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THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 8 OCTOBER 2020

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WEATHER

Max: 27.4°C
Min: 23.5°C
RH: 72%
Rain: Trace

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 29/23 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+91,030)	(+1,331)
68,32,646	1,05,551
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+2,154)	(+8)
TS: 2,04,748	1,189
(+5,120)	(+34)
AP: 7,34,427	6,086

CASES AROUND THE WORLD	
3,62,79,666	
DEATHS	
10,57,896	

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Adhika Ashwayuja Bahula
Shashthi 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

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.08 am

Zohar: 12.14 pm

Asar: 4.20 pm

Maghrib: 6.05 pm

Isha: 7.13 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.59 PM

MUNSET TOMORROW 6.07 AM

MOONSET TODAY 11.15 AM

MOONRSET TOMORROW 10.26 PM



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

IN BRIEF

Chemistry Nobel for molecular scissors

Stockholm: Two scientists 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 microorganisms with extremely high precision.

Report on Page 8



Jennifer A. Doudna, left, and Emmanuelle Charpentier.



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. — C. NARAYANA RAO

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 Sitharaman, who was in Vijayawada 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 prices.

Responding about the

pending funds to AP, Sitharaman 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.

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

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

Varsities, swimming pools reopen Oct. 15 in Unlock 5

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT 7

The Telangana government on Wednesday issued orders permitting the re-opening of higher educational institutions, swimming pools used for training of sportspersons and business to business (B2B) exhibitions from October 15.

Chief secretary, Somesh Kumar, issued Unlock 5 guidelines issued in line with the guidelines of the Government of India issued on September 30, 2020.

The government made it clear that higher educational institutions including state universities, private universities etc, may open only for research scholars (Ph.D.) and post-

graduate students in science and technology stream requiring laboratory/experimental work.

Separate orders regarding the date of opening schools and coaching institutions shall be issued and also the date of the opening of Cinemas/theatres, multiplexes, entertainment parks and similar places will be issued soon.

According to the orders,

swimming pools used for training of sportspersons will be permitted to open from October 15, for which standard operating procedures (SOPs) will be issued.

Funeral/last rites-related gatherings with a number of persons not exceeding 100 will continue to be allowed.

Marriage related gatherings shall be permitted with a maximum of 100 participants.

According to the orders, swimming pools used for

training of sportspersons will be permitted to open from October 15 as well, for which SOPs will be issued.

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IN BRIEF
DCs to decide on open spaces

From Page 1
The government said in open spaces, keeping the size of the ground/space in view and with strict observance of social distancing, mandatory wearing of face masks, provision of thermal scanning and handwash or sanitiser, more people may be permitted by district collector(s)/commissioner(s) of police/superintendent(s) of police/local bodies. The health department will issue SoPs which have to be strictly followed. In respect of containment zones, strict lockdown shall be in force till October 31 and only essential activities shall be permitted. In areas outside containment zones, all activities permitted prior to the introduction of lockdown measures will be allowed.

Cricket betting racket busted

Hyderabad: The Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone Team, Hyderabad on Tuesday busted a cricket betting racket and apprehended one person and seized a TV, cellphone, and cash of ₹35,000 from his possession. The accused Nadimpally Prasad Raju, according to the police, is a native of Amapalapuram, Andhra Pradesh. He was organising cricket betting for the past six months, collecting and distributing bets from about 12 punters in the twin cities. The raid was conducted under the supervision of P. Radha Kishan Rao, Dy. Commissioner of Police, Commissioner's Task Force. The accused along with seized property was handed over to the SHO, Banjara Hills PS, Hyderabad for further action.

Gambling racket busted, 18 held

Hyderabad: Eighteen people playing card games and gambling have been arrested from a farm house near Mantan Gourel village. The police also seized ₹24,700 from the arrested persons. The police also seized four vans, one car and an SUV, along with liquor, snacks and food. According to V. Yadagiri Reddy, Ibrahimpatnam division's ACP, the raid at the farm house on Tuesday evening, was conducted by Yacharam police along with officials from the Special Operations Team of the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate, following a tip off about the gambling. While 18 persons who were playing cards were caught during the raid, the organiser of the event, identified as Karnati Ramesh Goud and a resident of the village, was absconding. All the 18 arrested persons, who were subsequently remanded to judicial custody, were all businessmen.

KIDS FORCED TO COMMIT CRIME, ONE ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

A 23-year-old man was arrested and three children he employed to help him in his criminal activity of stealing two wheelers, and also a temple hundi, were taken into custody by the Meerpeta police on Wednesday.

According to the police, the man, identified as Khatravath Nandu, a resident of Lenin Nagar in Meerpeta village in Ranga Reddy district, was caught along with three children in conflict with law – minors caught breaking the law, at Mandamallamma Crossroads on Wednesday morning and recovered from them four Honda Activa scooters, a Splendour Plus motorcycle and a temple hundi. The vehicles and the hundi were stolen from Kadthal, Kanchanbagh, Kandukuru, Meerpeta and Saroor Nagar police station limits, Meerpeta police inspector of police M. Mahender Reddy said.

All the accused lived in the same locality and were addicted to various vices and resorted to stealing two-wheelers and also managed to steal a hundi from a temple. They would recce various areas in the evenings and then steal the vehicles and flee from the spot, the police officer said.

THE VEHICLES and the hundi were stolen from Kadthal, Kanchanbagh, Kandukuru, Meerpeta and Saroor Nagar police station limits, Meerpeta police inspector M. Mahender Reddy said.

Insomnia, depression, anxiety cases rise during lockdown

Worry over businesses, jobs and managing family expenses take heavy toll

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

People suffered insomnia and anxiety during the lockdown according to a study carried out in south India from April 6 to May 28, 2020. The study was carried out by researchers from Katuri Medical College in Guntur to understand the psychological impact of the lockdown due to Covid-19.

Depression, anxiety and insomnia were the highest in

the 1001 people who participated in the study online during the lockdown period. The people who participated in the study were from all the states of south India. They had not tested positive for Covid-19 at the time of their participation in the study.

69 per cent suffered from insomnia, 65 per cent from depression and 33 per cent from anxiety. Apart from the impact of the disease, there was a lot of worry about businesses, employment and

also managing family expenses. The participants were in both younger and elderly age-groups and faced problems during lockdown as their source of income was badly affected. Those who suffered from insomnia and depression were in the age group of 25 to 55 years. Those who suffered were healthcare workers, doctors, police, widows, widowers, separated people, people with co-morbid conditions, people with polysubstance use and poor socio-economic status.

use and poor socio-economic status.

Dr Suresh Kumar Kota, professor and head of department of psychiatry and Dr Maithri Kolluri, post

graduate at the department in Katuri Medical College observed that mental health conditions post-lockdown require the attention of Indian government. The researchers have found that there is a need to evaluate the prevalence of psychological impact of the pandemic where a targeted approach for populations must be taken up. This will help to plan and design appropriate interventions to tackle these issues.

STATE RECORDS

2,154 FRESH COVID POSITIVE CASES

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Fresh cases of Covid-19 have clambered back into their three hundreds in the city with the state health department saying that at the last 24-hour check on Tuesday evening, the GHMC area recorded 303 new cases. The last time GHMC area recorded three hundred or more cases was on September 30 with 305 fresh Covid-19 infections reported for the day.

Since October 1, new Covid-19 cases hovered in the 280s and 290s, with the only exception being on September 4 when the city recorded 262 cases as a result of fewer tests done during the weekend.

On Tuesday, the state recorded 2,154 fresh cases, along with eight more deaths from Covid-19. The total Covid-19 cases in Telangana reached 2,04,748, while deaths rose to 1,189, the department said.

As many as 2,239 people were reported as recovered from the disease on Tuesday taking their number to 1,77,008, while 26,551 patients were considered as 'active cases' in Telangana.

While GHMC rerecorded the highest total new cases at 303 for Tuesday, districts in state with three digit figures were Ranga Reddy with 205, Medchal-Malkajgiri with 187, and Khammam with 127 cases. Karimangar district recorded 96 cases while Bhadrakothagudem had 92 cases.

A total of 2,029 Covid-19 patients were being treated in government hospitals while another 2,658 were receiving treatment in private hospitals in the state.

SINCE OCTOBER 1, new Covid-19 cases hovered in the 280s and 290s, with the only exception being on September 4 when the city recorded 262 cases as a result of fewer tests done during the weekend.

ON TUESDAY, the state recorded 2,154 fresh cases, along with eight more deaths from Covid. The total Covid-19 cases in Telangana reached 2,04,748.

APMCs will stay relevant, says FM

From Page 1

Lauding the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Union finance minister Sitaraman said "Despite many challenges including the Covid19 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, 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."

Few takers for RTC buses



The usually busy Khairatabad bus stop saw few passengers on Wednesday. Though the TSRTC has begun its limited services in the city, many people are still avoiding travelling by bus following complaints of no social distancing guidelines being followed either at the bus stops or inside the buses.

— R. PAVAN

NIMS DOCTORS DEMAND ARREARS, THREATEN STRIKE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences Resident Doctors Association has warned that they would go on strike from October 12 if their pending arrears are not paid by the government by then. They say despite several representations, their arrears have not been cleared.

Second year resident doctors are getting ₹3,000 less per month since the last 17 months while final year doctors are getting ₹6,000 less. Allowances for the 2019 batch have not been paid at all. There are also other arrears pending when it comes to specialties. Resident doctors say they have already given a strike notice to the administration. If they do not get their arrears by then, they will go on strike from Monday.

Family jubilant on recovery

from Page 1

Her family was absolutely jubilant at her recovery and getting back home.

Paul David, her son, said his mother wakes up at 5 am every day, makes her own breakfast and morning tea. She does not depend on us. She is very particular; she does things on her own. Even at this age, she talks about what she can give to the society, which she says is the prime purpose of human life."

It was this spirit that saw Kantamma, who began her medical career as a gynaecologist at the government maternity hospital at Nayapal in the old city of Hyderabad many, many years ago, move to Gulf of Aden in 1960 on a diplomatic visa as part of an Indian technical aid plan for Aden.

During her 15 years of service there, she was considered a health ambassador

dor for the underprivileged.

"Two years after I returned to India in 1975, I took voluntary retirement from government service and joined the Methodist mission hospital in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, from where I moved to Sirsa in Haryana," Kantamma said. She returned to Hyderabad in 1989 after losing her husband.

"My grandmother is inspiration itself. She keeps surprising all her grandchildren on their birthdays by baking cakes and cooking their favourite meals for them," Victor H. David, one of her grandsons said.

Mala James, Kantamma's niece, said "Age has not slowed her down. She keeps abreast of medical advances, reads medical journals and is always ready to help. She is such an inspiration to everyone in the family."

ILLEGAL ZARDA MANUFACTURER ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

The Commissioner's Task Force, Central Zone team, Hyderabad, raided a manufacturing unit in the Falaknuma area on Tuesday and apprehended its owner who was illegally manufacturing and selling banned tobacco products.

The police team seized 100 kg zarda, about 5,000 empty cans of Baba Zarda empty tins, one can sealing machine and other materials worth ₹3 lakh from the owner's possession.

The police said that the accused was also involved in two separate cases previously.

The accused along with seized material were handed over to Station House Officer (SHO) Falaknuma Police Station for further action in this regard.

TS must distance from anti-Dalit violence: CM

From Page 1

Expressing concern at incidents of atrocities against Dalits in various parts of the country, Rao desired that Telangana should distance itself from such incidents, asking the police to focus on preventing any untoward incidents against the Dalits in the state.

Emphasising friendly policing, Rao said that the police should behave with humanitarian values when the weak and meek approach them for help and protection.

Telangana is swiftly moving forward on the path of development and is now the number one state in the country as far as the maintenance of law and order situation is concerned, claimed Rao.

Instructing forest officers to take stern action against those plundering forest wealth Rao asked them to coordinate with the local police to control timber smuggling in the state.

Pointing out that the production of illicit liquor was totally eradicated in the new

duce fake certificates instead of getting the real ones after studying hard.

Reminding police officials that those retiring from service should get their pension settlement on their day of retirement and they should be respectfully sent to their homes the same day, Rao said there should not be any delay in making appointments on compassionate grounds in the police department.

In view of increase in the strength of the women's forces in the Telangana police with the 33 per cent reservation, Rao asked the senior police officers to create separate rest rooms and other facilities for women officers at all the police offices and stations.

Asking the Director General of Police (DGP), M. Mahender Reddy, to speed up the process of setting up 10 lakh CCTV cameras in Hyderabad city, Rao said he wanted the police department to increase the use of information technology developments to control criminal activities and offences.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CHARMINAR ZONE TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE
SI No. NIT No. Name of Work Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1 32/SE-CRZ/B Sanitation Works 4294.33

Download Start Date & Time for Receipts of Bids
Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids
05.10.2020 03:15 PM

Further details can be seen at <https://tender.procurement.gov.in>

DPR R.O. No.: 570-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/2020-21 Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (M) CHARMINAR ZONE, GHMC

Sub-Total 3.17

6.17 Iyavani Divya Dio.
Narsimha Tiruvaipet Rathnam
S/o. Yadagiri Tiruvaipeta
Ramanujaiyah
Iyavani Lingiah
Iyavani Chenna
Kishnaiyah
Venkataramah
Tiruvaipeta
Chennai S/o.
Basha Karl
Tiruvaipeta
Venkatarama S/o.
Keshavulu

Sub-Total 7.08

4.12 Chella Chandra
Shekar Reddy
S/o Chella Reddy
Chella Parvathamma
W/o. Chella Reddy
Poju Shantha
Murthy S/o.
Laxminarsimha
Chary

Sub-Total 4.12

3.08 Kandukoori Ramulu
S/o. Poohiai
Venkatakrishna W/o.
Late. Chennai
Kandukoori Sri
S/o. Salu
Iyavani Chenna
Kishnaiyah
Venkataramah
Tiruvaipeta
Chennai S/o.
Basha Karl
Tiruvaipeta
Venkatarama S/o.
Keshavulu

Sub-Total 7.08

4.10 Chella Chandra
Shekar Reddy S/o.
Chella Parvathamma
W/o. Chella Reddy
Poju Shantha
Murthy S/o.
Laxminarsimha
Chary

Sub-Total 3.17

6.17 Iyavani Divya Dio.
Narsimha Tiruvaipet Rathnam
S/o. Yadagiri Tiruvaipeta
Ramanujaiyah
Iyavani Lingiah
Iyavani Chenna
Kishnaiyah
Venkataramah
Tiruvaipeta
S/o. Late
Chennai
Tiruvaipeta Sathaih
S/o. Rangiah

Sub-Total 6.17

6.17 Chella Chandra
Shekar Reddy S/o.
Chella Parvathamma
W/o. Chella Reddy
Poju Shantha
Murthy S/o.
Laxminarsimha
Chary

Sub-Total 0.19

Grand Total: 27.36

This notification is made under provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & RDO, Ibrahimpatnam Division, Ranga Reddy District on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector cum Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer Land Acquisition Officer / RDO, Ibrahimpatnam Division and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of the work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Collector may file a writ petition in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh or the appropriate court of law within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 11(1) of the Act before District Collector / Authorized Officer.

Sd/-
Tahsildar
Divisional Officer
Ibrahimpatnam
DIPR No.692/LA/PP-Agency/Advt/1/2020-21

Sd/-
Revenue
Addl. Collector
Ranga Reddy
Ranga Reddy

Sd/-
Collector
Ibrahimpatnam
DIPR No.692/LA/PP-Agency/Advt/1/2020-21

Sd/-
Regional Officer, Regional Office, PR Nagonda

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SHORT TAKES
PLAN TO SET UP MONORAIL AT HUSSAINSAGAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Hussainsagar may soon have a monorail going around it. Tourism minister V. Srinivas Goud on Wednesday instructed tourism department officials to discuss with Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, a proposal for the monorail project around the lake.

The minister's instructions were issued at a meeting he chaired to review various proposed tourism projects in the state that are aimed at developing the state as a hub for tourism industry.

Among the projects discussed were those that are being designed for implementation at Durgam Cheruvu in the city and Kaleshwaram, Mid Manair, Kondapochamma and Somasila reservoirs.

CAR WITH FAKE NUMBER PLATE SEIZED

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Hyderabad traffic police seized an Innova car that had fake a number plate and which was involved in offences of over speeding.

On a routine check at KBR Park Wednesday afternoon, Banjara Hills traffic police found the Innova car had a fake registration number plate. On enquiry they found that the vehicle was not a passenger car as its original number plate was yellow meant for taxis. The car and its driver were handed over to law and order Banjara Hills PS for registering a criminal case against the driver.

According to the City Traffic police, the cases booked against vehicles using improper and fancy number plates in this year were 1,13,824 and 78 criminal cases were booked against 81 vehicles. They urged the public to contact through social media or on helpline: 90102-03626 if they came across any violations.

GHMC area to get 4.8L more CCTVs

To instil a sense of security, nab criminals

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

If everything goes according to the plans of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), every person who steps out of house in the city can be expected to be photographed at least once by a vast network of CCTV cameras that the civic body hopes to put in place in a month's time.

The GHMC area currently has 5.2 lakh CCTV cameras, and requires another 4.8 lakh to achieve its 10 lakh target. According to the GHMC website, the estimated population in the geographical limits that it manages is around 60 lakh. This means that once all the CCTV cameras are installed and begin functioning, there will be one such camera for every six persons.

On Wednesday, Principal Secretary of Municipal

Administration and Urban Development department Arvind Kumar issued orders for the installation of CCTV cameras in residential communities, religious places, on the roads, and in every shop in the GHMC limits within one month.

This comes in the wake of MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao's Tuesday meeting with top officials of various civic bodies, police and other government departments, where it was decided to have a total of 10 lakh CCTV cameras in and around the city. This is aimed at increasing a sense of security as well as to provide police with means to identify and capture law breakers and criminals.

All installation of cameras must be done in "coordination with the police department so that the technical specifica-

tions are in sync with their requirements and providing video feeds becomes easy," the orders said.

The orders, issued by Arvind Kumar, made it clear that it is not just every shop, residential area and complex and Metro Rail pillar but also all private cabs with arrangements to provide footage on demand to the police. There will be cameras at every Basti Dawakhana, every building that gets permission under TS-Bpass, bus bays, lakes and parks, business and office buildings, all shelter homes, hostels and educational institutions, industrial parks and areas, wholesale markets including Rythu Bazaars, strategic locations on street poles identified by the police, and any other location identified from time to time for the purpose of public security and safety.

On Wednesday, Principal Secretary of Municipal

IITH to start course on biomedical engineering

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH), has announced starting of a new B. Tech course in biomedical engineering focused on next-generation healthcare technologies.

The course will help biomedical engineers work on frontier areas of healthcare innovations in deep-tech industry or academia.

As IITH biomedical engineers, students will be trained to design medical

devices, develop 3D imagers and microscopes, crunch mountains of healthcare data, recognise patterns in health and disease, simulate and predict spread of epidemics, create brain-spinal systems in silicon, design prosthetics that move with thoughts, print 3D cornea, bone or skin, develop nano-particles to fight tumours or turn them down with ultrasound, design implants, regenerate organs from stem cells, create biosensors on a chip, model impacts on body, and craft algorithms

that mimic body and brain, among others.

Curriculum for this course will be designed around four verticals – bio-imaging/sensing, biomechanics, bio-materials and bio-intelligence/AI. Professor B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, said they believe this program will help build indigenous medical devices of high quality that serve all sections of the country.

For further details, those interested may contact Head, BME at head@bme.iith.ac.in.

Amazon set to launch Great Indian Festival on October 17

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Amazon, the giant online marketplace, will launch its Great Indian Festival on October 17, the company has announced. Amazon Prime members will get early access to the shopping festival starting October 16. This year, lakhs of Small & Medium Businesses (SMBs) will offer unique selections to customers, who will have the opportunity to shop for these products from thousands of Amazon sellers under various programs such as Local Shops, Amazon Launchpad, Amazon Saheli, and Amazon Karigar and enjoy deals

and offers extended by lakhs of small businesses.

Manish Tiwary, vice-president, Amazon India said: "This year's Great Indian Festival is an opportunity for our sellers and partners to reach millions of customers across the country. For our customers, our aim is to help them find everything they need during the festive season and deliver it safely to them."

It is not just SMBs that will have a slew of products for customers to choose from for every aspect of daily life. Well known and established brands too will have over 900 product launches while Amazon it will launch its Amazon Devices such as Echo Dot, Echo Dot with clock, Amazon Echo, Fire TV Stick and Fire TV Stick Lite with Alexa Voice Remote Lite.

Devices such as Echo Dot, Echo Dot with clock, Amazon Echo, Fire TV Stick and Fire TV Stick Lite with Alexa Voice Remote Lite.

Amazon said there will be cash back offers, instant bank discounts from select banks and finance offers, daily shopping rewards and new deals from the biggest brands across categories including work/study/stay at home products like laptops, tablets, smartphones, furniture, headphones etc. There will be bulk discounts for business buyers on Amazon Business.

The company said it is adding close to 200 delivery stations, expanded its fulfilment centres to 60 in 15 states to ensure safe and reliable deliveries, and serve customer demand during the Great Indian Festival.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Smt. MALATHI
D.O.B: 8.10.1960
Our best wishes on your 60th Birthday
From: Rohit, Praseeda, Ravi & Ramamurthy and all our Family Members.
(S/2021/D00684)

Parts of TS receive rains

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Rain lashed parts of Telangana on Wednesday under the influence of a cyclonic circulation prevailing over Andhra Pradesh.

For Thursday, the Indian Meteorological Department has issued

an orange warning for districts including Adilabad, Khammam and Suryapet. The state government has asked its line departments – municipal, traffic and others – to be prepared.

In the city, however, rain was recorded only in Kukatpally, which received 3.5 mm of rainfall.

IITH PLANS TO SET UP SMART CITY RESEARCH CENTRE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

The International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH) on Wednesday announced setting up of a Smart City Research Centre (SCRC) with support from MEITY (Government of India), Smart City Mission, and the Government of Telangana. IIITH's Living Lab will collaborate with

government bodies, start-ups and big organisations on Smart City solutions. Its campus will include different verticals related to air quality, building energy, water quantity, and quality, street lighting, among other related things. Through the Living Lab, the institute hopes to transform the campus into a platform for learning, experimentation and to showcase new ideas and approaches.

OFFICE OF THE MAHABUBNAGAR MUNICIPALITY

Lr.Roc.No.F1/SBM/2020

FINAL NOTIFICATION

Date: 05.10.2020

Sub:- Mahabubnagar Municipality - Public Health Section - Final Declaration of Mahabubnagar Town as ODF+ as all households have toilets and water facility in the town. By the primary notification issued by this office in that no objections received from any regarding.

Rd:- 1) The Primary Notification was published in the Andhra News Paper on D.22.09.2020.

2) The Primary Notification was published in the Surya News Paper on D.22.09.2020.

<<< 000 >>>

Mahabubnagar Town has been declared an Open Defecation Free (ODF+) Town in the Mahabubnagar town. 5893 No's latrines have been constructed in 3653 households and 3292 sanitary toilet households converted to Sanitary Toilet Households under the "Swachha Bharat Telangana" program a total of 6552 toilets were constructed. Currently all the people in the town are using toilets and have water supply. Nobody even doing open defecation.

The town has Public & Community toilets (15) N.o. Petrol bunkers have (19) No's toilets, all Hotels and all Commercial complexes have sufficient number of toilets in their premises. These are adequate for people who come to our town for commercial areas and other needs. Similarly, there are adequate toilets and water facilities for staff in government offices, school students & staff in schools. In this regard the declaration certificate obtained from Government Officials / Principals / Principals. It was also decided to discuss in all the women's federations the information to build a personal toilet for everyone who has space. In addition, ward-wise information was placed before them by the ODF Ward Committees and resolutions were obtained as wards with toilet facilities for each family. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Government of India declared Mahabubnagar Municipality as ODF.

Vide reference 1st and 2nd cited no objections received on ODF+ primary notification

Hence, the Town Level Women Federation and ODF Town Committees has declared as Mahabubnagar Town as Open Defecation Free (ODF+) Town and also the Hon'ble Chairperson has declared as Mahabubnagar Town as Open Defecation Free (ODF+) town pending approval of the Council Resolution No. 103, dated 19.09.2020. It was declared that all households in the all wards with toilet facility and have water supply to every single family.

DIPR.R.O. No: 997-PPCL/AGENCY/ADV/T/1/2020-21. Date: 07-10-2020

Commissioner
Mahabubnagar Municipality

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POWER | SHUTDOWN**6 am to 9 am**

Substation: Saroornagar
Feeder: 11KV Mansoorabad
Anitha Nagar, Mansoorabad,
Hakeemabad, Madhura
Nagar, Vevekananda Nagar,
Sreerama Hills, Ragala
Enclave, Mallikarjun Nagar
and surrounding areas.

6 am to 9 am

Substation: Saroornagar
Feeder: 11KV Siris
Central bank colony,
Suryodaya colony, Saraswathi
nagar colony and
surrounding areas.

6 am to 9 am

Substation: Saroornagar
Feeder: 11KV Vambay Colony
Press Colony, Mansoorabad,
Weaker Section,

Mansoorabad, Old Vg Sai
Nagar, Sai sapthagiri Colony,
Vinayaka Nagar, Prashanthi
Nagar, Balaji Nagar, Sri laxmi
Nagar, Srinivas Nagar Colony,
Sai Balaji Nagar, Rock Town
and surrounding areas.

6 am to 9 am

Substation: Saroornagar
Feeder: 11KV Rock Colony
Weaker section colony,
Wambay colony, Vishalandra,
Rock hills, Rock town, Sai
Sapthagiri colony, Sai nagar
and surrounding areas.

SHORT TAKES**CONGRESS WARNS
OF TRS-BACKED
BOGUS VOTERS**IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

An official representation was submitted to the Chief Election Commissioner by senior Congress party leaders, Marri Shashidhar Reddy and G. Nirajan seeking the poll body to ensure transparency in the upcoming elections to graduates' constituencies of Legislative Council.

The complaint highlighted the ruling party offering incentives to achieve set targets, and called for a transparent system in the online enrolment process. The complaint alleges use of fake degree certificates by the ruling party as reported in the media.

The party reminded that a 14-member high-level committee that made a detailed study confirmed the allegations against TRS.

Ridiculing the 'free and fair elections' assurances TRS working President K.T. Rama Rao, they alleged that the party enrolled bogus voters based on fake degree certificates. The Congress party sought stringent measures and a door-to-door verification of the voters list by officials. The verification should revolve around whether the applicant is a graduate besides establishing the genuineness of the degree certificate and memorandum of marks. They pointed out that there was no procedure to verify the authenticity of degree certificates, which is resulting in enrolment of bogus voters.

Gearing up for bypolls

TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy (right) is all smiles as Congress leader Mohammed Shabbir Ali introduces party's Dubbaka candidate for bypolls Cheruku Srinivas Reddy, in Dubbaka on Wednesday. — P. ANIL KUMAR

Oppn's anti-TRS wave theory to be tested

From Page 1

BJP LEADERS

and workers were highly enthusiastic and hopeful that under a new state president, Bandi Sanjay, they would be able to end the TRS narrative and set a mood that the saffron party is all set to replace the pink.

for the rights of the state. Like the way he did for our water rights against Andhra and with the Centre if need be, as everyone saw yesterday."

"People are very angry with the TRS. All promises have been broken, from 2 BHK houses to drinking water for every house. Where are the jobs? Even the state and its people are reeling under a series of health crises. Even as people suffer, a single family becomes more powerful and richer, crushing all voices of the people," a Congress leader underlined.

Despite this, the party however seems unable to make a battle out of it. BJP leaders and workers were highly enthusiastic and hopeful that under a new state president, Bandi Sanjay, they would be

able to end the TRS narrative and set a mood that the saffron party is all set to replace the pink.

But local factors turned against them, especially the candidate, who has a rape case against him. While the probable BJP candidate, M. Raghunandan Rao, has got a High Court reprieve from legal action, local cadre are not enthusiastic in a post Hathras and Moinabadi phase to campaign for a candidate facing charges of such a heinous crime.

"If he is the candidate, our party will lose in a big way. If there is any other candidate, preferably a Reddy, BJP can make a big fight out of this," said a BJP leader. The saffron party, however, does not seem intent on relenting or changing its candidate so late in the day. When a local BJP leader, Thota Kamalakar Reddy spoke against giving a ticket to Raghunandan, he was summarily suspended. But not many are betting on the chances of this candidate, who will make a hat trick of defeats if he loses this one. A.P. Jithender

Reddy, senior BJP leader and former MP, apart from other leaders, are trying to up the mood of the cadre and make a fight out of it.

The election is significant for party president Bandi Sanjay, as this is his first face-off with TRS after assuming charge.

A leader said, "BJP's national leadership has resolved to end the rule of TRS in the next elections. We will showcase our seriousness in Dubbaka. It will be a significant date in state politics when we defeat TRS, which otherwise has a good track record of winning bypolls."

Meanwhile, the Congress, several of whose leaders have confessed that they cannot match the money or clout of TRS, are hoping a good candidate and ground-level contact could give the party some traction in the constituency where it stood third last time around. "There is anger against the TRS government. But Dubbaka will not risk the wrath of the ruling party with three years to go. It will be a TRS win, by default," said a farmer; "A big one."

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7**Public toilet adjacent to graveyard sparks row**ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

GHMC and Wakf Board are in confrontation with each other over construction of a public toilet adjacent to the boundary of a graveyard in Feekhanna area near Begum Bazar.

A person Mirza Sarfaraz Baig, along with others, had approached the High Court challenging a single judge order which had directed GHMC to complete renovation of the toilet within four months. A Division Bench dismissed the appeal and GHMC sanctioned ₹1.6 lakh for the renovation.

However, to prevent the corporation from constructing the public toi-

let, Wakf Board erected an iron gate on Tuesday. However, when GHMC started renovation works in front of the newly erected gate on Tuesday, trouble arose in the area with one group being against the public toilet and another favouring it. Following this, GHMC started the toilet renovation works on Wednesday under police protection.

This led to Wakf Board officials reaching the site objecting to construction by GHMC, leading to arguments between officials of GHMC and Wakf Board. Police officials present asked Wakf Board officials not to interfere with the renovation works as they were being

SHORT TAKES

SSR CASE: PLAINT AGAINST AIIMS DOCTOR FILEDSAURABH JOSHI | DC
MUMBAI, OCT. 7

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), probing suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has now received a complaint application from the lawyer of Rajput's family, against an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) doctor for allegedly leaking Rajput's forensic analysis report.

The complaint mentioned professional misconduct on the part of the doctor stating that it led to bias and boastful conclusion of the evidence that was already insufficient. The lawyer, Varun Singh, has also sought for a fresh panel of AIIMS doctors to conduct assessment into the actor's death.

"Despite asking for a copy of the report, there has been no response. The head of the forensic team was not submitting a post-mortem report but was only expressing opinion on the findings of Cooper Hospital, which conducted the autopsy," Singh's complaint application stated.

Singh reiterated that the Cooper Hospital did not do a videography of the post-mortem alleging that they did not retain sufficient viscera for future examination. He added that the autopsy report did not mention any time of death.

9 HURT IN BLAST AT PETROL PUMP IN ODISHAAKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 7

Nine people were injured in a blast at a petrol pump station near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday afternoon. All the injured were rushed to Capital Hospital. Two of the injured who suffered 60 and 40 per cent burn injuries, respectively, were later sent to SCB Medical College and Hospital.

The impact of the blast could be gauged from the fact that pounds of human flesh and severed limbs of the injured were strewn around the filling station. According to a helper of an oil tanker which was waiting for its turn at the filling station to unload Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), the underground CNG tank of the petrol pump exploded at around 1.02 pm.

"The blast occurred when another oil tanker which had arrived before us was delivering CNG to the filling station. Before we could understand what happened, the area was engulfed with fire and smoke. We ran away from the spot to save our lives," the helper said.

As many as five fire tenders doused the flames after an hour of efforts. "As per our preliminary information, some people have suffered serious injuries in the mishap. They were all sent to different hospitals. At this moment, we are focusing on the efforts to ensure that the petrol and diesel reserves stored underground remain safe and do not catch fire," Commissioner of Police Sudhansu Sarangi said.

DISHA BILL WILL BE CLEARED SOON: MAHA MINISTERSONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, OCT. 7

In the wake of the gruesome Hathras gangrape and murder case, Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh on Wednesday asserted that his government will get Disha Bill cleared in the next session of the state legislature. The women politicians from Maharashtra's ruling parties, who met the home minister, demanded installation of CCTVs, a dedicated police force at local level and mechanics for prompt action on cyber-crimes.

A meeting was organized at Shaheed Guest House in Mumbai on Tuesday, which was attended by ministers of state for home Satish Patil and Shambhuraj Desai, women members of ruling parties including NCP leader and Baramati MP Supriya Sule and Shiv Sena MLC Manisha Kayande among others. Deputy Chairperson of the legislative council Neelam Gorre also joined the meeting online. Mr Deshmukh said that a draft of the Disha Act has been finalized and the government would incorporate more suggestions from the women and experts on the issue.

Festive spirit

An elderly woman paints a Chalchitra, a traditional decorative item, ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja festival in Nadia district on Wednesday.

— PTI

3 militants killed in Shopian encounterYUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 7

Three militants were killed in a 20-hour-long gunfight with the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Shopian district, the authorities said here on Wednesday.

They said that all the slain men were local Kashmiris. They were identified as Sajad Ahmad Malla, Junaid Rashid Wani and Waseem Ahmad Magray.

While Malla was associated with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the two others were Al-Badar cadres—"all part of groups involved in planning and executing several terror attacks on security forces establishments and inflicting atrocities on civilians," the police said.

Meanwhile, a large number of mourners attended the funeral of

J&K policeman Altaf Hussain who fell to the militants' bullets while foiling an attempt on the life of a local Bharatiya Janata Party leader in central district of Ganderbal on Tuesday night. One of the two or three assailants was also killed in the PSO's retaliatory fire, the police said.

The officials said that fighting broke out in Shopian's Sugan area late Tuesday evening after the J&K police's counterinsurgency Special Operations Group (SOG) with the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles and the 178th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) laid siege to it to conduct a search operation.

A police spokesman here said that the militants holed up in a private house during the cordon-and-search operation at Sugan were asked

to lay down their arms and surrender before the security forces but they preferred to fight. "During the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given the opportunity to surrender. However, they instead fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter," the spokesman said.

He said that the operation was suspended in view of the darkness but the whole area was put under strict cordon.

"Terrorists trapped inside made certain attempts to break the cordon and escape from the spot. In the wee hours, the operation was resumed and in the ensuing encounter three terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter," the police

added. Meanwhile, DGP Dilbag Singh said here on Wednesday that the militant who was killed in the retaliatory fire of the PSOs of BJP second-rung leader Ghulam Qadir in Nunar area of Ganderbal was a close associate of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Reyaz Naikoo.

He identified him as Shabir Ahmed Shah, a resident of southern Pulwama. Naikoo was killed in a fire fight with the security forces in his home district Pulwama earlier this year.

He said that the BJP leader was targeted by militants while he was leaving his ancestral home for a safe cluster accommodation in the neighbouring Kangan area.

A police statement added, "The terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the protected person. However, his PSOs

namely Altaf Hussain and Jahangir Ahmad exhibited a highly professional conduct by quickly retaliating against the terrorists and saved the life of the protected person thereby fulfilling their professional commitments".

It added, "The exemplary valiant act of the accompanying security officials resulted in the killing of an active terrorist on the spot thereby defeating the purpose of terrorist without caring for their own lives".

Constable Hussain was, however, grievously injured in the exchange of fire and succumbed on the way to a hospital in Srinagar.

Singh and several other senior officers of the J&K police and other security forces attended the wreath laying ceremony for the slain cop held here on Wednesday.

5 Naxal leaders killed by rivalsRABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 7

Maoists carried bounties on their heads", Bastar range inspector general of police P Sunderraj told this newspaper.

The five slain Maoists are Budharam Kurusam, platoon section commander of 'local Jan militia' (armed Maoist guerrillas), Lakhu Helma, in-charge of Maoist schools in the region, Dasru Mandavi, president of local jantana sarkar (local government created by Maoists), and Kamlu Punem, militia platoon commander. They carried bounties of ₹1 lakh, ₹3 lakh, ₹1 lakh and ₹1 lakh respectively. On Oct. 1, Modiyani Vijja, divisional committee member and in-charge of Gangaloor area committee, was killed by his deputy Dinesh Modiyam.

Vijja carried a reward of ₹8 lakh on his head.

"We have received information that five other Naxal leaders were killed by their rivals in the Naxal cadres in separate incidents recently over the recent murder of civilians in Bijapur district. All the five slain

India, Japan discuss high-speed rail projectDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi in a bilateral meeting in Tokyo as part of the 13th India-Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue wherein they agreed that a "free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region must be premised on diversified and resilient supply chains; and in this context, welcomed the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative between India, Japan, Australia and other like-minded countries", New Delhi said, in a statement after the meeting.

Japan, meanwhile, said the two ministers reaffirmed the importance of implementing Japan-India cooperation in third countries such as ASEAN and Southwest Asian countries and making steady progress on the high-speed rail project (between Mumbai and Ahmedabad).

Reaffirming the similarities in their respective Indo-Pacific visions "based on rule of law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Japanese side agreed to be the lead partner in the connectivity pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative and jointly take both countries' respective visions for the Indo-Pacific forward", New Delhi said.

Both India and Japan have separate territories

al disputes with China. "Reaffirming the mutual trust and shared values, they (the two ministers) reviewed the progress made in India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership and discussed convergence in various areas, including maritime security, trade and investment, manufacturing, skill development and infrastructure, health and wellness, Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative and UN Reforms," the MEA said, in a statement.

Japan meanwhile issued a separate statement which also mentioned that the two foreign ministers "exchanged opinions regarding the issue of North Korea".

SUPREME | ISSUE Digital movements evade usual restrictions of censorship: SC**Concern over net-fuelled movements**PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed concern over the social movements world over using technology and the internet as their toolkit for organising, publicity and effective communication, evading the usual restrictions of censorship.

In its judgment on the Shaheen Bagh protest against the CAA and the NRC, the court said paradoxically the digital infrastructure empowers the movements to embrace "often-leaderless aspirations", while flip side to it is that "the social media channels



are often fraught with danger of creating highly polarized environments, with parallel conversations running with no constructive outcome."

It said both these scenarios were witnessed in Shaheen Bagh that gained momentum

across cities to become a movement of solidarity for the women and their cause, but with its fair share of chinks.

The court in a caution said, "... we live in the age of technology and the internet where social movements around the world have swiftly integrated digital connectivity into their toolkit; be it for organising, publicity or effective communication."

Technology however, the court said, in a near paradoxical manner, works to both empower digitally fuelled movements and at the same time, contributes to their apparent weaknesses.

The ability to scale up quickly, for example, using digital infrastructure has empowered movements to embrace their often-leaderless aspirations and evade usual restrictions of censorship.

Having said this, the court said, however, the flip side to this is that

social media channels are often fraught with danger and can lead to the creation of highly polarised environments, which often see parallel conversations running with no constructive outcome.

Both these scenarios the court said, were witnessed in Shaheen Bagh, which started out as a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act, gained momentum across cities to become a movement of solidarity for the women and their cause, but came with its fair share of chinks - as has been opined by the interlocutors and caused inconvenience of commuters.

Kerala sees 10,000 cases in a day**Single-day highest spike in Covid cases is due to increase in testing**GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT. 7

Kerala on Wednesday reported the highest single-day spike with 10,606 Covid-19 positive cases even as the total number of active cases in the state inched towards 1-lakh mark. With the new cases, the number of people infected with the virus in the state so far has reached 92,161. The single-day highest spike is also attributed to the increase in testing.

During the last 24 hours, a total of 73,816 samples were tested in the state which is a higher figure compared to the testing carried out on previous days.

Of the new cases, 9,542 contracted the infection through contact, the source of infection among 741 is yet to be traced, 54 came from abroad and 164 from other states and 98 health workers also got infected.

The state also recorded 22 deaths on Wednesday taking the official death toll to 906.

Kozhikode district reported the highest number of cases at 1,576 followed by Malappuram 1,350, Ernakulam 1,201, Thiruvananthapuram 1,182, Thrissur 948, Kollam 852, Alappuzha 672, Palakkad 650, Kannur 602, Kottayam 490, Kasargod 432, Pathanamthitta 393, Wayanad 138 and Idukki 120.

At present 2.67 lakh persons are under surveillance across the state including 2.38 lakh are under home/institutional quarantine.

India records less than 1,000 deaths

Meanwhile, with 72,049 fresh cases, India's overall tally of Coronavirus cases reached 67.5 lakh on Wednesday. In the last 24 hours 986 deaths were recorded taking the total toll to 1,04,555.

Union health ministry data said so far close to 57.45 lakh persons have recuperated taking the national recovery rate to 85.02 per cent. The Covid-19 case fatality rate in the country has declined to 1.55 per cent.

India has crossed a significant milestone. The national recovery rate has jumped past 85% on Wednesday with the continuous streak of high number of recovered cases being reported in the past few weeks. The recovered cases have exceeded the new confirmed again during the past 24 hours.

As many as 82,203 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours in the country compared to 72,049 new confirmed cases.

"The sustained high levels

of recoveries have led to further widening of the gap between active and recovered cases. Recovered cases exceed the active cases (9,07,883) by more than 48 lakh. The recovered cases are 6.32 times the active cases ensuring that the recoveries are consistently rising. The active caseload of the country has further slid to 13.44% of the total positive cases and is consistently declining," health ministry officials said.

As many as 18 states/UTs have Recovery Rate more than the national average while 75% of the new recovered cases are being reported from ten states — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Delhi.

Maharashtra is topping the list with nearly 17,000 recoveries while Karnataka contributes more than 10,000 to the single day recoveries.

Union minister of parliamentary affairs, coal and mines Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said he has tested positive for Covid-19 and was under home quarantine.

"I have tested positive for #COVID19. As I am asymptomatic, as per doctor's advice I am in home quarantine," he tweeted.

Joshi, an MP from Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency, played a crucial role in the conduct of the recent Parliament session amid the pandemic in his capacity as the Parliamentary affairs minister.

Joshi is the latest addition to prominent politicians from Karnataka who have tested positive for Covid.

Most of them have either recovered or under recovery. They include Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, several Ministers in the state cabinet and a number of legislators.

Increase trains to prevent overcrowding: HC

In a related development, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday suggested an increase in frequency of local trains in Mumbai to check overcrowding, as the government has granted permission to several sectors to resume work.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a bunch of petitions, seeking a direction to the government of Maharashtra to include lawyers and their clerical staff under essential services and permit them to use the local trains.

Career Chronicle

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER DEGREE COLLEGE
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DECCAN Chronicle

8 OCTOBER 2020

Quad's future: Too early to talk of an 'Asian Nato'

While the physical gathering of the foreign ministers of India, the United States, Australia and Japan in Tokyo this week — fairly unusual in these Covid-19 times — sent an unmistakable signal to China that these nations were determined to stand up to its bullying in the neighbourhood and beyond, and uphold the principle of a "rules-based international order" in a "free and open Indo-Pacific region", which India's external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said meant "respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and the peaceful resolution of disputes", it was left to US secretary of state Mike Pompeo to really turn the heat on Beijing. In a direct attack not only on the Chinese government but also the Communist Party of China, America's chief diplomat — who made it a point to go ahead with his visit despite the churn back in election-eve Washington — blasted China's "exploitation, corruption, and coercion" in the "South (China Sea), East China Sea, Mekong, the Himalayas and the Taiwan Straits". He also openly accused China of initially "covering up" the coronavirus pandemic in Wuhan and "silencing the very brave Chinese citizens who raised the alarm".

The Quadrilateral, the grouping of the four nations that met in Japan, has been around for a while, but what has given the strategic partnership new heft is China's renewed aggression of late — most visibly in the People's Liberation Army's intrusions into Indian territory in eastern Ladakh — which Mr Pompeo pointedly referred to in his remarks, but also in its newfound claims to the South China Sea, which mostly lies in international waters, and its blatant attempts to intimidate the democratic government in Taipei through an excessive show of force in the Taiwan Straits. India has a direct interest in ensuring freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, through which so much of our trade transits, which recently prompted New Delhi to send naval warships to show the Indian flag in these waters.

Everybody is well aware that the "Quad" is aimed at countering China, but it was noticeable only the US leader explicitly targeted the People's Republic, while India, Australia and Japan were more circumspect. That doesn't mean they don't share the same views about Beijing's aggression, which affects them far more than it does the US, but they also don't want to aggravate China beyond a point — to ensure, say in India's case, it doesn't adversely impact the ongoing negotiations over the Ladakh de-escalation process. Japan too has become more vigilant as China has got increasingly assertive about its claims to some islands. All four nations are united on the need to counter the waves of disinformation from Beijing, such as over the source of the coronavirus, or the use of so-called "wolf warrior diplomacy" by which the PRC targets smaller nations — like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh or Nepal — to name just a few in our neighbourhood.

Where is the "Quad" headed? Will it, as some commentators predict, evolve into a kind of "Asian Nato"? Or will it focus not just on security, but also try to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative and help develop 5G networks that don't depend on Huawei? There are many in India who may welcome an "Asian Nato", but we should remember that if we want an independent foreign policy, we have to safeguard our borders ourselves, this can't be easily outsourced even to our closest allies.

AIADMK: Who really won?

In what was a win-win situation, a long drawn imbroglio in Tamil Nadu's ruling party, AIADMK, came to a close, on expected lines and at the expected hour on Wednesday. Deputy chief minister O. Panneerselvam, who started it all on Independence Day when some posters made an appearance in his hometown expressing his followers' desire to see him as the next chief ministerial candidate of the party, concluded it by announcing his rival Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the chief ministerial candidate. But the acrimony with which the two leaders fought the battle for supremacy and fact that unlike many other political parties in the State or the country, AIADMK is no more a personality-oriented or ideologically driven party give rise to the doubts if the differences can really blow over.

For, what we have is a cabal of leaders, who had been chosen to whatever positions they held by the former supremo J. Jayalalithaa, or by default her confidante V.K. Sasikala. Of them, many aspire to lead the party or the government run by it, though the opportunity has come to only two of them through cruel twists of fate.

Those two on whom the mantle had fallen agreed among them to one being chief minister and the other deputy chief minister, ensuring that the rest remained in the sidelines. But when the deputy became more ambitious on seeing the chief minister cornering all the glory and anything else that came along with the job, the fight started.

With the rest of the leaders on the sidelines sensing the dangers such an in-fighting could engender, put an end to it. But the fact that the parleys went into the small hours of Wednesday and that there are some loose ends to be tied up, too, only indicate that it can erupt again. For it is not clear as to who the victor is now.

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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

Ex-DGP Pandey and the power of 'good offices'

The three-month mandatory cooling-off period has been waived for IPS officer Gupteshwar Pandey, who was DGP Bihar and sought voluntary retirement (VRS). This was done to allow him to join politics and possibly contest the upcoming state Assembly elections. Mr Pandey, who shot into the headlines with his controversial comments on the investigation into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide, applied for VRS and received the approval from the Bihar government within 24 hours!

Normally, an officer seeking VRS has to give a three-month notice to the government before quitting. Sources say that it takes up to two months for the government to clear the paperwork before granting retirement. In Mr Pandey's case,

however, there was an unseemly hurry to grant his request.

Few, however, were surprised at Mr Pandey's resignation from the IPS. His political ambitions had been the subject of much speculation weeks before he actually took the plunge. He has gone down this road earlier in 2009 when he took VRS to fight the Lok Sabha elections that year. He lost and was reinstated into the IPS. It pays to be well-connected.

HARYANA TO SEE CHANGES AT THE TOP

With the retirement of Haryana chief secretary Keshni Anand Arora and the appointment of principal secretary to the chief minister, Rajesh Khullar, as executive director of the World Bank, observers expect a major adminis-

trative change in the state.

According to those in the know, several senior IAS officers are in the succession race. Among them, Vijay Vardhan, a 1985-batch IAS officer and current home secretary, is the strongest claimant for the post of chief secretary. Others in the fray are 1986 batch IAS Sanjeev Kaushal, and 1987 batch IAS Rajeev Arora, V. Umashankar, a 1993 batch IAS and additional principal secretary to CM, is reported to be very close to the CM Manohar Lal Khattar. Apparently, being close to the CM makes one a good condider for a plum posting.

Some observers point out that the caste factor may play an important role. Both Keshni Anand Arora and Rajesh Khullar are Punjabis, as is chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. So, will he choose babus

from the Punjabi community to fill the slots? Will the caste factor play a role? Any guesses?

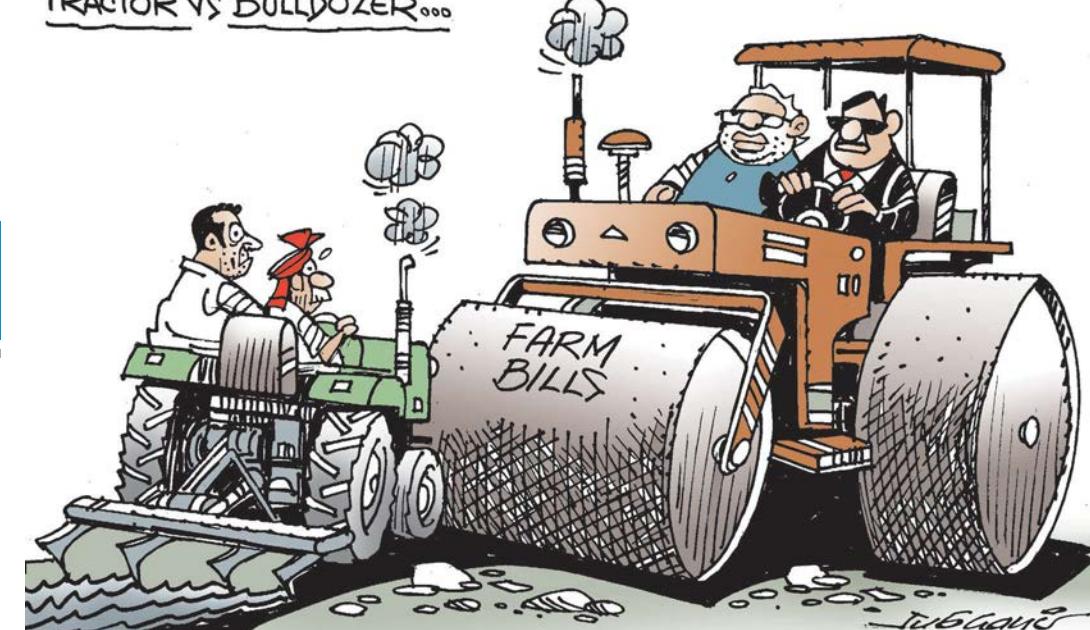
BABUS AND OTHER VIP SQUATTERS

There is nothing new about the reluctance of public servants to move out of the residential accommodation allotted them after retirement from service. It has been debated in public and private by citizens and VIPs, discussed in the courts who have issued directions to governments, but not much has changed.

The latest effort to ensure that government accommodation is not misused by babus is a directive from Delhi high court to the Centre to ensure that it gets illegally occupied houses vacated and recovers the rental dues for the period of the

Subhani

TRACTOR VS BULLDOZER...



Empower IAF to fight aerial war on 2 fronts

Abhijit
Bhattacharyya

At 88, the Indian Air Force (born in 1932 as the Royal Indian Air Force) can certainly look back with pride as it evolved into an outstanding professional force, which is the nation's pride and the envy of our neighbours.

Even before the RIAF was born, an 18-year-old Indian pilot, Lt. Indra Lal Roy of the Royal Flying Corps, had downed 10 German fighters in just 14 days in the skies over France, and laid down his life while still in his teens, on July 22, 1918. Posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Roy was India's sole flying ace in the First World War. The standard set in 1918 continues to date.

The IAF officers of today remain worthy torchbearers of their legendary predecessors, notwithstanding a few hiccups over the pace of its fleet modernisation. War or peace, they operate with great elan. Their offensive as well as defensive ops over the "forward edge of battle area" in the 1965, 1971 and 1999 wars have been true to the Latin dictum "*Per Ardua ad Astra*" (Through adversity to the stars). However, India faces a major challenge today from an aggressive Communist Party of China, and the IAF, and India, have to be adept at tackling it.

Indeed, China aggressively pursued an unfriendly posture from the start of the twenty-first century -- with self-production, market distribution (selling it to smaller, friendly foreign customers) and consumption of its own product, thereby cutting import costs.

This entire area needs a thorough relook by the Indian ruling class, as imported equipment still rules the roost in this country. Mass scale indigenous defence hardware/software production eludes the IAF.

By 2001, China had

exported its J-7 single-seat fighter and close air support machine to India's neighbourhood -- Bangladesh (16), Pakistan (24), Sri Lanka (4). The Pakistani Air Force too started acting "big" -- "Number 2 Squadron Masroor, Numbers 18 and 20 Rafiqui and Number 25 Mianwali" (*Jane's All the World's Aircraft 2000-01*). A clear signal was given to New Delhi two decades ago -- that the Dragon was working in tandem with the Pakistani military-ISI -- but the Indian government failed to react, and in fact opened its economic and commercial doors to China around the same time.

After Islamabad made a mockery of Atal Behari Vajpeyi's Lahore bus

diplomacy, the Kargil misadventure followed, and though it led to a "victory" for India, it was over the dead bodies of over a thousand soldiers. The history of 1965 was repeated in 1999, when the initial loss and subsequent recapture of our own territory couldn't be hidden behind India's "Kargil Vijay Diwas" celebrations. It was not an inspiring message for citizens.

China must have made a careful note of India's plight in tackling Pakistan. By 2010, Beijing moved further up the aerial ladder. It set up a helicopter hub at Tianjin, general aviation at Zhuhai and aero engines at Shanghai. Its long-term aviation policy was aimed not just at competing, but also challenging the West by stealing its technology and "compelling" it to "voluntarily" cooperate with Beijing. The West was lured into Beijing's trap over its greed for profits.

Beijing was deeply embedded to Airbus for commercial aircraft

The Indian Air Force, with its back to the wall, needs to give high priority to the production of multi-combat craft, as it is the actual user, and boost its in-house research and development capabilities

Today, October 8, is Indian Air Force Day

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College. The views expressed here are personal.

LETTERS

HILARIOUS CARTOON

As the Nobel prize season has begun, I could not control my laughter today when I saw Coronavirus awarding the Chinese President with a medal stating "next year's Nobel should be given to my discoverer". Loved it Subhani. **Jyothi David Raj Hyderabad**

AGRICULTURE LAWS

The Opposition which is holding tractor rallies, rail rokos and rasta roko will harm people by spreading Coronavirus. They better stop all the agitations and help the farmers get the best out of the farm laws.

Dr O. Prasada Rao Hyderabad

CRIME PUNISHMENT

I do not fully agree with the view that redressal in some situations is to be based on caste and gender (*Hathras: Yogi govt's offensive misguided, DC, Oct. 7*). It is alright as far as gender is considered, but not caste. If the culprits are punished on account of committing crime against Dalits or people of a particular caste, will it help diminish, if not increase, the animosity or superiority complex of those belonging to upper caste? It tantamounts to discriminating similar victims belonging to OCs. The administration and police should ensure that perpetrators of the heinous crime are brought to book immediately. **S. Nageswara Rao Hyderabad**

LAW & ORDER

It appears that courts have a force majeure to intervene with respect to law and order situation in certain states like UP and AP (*Hathras case horrendous, protect witnesses: SC to UP, DC, Oct. 7*).

B. Raghunadha Rao Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Probe into Shastri's death demanded

NEW DELHI, Oct. 7. Mr. T.N. Singh, a former Union Minister today reiterated his demand for a judicial enquiry into the causes of death of the late Prime Minister Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri and now a Member of Rajya Sabha, said he planned to go round the country and launch a signature campaign in support of his demand. He was also planning, in consultation with other leaders, to set up a committee to press the demand for an enquiry.

The demand for probe into Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's death at Tashkent more than four years ago was voiced by Mr. Morarji Desai here today.

from the Punjabi community to fill the slots? Will the caste factor play a role? Any guesses?

BABUS AND OTHER VIP SQUATTERS

There is nothing new about the reluctance of public servants to move out of the residential accommodation allotted them after retirement from service. It has been debated in public and private by citizens and VIPs, discussed in the courts who have issued directions to governments, but not much has changed.

The latest effort to ensure that government accommodation is not misused by babus is a directive from Delhi high court to the Centre to ensure that it gets illegally occupied houses vacated and recovers the rental dues for the period of the

illegal occupation. Apparently, according to the data submitted by the ministry of housing and urban affairs, the government has managed to wrest 565 government accommodations that were illegally occupied by retired public servants and recovered Rs 3 crores in rental dues. However, it also stated that Rs 9 crores was still outstanding from other illegal occupants and it has issued notices to the offenders. For now, the dispensers of justice seem to have been appeased but this issue is not off the table. And won't be until babus, and our worthy netas, learn to let go of their official trappings once they no longer have the privilege to enjoy them.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

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 said.

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, they said.

STONES THROWN
AT KAMAL NATH'S
CONVOY

RABINDRA NATH
CHOURHURY | 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 Annupur.

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 by-elections 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 cavalcade had passed by then.

A video catching the violent demonstration went viral immediately after the incident.

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) on 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 Rajnish Jain said.

The majority of eight of these universities are from Uttar Pradesh — Varanaseya Sanskruti Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi; Mahila Gram Vidhyapith, Allahabad; Gandhi Hindi Vidhyapith, Allahabad; National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kannur; Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Aligarh; Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Mathura; Maharan Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh and Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Noida.

Delhi has seven fake universities — Commercial University Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Juridical University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open University for Self Employment and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (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 candidate 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 Panneerselvam'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-istration 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 MP Manoj Pandian, former Minister P. Mohan, former MP R. Gopalakrishnan and Sholavandan Mala K. Manikkam.

Munsamy and Vaithilingam, another deputy coordinator, had shuttled between the official residences of Panneerselvam and Palaniswami 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 together to make the announcement they were united.

Once the truce was called, the entire party



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

leadership geared up for the meeting and trooped to the venue. Panneerselvam arrived by around 9.40 am and he was followed by 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 was rumoured that they wanted the announcements to be made at an auspicious hour that came before 10 am.

Whatever be the reason,

the meeting turned out to be a simple affair with the presentation of shawls, brief expression of thanks and appreciation and several rounds of applause without slipping into long-winded haranguing that normally marked political meetings.

Then the top brass of the party, including Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, drove 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 having more Palaniswami supporters, he said that

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 filled the air as they distributed sweets and lighted fire-crackers.



Gupteshwar Pandey

SHIV SENA TO CONTEND 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 JD(U) ticket.

JD(U) has provided seven seats to HAM.

The seat distribution to VIP was announced at a press conference addressed by Deputy 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 assembly.

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 seat-sharing 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 other parties will join it in the coming days.

— PTI

BJP spares 11 seats for associate partner VIP

Patna, Oct. 7: The BJP on Wednesday allocated 11 seats to associate partner Vikashin Insaan Party (VIP) from its quota of 121 seats in Bihar Assembly.

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— PTI

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

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The Income Tax Department has conducted searches in poll-bound Bihar and Uttar Pradesh against a businessman involved in mining and the hotel industry and 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 said.

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 Bihar assembly will be held in three phases — October 28, November 3 and November 7 — and counting of votes will take place on November 10.

— PTI

POCSO accused done to death

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCT. 7

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

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 Sathesh was found with injuries in a vacant house near his home in Elanad in Thiruman 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 Sathesh.

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

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 Maanta 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 pamphlets "Justice for Hathras victim", six mobile phones 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 the Popular Front of India and its affiliates.

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

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).

The recovered pamphlets, Am I not India's daughter, made with Carrd.co, encourage social discord and public unrest," the FIR said.

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

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.

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 for 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 said.

The Press Association

and the Indian Women

Press Corps on

Wednesday described the

journalist's arrest as the

Uttar Pradesh government's attempt to

"silence" the media and demanded his immediate

release.

— PTI

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.

— PTI

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 by Home Secretary Bhagwan Swarup, was initially given seven days to submit its report.

But the UP government later sought a CBI probe into the case and the criminal conspiracy to spread caste conflict it has suspected.

On 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 with oblique motives".

"Yes... the time for submitt-

ing report for the SIT has been extended by 10 days," said Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Avanish Kumar Awast

IN BRIEF
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 Il. South Korea's spy agency earlier told lawmakers that Jo had left his official residence in Rome with his wife in November 2018 and was under protection at an unspecified 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 flag 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 "unfettered 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 interference in China's affairs when it comes to Hong Kong.

Guitar legend Eddie Van Halen dies

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 self-titled debut album and then with the blockbuster record "1984," which contains the classics "Jump," "Panama" and "Hot for Teacher." Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time, and the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.

PM FOR A DAY: TEEN FILLS TOP JOB IN FINLAND

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 MPs and the minister for development 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," she said.

"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 former 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 organisation and rose to become Greece's third largest party during the country's decade-long financial crisis.

The court was assessing four cases rolled into one: The fatal stabbing of Greek rap singer Pavlos 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



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 warrants but later changed his mind.

The IHC in its last hearing had directed Hamza to record a statement 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 Biden against second debate if Trump still suffers from Covid

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-

idential 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

US vice-president, told reporters on his return from Gettysburg.

The first of the three presidential debates 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 on October 22 in

dential debate, Trump was tested Covid positive and admitted to a military hospital, 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 doctors 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.

— PTI

and what the docs say is the right thing to do," he said.

— PTI

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

Nashville, Tennessee.

Biden said they should follow very strict guidelines.

"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 Cleveland Clinic and what the docs say is the right thing to do," he said.

— PTI

prevail over Pence, 61, during the only vice-presidential debate and help Biden, 77, to widen his lead over Trump, 74.

The debate comes nearly a week after the first of the three presidential debates in Clev-

eland on September 29 when 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 pres-

idential debate, Trump was tested Covid positive and admitted to a military hospital, a development that upended his hectic campaign just weeks before the presidential elections on November 3.

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— PTI

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— PTI

Virus stimulus bill after poll: Don

ISRAELI PM'S WIFE MAY HAVE VIOLATED CURBS

Jerusalem: Oct. 7: 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 Yedioth Achronot daily, was the latest in a string of lockdown violations by Israeli leaders and public figures — drawing widespread criticism.

— AP

Another Trump aide tests positive for virus

Washington: Oct. 7: Stephen Miller, a top aide to President Donald Trump, 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-

day soon after it was known that their close aide Hope Hicks contracted the infection.

Trump was admitted to a military hospital on Friday and was discharged on Monday.

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.

— PTI

inating 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

March and April, more than 10 million people remain unemployed.

"Nancy Pelosi is asking for \$2.4 trillion to bail out poorly run, high crime Democrat states, money that is in no way related to Covid-19. We made a very generous offer of 1.6 trillion

billion and, as usual, she is not negotiating in good faith," the Republican president alleged.

"I am rejecting their request and looking to the future of our country," he said.

Trump said he has asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell not to

delay but to focus full time

on approving his outstanding nominee to the US 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.

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.

— PTI

"Clearly, the White House is in complete disarray,"

the top Democrat said.

— PTI

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 another three months, 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 release.

The apex court last week barred the government from releasing them.

Faisal Siddiqi, the lawyer representing Pearl's family, told the media that the government prosecutor, Fiaz Shah, told the judges he needed more time for paperwork to prepare for the case.

The court accepted his argument and adjourned the hearing till October 21.

— PTI

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

— PTI

Stockholm, Oct. 7: Two scientists 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 microorganisms with extremely high precision.

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— PTI

"There is enormous power

IN BRIEF

ITALIAN HELD WITH PEREGRINE FALCONS

Rome, Oct. 7: An Italian citizen was stopped by police at Rome airport and reported to magistrates for trying to enter the country with two endangered southern Asian peregrine falcons worth hundreds of thousands of euros, the finance police said in a statement. Police said the birds had been tagged with fake recognition rings, imitating those used to identify specimens bred legally in Spain.

The male and a female falcons were "black shaheens", a non-migratory predator that cannot be sold in Italy, police said. The sale of the birds and their eggs would have yielded large profits.

"There is a niche market of people willing to pay dizzying amounts of money for these very rare species which cannot be found in Italy," said Guardia di Finanza police colonel Stefano Ciotti.

The Italian man was stopped at Fiumicino airport.

WIDE-BODIED 747 ALASKA'S FATTEST BEAR

Anchorage, Oct. 7: In Alaska's annual battle of heavyweights, a salmon-chomping bruin named 747 — like the jetliner — has emerged as the most fabulously fat. The bear, one of more than 2,200 brown bears roaming Alaska's Katmai National Park and Preserve, was victorious after a week of frenzied online voting in what has become an international sensation: Fat Bear Week.

Winner 747 was a worthy champion, the park said in a statement. "This year he really packed on the pounds, looking like he was fat enough to hibernate in July and yet continuing to eat until his belly seemed to drag along the ground by late September," the park said.

Fat Bear Week pits 12 bears against each other in playoff-style brackets. Bear fans compared photos and voted online for their favorites from last Wednesday to Tuesday night.

For humans, Fat Bear Week is a fun way to learn, from a distance, about nature and Alaska. Katmai's bears can grow to well over 1,000 pounds (453 kg) from summer feasting. They can also lose a third of their body weight during hibernation. That makes Fat Bear Week about "survival of the fattest", as the Park Service puts it.

Katmai, a 4 million-acre park sprawling over mountains, lakes, streams and coastline, is famous for having the world's densest population of brown bears, the coastal version of grizzlies. Within Katmai, the Brooks River is a prime place for brown bears to feast. There, bears congregate in summer and fall to snatch salmon swimming upstream to spawning grounds, with much of the action captured by a webcam operated by explore.org, one of the Fat Bear Week partners.

FIREFIGHTERS BEATING NZ BLAZE

Wellington, Oct. 7: Firefighters in New Zealand battling a blaze that razed much of a small alpine village said they were making "good progress" Wednesday as high winds finally eased.

The wildfire erupted in a mountain forest on the South Island in the early hours of Sunday morning and swept through the popular tourist spot of Lake Ohau, forcing residents to flee for their lives.

Officials said it was miraculously no one was hurt in the fire, which has now burned out 55 square kilometres (21 square miles) and destroyed at least 50 homes. Fire and Emergency New Zealand said firefighters were moving through the rugged terrain dousing hotspots and maintaining a perimeter around the blaze.

"Conditions have been better for crews today allowing for good progress," it said.

"There are around 50 personnel, including 17 crews and fire observers, on the ground, as well as diggers and a bulldozer." There were no reports of further threats to life or property and Fire and Emergency New Zealand said some Lake Ohau residents had been allowed to briefly return to their homes to collect what belongings remain. Wildfires are relatively common on the South Island at this time of the year but the scale and intensity of the Ohau fire were unusual.

Residents said the ferocious blaze was "surreal" and more akin to the huge bushfires that regularly erupt in Australia.

Delta roars into Mexico as a Cat. 2 hurricane

Hurricane upped strength by 80 mph in just 24 hours

Cancun, Oct. 7: Hurricane Delta made landfall in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Wednesday as an extremely dangerous Category 2 storm, roaring ashore between Cancun and the resorts of Playa del Carmen and Cozumel.

The US National Hurricane Center in Miami said satellite imagery, radar data from Cuba and surface observations in Mexico indicate that the center of Delta struck land near Puerto Morelos around 5:30 a.m. local time, sustaining top winds of 110 mph (175 kmh). Quintana Roo Gov. Carlos Joaquin warned residents and tourists that "it is a strong, powerful hurricane."

He considered it a good sign that Delta had weakened a bit late Tuesday, but said the area hadn't seen a storm like it since Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

Delta had increased in strength by 80 mph in just 24 hours, and its top winds peaked at 145 mph (230 kph) before it weakened as it neared the shore.

Forecasters warned it was still an extremely dangerous storm nevertheless, with a life-threatening storm surge that could raise water levels 9 to 13 feet (2.7 to 4 metres), along with large and dangerous waves and fast flooding inland.

Thousands of Quintana Roo residents and tourists were hunkering down

— AP

BEE-THREATENING PESTICIDE: FRANCE EASES EMBARGO

Paris, Oct. 7: French lawmakers on Tuesday approved a draft bill allowing sugar beet growers to use pesticides that are banned to protect honeybees, a move welcomed by farmers hit by crop disease but condemned by green groups as more backslicing by the government.

The proposal, which contradicts a promise by President Emmanuel Macron during his presidential campaign not to modify the ban on pesticides known as neonicotinoids, aims to help a sugar industry weakened by a price slump that has led to factory closures.

Agriculture Minister Julien Denormandie told the National Assembly during heated debates on the draft bill that it was designed to protect France's self-sufficiency in sugar.

— Reuters

Hong Kong, Oct. 7: The Coronavirus pandemic has sparked a rush for plastic. From Wuhan to New York, demand for face shields, gloves, takeaway food containers and bubble wrap for online shopping has surged. Since most of that cannot be recycled, so has the waste.

But there is another consequence. The pandemic has intensified a price war between recycled and new plastic, made by the oil industry. It's a war recyclers worldwide are losing,



punctured demand for oil. In turn, that has cut the price of new plastic.

Already since 1950, the world has created 6.3 bil-

lion tonnes of plastic waste, 91% of which has never been recycled, according to a 2017 study published in the journal Science. Most is hard to recycle, and many recyclers have long depended on government support. New plastic, known to the industry as "virgin" material, can be half the price of the most common recycled plastic.

Since Covid-19, even drinks bottles made of recycled plastic — the most commonly recycled

plastic item — have become less viable. The recycled plastic to make them is 83% to 93% more expensive than new bottle-grade plastic, according to market analysts at the Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (ICIS). The pandemic hit as politicians in many countries promised to wage war on waste from single-use plastics. China, which used to import more than half the world's traded plastic waste, banned imports.

— Reuters

NZ PM Ardern vows to phase out coal-fired boilers

Sydney, Oct. 7: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Wednesday her government would phase out coal-fired boilers and reduce carbon emissions from public transport buses if returned to power in polls on Oct. 17.

Ardern, who is also the leader of the Labour Party, said her government would introduce laws to prevent installation of new boilers and replace existing ones with electric alternatives to reduce emissions.

Over the last three years we have put in place the foundations to reach our 2050 climate obligations. But there is more to do.

JACINDA ARDERN, NZ PM

The government will also create a NZ\$50 million (\$32.9 million) fund to help local councils buy zero emissions buses by 2025. "Over the last three years we have put in place the

foundations to reach our 2050 climate obligations," the prime minister said. "But there is more to do."

She said the latest initiatives to address climate change concerns are being built on plans put in place during her first term.

"During our first term in government, climate change was at the centre of all our policy work and commitments. It is inextricably linked to our decisions on issues like housing, agriculture, waste, energy and transport," she said.

Energy giants fall short of UN climate goals

London, Oct. 7: Europe's top oil companies are yet to be aligned with United Nations-backed targets to combat climate change even after outlining ambitious plans to slash carbon emissions and pivot to renewable energy, a report backed by a group of major investors said. The study by the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI), which unites investors with \$22 trillion in holdings, comes as shares of

some governments to cut greenhouse gas emissions. But those targets equate to global temperatures rising by 3.2 degrees and are "widely regarded as insufficient to avert dangerous climate change," the report said. No company was set to meet the United Nations-backed Paris Agreement's long-term goal of limiting global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by reducing carbon emissions to net zero, it said.

— Reuters



Boats were secured by fishermen preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Delta in Puerto Juarez, Cancun, Mexico.

— AP

Last month warmest Sept. on record: EU

Paris, Oct. 7: Earth's surface was warmer last month than during any September on record, with temperatures since January tracking those of the hottest ever calendar year in 2016, the European Union's Earth Observatory Programme said Wednesday.

This year has now seen three months of record warmth — January, May and September — with June and April virtually tied for first, the Copernicus Climate Change Service reported. "There is currently little difference between 2020 and 2016 for the year-to-date," Copernicus senior scientist Freja Vamborg said.

For the 12-month period

through September, the planet was nearly 1.3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

That is alarmingly close to the 1.5C threshold for severe impacts detailed in a major 2018 report by the UN's climate science advisory panel, the IPCC.

The Paris Agreement has enjoined nations to cap global warming at "well below" 2C, and 1.5C if feasible.

So far, Earth has warmed on average by one degree, enough to boost the intensity of deadly heatwaves, droughts and tropical storms made more destructive by rising seas.

Climate change driven by greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels has picked up pace in recent decades. Nineteen of the 20 last years are the warmest since accurate readings began in the late 19th century.

September was brutal in the Middle East, with new high temperatures reported in Turkey, Israel and Jordan.

Parts of North Africa and Tibet were also scorching hot, while maximum daytime values reached 49C in Los Angeles County early in the month.

Across California, five of the state's six biggest wildfires in history were still burning at the end of the month.

— AFP

Food firms ask UK to protect tropical forests

London, Oct. 7: Supermarkets, food manufacturers and restaurant chains under pressure from campaigners over their environmental impact urged Britain on Monday to strengthen a plan to stop tropical forests from being cut down to grow cocoa, palm oil and soy.

With the food industry under growing scrutiny for its role in driving deforestation in countries such as Brazil and Indonesia, Britain is drawing up legislation to force the sector to tighten oversight of its supply chains.

In an open letter, some 20 large companies welcomed the plans as a "step forward" but said "it's not currently envisioned to be enough to halt deforestation and we encourage the government to go further to ... address this issue."

Signatories included supermarkets Tesco, Marks & Spencer, M&S, Morrison's, MRWL and Sainsbury's, food manufacturers Unilever, UNA, AS, Nestle, NESN, S and Greencore Group, GNCL, McDonald's Corp, MCD, N and various palm oil and soy producers.

The proposed legislation would continue to allow rampant deforestation in hotspots such as Indonesia and Brazil," said Robin Willoughby, UK director of campaign group Mighty Earth.

Companies are also concerned that the legislation would not apply to smaller firms who may import considerable amounts of products, such as rubber, from sensitive forest regions.

Cyril Kormos, executive director of Wild Heritage, a nonprofit based in Berkeley, California, said a more comprehensive overhaul of forest management rules globally would be needed to reverse the loss of old-growth forests.

— Reuters

Under the proposed legislation, large companies would have to report on how they source tropical commodities. The companies would also be banned from using products that are harvested illegally in their country of origin.

But the supermarkets and food companies who signed the letter say the proposed new law has a major loophole: farmers in developing countries can often clear forests to grow cash crops for export without breaking any laws.

The companies want the new British rules to apply to all deforestation, not just in cases where the destruction is illegal.

"The proposed legislation would continue to allow rampant deforestation in hotspots such as Indonesia and Brazil," said Robin Willoughby, UK director of campaign group Mighty Earth.

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Cyril Kormos, executive director of Wild Heritage, a nonprofit based in Berkeley, California, said a more comprehensive overhaul of forest management rules globally would be needed to reverse the loss of old-growth forests.

— Reuters

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	39,878.95
Nifty 50	11,738.85
S&P 500*	3,404.35
Dollar (\$)	73.32
Pound Sterling (\$)	94.72
Euro (\$)	86.22
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	51,215.694
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.66
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.014
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.780
As of 9:30 PM IST	0.040

NHAI awards 1,330 km NH projects in H1

The NHAI said it awarded projects for building 1,330 km of highways in April-Sept., up 60 per cent from the year-ago period. The projects are valued at Rs 47,289 crore. "NHAI has awarded projects for a total cumulative length of 1,330 km in the current financial year. The projects awarded so far in first half of the current financial year are 1.6 times higher of 828 km awarded in FY19-20 and 3.5 times higher of...FY18-19."

Stimulus should continue for 3 yrs: Pranob Sen



The Centre should continue with the stimulus to revive the economy for three years and it should not be a one-off measure, Pranob Sen, chairman of the standing committee on statistics, ministry of statistics and programme implementation, said. The improvement in economic activity at the moment is due to the pent up demand, he said. "The government game-plan should be to continue with the stimulus for three years."

Nilesh Shah re-elected Amfi chairman

Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC has been re-elected as chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India. Some new faces have also been inducted to the Amfi. Vishal Kapoor, CEO IDFC AMC has been elected as chairman, Amfi standing committee of certified distributors. Radhika Gupta, CEO Edelweiss Asset Management Ltd, has been elected as the chairperson of Amfi ETF committee.

Maruti reports 26% rise in Sept. production

Maruti Suzuki India said its total production in September increased 25.63 per cent to 1,66,086 units. It had produced a total of 1,32,199 units in the same month last year. Passenger vehicle production stood at 1,61,668 units last month as compared with 1,30,264 units in September 2019, a growth of 24.1 per cent. Production of mini cars comprising Alto and S-Presso models were at 30,492 units versus 23,073 units.

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■ Q2 profit misses analysts estimate TCS unveils ₹16K cr share buyback plan

New Delhi, Oct. 7: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Wednesday announced a mega Rs 16,000-crore buyback plan at Rs 3,000 per equity share. In 2017 and 2018 too, TCS had undertaken buyback offers of similar sizes.

The current offer price of Rs 3,000 per share is 9.6 per cent higher than the stock's closing at Rs 2,737.40 on the BSE on Wednesday.

TCS, which reported a 5 per cent rise in net profit for the September 2020 quarter but missed analysts' estimates, said its board has declared a second interim dividend of Rs 12 per equity share.

In a regulatory filing, TCS said its board has approved "a proposal to buyback up to 5,33,33,333 equity shares of the company for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 16,000 crore, being 1.42 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital at Rs 3,000 per equity share."

The buyback will be conducted via a tender offer route through the stock exchanges soon after conclusion of the Board meeting on October 13, 2020," Wipro said in a regulatory filing.

A public announcement setting out the process, timelines and other requisite details will be released in due course following the buyback regulations, the filing said.

In 2018, TCS had undertaken a share buyback plan worth up to Rs 16,000 crore, offering Rs 2,100 per equity share and entailing up to 7.61 crore shares.

In 2017, TCS had conducted a similar share purchase exercise. The company had said its buyback offer was part of its long-term capital allocation policy of returning excess cash to shareholders.

In a separate filing, TCS said its chief financial officer V. Ramakrishnan would be retiring from the company on April 30, 2021 and the board has appointed Samir Seksaria as CFO-designate.

TCS reported 4.9 per cent

WIPRO TO CONSIDER BUYBACK ON OCT. 13

New Delhi, Oct. 7: IT services major Wipro on Wednesday said its board will consider a buyback plan on October 13. However, no other details were provided.

"The outcome of the Board meeting will be communicated to the stock exchanges soon after conclusion of the Board meeting on October 13, 2020," Wipro said in a regulatory filing.

Its revenue grew 3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 40,135 crore from Rs 38,977 crore a year ago.

TCS said the interim dividend will be paid on November 3 and the record date for the same is October 15.

Also, the company will roll out salary hikes effective October 1. TCS' consolidated headcount stood at 4,53,540 as of September 30.

"We want to thank all TCSers for the incredible resilience they have shown during these trying times. We are happy to announce that we will be rolling out salary increases, effective October 1st," Milind Lakkad, global head, HR of TCS said.

— Agencies

Rice exports could jump to record on Thai drought

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 7

India's rice exports in 2020 may rise by nearly 42 per cent from a year ago to record highs because of reduced shipments from rival exporters and a depreciating rupee, industry officials said this week.

Higher shipments from India, the world's biggest rice exporter, could cap global prices, reduce the country's bulging inventories and limit Indian state stockpiler purchases from the last year.

"We are experiencing huge customer interest in greener vehicles as they have seen how the environment looks like when no fuel-guzzling vehicles are running on roads," Sohinder Gill, director general at the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, or SMEV, said on Wednesday.

The lockdown has increased customer interest in greener vehicles, he said.

The upcoming festive season would add to the pent up demand and help com-

panies to recover what they lost in the first two quarters due to the lockdown, Gill pointed out.

Hero Electric Vehicles, Okinawa Autotech, Ather Energy, Ampere Vehicles, Revolt Intelllicorp, Jitendra New EV-Tech, are some of the major EV players in the country.

The first six months of the FY21 have been a jumpy ride for the EV industry. The financial year started with uncertainty due to Covid-19 and lockdown.

Between April and September 20, the industry registered sales of 7,552 units of HS E2W as against 10,161 HS E2W sold in the corresponding months last year.

Gill said lately there have been many positive news on the EV policy front from central and state governments that has led to a higher confidence amongst manufacturers, component suppliers and investors.

"We look forward to a big push by the government to set right what went wrong with FAME 2 so as to assist generation of demand," he added.

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FRESH | CHALLENGE

Abuse of Android OS position in smart TV market alleged

Google faces new antitrust case in India

ADITI SHAH &
ADITYA KALRA
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

Alphabet Inc's Google is facing a new antitrust case in India in which the US tech giant is alleged to have abused its Android operating system's position in the smart television market, a source and two lawyers involved in the case said.

The case is Google's fourth major antitrust challenge in India, one of its key markets where it is currently facing public criticism from local startups for enforcing certain policies and company charges they contend hurt their growth.

India's non-basmati rice exports may double from a year ago to 9.5 million tonnes, he said.

The case has been filed by two antitrust lawyers, Kshitij Arya and Purushottam Anand. They both confirmed the case filing against Google

potential antitrust probe in China that is set to look into how it allegedly uses its dominance of its Android mobile operating system to stifle competition. Google has denied any wrongdoing.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has since June been looking into allegations that Google engages in anti-competitive practices by creating barriers for firms wanting to use or develop modified versions of Android for smart TVs, such as Amazon Fire TV's operating system, according to the source.

Data from Counterpoint Research shows 8 million smart TV sets were sold in India in 2019. Three in five smart TVs sold in India are based on Google's Android system, which also powers nearly 99 per cent of India's half a billion smartphone user base.

for alleged abuse in the smart television market, but declined to comment further.

The source said the CCI had directed Google to submit its written responses to the allegations and that the company has sought more time.

Smart TVs, or WiFi-enabled TVs with apps for streaming services like Netflix and YouTube, have become increasingly popular in India.

The case before the justices Wednesday has to do with Google's creation of the Android operating system now used on the vast majority of smartphones worldwide. Google says that to create Android, which was released in 2007, it wrote millions of lines of new computer code. But it also used 11,330 lines of code and an organization that's

part of Oracle's Java platform. Google has defended its actions, saying what it did is long-settled, common practice in the industry, a practice that has been good for technical progress. But Oracle says Google "committed an egregious act of plagiarism" and sued, seeking

more than \$8 billion.

The case has been going on for a decade. Google won the first round when a trial court rejected Oracle's copyright claim, but that ruling was overturned on appeal. A jury then sided with Google, calling its copying "fair use."

Rajeshwar Rao appointed RBI deputy guv



M. Rajeshwar Rao

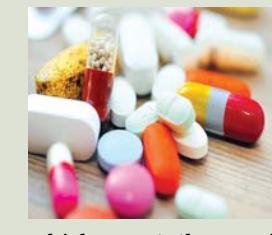
New Delhi, Oct. 7: The government on Wednesday appointed RBI's senior-most executive director M. Rajeshwar Rao as the deputy governor of the central bank.

Rao was appointed to the post vacated by N.S. Vishwanathan, who stepped down three months ahead of his extended tenure of his health grounds.

According to the RBI Act, 1934, the central bank needs to have four deputy governors—two from within the ranks, one commercial banker and another an economist to head the monetary policy department.

— PTI

Most generic drug ingredients made in Asia: EU lobby group



Berlin, Oct. 7: Two-thirds of the active ingredients needed to make generic drugs are manufactured in Asia, a study showed on Wednesday, the latest evidence to underscore Europe's reliance on foreign imports for its medicines.

European governments were rattled at the start of the coronavirus outbreak when India, one of the biggest producers of drug ingredients, banned exports of certain products relevant to the pandemic, prompting concerns about disruptions to supply chains and a shortage of medicines.

Although those fears were largely unfounded, European Union health ministers have vowed to boost local drug production to safeguard against future bottlenecks.

The study by German generics lobby group Pro Generika analysed the global production of 565 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and found 63 per cent of the quality certificates,

which grant them suitable for use in medicinal products, were held in Asia, up from around 31 per cent in 2000.

Price pressure and lower regulatory requirements have led to a shift in drug production from Europe to Asia over the past two decades, Pro Generika said.

More than 80 per cent of Asia's certificates are held by manufacturers in India and China where the majority of producers are concentrated in just a few states and provinces,

the study found. For more than half of the APIs, there are only a handful of manufacturers worldwide.

Europe holds 31 per cent of API certificates, down from 59 per cent in 2000

with producers mainly in Italy, Germany, Spain and France focussing on ingredients with low sales volumes that are complex to manufacture.

Spooked by the pandemic, France in June announced plans to bolster local production of medicines with president Emmanuel Macron pledging 200 million euros (\$236m) to help domestic research and manufacturing of medicine.

Austria is also investing money to shore up production at an antibiotics plant owned by Swiss drugmaker Novartis's Sandoz division in Tyrol.

Industry players warn bringing production home may be a complicated process, saying higher labour costs and tougher environmental standards make it impossible to compete with Asian suppliers on price.

Novartis said it was seeking to establish at least two sources for key ingredients to have fallback options.

Puri said the bank is not stressed and has a healthy capital adequacy of over 18 per cent, which will ensure that it will keep lending.

— PTI

HDFC Bank to give up to ₹40 L loan to pay Apollo medical bills

Mumbai, Oct. 7: HDFC Bank on Wednesday announced a tie-up with Apollo Hospitals through which its customers can avail unsecured loans of up to Rs 40 lakh to pay for medical expenses incurred at the healthcare chain.

The loans will be disbursed almost instantly as and when a need for money arises, and the hospital patients who are customers of HDFC Bank will also receive preferential treatment, its CEO & MD Aditya Puri told reporters.

Apollo executive chairperson Shobana Kamineni said HDFC Bank has 65 million customers who can take advantage of this facility.

She stressed that while availing of health insurance is necessary, it does not cover all the aspects despite providing cashless facilities and hence, such a tie-up will help.

Apollo had launched 'the Healthylife Programme' earlier this year to take care of multiple diseases and ailments, and HDFC Bank customers who will be registering as

part of the tie-up will be made part of the same, she said. Currently, there are 4 million members on the platform, Kamineni said.

HDFC Bank group head (corporate banking) Rahul Shukla said the base programme subscription comes without any charges for its customers.

Puri said the bank is not stressed and has a healthy capital adequacy of over 18 per cent, which will ensure that it will keep lending.

— PTI

Not many companies seeking loan restructuring: SBI chief

SHORT TAKES

Oz women equal win streak record

Brisbane: Australia demolished New Zealand by 232 runs in the third women's ODI to equal the world record of 21 consecutive ODI victories set by Ricky Ponting's all-conquering men's team in 2003. After smashing their way to 325 for five off their 50 overs at Brisbane's Allan Border Field, the Australians then bowled New Zealand out for just 93 to record their biggest ever win against the Kiwis. Australia dominated all aspects of the match, with Rachael Haynes (96) and Alyssa Healey (87) putting on an opening partnership of 144. Annabel Sutherland (35), Ash Gardner (34) and Beth Mooney (29 not out) chipped in to set the visitors an imposing target. New Zealand were never in the hunt, particularly after they lost captain Sophie Devine in the first over for a duck. — AFP

Messi eyes fresh start with Argies

Buenos Aires: Superstar footballer Lionel Messi will take a break from his Barcelona soap opera as he bids to fire Argentina to the World Cup in Qatar and what will probably be his last chance to try to win the coveted trophy. The 33-year-old, a record six-time winner of the Ballon d'Or, has won everything in the club game with Barcelona several times over but his international trophy cabinet looks bare in comparison. "The only goal I have now is to win the World Cup with the national team," he has said. The closest he has come so far was as losing finalist against Germany in 2014. Thursday's clash with Ecuador gives him the chance to start building towards one last tilt at that goal. — AFP

Hero riders in top 15 after Stage 1

Villamartin, Spain: Hero MotoSports Team Rally has started their first campaign of the season on a positive note with all three riders delivering decent performances in the first stage of the Andalucia Rally. Joaquim Rodrigues made an impressive start to maintain pace throughout the stage, finishing just outside the top 10, at 11th place. Sebastian Buhler wasn't too far behind from his mentor and finished the stage in the 15th place. Indian ace C. S. Santosh brought the stage home with a 23rd place finish. The first full stage of the Rally kicked-off from the Rally Headquarters at Villamartin, covering 59 kms in liaison to reach the start line near the town of Moron De La Frontera. The special stage of 258 km exposed the competitors to almost all types of terrains, including technical sections, sand, open tracks, narrow piste and even vegetation.

Honda revs up for triple-header

Portimao, France: A week of rest followed by a test in Portimao and the penultimate triple-header of the year begins with the closing stages of the MotoGP season for a determined Repsol Honda Team. The Repsol Honda Team begin another focused push for the penultimate triple-header of the unique MotoGP World Championship — a week in Le Mans, France will be followed by two races in Aragon, Spain. Weather at the French circuit could produce some of the most difficult conditions of the season so far. Last year Marc Marquez raced to victory at the historic French track, claiming Honda's 300th premier class win as a result. In 2019, the 4.2-kilometres long Le Mans circuit saw Alex Marquez take the first of his five wins on his way to the Moto2 World Championship title. The aim of the weekend is to capture the form the MotoGP rookie showed in Misano and at the start of the Barcelona weekend. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1

TENNIS: French Open: Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

FOOTBALL: Euro Qualifiers: Georgia vs Belarus from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; Iceland vs Romania from 12.15 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 3, HD; Slovakia vs Ireland from 12.15 am (Friday) on Sony Six, HD

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES: Sweden vs Russia from 10 pm on Sony Six, HD; England vs Wales from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

KNIGHTS PIN KINGS

KKR ride on Tripathi knock; Chennai misfire yet again

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7: Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in an Indian Premier League match here on 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 enjoyed his promotion to the top with an excellent fifty but Chennai Super Kings bowlers applied the brakes to bundle out Kolkata Knight Riders.

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 called it right at the toss.

At 93 for two at the midway stage, KKR looked set for a big score but Bravo struck after that.

Leg-spinner Karn Sharma (2/25), Shradul Thakur (2/28), Sam Curran (2/26) claimed two wickets each as the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side bounced back in the back 10 by taking eight wickets while giving away just 74 runs.

— PTI

CAPTAIN SMITH PENALISED FOR SLOW RATE

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7: Rajasthan Royals captain Steve Smith has been fined ₹12 lakh for his side's slow-over rate during their Indian Premier League match against Mumbai Indians here.

Rajasthan Royals suffered a 57-run loss to defending champions Mumbai Indians on Tuesday.

Given that this was his team's first offence of the season, Smith was fined ₹12 lakh under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences.

"Rajasthan Royal's Captain Steven Smith has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their IPL match against Mumbai Indians in Abu Dhabi on 6 October 2020," the IPL said in a media statement.

"As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr. Smith was fined ₹12 lakh," it added. — PTI

Taikhoom, Arjun are top paddlers

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 7

Taikhoom Bhanpurwala, Prashanti Prasad and Arjun Nair clinched the children's, women's and men's singles titles respectively in the first Mansarovar Heights Phase I table tennis tournament held at the community club-house's first floor facility recently. Rohit Patnaik and Ashwath Karthikeyan claimed the men's doubles honours.

Telangana state women's paddler Monica Manohar and her Gujarati Seva Mandal (GSM) coach Maduri Venugopal were the chief guests and gave away the prizes.



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

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
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
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	0	2	+0.178

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

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 b 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 0, S. Mavi c Dhoni b Bravo 0, 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:** Deepak Chahar 4-0-47-0, Sam Curran 4-0-25-2, Shardul Thakur 4-0-28-2, Karn Sharma 4-0-25-2, Dwayne Bravo 4-0-37-3.

Chennai Super Kings: Shane Watson lbw b 50, Faf du Plessis c Karthik b S. Mavi 17, A. Rayudu c S. Gill b Nagarkoti 30, M. S. Dhoni 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 wkt 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.

My ailing dad told me to get back to field: Stokes



Ben Stokes of Rajasthan Royals in this file photo.

Daily Mirror.

"And I was able to get on the plane with my parents' love and blessing after we reached the decision, for me to get back playing, as a family with no external influences," he added.

Recalling the conversation he had with his parents in New Zealand, the 2019 Ben said, "My dad was also very strong on the responsibilities I have. He told me I have a duty to do the job that I do and I have a duty as a husband and father as well."

Talking about his current quarantine in the UAE, he said, "Sitting in a hotel room in quarantine once again after leaving New Zealand is not how I thought I would be arriving at the IPL, but here I am and all things considered, I'm in a good place."

— PTI

Phoenix rises



Members of the Phoenix Cricket Academy team pose with Test cricketer G. H. Vihari (centre) after winning the RVM Under 14 Tournament held at Count Down cricket ground at Gandipet in Hyderabad. Phoenix (141 in 30 overs) beat Crick Masters Cricket Academy (123 for 4) by 18 runs in the final.

Bottom placed KXIP face SRH

Dubai, Oct. 7: Their bowling attacks struggling to find form, Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad will look towards their power-hitters 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 better at sixth following two wins and three losses so far.

KXIP's strength has been in a formidable opening duo. Skipper K. L. Rahul has been in scintillating form this year; scoring two fifties and a century, while Mayank Agarwal also has a half-century and a ton to his credit. The two have done the heavy-lifting for the team.

But despite the solid batting performances, KXIP have been unable to win because of their disappointing bowling attack. Apart from Mohammed Shami, all the other bowlers have failed to take wickets.

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-confidence KXIP's bowling unit.

However, the Orange Army was dealt a massive

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

● Matches: 14

● Hyderabad: 10

● Punjab: 4

MEETING IN 2019

● Kings XI Punjab beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Mohali.

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Kings XI Punjab by 45 runs at Hyderabad.

FOR THE RECORD

● Sandeep Sharma who took 97 wickets at an average of 24.21 in 81 innings of as many matches for Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad, needs just three wickets to become the 15th bowler to complete a century of wickets in IPL.

● Lokesh Rahul with 302 runs at an average of 75.50 and a strike rate of 141.78 in four innings is only batsman to cross 300-run mark in this IPL.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

blow when senior paacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was ruled out of the tournament with a thigh muscle injury.

Bhuvneshwar's absence, Sunrisers struggled with their bowling. Apart from T. Natarajan, pacers Sandeep Sharma and Siddarth Kaul leaked runs. Going ahead, there will be added pressure on yorker specialist Natarajan and star spinner Rashid Khan.

Buttler blames it on the top order

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7: Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler admitted that his side's top order has failed to perform in the last three games that has cost them dear in the Indian Premier League so far.

"We lost wickets. Mumbai bowled really well and we never got into our innings. As a batsman, you are always vulnerable early on in your innings and as a top order we didn't manage to counteract the opening bowling well enough to get through that period," he said.

Mumbai, Suryakumar Yadav made a blazing 79 to post a challenging 193 for 4. Buttler praised Yadav for using angles and his crease to perfection. "He played a fantastic innings. We could not quite tie (him) down. He used the angles and his crease really well and he is a fantastic player. We could not execute our plans to him but full credit to him," Buttler said.

"Of course, the power-play is a time you have to take advantage due to the field restrictions, but as players we have not performed but that can happen in T20 cricket, the Englishman added.

Chasing a big target of

INJURED USA PACER ALI KHAN RULED OUT OF IPL

Dubai, Oct. 7: Kolkata Knight Riders fast bowler Ali Khan, who had become the first USA cricketer to be signed by an Indian Premier League franchise, has been ruled out of the tournament due to an injury.

A media advisory from IPL confirmed the Pakistan-born American's injury but did not provide any details. "Khan became the first USA cricketer to be signed up by an IPL franchise. Unfortunately, Khan has since been injured and will miss the rest of the Dream11 IPL 2020 season," the statement read.

KKR had signed the 29-year-old as a replacement for the injured English seamer Harry Gurney ahead of the tournament. Khan was also part of title-winning Trinbago Knight Riders squad in the Caribbean Premier League, played in August-September. He had picked eight wickets in the tournament.

SREENIDHI TIES UP WITH FIRSTPOINT FOR USA SCHOLARSHIPS

Hyderabad, Oct. 7: Sreenidhi International School and Sports Academy has partnered FirstPoint USA to help Hyderabad's young talent get greater access to US scholarship opportunities.

Welcoming the collaboration, Andrew Kean, FirstPoint USA CEO, said: "We are thrilled to be partnering with Sreenidhi and to be providing truly life-changing sports scholarship platforms to young people connected to the school and its sports academy."

"The partnership with FirstPoint USA will open unlimited doors for youngsters to represent prestigious colleges and perhaps turn professional making it a career choice," Tawanda Ryan Matopodzi, Director of Sreenidhi Sports Academy said.



NBA FINALS

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. — AFP

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 three-pointer 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. — AFP

Rafa races ahead

Reaches French Open semifinal for 13th time

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 equaling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 majors.

However, Nadal, more accustomed to the bright sunshine of Mallorca than the autumn chill of a French Open pushed back four months due to the Coronavirus pandemic, was unhappy with organisers who scheduled five matches on the main Court Philippe Chatrier.

"I know footballers play under these conditions, but they are all the time moving. We stop, we come back, we stop on the changeovers. I think this is a little bit dangerous for the body with these very heavy conditions," said Nadal after the latest ever finishing match at the tournament.

Nadal and Sinner only got on court at 10.30 pm after Schwartzman and Thiem had taken five hours to decide their quarterfinal.

They also had to wait for another women's last-eight tie to be completed after two others had kicked off the programme.

The sparse and shivering crowd that greeted them wore thick coats, scarves and hats.



Diego Schwartzman of Argentina returns the ball to Dominic Thiem of Austria during their men's singles quarterfinal at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Tuesday. — AFP

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. **Pre-quarterfinals:** Danielle Collins (USA) bt Ons Jabeur (TUN) x30 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Argentine 12th seed 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), 6-2.

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-a-half 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. — AFP

PROBE INTO MATCH-FIXING AT PARIS GALA

Paris, Oct. 7: The Paris prosecutor's office has opened a police investigation into suspicions of match-fixing at the French Open.

The office said the investigation is being conducted by a French police unit that specializes in betting fraud and match-fixing probes.

German newspaper *Die Welt* and French sports daily *L'Equipe* said there were suspicious betting patterns in the first round of a women's doubles match on Sept. 30.

Played on Court No.10 at Roland Garros, it opposed Romanian players Andreea Mitu and Patricia Maria Tig against Madison Brengle of the United States and Yana Sizikova of Russia.

In the match, Sizikova is broken to love serving in game five of the second set, during which she double faults twice.

According to *Die Welt* and *L'Equipe*, reports, large sums were allegedly placed on the Romanians to win that fifth game across several operators in Paris and from different countries.

Die Welt cited unnamed insiders claiming several hundred thousand euros were bet on the game, and that the fifth game in the second was a focus of the betting, without specifying the betting amount.

The prosecutor's office said probe was opened on Oct. 1, the day after. The police are investigating possible charges of organised fraud and sporting corruption, it said. — AP



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. — AFP

Last lap of empty MCG for Dean Jones farewell

Melbourne, Oct. 7: Former Australia batsman Dean Jones has been farewelled in a poignant final lap of an empty Melbourne Cricket Ground following his sudden death last month.

The casket of Jones, who collapsed and died aged 59, was draped in an Australia flag and carried in a white hearse adorned with flowers spelling "324", his Test cap number and his highest first-class score, achieved at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

● The casket of Jones was draped in an Australia flag and carried in a white hearse adorned with flowers spelling "324", his Test cap number and his highest first-class score, achieved at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

week and can't thank everyone enough for their support and for sharing their memories with us," Jones's widow Jane said in a tribute statement.

"We will forever miss Dean's energy, his zest for life, passion for cricket and his love for us as a family," she added.

The father of two, a colourful and popular char-

acter who played regularly for Victoria and Australia at the MCG, died while working in Mumbai as a commentator for the Indian Premier League.

He played 52 Tests from 1984-1992, amassing 3,631 runs at an average of 46.55, while his 164 one-day internationals yielded 6,068 runs at an average of 44.61.

Known universally as "Deano", and an inspiration for his aggressive batting, Jones was remembered as a fierce competitor whose knockabout demeanour concealed a keen cricketing mind.

At the MAC Stadium in Chennai in 1986 Jones, vomiting and shaking at the crease, defied severe heat and dehydration to score 210 and save Australia's hopes in only the second tied Test in cricket history. — AFP

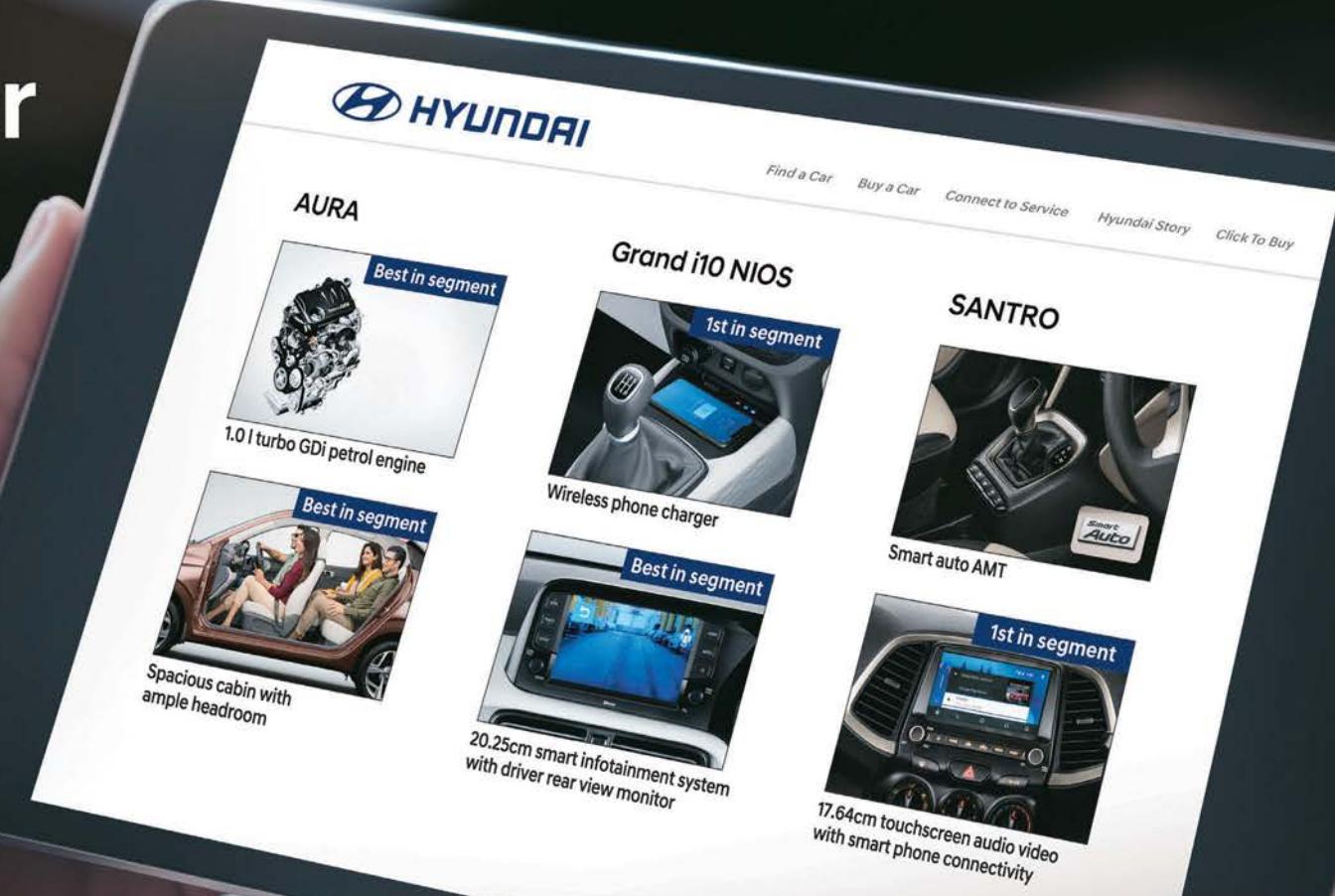
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