Dasarath Reddy said

the Krishna River Board

office must be located in

Kurnool. He said the KRMB is a tribunal and as

such Kurnool has already

designated

 SITARAMAN visited Jakkula Nekkalam village in Gannavaram constituency. She interacted with the farmers of the village and inquired about crops grown, the mini-

mum support price and

the market situation. ket committees (APMCs) will remain intact, Sitaraman was firm that "we are touching Farmers can transact outside the market yard or out of the state. States will not lose their control over agriculture or agri marketing. The amendments we made are under the central list only. We did not touch APMCs as they are under the state list." Continuing her defence, she said "There will be no

tax on agricultural produce but the market yards have been collecting dif-ferent kinds of cesses, between 8 to 8.5 per cent on sales. These legislations would allow farmers to sell anywhere in the country, maintain stock till they get remunerative prices."

Seema farmers hope more projects

on Krishna post Apex Council meet

• The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I also envisages of sharing of 530 TMC of Krishna waters for

Rayalaseema districts, therefore the Srisailam reser-

On Galeru, Handri Neeva, Telugu Ganga project and

Gundlakamma, he said the Apex Council clarified once

Judicial Capital of Srisailam reservoir level

again that they are old projects as they were men-

voir level must be maintained at 854 feet.

tioned in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

Andhra Pradesĥ state, it is

but natural it should be

set up here. He reminded Chief Minster Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's commit-

ment to decentralise the

administration and there-

fore the administration

must decide on Kurnool for location of the KRMB

Dasarath Reddy further

said that the Krishna

Water Disputes Tribunal-I

also envisages of sharing of 530 TMC of Krishna

waters for Rayalaseema

districts, therefore the

headquarters.

on the new agriculture laws, Ms Sitaraman laws, Ms Sitaraman explained the laws in detail and asked BJP cadres to create awareness farmers explaining the salient features through distribution of pamphlets and other

forms of campaigning.
BJP leaders, G.V.L.
Narasimha Rao, Sunil Deodhar, Kanna Lakshminarayana, P.V.N. Madhav, Vakati Narayana Reddy, Ravela Kishore Babu and others participated in the meeting.

As part of her Andhra Pradesh tour on Wednes-Sitaraman visited Jakkula Nekkalam village Gannavaram constituency. She interacted with the farmers of the village and inquired about crops grown, the minimum support price and the market situation.

The farmers expressed that they have been undergoing hardship as there is no support price for their produce, in particular paddy and sugarcane. They said that the banks are not coming forward to

ing organised by the BJP They further requested that for the paddy crop per quintal. They sought the government to buy crops soon after harvesting without delay. They lamented that only

₹2,250 per quintal paid for

sugarcane was not enough

and asked to be provided bank loans. They stated that it is a slight relief to the farmers that they can sell curry leaves any-where with the new central government new law. Reiterating that the Centre had brought the new law to support and solve the problems and difficulties of the farmers,

she briefed them about the

benefits of the new laws. Police had arrested a few farmers, farmer's organisations and left party leaders who tried to conduct protests against the agriculture bills and the minister's visit to Vijayawada.

The police arrested left party leaders, K. Ramakrishna, V. Srinivas Rao, D. Subba Rao, Ch. Babu Rao, A. Vanaja, V. Venkateswaruly. Jamalaiah. Survanarayana and a few Congress

hensions

Gundrevula reservoir on

Tungabhadra since it is a

stabilisation project. He demanded that the Chief

Minister call for a meet

with Karnataka and

Telangana states to iron out the differences and

pave way for early completion of the Gundrevula

Project. Even Rajoli

Banda could be taken up

on Tungabhadra which

would help Telangana dis-

Action Committee co-ordi-

nator Kamani Venugopal

Reddy also demanded that

the KRMB headquarters

be located in Kurnool as Srisailam is in the district

and Krishna traverses for

a length at large in the dis-

trict. He said it would also

be easily accessible to

Telangana as Kurnool is on the border between

Telangana and Andhra

tricts, he said. Rayalaseema

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

At a review meeting, Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, directed officials to focus on branding and marketing facilities for the selfhelp women groups under YSR Cheyutha and YSR Aasara schemes and ensure that they are corruption-free.

"As we have signed MoUs with major compa-nies, the two schemes should be implemented without any hindrance and the expertise of the business houses should benefit the women entrepreneurs to give them the intended results," said Mr

Directing the authorities to take an expert opinion on providing livestock to the beneficiaries of Cheyutha, Mr Jagan demanded the prepara-tion of standard operating procedures to buy healthy livestock, certi-fied by a veterinary doctor. He said, "All the beneficiaries who buy milch cattle should be enlisted for getting fodder through Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs)," he said.

Officials informed Mr Jagan that so far 21 lakh So far 21 lakh benefici-aries were enlisted under YSR Cheyutha and provided with the total financial assistance of ₹3,937 crore

₹6,792 crore have been utilised under YSR Aasara for 87.74 lakh beneficiaries

total financial assistance of ₹3,937 crore. Similarly, ₹6,792 crore have been utilised under YSR Aasara for 87.74 lakh beneficiaries.

As many as 13.03 lakh women belonging to selfhelp groups have benefited from both the schemes.
Of the total target of

establishing 33,486 retail outlets in rural areas, 8,836 outlets were started and the remaining will be coming up by the end-October.

Soon, RBKs in 6,510 identified villages would have milk procurement centres and bulk milk cooling units (BMCU) with a capacity ranging from 1,000-5,000 litres and nearly 75 lakh litres of milk can be procured daily.

As many as 3.43 lakh buffaloes and 2.2 lakh cows will be bought in two phases and provided the beneficiaries. beneficiaries were enlisted under YSR Cheyutha and provided with the Similarly, 2.97 lakh of goats and sheep will be given to the beneficiaries.

CM Delhi visit to save himself: TD

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Telugu Desam MP K. Rammohan Naidu has demanded that Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy explain to people of Andhra Pradesh whether or not he fought for AP's rights and interests during his just concluded visit to Delhi. He wondered why the CM was not informing people anything about his visit to Delhi. This is leading to suspicions whether his Delhi visit was meant to save himself from the illegal assets cases.

The MP pointed out that in his election affidavits, Jagan Mohan Reddy stated that he is an accused in 32 cases of which 11 are being investigated by the

told the Chief Minister cases being investigated that AP voters gave him by CBI.

Rajya Sabha MPs and 151 MLAs to fight for interests of the state.

22 Lok Sabha MPs, six

But the CM did not have the minimum courtesy to hold a press conference and tell AP people what he has achieved from his Delhi visit, he said.

The MP questioned whether the CM has asked Prime Minister Naredra Modi to fulfil the promise of . Category Status (SCS) for AP promised during reorganisation of the state, apart from a new railway zone at Visakhapatnam.

He pointed out that before elections, Jagan had said he would keep pleading with centre for SCS. But now, he was not talking about SCS at all but visiting Delhi only to serve his selfish interests Mr Rammohan Naidu and wriggle out his assets

CM behind Baypark deal in Vizag: TD

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Leader of opposition in AP Legislative Council Yanamala Ramakrishnudu on Wednesday alleged that yet another case of benami transactions involving Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has surfaced by way of multicrore Baypark property

Ramakrishnudu alleged that the Chief

He demanded that the Baypark, which was developed with ₹120 crore, changed hands. He alleged that people hold- of Hetero.

Y accused the Chief Minister of holding various benami companies

in Visakhapatnam.

Minister has taken over Baypark in the guise of Hetero, thereby grabbing ₹300 crore worth Rushi-konda lands through his benamis.

government explain why

ing highest positions in the government were responsible for Baypark going to the Hetero firm. He charged that Jagan's benamis had also taken over Kakinada SEZ recently and now Vizag Baypark is also being grabbed by them. He accused the Chief

Minister of holding various benami companies. Ramakrishnudu

Mr Ramakrısınıuuu pointed out that Hetero is co-accused in the first charge sheet filed by the CBI in Jagan Mohan Reddy's illegal assets cases. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) too has filed cases against M. Srinivas Reddy, Director

SIX HELD FOR ATTEMPT TO SWINDLE **MONEY FROM AP CM'S RELIEF FUND**

(KRMB)

RF) using fake cheques. Sources said the fraud-sters created fake cheq-

India in Moodbidri here. The bank officials, who grew suspicious, contacted AP officials and learnt

Mangaluru, Oct 7: Six about the scam, following was stopped.

Pradesh, based on a complaint filed by P. Murali Krishna Rao, assistant secretary of the Revenue Department.

attempt was made to siphon off ₹117 crore from the AP CMRF using fake cheques.

The fraud had come to the fore while examining the cheques issued and money sanctioned. —*PTI*

one to harbour any appre-**HUGE | SUCCESS| Tenders invited for re-allotment of 11 cottages**

coffers of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

(TTD). This gains cre-

recently invited tenders

for re-allotment of 11 of

its cottages and guest

must be maintained at 854

could be operational when

the reservoir level is at or above the 854 feet of

Srisailam reservoir level,

he said. On Galeru, Handri Neeva, Telugu

Ganga project and Gundlakamma, he said the Apex Council clarified

once again that they are

old projects as they were

mentioned in the AP

Reorganisation Act, 2014.

Dasarath Reddy said there is no need for any-

Pothireddypadu

TTD cottage scheme hits ₹69cr houses at Tirumala. The SUBRAMANYAM I DC scheme recently netted a

whopping ₹69 crore. Under the scheme, TTD The Covid-19 pandemic notwithstanding, it is raining donations into the generally extends 30 days of accommodation for a period spread over 20 years for firms and entities and 20 years or lifetime to the donor or spouse in case of individdence from that the ambitiously launched cottage donation scheme, for which the trust board ual donations.

According to details provided by the temple management, details of donors and the rest houses allotted in the tender process

are: Sripati rest house was allotted for ₹7.11 crore to Hyderabad-based Phoenix Infra Limited; Vidya Sadan guest house (₹7.89 crore - Joopalli Syam Rao, Hyd); Sneha Latha guest house (₹7.87 crore - Picchammai Educational and Charitable Trust, Chennai)l Karam Nivas (₹6.80 crore Bhudati Lakshmi Narayana, Hyd); Vakula

rest house (₹6.50 crore -

Rajesh Sharma, Mumbai);

Gumble guest house

(₹5.99 crore -S. Bhagyasri, Chennai); Sri Niketan crore Sarathchandra Reddy Hyd); Godavari ₹5.5 crore Mega Engineering and Infrastructure Limited, Hyd); Lakshmi Nilayam (₹5.25 crore -AFCONS Infrastructure, Mumbai); Balaji Kuteer (₹5.11 crore -Om Prakash Agarwal, Hyd) and Shanti Sadan (₹5 crore - M.S. Raksha Ramaiah and M.S. Sundar

people from Dakshina Kannada district were arrested for attempting to swindle crores of rupees from the AP Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CM-

ues resembling real ones and tried to deposit in the bank. One of the accused had allegedly tried to deposit a ₹52 crore cheque at State Bank of which the transaction A case in this connection was registered in September in Andhra

It is learnt that an

SHORT TAKES

ACB TRAPS FOREST OFFICER FOR ACCEPTING BRIBE

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 7

Sleuths of Anti-Corruption-Bureau trapped a forest department section officer of Devarapalli Division in Vizag district while demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹10,000 from a complainant.

ACB officials said they laid a trap and caught Ramesh Kumar red-handed when he received the bribe from the complainant Srinu. The officials said that Ramesh Kumar demanded the bribe from Srinu for issuing permission to cut the trees and shift the logs from Sammidi village to

another village. The arrested Ramesh Kumar will be produced before the ACB Court on Thursday.

WANTED Vizag-VMRDA/AP Rera Approved Layout Project. WANTED (M/F)

Agents/Executives for Marketing on Salary / Commission base Off: MVP Colony, Double Road [all:7702444248

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **K.SUNEETA** spouse of Ex No.161449-F, POME, KARRI SRINIVASA NAIDU resident of Flat No.310, Sun City Apartments, Nanubala Street, Srikakulam - Town & Dist., A.P. Pin-532001 have changed my name from K.SUNEETA to YAGERED-DI SUNEETA vide affidavit dated 07.10.2020 before Notary Srikakulam - 532001 (A.P.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

risakhapatnam-16 intend to mortgag he property i.e. Flat No.211 in "ACTUS" that the property is more particularly described in the schedule hereunde situated at S.No.131/2 of Machinesweds village, against the loan given to Miss Palisetty Satya Sai Jyothi D/o. Sri F

Miss Palisetty Satya Sai Jyothi, D/c Note Passetty Satya 26 Jpctn., USS Sri P.Krishna Babu fost her Grigina Document i.e registered Sale Deed vide Doc No. 7308/2014 no 06.12.2014 While traveling within the limits of Srikakulam I town Police Station Limits. ade by the police, issued not traceo rtificate for the same on 17.12.2018 anyone found the same or anyon id property or any part thereof by way f sale, gift, lease, inheritance change, mortgage, charge, lien, trust ossession, easement, attachment or otherwise howsoever are hereb or required to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at his office within 10 days (both days inclusive) of the publication hear of, failing which the claim of such persons) will deemed to have been waived and,

SCHEDULE

All that site measuring 4250 Sq.yants or 3553.50 Sq.meters in plot No.12 situated in the sanctioned plan of Madhanimuda, covered by 5.No. 131/2 of Madhanaeda Village, within he limits of Grater Vishalapatnan Municipal Corporation and Madhura wada Registration Sub District and bounded and measured as follows: East 100 feet wide Road, South: Rood Edge West: Land in S. No. 146 North: Remaining property of the Venders earmarked

Out of which an undivided and unspecified share of 28 Sq.yards or 23.411 Sq meters together with Flat No.211 measuring 1320 5ft in first Floor rec. 11 thesisoning 1,320 on in first Food and one car parking measuring 100 sh in stift floor is hereby told and conveyed to the Vendee by virtue of this Sale Deed, Boundaries of Flet No. 211 in First Floor: North: Open Space & Lift. East: Common Corridor South: Open Space, West: Open Space.

Date: -10-2020, Place: Visakhapatnan Yerrameetti Satya Prasad, Advocate Piot No.182, Door No.10-114, Visalakashinagar/Visalihapatnam-43. Mobile No.9618900302, Imail:sasiraghavanaidu@gmail.com



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Damaged road



Motorists have a tough time to ride on the roads which were damaged due to recent rains at Akkayyapalem in Visakhapatnam on – P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

AP records 5,120 Covid cases, toll touches 6,086

East Godavari and Chittoor districts reported 807 cases each

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN |

VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 7

Andhra Pradesh has registered 5,120 new Covid-19 positive cases scaling up the overall tally to 7,34,427 and 34 deaths taking the toll to 6,086 in the last 24 hours.

In its Wednesday's Covid-19 bulletin, the state health authorities reported that out of 66,769 samples tested, 5,120 individuals have been found infected. Out of 62,83,009 samples tested so far in the state, 6,78,828 patients have been discharged after recovery from various hospitals while 49,513 patients are still active

and undergoing treatment.

Among the daily new positive cases, both East Godavari and Chittoor reported 807 each followed by 575 in West Godavari, 464 Krishna, 433 Guntur, 424 Anantapur, 367 Nellore, Kadapa, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam, 172 each in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram and 144 in

Kurnool East Godavari continues to be the worst hit with regard to cumulative confirmed cases with 1,03,246 followed by 71,917 in West Godavari, 67,362 Anantapur, 58,106 Guntur, 57,425 Kurnool,

TNSF DEMANDS

POSTPONEMENT

OF UG EXAMS

DC CORRESPONDENT

Telugu Nadu Students

Federation (TNSF) activ-

ists staged a protest on

Wednesday at the Vikra-ma Simhapuri Universi-

ty, demanding postpone-

ment of undergraduate

examinations scheduled

October 14. The activists

claimed that many stu-

dents who appeared for

the PG examinations

were infected with Covid-

19 and hence they are

demanding the varsity to

postpone the UG examinations. They sat in the

varsity premises and

raised slogans against

the decision of the varsi-

ty to conduct UG exams.

Registrar Dr L.V. Krishna

Reddy held discussions

with the TNSF and tried

G.V. Ravindranath Babu,

reached out to the students and discussed the

"The exams can be post-

poned by a month or so.

But we cannot assure you that the exams would be

cancelled. We need to dis-

cuss the issue with the

higher-ups," the registrar

told the students. At the

assurance of the officials,

the students called off

their protest and dis-

develop skills in various

trades to the educated

youth. The centre is pro-

viding free food, accom-

modation and uniforms

The SDI-A was shut

down since March 23 due

to the youth.

to pacify them.

issue with them.

commence from

TIRUPATI, OCT. 7

Out of 66,769 samples tested, 5,120 individuals have been found infected. East Godavari cumulative confirmed cases 1,03,246

55,447 Nellore, 52,411 Prakasam, 51,680 Visakhapatnam, Kadapa, Srikakulam, 36,587 Vizianagaram and 30,311 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery has been high in East Godavari with 93,642 followed by 65,877 in West Godavari, 60,065 Chittoor, 57,653 Anantapur, 55,330 Kurnool, 52,711 Nellore, 52,377 Guntur, 48,308 Visakhapatnam, 47,294 Prakasam, 42,909 Kadapa, 38,316 Srikakulam, 34,354 Vizianagaram and 27,097 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Among daily cases of death, East Godavari registered five followed by four each in Anantapur, Chittoor, Krishna and Visakhapatnam, three each in Guntur and Nellore, two each in Kadapa, Kurnool and West Godavari and one in

Prakasam. Chittoor registered the highest number of cumulative cases of death of Covid-19 patients with 687 followed by 553 in West Godavari, 551 Guntur, 513 tive rate at 6.15.

Anantapur, 506 Prakasam, 481 Krishna, 472 Kurnool, 466 West Godavari, 461 Nellore, 459 Visakhapatnam, 388 Kadapa, 327 Srikakulam and 222 in Vizianagaram.

The state health authorities have discharged 6,349 patients after recovery from various hospitals in the state in the last

24 hours. Andhra Pradesh has carried out Covid-19 test on 1,17,659 samples per one million population with Covid-19 positive rate at 11.69 while Maharashtra has tested 57,977 samples with positive rate at 20.24 and Telangana has tested 83,771 samples with posi-

Demand to put

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 7

Hundreds of students. mostly members of Student's Federation of India from various degree colleges affiliated Andhra University, staged a protest on Wednesday, demanding the university to cancel the final/endsemester exams for the first and second year degree students in view of the Covid-19 outbreak.

They laid siege to the main entrance creating a

The situation aggravated when the protesting students en masse tried to barge into the campus at one go.

The city police, who reached the spot to prevent any untoward event. had to use the ropes to prevent them entering inside the campus.

There was a minor scuffle between the police and the students for a while. SFI Vizag city president Prabhu said that the government had earlier announced cancellation of exams for both first and second year degree students but Andhra University announced the examination schedule for these students from October 19.

"We demand the university to immediately cancel the exams and promote the students to next classes, taking their health and safety conditions into consideration," Prabhu told reporters.

Andhra University officials, including Registrar

Visakhapatnam: The

classes have begun after a

gap of six months at the

Development Centre, Arilova (SDI-A) in the

city. The noted petroleum

Public Sector Units have

been running the SDI-A to

PSUs run Skill

CLASSES AT SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE START

e-Ticket must off degree exams for Pushkaralu

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, OCT. 7

once-in-12-years Tungabhadra Pushkaralu from November 20 to December 1 are expected to be a tame affair because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Moreover, the District Administration is contemplating several restrictions, which are bound to discourage pil-

District collector G. Pandian Wednesday also advised the devout to teleview Pushkaralu from the comfort of their houses than take the risk of entering Tungabhadra when the virus risk is

He also announced that children below the age of 12 years and adults above the age of 50 years are barred from entering the bathing ghats for a holy

dip.
The collector said an e-Ticket system on the lines of Tirumala is being

Tungabhadra Pushkaralu. Only persons with the e-ticket will be allowed to have a holy dip.

Efforts are also being made to sell bottled holy water through courier and other parcel services so that people could still get the feel of Pushkaralu water. India Post and other courier agencies would be roped in to ship out bottled Tungabhadra waters, the district collector said.

He pointed out that the state government has already released ₹120 crore through the Roads and Buildings Department for the Tungabhadra Pushkaralu. Five more bathing ghats are being constructed in addition to the existing 16 ghats on the banks of Tungabhadra. ralyam, Yemmiganur, Kodumur, Kurnool Urban and Nandikotkur will be

having the new ghats.
It is learnt that some MLAs entered into heated arguments with the district collector over selection of the new ghats.

IN LODGE

CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM,

A 76-year-old woman was found dead a lodge in Visakhapatnam city on Wednesday. Two Town circle inspector K. Venkata Rao said Kasibatla Lakshmi and her son Kasibatla Chakravarthy checked into a lodge on September 1. On Tuesday evening Chakra-va-rthy left for the Railway Reserv-ation counter to book a ticket for them to visit relatives in Vijaya-wada. He never came back to the lodge after booking a ticket.

He returned to the lodge in the morning and found the room locked from inside. After repeated knocks, approached management and got the door force

WOMAN,76, FOUND DEAD

and indicates where the tree is located from Sirimanu.

EASTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A PLTD OPERATION CIRCLE: VIZIANAGARAM
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Tenders are invited from registered 'A Grade 33/11KV electrical licensed Contractors in APEPDCs, for 'Electrification of layout with 381 Plots (319 Nos. and 62 Nos) under R and R Housing Scheme infevour of M.R.C. Brogapuram in 5y No. 101 of Polipalit village of Bhogapuram Mandal in operation section, Brogapuram of Vizianagaram Circle' from Tender Specification No. 51/2020-21, as per the A Pie-PDc Ltd., general terms and conditions. For further details please visit our verbile www.appearletmpower.com/Lad date & Time for recept of Tenders in 14,10,2020 upto 11.50Hrs.Phone No. 68922-279851.
Advi-68

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited Regil, Diffice: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Pariale 147001 Phone No. - 9175-2297648, Email Id.- se-li1@papel.in Corporate Identity Number U40109P820105GC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. 238/DIT-1054 dated 05.10.2020

Short Description: Providing 4G (LTE/VoLTE) mobile phone services in Punjab State Power Corporation Limited under corporate plan Start date for downloading of Specification/tender documents: Date ouploading of tender (5.10.20).

Last date for downloading of Specification/tender documents 20.10.2020-upto 11:00.AM

Last date for Bid Submission: 20.10.2020 upto 11:00 AM

Bid Opening date: 21,10,2020 upto 11:00 AM

ndering only.

Note: - The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and or GePNIC representatives in case of my difficulty regarding uploading of the tender well in time. It is also requested to get their digital

t is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL, website. (https://eproc.punjab.gov.in)

ignature and registration well in time so as to submit tenders through e

SERT (ASPM). PSPCL, Patiala

Teacher among eight cricket bookies held trict police office. The Arem Rajasekhar, 28 a

BALLEDA I DC KADAPA, OCT 7

The Kadapa police arrested eight persons for betting on cricket on Wednesday in Kadapa. The police seized The police seized ₹8,35,000, five mobile phones and 2 kgs of ganja. The superintendent of police Karur Karunapathi Nagendra Kumar Anburajan disclosed the details at a press conference at disarrested include a teacher, a student, a daily worker and businessmen. On a tip-off, the SP ordered the vigilance to conduct a raid. The police found the accused near Techno School, Rayachoti and arrested them.

The arrested are: Shaik Mohammad Imran, 35, from Hyderabad, Sanka Vijaj, 28, working as sales promoter in a mobile company from Rayachoti,

student from Rayachoti. Vempalli Hussain Basha alias teacher Basha working as government teacher from Rayachoti, Kalvapalli Reddeppa, 22, daily labour from Galiveedu, Shaik Bahadoor,40, a businessman from Proddutur, Kalluru Sreenivasulu Reddy, 22, a businessman from Proddutur, Mart-hala Pedda Venkata Reddy, 38, a businessman from Gadipadu

Cops solve crimes held in 5 places of worship

DC CORRESPONDENTS VIJAYAWADA/KURNOOL

The Andhra Pradesh police have solved five of the plethora of crimes related to places of worship in AP, in Kurnool, Guntur Rural and West Godavari on Wednesday.

Of the three crimes reported in Kurnool district, in the first case, the busted a gang involved in vandalising religious places in search of treasure troves and arrested five persons.

Kurnool SP, Kagineeli Fakeerappa, told media persons that one Basheer, a resident of Adhoni, along with his accomplice, Shankar, plotted to explore treasure in Peer Bhale Saheb dargah.

The accused gained entry into the dargah on the night of mahamaya amavasya and performed pujas and started digging the lower part of the gummaj. They destroyed the minar and as they failed to find out any treasure, they broke the hundi and ransacked it.

In a second case, the police arrested four persons on charges of desecration of a

religious place.

They had inscribed words like 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Om' in Hindi and also 'Ram' and 'Om' on the entrance to the Ranamandala fort causing religious disharmony.

In a third case, the police arrested two minor ragpick-

er girls on charges of breaking the hundi and lifting temple at Nandyal town. The theft took place on October 2.

In Guntur district, Narasaraopet town, fake news related to the desecration of a Saraswati idol located on the premises of Krishnaveni college, was circulated on social media platforms by some people on Tuesday.

Upon inquiry, the police found out that the idol was damaged two years ago during the demolition of a nearby shed while the college was being shifted to a new site.

In West Godavari, a case pertaining to theft of a hundi was detected and the two juveniles involved in it were detained.

In a release from the DGP's office here on Wednesday, the police said that after the burning of a chariot at Antarvedi temple in East Godavari, 33 cases were booked related to crimes in places of worship and out of them, 27 cases were solved and three interstate gangs busted.

The police said that they would not tolerate any activities aiming to stir up communal violence in the state and warned stern action against the perpetrators of such crimes, even as they ruled out any connection between the various

Three arrested for collecting money

DC CORRESPONDENT

Dargamitta police arrested three persons for cheating the public by illegally collecting deposits worth ₹85 crore from them in the name of online trading in just 7 months. The police, however, managed to recover only ₹1.29 crore, 5 laptops and one car from the accused. According to Nellore dis-

trict SP Bhaskar Bhushan, the accused were identified as Yallagolla Michel Suman Babu, 48, of Vakadu, who is now residing in Vedayapalem in Nellore city, Yeturi Ravi Kumar, 39, of Nandyal in Kurnool district and Dandugula Yalla Srinu, 31. of Chandrasekhar Nagar in Kurnool

The accused, who plotted to mint money illegally

2020 at Vedayapalem. They engaged one 'Eye 3 solutions' to develop an online application for securing deposits from public. The company has offered public that they will be paid ₹200 per every working day, against a deposit of ₹10,000 and the scheme will be continued for a period of 100-

Agents and the sub-agents were deployed to secure deposits and they were assured a commission of 0.5 per cent and 0.25 per cent respectively. The company also assured that amounts will be credited directly into the accounts of customers and agents. The accused trio had collected nearly ₹85 crore from as many as 12,600 customers within 7 months.

The Dargamitta Police had received a complaint from public, started a company titled as "WELPAY failed to pay customers.

> after Dasara festival every vear. The festival draws

> close to four lakh people

from Andhra Pradesh and

neighbouring Odisha and

Chhattisgarh.

On Wednesday, the tamarind tree for the Sirimanu was identified at

Balarampuram village near

The locals believe that the

deity would appear in the dream of the temple priest

Bheemasingi.

Sirimanotsavam on October 27

DC CORRESPONDENT VIZIANAGARAM, OCT. 7

The Vizianagaram administration is going ahead with Sirimanotsavam of Sri Pydithalli Ammavari Jatara on October 27 following Covid protocol. The district has registered around 36,000 positive cases and 250 However, there is no clari-

ty on the participation of devotees. The jatara is celebrated on the first Tuesday

SHORT TAKES

EX-CBI DIRECTOR ASHWANI KUMAR FOUND DEAD

Shimla/New Delhi, Oct. 7: Former CBI director and Nagaland Governor Ashwani Kumar was found hanging at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday, officials said.

Kumar became CBI director in 2008, succeeding Vijay Shanker, in the midst of the agency's probe into the Aarushi Talwar murder case that hogged the headlines.

Kumar later became Governor of Nagaland, they became

He was presently Vice Chancellor of a private university in Shimla, they said.

The body of Kumar, a 1973-batch IPS officer, was found hanging at his residence in Shimla Wednesday evening,

STONES THROWN AT KAMAL NATH'S CONVOY

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 7

Former chief minister Kamal Nath's cavalcade was on Wednesday stoned by some miscreants when he was leading an election rally in

The incident happened when the youth wing of BJP was staging black flag demonstration to protest Mr Nath's visit to Annupur assembly constituency which is going to byelections along with 27 other seats in Madhya Pradesh on November 3.

The demonstrators tried to block Mr Nath's cavalcade while holding the demonstration and shouting slogans against him. However, the security personnel deployed in the area chased them away to clear the way for Mr Nath's convoy to proceed to the venue of the public meeting in the town. Some youths who were part of the demonstration then suddenly started pelting stones at Mr Nath's vehicle. However, Mr Nath's caval-

cade had passed by then.
A video catching the violent demonstration went viral immediately after the inci-

Congress condemned the attack, saying that the BJP was resorting to violence against Congress leaders out of frustration.

The attack on Mr Nath's vehicle is a clear demonstration of BJP's frustration over growing popularity of Congress. In democracy, there is no place for violence", senior Congress leader and former Union minister Arun

Yadav said. He said Mr Nath enjoyed Z plus security and slammed the Shivraj government for security lapses leading to attack on his vehicle.

UGC DECLARES 24 UNIVERSITIES AS FAKE

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The University Grants Commission (UGC) Wednesday announced a list of 24 "self-styled, unrecognised institutions" in the country, terming them as "fake" with the maximum of them operating from Uttar Pradesh followed by Delhi.

"Students and public are informed that currently 24 self-styled, unrecognised institutions are functioning in contravention of the UGC Act, which have been declared as fake universities and these are not empowered to confer any degree," UGC Secretary Secretary Rajnish Jain said.

The majority of eight of these universities are from Uttar Pradesh — Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi; Mahila Gram Vidyapith, Allahabad; Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Allahabad; National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur; Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Aligarh; Uttar Pradesh Vishwa-Pradesh vidyalaya, Mathura; Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh and Indraprastha Shiksha

Parishad, Noida. Delhi has seven fake universities — Commercial Uni-versity Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Juridicial University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open Uni-versity for Self Employment and Adhvatmik Vishwavidvalava (Spiritual University). Odisha and West Bengal have two such universities each. Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Maharashtra have one each.

Crisis blows over, OPS names EPS as CM pick

11-member steering committee as asked by OPS set up

G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 7

With sweets and firecrackers, it was early Deepavali at the AIADMK headquarters premises on Wednesday morning soon after the party coordinator, O. Panneerselvam, named the incumbent Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial candi-date for the 2021 Assembly elections.

The meeting, scheduled for 10.00 am, started a little ahead of time with the party headquarters wearing a festive look since morning and the first announcement was on the formation of the 11-member steering committee, which had been Pannerselvam's long time demand.

Party deputy coordinator K.P. Munusamy, who was among those working till 3.30 am to bring about a rapprochement between Panneerselvam and Palaniswami, read out the names of the members of the steering committee, which he said was formed on the basis of a decision taken at the General Council. Also Panneerselvam put his stamp of approval on the list by signing on it in

front of the crowd.

The steering committee members are Forest Minister Dindigul C. Seenivasan, Electricity Minister P. Thangamani, Municipal Admin-istra-tion Minister S.P. Velumani, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, Law Minister C. Ve. Shanmugam, Food and Civil Supplies Minister R. Kamaraj, former MLA J.C.D. Prabakar, former MTA J.C.D. Prabakar, former former MTA J.C.D. Prabakar, former for MP Manoj Pandian, former Minister P. Mohan, former MP R. Gopal-akr-ishnan and Sholavandan MLA K. Manikkam.

Munsamy Vaithilingam, another deputy coordinator, had shuttled between the official residences Panneerselvam and Palaniswamy to finalise the name of the committee members till the wee hours as that was the last hitch to be ironed out to bring both the leaders was rumoured that they together to make the announcement they were ments to be made at an

Once the truce was



AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam greets Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami in Chennai on Wednesday

leadership geared up for the meeting and trooped to the venue. Pannerselvam arrived by around 9.40 am Palaniswami in another five minutes. Musical bands heralded their arrival with welcome notes and supporters, some of them wearing full face masks with the images of the leaders, cheered them with slogan shouting.

Then the two leaders, along with the other party functionaries, chatted for some time before the meeting was called for order. It wanted the announceauspicious hour that came

Whatever be the reason,

be a simple affair with the presentation of shawls, expression thanks and appreciation and several rounds of applause without slipping into long winded into long winded harangue that normally marked political meet-

Then the top brass of the party, including Palaniswami drove Panneerselvam. down to the MGR memorial. Both of them paid homage to MGR and also J. Jayalalithaa at their respective samadhis and

then drove away. When Jayakumar was asked by the media on the steering committee hav- air as they distributed ing more Palaniswami sweets and lighted firesupporters, he said that crackers.

the meeting turned out to the names were chosen unanimously. He said the show of unity in the party was a huge blow to betrayers and opponents of the AIADMK.

Vaithilingam, to a question on some senior leaders not figuring in the committee, said that there were other vacancies in the party and they would be soon filled up with the senior leaders who were not part of the panel.

AIADMK cadre, both men and women, cheered the leaders for putting up a show of unity with their jubilant gigs and slogan shouting.
A marked sense of relief

and celebration illied the

Gupteshwar Pandey

SHIV SENA TO CONTEST 50 SEATS IN BIHAR ELECTIONS

BHAGWAN PARAB MUMBAI, OCT. 7

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has announced that it will contest 50 seats in the forthcoming Bihar Assembly polls. The party has also decided to field its candidate against former Bihar police chief Gupteshwar Pandey, who is likely to contest the polls on JDU

Mr Pandey had criticised the Mumbai police and Maharashtra government in the actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case. He later joined the ruling Janata Dal (United) after taking voluntary retirement from the service. He is expected to contest the elections on a JDU ticket

from Buxar.
Senior Shiv Sena
leader Anil Desai said, "Maharashtra, Mumbai and Shiv Sena were unnecessarily defamed in the Sushant Singh death case by playing vendetta politics. The Shiv Sena will now fight back by contesting the polls. We will contest 50 seats in Bihar.'

According to Sena leaders, the party had contested the 2015 assembly polls too, in which it had polled more than two lakh votes.

Defending the decision to contest against the former Bihar DIG, Mr Desai said, "Not just Maharashtra but the entire nation saw his theatrics. His statements were unbecoming for his post. But our Shiv Sainik is ready to fight against him."

The Shiv Sena had earlier accused the Bihar politicians of trying to make Sushant Singh's death an electoral issue. Some issues can be shipped from Mumbai if they don't have real issues, another Sena leader Sanjay Raut had

Bihar will go to polls in three phases: October 28, November 3 and

BJP spares 11 seats for associate partner VIP

Patna, Oct. 7: The BJP on Wednesday allocated 11 seats to associate partner Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) from its quota of 121 seats in Bihar assembly polls. Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar had announced at a joint press conference Tuesday that while JD(U) will spare some seats to Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) of former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi from its share of 122 seats and the BJP will accommodate VIP from its quota of 121 seats in the 243-member assem-

JD(U) has provided seven seats to HAM.

The seat distribution to

VIP was announced at a conference press addressed by Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar unit president Sanjay Jaiswal and VIP chief Mukesh Sahni.

Jaiswal told reporters that VIP will also be provided one seat in Bihar legislative council in

VIP floated a couple of years ago by former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni, was with the opposition Grand Alliance till last week.

Sahni had on Friday last announced an abrupt exit

which helms the anti-NDA grouping, and its de facto leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Sahni expressed happiness over return to the BJP-led NDA with which he had started his political innings in 2014 general election with an aim to make Narendra Modi Prime Minister of the country.

Meanwhile, Bihar BJP leader Usha Vidyarthi joined the Lok Janshakti Party on Wednesday after meeting its president Chirag Paswan, and is likely to be fielded from the Paliganj assembly seat where the JD(U) will contest as well.
Vidyarthi, a former

MLA, joined the LJP a day after another senior BJP leader from the state, Rajendra Singh, who was associated with the RSS for a long time, joined Paswan's party. Singh wanted to contest

from Dinara but the seat has been allotted to the JD(U) as part of its seatsharing arrangement with the ally BJP for the Bihar assembly polls.

The Lok Janshakti Party, which has announced that it will contest from seats given to the JD(U) and not fight against the BJP, hopes that many more leaders from the opposition coalition in protest against "back-stabbing" by RJD, from other parties will join it in the coming days. -PTI

I-T RAIDS LOCATIONS IN BIHAR, U.P. IN PROBE AGAINST BUSINESSMAN

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The that this amount was Income Tax Department has conducted searches in poll-bound Bihar and Ùttar Pradesh against a businessman involved in mining and the hotel industry and the chairman of a "large" cooperative bank, the CBDT said

on Wednesday.
It said the raids were conducted on Tuesday in Patna, Sasaram and Varanasi on the basis of "actionable intelligence" and ₹1.25 crore cash was seized while fixed deposit receipts of ₹6 crore were placed under "prohibito-

businessman involved in mining and and November 7 -Subsequent investigations led to the finding

unaccounted and was also linked to the chairman of a large cooperative bank," the CBDT said in a statement.

'Unaccounted cash and documents with details of substantial cash transactions were found and seized. These transactions are not reflected in the corresponding returns of income," it

The Board did not identify those who were raided but sources said the businessman has links with a political party in Bihar. Polls for the 243-member

"During the search, an amount of ₹75 lakh was Bihar assembly will be found in a car belonging held in three phases — October 28, November 3 industry. counting of votes will take place on November

POCSO accused done to death

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

A 37-year-old Kerala man, POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) case and out on parole, was hacked to death by unidentified persons in Thrissur dis-

The accused had carried out the alleged sexual assault on a tribal girl in Pazhayannur in Thrissur. His body was found in a vacant plot. The police has registered a case and

the probe has begun.

The local police said Satheesh was found with injuries in a vacant house near his home in Elanad in Thirumani village. He was taken into custody about eight months ago in connection with the case of sexual assault on a tribal girl. After being released on parole, he was residing in Malappuram.

However, of late he was often seen near the spot where the tribal girl was sexually assaulted. There were also reports that some people used to visit the village looking for him which led to the suspicion that he might have committed something wrong in Malappuram.

Local residents told police that two persons from Malappuram district had visited the village recently enquiring about the whereabouts of Satheesh.

The cops are trying to find out if they are linked to the incident in any way.

 LOCAL RESIDENTS told police that two persons from Malappuram district had visited the village recently enquiring about the whereabouts of Satheesh.

THE COPS are trying to find out if they are linked to the incident.

The cops are also in the process of collecting the details of persons who ascertain their identity. The local police is in with touch Malappuram police to check whether any case is registered Satheesh in any of the police stations, especially in the area where he used to live.

Though the house where Satheesh's body was found was abandoned, a group of persons used to assemble there for drinking sessions. According to villagers they used to create

ruckus in the house. Satheesh was on parole as part of the government decision to release undertrials and remand prisoners in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Kerala high court had earlier permitted parole for prisoners who are serving less than 6 years term in jail. The Poojappura central

jail in Thiruva-nanthapuram had reported the highest number of cases with over 470 inmates and about a dozen officials getting infected with

Scribe, 3 others booked for sedition two days after being held by UP cops

Lucknow/Mathura, Oct.
7: The Uttar Pradesh
police on Wednesday
booked four persons including Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan on sedition and other charges at Maant police station in Mathura, two days after they were held while on their way to Hathras.

Charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IT Act have also been filed against the four who were later remanded in judicial custody for 14 days by a Mathura court, officials

said. The FIR claimed that police recovered pam-"Justice phlets Hathras victim", mobiles and a laptop from them, and during the initial probe it was found that they were going to Hathras with an intention to breach the peace as part of a conspiracy.

The four were held on Monday when they were on their way to Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gangraped — an incident that has sparked widespread outrage.

Police had earlier claimed that the four, identified as Kappan, a journalist of Malapuram in Kerala, Atiq-ur-Rehman of Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmad of Bahraich and Alam of Rampur, had links with alleged radical group Popular Front of India and its affiliates.

They were on Wednesday booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code including 124A (sedition) and



Police produce journalist Siddique Kappan and three others, suspected to have links with the Popular Front of India and its affiliate in Mathura, in a court in Mathura on Wednesday.

153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), according to the FIR.

They have also been charged with IPC Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious belief).

recovered pam-The phlets, Am I not India's daughter, made with Carrd.co, encourage social discord and public

unrest," the FIR said.
The FIR alleged that platform internet Carrd.co and website Justice for Hathras were being used to instigate cast violence, riots and collecting donations.

Such websites are spreading anti-national propaganda in the country and distorting facts to create tension and disturb law and order, it alleged. In this way, it is clear

that prima facie internet platform Carrd.co and website 'Justice Hathras' have committed offences under various sections of the IPC and other Acts.

The four persons and other unidentified persons have been found to be involved in these criminal acts and an investigation is necessary to find the details of their actions, it

It has to be probed from where and why these websites are being operated, how much money is being collected through this platform/website, where was this amount used and

who were beneficiaries, the FIR said.

Magistrate Anju Rajput granted the police a 14-day iudicial remand of the four persons, saying the nature and requires more

interrogation. Earlier, the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) had sent a letter to Prime Minister Prime Narendra Modi seeking Kappan's release and also filed a habeas corpus petition in the Supreme Court.

The Press Association and the Indian Women Press Corps on Wednesday described the journalist's arrest as the Uttar Pradesh govern-"silence" the media and demanded his immediate

SIT PROBING HATHRAS CASE GETS MORE TIME TO FILE REPORT

Lucknow, Oct. 7: The UP government has given an additional 10 days to the three-member SIT investigating the alleged gangrape and killing of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras as the "probe is not complete", a senior official said Wednesday.

The special investigation team, constituted on September 30 and led Home Secretary Bhagwan Swarup, was initially given seven days to submit its report.
But the UP govern-

ment later sought a CBI probe into the case and the criminal conspiracy to spread caste conflict it has suspected. Tuesday, it told the Supreme Court it wanted an apex court-monitored CBI inquiry into the incident to ensure "no vested interests will be able to create fake, false narrative oblique motives"

'Yes...the time for submitting report for the SIT has been extended by 10 days," said Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi. Asked about the reasons for the extension, he added, "The reason is one. The

probe is not complete." The Yogi Adityanath government is fighting severe criticism for its handling of the case, particularly after the local police burnt the woman's body at night without the family's approval.

N. Korea ex-envoy to Italy defected

Seoul: A senior North Korea diplomat who had vanished in Italy in late 2018 lives in South Korea under government protection, a lawmaker said Wednesday. If confirmed, Jo Song Gil, the North's former ambassador to Italy, would be the highest-level North Korean official to defect to rival South Korea since the 1997 arrival of Hwang Jang-yop, a senior ruling

Workers' Party official who once tutored leader Kim Jong Un's father, late leader Kim Jong II. South Korea's spy ag-ency earlier told lawmakers that Jo had left his official residence in Rome with his wife in November 2018 and was under protection at an unsp-

ecified location outside the

European country. Lawmaker Ha Tae-keung, who sits on the intelligence committee of the National Assembly, wrote on Facebook that Jo arrived in South Korea last year and is under the protection of the South Korean government.

40 nations flay China over HR

United Nations: Nearly 40 mainly Western countries criticised China's treatment of minority groups, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet, on Tuesday and expressed grave concern at the impact of its new national security law on human rights in Hong Kong. The US, many European countries, Japan and others called on China to allow "unfet-tered access" to Xinjiang for independent observers, including UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet, and to urgently refrain from detaining Uighurs and members of other minorities. The 39 countries also urged China in a joint statement read at a meeting of the General Assembly's human rights committee, "to uphold autonomy, rights and freedoms in Hong Kong, and to respect the independence of the Hong Kong judiciary". It was immediately followed by a statement from Pakistan on behalf of 55 countries opposing

Guitar legend Eddie Van Halen dies

interference in China's affairs

when it comes to Hong Kong.

New York: Eddie Van Halen, the guitar virtuoso whose blinding speed, control and innovation propelled his band Van Halen into one of hard rock's biggest groups and became elevated to the status of rock god, has died. He was 65. A person close to Van Halen's family confirmed the rocker died Tuesday due to cancer. The person was not authorised to publicly release details in advance of an official announcement. "He was the best father I could ask for.' Van Halen's son Wolfgang wrote in a social media post. "Every moment I've shared with him on and off stage was a gift." With his distinct solos, Eddie Van Halen fuelled the ultimate California party band and helped knock disco off the charts starting in the late 1970s with his band's selftitled debut album and then with the blockbuster record '1984," which contains the classics "Jump", "Panama"

PM FOR A DAY: **TEEN FILLS TOP JOB IN FINLAND**

and "Hot for Teacher". Van

Halen is among the top 20

best-selling artists of all time,

into the Rock and Roll Hall of

and the band was inducted

Fame in 2007.

Helsinki, Oct. 7: Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin faced a quieter day than usual on Wednesday after handing power to a 16-year-old as part of a campaign to promote girls' rights. Aava Murto, from Vaasky in southern Finland, said she was having an "exciting day" as she faced media on the steps of parliament after meeting with the chancellor of justice.

Murto added that she had "learnt some new things about legislation". In the afternoon, the student who actively campaigns on climate and human rights issues was to speak with

opment and foreign trade. Her message to decision-makers has been that girls "need to realise more how important they are, and how they are just as good at technology as boys,"

MPs and the minister for devel-

"I think young people could teach adults to be more innovative and think more about the future," she added. The swap is part of a global "Girls Takeover" campaign by children's rights charity Plan International, which aims to raise awareness of girls' digital skills.

Court: Greek party criminal body

Guilty verdicts delivered against many of the far-right Golden Dawn party's ex-lawmakers

Athens, Oct. 7: A Greek court has ruled that the far-right Golden Dawn party was operating as a criminal organisation, delivering a landmark verdict in a marathon five-year trial. The court on Wednesday delivered guilty verdicts against several of the party's fo-rmer lawmakers for participating in a criminal organisation, and deemed others guilty of leading a criminal organisation. The 68 defendants in the trial include 18 former lawmakers from the party that was founded in the 1980s as a neo-Nazi organization and rose to become Greece's third largest party during the country's decadelong financial crisis. The court was assess-

ing four cases rolled into one: The fatal stabbing of Greek rap singer Pa-vlos Fyssas, attacks on migrant fishermen, attacks on left-wing activists and whether Golden Dawn was operating as a criminal organisation. The presiding judge of the three-member panel delivered a guilty verdict against Giorgos Ro-upakias for the murder of Fyssas.

That prompted applause inside the courtroom and among the crowd outside. — *AP*



Thousands of people gather for a protest outside a court in Athens on Wednesday.

COURT ORDERS ISSUING ADS TO SUMMON NAWAZ

Islamabad, Oct. 7: A Pakistani court on Wednesday ordered that advertisements be issued in newspapers to summon former premier Nawaz Sharif after his representative in London refused to receive the arrest warrant against him in corruption cases. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) was irked by the attitude of Sharif's representatives at his residence in London and ordered that the advertisements be posted in *Dawn* and Jang newspapers. The court directed the federal government to bear the cost of the advertisements and the additional attorney general Tariq Khokhar was asked to pay the fees

within two days.

The order followed after an official posted at the Pakistani High Commission in London informed the IHC that a representative of Sharif had initially agreed to receive the arrest war-rants but later changed

his mind.
The IHC in its last hearing had directed Hanan to record a state-ment in the next hearing of the case via a video link. The court last month issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Sharif. -PTI

Pence, Harris all set for one-off V-P debate

Washington, Oct. 7: Vice President Mike Pence and his Democratic challenger Senator Kamala Harris are all set for a crucial debate, which comes as President Donald Trump is ill with Coronavirus that has claimed over 200,000 American lives and battered the country's economy. Harris, whose mother was from India and father from Jamaica, scripted history in August when she was picked up by the Democratic Party as its vice presidential nominee. She is the first Black woman and the first Asian-American woman to be selected as the vice presidential nominee of a major political party in the US. It will be for the first time in the American history that an Indian-origin person will be taking up the podium for a vice pres-

Biden against second debate if Trump still suffers from Covid

Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday said he is against participating in his second debate with Donald Trump next week if the president still suffers from Covid-19.

"I think if he still has Covid, we shouldn't have a debate," Biden, a former

idential debate in Salt Lake City, Utah on Wednesday night.

Political analysts believe

that an aggressive Harris,

55, who aspires to be the

first woman vice-president in history, will easily

US vice-president, told Nashville, Tennessee. from Gettysburg.
The first of the three

between Biden, 77, and Trump, 74, was held on September 29.

The second debate is scheduled for October 15 in Miami and the final one October

prevail over Pence, 61, dur-

ing the only vice-presiden-

tial debate and help Biden,

77, to widen his lead over

Trump, 74. The debate comes nearly a week after

the first of the three presi-dential debates in Clevel-

lines. "Too many people have been infected. It's a very serious problem, so I will be guided by the guidelines of the Cleveland Clinic and what the docs say is the right thing to do," he said.

Biden said they should

follow very strict guide-

and on September 29 wherein Biden termed Trump a "liar" and a "clown" as the two candidates fiercely clashed over a number of issues, including racism, economy and climate. Following the first presidential debate, Trump was tested Covid positive and pital, a development that upended his hectic campaign just weeks before the presidential elections on November 3. He returned to the White

House on Monday night after spending four days at the hospital, but his doc-tors say the president may not entirely be out of the woods. Biden, in the last few days, has widened his lead over Trump by double digit. However, the Trump Campaign believes that Pence could come out with a stellar performance during the debate. The debate gains added significance, given the Covid-19 infecti-ng Trump, triggering speculation that Pence may be taking over the reigns of the country temporarily.

— PTI

Belarus Oppn asks Germany to mediate

Berlin, Oct. 7: Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said Wednesday that German Chancellor Angela Merkel would be an ideal person to mediate the political crisis in her country. Tsikhanouskaya said in Berlin that Merkel is "aw-

are of what's going on there" and "would be really helpful in solving this problem.

Tsikhanouskaya met with Merkel behind clos-ed-doors on Tuesday. Tsikhanouskaya laid out her aspiration following talks with Norbert Roettgen, a top lawmaker in Merkel's

conservative party.
"So, our main ask for her was to be a leader in this mediation, to call for

pate in mediation for starting this negotiations, Tsikhanouskava said Merkel has not indicated whether she would be willing to take on such a role, and even if she did, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko has rejected repeated calls for dialogue with the opposi-

Tsikhanouskaya went into exile in Lithuania after the Aug. 9 presidential election in Belarus, which election officials claimed that Lukashenko won in a landslide. Opposition figures and some poll workers say the results were fraudulent and tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest.

irus stimulus bill after poll: Don

Washington, Oct. 7: President Donald Trump has instructed his officials to stop negotiating with the Democrats on another stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit US economy until the November 3 presidential election, alleging that Speaker Nancy Pelosi was not holding talks in good faith. Trump's sudden decision

on Tuesday to pull the plug on the negotiations is a major blow to millions of Americans still struggling with the fallout from the pandemic that has badly hit the economy and killed over 210,000 people in the country. "I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and small business," Trump said in a series of tweets on Tuesday. Trump's instructions came a day after he was discharged from a military hospital where he was treated for Covid-19.

For the past a few weeks, senior officials from his administration were nego-

ISRAELI PM'S WIFE MAY HAVE VIOLATED CURBS

Jerusalem, Oct. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife may have violated the country's Coronavirus lockdown by inviting a hairdresser into the official residence last week to prepare her for a public service video advocating the wearing of masks.

The incident, first reported by the Yediot Ahronot daily, was the latest in a string of lockdown violations by Israeli leaders and public figures drawing widespread

tiating with the House Democrats on a major stimulus package before the presidential election. Analysts have warned that the recovery of the world's largest economy risks stalling without further aid. While the US has regained about half the jobs lost in Another Trump aide tests positive for virus Washington, Oct. 7: day, soon after it was Stephen Miller, a top aide to President Donald Tru-day, soon after it was known that their close aide Hope Hicks contract-

tested positive for Covid-19, taking the number of White House staffers infected by the deadly virus to at least 10.

"Over the last five days I have been working remotely and self-isolating, testing negative every day through yesterday. Today, I tested positive for Covid-19 and am in quarantine," Miller said in a statement. President Trump, along with First Lady Melania Trump, tested positive for Coronavirus last Thurs-

March and April, more

than 10 million people remain unemployed.

ed the infection. Trump was admitted to a military hospital on Friday and was discharged on Mond-ay. White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany and three of the staff from the press office also tested positive. At least three journalists

working at the White House tested positive for the infection. On Tuesday, the White House issued an updated guideline on health and safety of the residence staff.

lion and, as usual, she is

not negotiating in good faith," the Republican

president alleged. "I am "Nancy Pelosi is asking for \$2.4 trillion to bailout rejecting their request and poorly run, high crime looking to the future of Democrat states, money our country," he said. Trump said he has asked that is in no way related to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell not to Covid-19. We made a very generous offer of %1.6 tril-

Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett. "Our Economy is doing very well. The Stock Market is at record levels,

JOBS and unemployment also coming back in record numbers. We are leading the World in Economic Recovery, and THE BEST IS YET TO COME!" Trump said.

delay but to focus full time

on approving his outstand-

ing nominee to the US

In another tweet, he alleged that "crazy" Nancy Pelosi and "the radical Left" Democrats were just playing "games" with the desperately needed workers' stimulus payments. 'They were never in it to help the workers and they never will be!," he alleged. But Pelosi accused Trump of "putting himself first at the expense of the country". "He shows his contempt for science, his disdain for our heroes... and he refuses to put money in workers' pockets, unless his name is printed on the

cheque," she added.
"Clearly, the White House is in complete disarray," the top Democrat said.

T-Rex fossil sells for record \$31.8 mn

New York, Oct. 7: One of the most complete specimens of a T-Rex fossil in the world was sold for a record \$31.8 million Tuesday by Christie's in New York, nearly quadrupling the previous highest price for a dinosaur at auction.

The apex predator made mincemeat of Christie's opening price of between six and eight million dollars, showing off the lasting power of the T-Rex. It then shredded the pre-

vious record set by a specimen called Sue that was sold for \$8.4 million in October 1997 by Sotheby's to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Only around 50 Tyrannosaurus fossils have been discovered since the first was unearthed in 1902. Bids hit the \$9 million mark in less than two minutes after the start of the auction, but after 14 minutes there were just three bidders left in the race, until the hammer came down on an offer of \$27.5 million, to which were added costs and ums around the world.

The sale was organised in New York, where the expert assessor was located, but with lines open to Hong Kong and London, where Christie's specialists were taking calls from collectors. The fossil, nicknamed Stan, stands 13 feet (four metres) high and 40 feet long, with puncture marks in the skull and neck that experts believe show evidence of fights with fellow T-Rexes. He would have weighed in at around eight tonnes when alive, some 67 million years ago.

The fossil was discovered in South Dakota in 1987 and named after the amateur paleontologist who came across the remains, Stan Sacrison.

Paleontologists from the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in South Dakota spent more than 30,000 hours excavating and then assembling the 188 bones of the skeleton. Casts were then taken for dozens of muse-

Pearl killers get 3 months' more jail

Islamabad, Oct. 7: British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides the main accused in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl — will remain in jail for according to an order issued by Pakistan's Sindh government on Wednesday. The announcement of extending their detention was made by prosecutors during a hearing of the Supreme Court, which was to decide on Sheikh's

The apex court last week barred the government from releasing them. Faisal Siddiqi, the lawyer representing Pearl's family, told the media that the Fiaz Shah, told the judges he needed more time for paperwork to prepare for the case.

The court accepted his argument and adjourned

Charpentier, Doudna win Chemistry Nobel Stockholm, Oct. 7: Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wedne-PEACE PRIZE: WHO, **GRETA OR PRESS** sday for developing a method of genome editing **WATCHDOGS?** likened to "molecular scissors" that offer the promise of one day curing

inherited diseases and even cancer. Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A. Doudna developed a method known as CRISPRpress freedom groups are /Cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microor-

ganisms with extremely

high precision.

Oslo, Oct. 7: The World Health Organisation is the bookies' favourite to win the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, though experts say Greta Thunberg or

also contenders.

"There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all," said

the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. "It has not only revolutionised basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments.' He said that, as a result, any genome can now be edited "to fix genetic damage," adding that the tool "will provide humankind with great opportunities." But he cautioned that the

"enormous power of this technology means we have to use it with great care." It has already raised serious ethical questions.



French researcher in Microbiology, Genetics and Biochemistry Emmanuelle Charpentier (left) and US professor of Chemistry and of Molecular and Cell

LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers drives to the basket during Game Four of the NBA Finals against Miami Heat in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Tuesday.

JAMES TAKES LAKERS CLOSE TO CROWN

Orlando, Florida (USA): LeBron James scored 28 points as Los Angeles Lakers moved to within one win of a 17th NBA championship on Tuesday with a 102-96 victory over Miami Heat. Humbled by Miami in Game Three on Sunday, James and the Lakers came roaring back in a hard-fought defensive battle that was finely balanced until Los Angeles pulled away in the

closing minutes. The win leaves the Lakers 3-1 up in the best-of-seven series, meaning they can clinch the championship with victory in Game Five on Friday. James started slowly but clicked in the second half to lead the scoring while providing eight assists and hauling down 12 rebounds. Anthony Davis meanwhile finished with 22 points, while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope chipped in 15 points. Caldwell-Pope's tally included a threepointer and a layup in the closing stages that put the Lakers seven points ahead with two minutes remaining. Davis then drained his second three-pointer with 39.5 seconds left on the clock to give the Lakers a 100-91 lead and effectively seal the contest. - AFF

Knights pin Kings

KKR ride on Tripathi knock; CSK lose again

Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in an Indian Premier League here Wednesday.

Batting first, KKR were all out for 167 despite Rahul Tripathi's 51-ball 81. In reply, CSK were stopped at 157 for 5 in the stipulated 20 overs.

Chasing a tricky target of 168 on a pitch that seemed to have slowed down, CSK were off to a brisk start with Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis adding 30 runs in

less than four overs. Watson made 50 off 40 balls, while Ambati Rayudu contributed 30 off 27 balls, but the others could not do much as CSK fell short.

Earlier, batting first, KKR lost three wickets in the last over with Dwayne Bravo removing two of them. Bravo, a CSK veteran, celebrated his 37th birthday by returning impressive figures of 3/37 in his quota of four overs.

Tripathi picked up from where he left off against Delhi Capitals and raced to his fifth IPL fifty in 31 balls to give KKR a solid foundation after Dinesh Karthik won the toss. At 93 for two at the midway stage, KKR looked set for a big score but Bravo struck after that. -PTI

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: R. Tripathi c Watson b Bravo 81, S. Gill c

Dhoni b Thakur 11, N. Rana c Jadeja b Sharma 9, S. Narine c du

Plessis b Sharma 17, E. Morgan c Dhoni b Curran 7, A. Russell c Dhoni b Thakur 2, D. Karthik c Thakur b Curran 12, P. Cummins not

out 17, K. Nagarkoti c du Plessis b Bravo O, S. Mayi c Dhoni b Bravo O, V. Chakravarthy run out 1. Extras: (LB-4, W-6) 10. Total: (all out in 20 overs) 167. FoW: 1-37, 2-70, 3-98, 4-114, 5-128, 6-140, 7-162, 8-163, 9-166. Bowling: D. Chahar 4-0-47-0, Sam Curran 4-0-26-2, S. Thakur 4-0-28-2, K. Sharma 4-0-25-2, Dwayne Bravo 4-0-37-3. Chennal Super Kings: Shane Watson Ibw b 50, Faf du Plessis c Karthik b S. Mavi 17, A. Rayudu c S. Gill b Nagarkoti 30, M. S. Dhoni D Varun 11, S. Curran Control of Charles and Charles and

b Varun 11, S. Curran c Morgan b Russell 17, K. Jadhav not out 7, R. Jadeja not out 21. Extras: (LB-2, W-2) 4. Total: (for 5 wkts in 20 overs) 157. FoW: 1-30, 2-99, 3-101, 4-129, 5-129, Bowling: P. Cummins 4-0-25-0, S. Mavi 3-0-32-1, C. Varun 4-0-28-1, K. Nagarkoti 3-0-21-1, S. Narine 4-0-31-1, A. Russell 2-0-18-1.



Rahul Tripathi of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot against Chennai Super Kings during their Indian Premier League at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday. - BCCI

LAST PLACED PUNJAB KINGS TAKE ON SRH

Dubai, Oct. 7: Their bowling attacks struggling to find form, Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad will look towards their power-hit-ters to do the job when the two erratic teams go head to head in an IPL match here on Thursday.

KXIP are currently languishing at the bottom of the table after losing four of their five games, while SRH are only slightly bet-ter at sixth following two wins and three losses so far. KXIP's strength has been in a formidable opening duo. Skipper K. L. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal are in excellent form this IPL but despite the solid batting performances, KXIP have been unable to win because of their disappointing bowling attack

And come Thursday, Sunrisers, who are blessed with a strong top order comprising Jonny Bairstow, David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson, will look to exploit a low-on-confi-dence KXIP's bowling

W L N/R Pts NRR 6 4 2 0 8 +1.488 **Mumbai Indians** Delhi Capitals 5 4 1 0 8 +1.060 Kolkata Knight Riders 5 3 2 0 6 +0.002 Royal Challengers Bangalore 5 3 2 0 6 -1.355 **Chennai Super Kings** 6 2 4 0 4 -0.371 Sunrisers Hyderabad 5 2 3 0 4 -0.417 Rajasthan Royals 5 2 3 0 4 -0.826

IPL POINTS TABLE

Kings XI Punjab 5 1 4 0 2 +0.178 Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

Deano's last lap



This handout photo taken on Saturday and released by the Melbourne Cricket Club on Wednesday shows a small group of family members attending a ceremony for late Australian cricketer Dean Jones as a hearse transporting his coffin makes one last lap around the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne following his death at the age of 59 on September 24 in Mumbai.

Nadal, Schwartzman are in semis; Thiem crashes

Paris, Oct. 7: Rafael Nadal reached his 13th Roland Garros semifinal early on Wednesday with a straight sets win over Italian teenager Jannik Sinner but claimed it was "dangerous" to finish at 1.30 am when the temperature had plummeted to 12 degrees Celsius.

Nadal, the 12-time champion, defeated 19-year-old Sinner 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-1 to clinch a 98th victory in his 100th match at the French

Open. He will next face Diego Schwartzman, the diminutive Argentine over whom he holds a 9-1 career advantage, as he moves closer to equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of majors.

However, Nadal, more accustomed to the bright sunshine of Mallorca than the autumn chill of a

THE RESULTS

Men's singles quarterfinals: Diego Schwartzman (ARG x12) bt Dominic Thiem (AUT x3) 7-6 (7/1), 5-7, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5), 6-2; Rafael Nadal (ESP x2) bt Jannik Sinner (ITA) 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-1,

Women's singles quarterfinals: Iga Swiatek (POL) bt Martina Trevisan (ITA) 6-3, 6-1; Nadia Podoroska (ARG) bt Elina Svitolina (UKR x3) 6-2, 6-4.

French Open pushed back four months due to the Coronavirus pandemic, was unhappy with organis-ers who scheduled five matches on the main Court Philippe Chatrier.

Argentine 12th Schwartzman defeated US Open champion and third seed Thiem in a five-hour epic to reach his first ever Grand Slam semifinal. The 28-year-old triumphed 7-6 (7/1), 5-7, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5),

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It was one marathon too many for Thiem, the runner-up in Paris for the last two years, who had needed five sets and three-and-ahalf hours to down world No. 239 Hugo Gaston in the fourth round.

Schwartzman's success came on the same day that compatriot Nadia Podoroska, the world 131, reached the women's singles semifinals with a 6-2, 6-4 win over third seed Elina Svitolina.

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