


THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 23 OCTOBER 2020

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WEATHER

 **Max:** 32°C
Min: 21°C
RH: 63%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 33/22 °C

COVID-19
COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+51,807)	(+638)
77,56,206	1,17,277
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,579)	(+5)
TS: 2,27,580	1,292
(+3,620)	(+16)
AP: 796,919	6,524

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

 4,18,28,671
DEATHS
11,40,016
 213
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Shuddha Saptami till 6.58 am
Star: Uttarasada till 1.30 am (Saturday)
Varjyam: 9.10 am to 10.48 am; 5.41 am to 7.22 am (Saturday)
Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.19 am; 12.23 pm to 1.09 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 5, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.10 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.12 pm
Maghrib: 5.55 pm
Isha: 7.03 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.11 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.49 PM
MOONSET NA
MOONRISE 12.39 PM

COUNTER POINT



Please vote for me... I have less criminal cases than other candidates!

SHORT TAKES

BREACH IN 3 TANKS LED TO MASSIVE LOSS

From Page 1

Breaches to three major tanks coupled with flooding in Musi river resulted in low-level areas being inundated.

Stating that damage to public infrastructure was enormous and the state government had already made a preliminary assessment of the damage, Kumar said that the state government has released ₹550 crore for immediate flood relief. He explained that food packets were supplied to more than two lakh people and one kilogram of bleach and three lakh chlorine tablets were supplied to affected people. He said that 15 sub stations which were submerged were brought into service within 48 hours.

Officials of the irrigation, municipal administration, R&B, GHMC, water board, agriculture, energy and panchayat raj interacted with the central team and gave an overview of the loss incurred in the state.

COPS SEIZE ₹34K FROM DUO IN BETTING RACKET

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

West Zone Task Force busted a cricket betting racket, apprehended two persons, and seized ₹34,500 from them.

On a tipoff, task force sleuths raided a house in Dilawargunj area of Upper Dhoolpet under Mangalhat police station limits and arrested Harpal Singh and Anil Singh. The duo was taking bets over cellphones.

Central team takes stock of flood damages

Residents apprise team members of the agony they suffered for the past 10 days and relief measures

MADDY DEESKHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

A five-member central team, led by Praveen Vasishtha, joint secretary, inspected various flood-affected areas in the city to assess the damage caused at Falaknura road over-bridge (RoB), Al-Jubail colony, Ghazi Millat colony, Kandikal gate main road and Hafeez Baba nagar.

The teams visited all submerged colonies, houses, inspected damaged roads, bridges, breached lakes and examined restoration work. Breaches to three major tanks coupled with flooding in Musi river resulted in the low-level areas being inundated, officials told the central team. The state government had already made a preliminary assessment and the loss to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is estimated at around ₹567 crore.



The five-member team from Delhi assesses the damage caused due to floods in the city on Thursday. The team visited many of the affected areas including Al-Jubail Colony in Falaknura which was submerged.

During their visit near the damaged RoB at Chandrayagutta, the team inspected restoration work at the bridge, debris piled in the nalas and its

removal. The teams were shocked to see the water entering into the first floor of several houses and residents still under submergence.

They interacted with the

residents who explained the horror they have suffered for the past 10 days.

They said that the houses and walls of structures were weakened due to the presence of water for over

a week. GHMC commissioner, Lokesh Kumar, along with chief engineer, Mohammed Ziauddin, informed the team about the RoB which got damaged.

The officials said that the Palle Cheruvu was breached and due to heavy inflows from the lake, the carriage nala, which is only seven metres, overflowed and water entered in to Al-Jubail colony, Ghazi Millat colony and other areas, leading to submergence and causing major damage in the area. The central teams also inspected damages caused to properties, household articles, roads and storm water drains.

The team visited Kandikal gate, inspected restoration work in nalas and at Phoolbagh, Chandrayagutta and interacted with flood-affected victims, while Hyderabad MP, Asaduddin

Owaisi, apprised them of the extent of damage and requested the centre to release more funds to take up relief work.

The team visited Balapur, Hafeez Baba nagar, where due to the breach of Palle Cheruvu and Gurram Cheruvu, water from Balapur Cheruvu overflowed, houses were inundated and compound walls collapsed.

Vasishtha suggested taking up strengthening the lakes as a permanent solution.

GHMC officials apprised the team that Hafeez Baba nagar was inundated due to the breach of Gurram Cheruvu, water flow was three-four metres above road level and silt accumulated upto 1-1.5 mts. GHMC officials said that 171 JCBs, 627 tractors and 30 tippers are engaged to clear the debris and silt.

The team visited Gurram Cheruvu where the breach

occurred and inspected temporary repair work. Irrigation engineers at the spot apprised them of the precautionary measures taken for uninterrupted supply of drinking water and as per recommendations of the central vigilance wing restoration works will be taken up.

Kumar informed the team that due to the breach to Pallecheruvu and incessant rains, flood water entered Balapur, Hafeezbabanagar areas and with the efforts of official machinery after three days of the central vigilance wing restoration works.

The team visited Appacheruvu, the nala at Gaganpahad and inspected breach restoration work. With the breach to Appacheruvu and flood in the nala, many houses in Gaganpahad were inundated and many vehicles washed away.

Floods and aftermath



Over 2,000 houses downstream of Osmansagar got inundated as the reservoir reached its full capacity following inflows from upstream, in Hyderabad on Thursday.



With drainages blocked due to overflowing of floodwater, pedestrians walk in the middle of the road in Punjagutta on Thursday. — R. PAVAN

MoS G. Kishan Reddy interacts with the flood-hit people in Mettuguda area on Thursday. He also toured other areas in Secunderabad — DEEPAK



Sadhu Vaswani mission joins flood relief activities

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Relief operations still continue for the flood-affected in several areas of Hyderabad.

Sadhu Vaswani mission wanted to support the victims whose houses have been devastated by the floods. On Wednesday, they supplied a thousand lunch boxes in the Rasoolpur flood-affected area. As per requirement, they will be continuing it further. Grocery kits consisting of 10kgs rice, five kgs wheat, two kgs cooking oil, one kg sugar, tea powder, chilli powder, turmeric and salt were also distributed.

Mission secretary, Heera

REGULAR ACTIVITIES of the mission involve 'safedposh' (white collar). Senior citizens in need of supplies and underprivileged are in the same boat. The mission each month gives such people a cash voucher of ₹1,000 so that they can buy medicines or any personal requirements.

Rupani, said that from Friday onwards the distributions will take place in the areas of Rasoolpura, Chandrayagutta, Nimboliadda, Bhramanvadi, Chedarghat and a few other areas.

The mission was found-

ed by J.P. Vaswani, soon after the independence and took up the challenge to educate the underprivileged. Other focus areas are charity and health care.

Regular activities of the mission involve 'safedposh' (white collar). Senior citizens in need of supplies as well some underprivileged who are in the same boat.

The mission each month gives such people a cash voucher of ₹1000 so that they can buy medicines or any personal requirements.

The Sadhu Vaswani international school, run by the mission, has 400 underprivileged students who are given free education.

Asad appraises team of damages

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday apprised the Centre-deputed inter-ministerial team that was in town to assess the damages due to incessant rain and inundation in Hyderabad.

The team, headed by

Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs Praveen Vasishtha, visited Hafiz Baba Nagar, one of the worst hit areas in Old City. Owaisi gave all the details about the areas that were badly affected following floods and the causes that led to inundation and damages. He informed them that

many families had lost their entire household articles.

The team includes R B Kaul from Finance Ministry, K Manoharan from the Agriculture Ministry, S K Kushawaha from Road Transport and Highways and M Raghuram from Water Resources Ministry.

TS tells HC steps taken to prevent illegal plots

VUJINI
VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Defending its stand on prohibiting registrations of unauthorised plots and layouts in the state, the Telangana government submitted to the High Court that it took this decision to prevent developers from coming up with unauthorised plots in the future.

Arvind Kumar, principal secretary of the municipal administration and urban development department, explained the reasons why the government prohibit-

ed the registrations of unapproved plots or buildings and did not grant building permissions on unapproved plots.

Kumar filed the affidavit on behalf of the government, which is respondent in the PIL filed by Congress party MP, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, who challenged the GO for LRS 2020 and stopped the registrations.

The government said that the LRS scheme had been implemented several times earlier for solving the problem of common people who unknowingly

bought plots in unauthorised layouts. But taking advantage of this, some developers continue to build on unapproved layouts and plots. To put the stop to this practice, the government has taken a decision to prohibit registrations of plots that did not have authorisation, Kumar said in the affidavit.

Explaining the introduction of LRS, 2020, the government said that it was to facilitate the implementation of the master plan and improve the circulation of patterned roads etc.

Govt teachers, pensioners fume over 1-day salary cut

HARLEEN
MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Aikya Vedika, a teachers' forum, has expressed outrage against the state government's announcement of one-day wage donation from government teachers and pensioners, in the name of JAC. The union said that no consent of the employees was taken before the decision was made.

Government employees have argued that a JAC does not exist in the state. They claim that all that

exists is an Aikya Vedika of employees, teachers, pensioners, public sector and contract employees. The statement by leaders of some unions without consulting Aikya Vedika is invalid, they said.

Ch Ravi, General Secretary, TSUTE, said that based on a letter by just some representatives, the state government cannot forcibly cut wages. They further added that anyone wishing to make a donation in response to the call by the Chief Minister can voluntarily send it to CMRF. In fact, a lot of gov-

ernment employees are already making donations voluntarily towards flood relief, he said.

The Aikya Vedika Steering Committee has written to the Chief Secretary and to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Finance seeking to direct the DDOs to impose a one-day pay cut, only with the consent of the employees, teachers and pensioners. The letter was signed by representatives of the Pensioners' JAC, Employees union representatives, and USPC.

MINISTER TELLS STATE TO TAKE TOUGH DECISIONS

From Page 1

Saying that strict measures should be taken to prevent the capture of rivers, lakes and ponds in Hyderabad, Reddy said that the state government should hold a meeting with all political parties and experts and take tough decisions.

In a separate video message, Reddy has appealed for safe and proper celebration of Dasara and Navratr. "As we are all aware, we are living in unusual times imposed by Covid-19. As we continue to fight this pandemic and save millions of lives, it is important to for all of us to be mindful of the existing Covid-19 norms and safety protocols. The annual Bathukamma utsaval celebrated in Amberpet is an event that I look forward to every year, to join my constituents in all the festivities," said Reddy.

However, due to the restrictions on the assembly of persons, social distancing norms, and other hygiene protocols in effect, the celebrations of Bathukamma at Amberpet grounds will not be celebrated this year in the interest of public safety and health. Wishing everyone a joyful and blissful Bathukamma at their respective homes, Reddy said, "I hope that all of us get together to have a glorious celebration next Dasara, in the midst of great culturally vibrant events and colourful flowers that form the Bathukamma."

TRAGIC | END

Kidnapper was afraid of getting caught, strangled boy, burnt his body

Kidnapped 9-year-old Warangal boy murdered

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 22

The mystery of the missing nine-year-old boy, Kusuma Deekshith Reddy, came to an end on a heart-rending note after his charred remains were found by the Mahbubabad police on the Danamaiah gutta on the outskirts of Mahbubabad town.

The deceased is the son of a local TV journalist, Ranjith Reddy, who works for a vernacular news channel and Vasantha, currently residing in Krishna colony.

Revealing the identity of the kidnapper, superintendent of police N. Koti Reddy said Deekshith was picked up by Manda Sagar (23), who was Reddy's neighbour in his native vil-

lage, Shanigapuram.

According to the SP, on October 18, Deekshith was playing outside his house in the evening when Sagar went up to the boy and asked him to get on his bike on some pretext.

Being acquainted with Sagar, whom Deekshith used to see during his visits to his grandmother's house in Shanigapuram, the boy agreed to go with him.

Sagar took him to the outskirts of the town where he hid the boy after sedating him. He later made the ransom call to the boy's mother through an internet call.

However, being afraid that he might be caught and unable to handle the boy alone, Sagar strangled him first before burning his body with petrol on the

same day.

Meanwhile, he continued contacting the family through internet calls for the ransom. He demanded the money be brought to Mudukotla area on Wednesday afternoon.

Hoping to bring back their child home again, Ranjith and Vasantha took the money to the said area, even as the police monitored them from the surroundings.

When the accused demanded to see the cash through skype video call, his phone number was revealed and he was traced.

About 30 suspects were interrogated in the case and roped by task force teams from Warangal and Hyderabad, apart from the cybercrime teams.

SKYPE CALL REVEALED KIDNAPPER'S IDENTITY

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, OCT. 22

Manda Sagar, who kidnapped nine-year-old, Kusuma Deekshith Reddy, for ransom, used high-tech mobile applications and evaded being seen by CCTV cameras while carrying out his crime.

Mahbubabad superintendent of police, N. Koti Reddy, said the accused prepared a plan, conducted a reconnaissance of the locality and marked a route map which did not have CCTV cameras. He made internet calls to keep his identity hidden from the police. The VPN call shows the location of the person as else-

THE SKYPE account being associated with his mobile number made it easy for the police to locate him and take him into custody.

HE CONFESSED to his crime and revealed the details and also the location of the dead child's body.

where, in another country. As a result, the police were unable to find him. Despite using the services of the cybercrime police, the accused could not be found for four days even after he called the boy's family 14 times.

However, when he demanded that the parents bring the ransom amount to Mudukotla area on Wednesday afternoon, he did not turn up.

He called them again by evening and wanted to see the cash through skype video call for confirmation. The skype account being associated with his mobile number made it easy for the police to locate him and take him into custody.

He confessed to his crime and revealed the details and also the location of the dead child's body.

The devastated family conducted the child's final rites at Shanigapuram on Thursday evening.

IN BRIEF

UoH faculty is
INSA Fellow

Hyderabad: A faculty in the Centre for Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Hyderabad (UoH), Prof. M. Jayananda, have been elected as a Fellow of Indian National Science Academy (INSA) for his outstanding contributions on early earth dynamics Prof. Jayananda focused on research with a novel multidisciplinary approach involving field based strain fabrics analysis, geochronology, elemental and isotope tracers.

Cops bust IPL
betting racket

Hyderabad: South Zone Task Force, along with Mircholk police, busted a cricket betting racket and apprehended three persons besides seizing ₹73,000 from their possession. The accused have been identified as Syed Qasim Ul Haq, Gulam Hasan Khan and Md Arif. The Prime accused Hursh and collection agent Syed Waqar are absconding. The operation took place during the match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers.

KUDA turns blind eye to
Hilltop's illegal layout

Residents say despite injunction order cops not helping

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
WARANGAL, OCT. 22

Hilltop Developers, a realty firm, has succeeded twice in getting its layout plan processed by government authorities despite alleged manipulation of boundaries and encroachment of government as well as neighbour's land on the outskirts of the fort city. The firm had initially secured approval for the layout which included government land in Sy No. 120A and 120B of Chintagattu village. Following complaints of encroachment of government land, the developer redesigned the layout and submitted it to the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority for approval. "In the first instance, the developer encroached 18 acres of our land along with the government land and as per

the redesigned layout, we are losing 22 acres," said B. Suman Reddy, a native of Warangal. We are running from pillar to post to protect our land but neither the revenue, KUDA nor the police has come to our rescue despite an injunction order from the court, he added.

Then Warangal (urban) Revenue Divisional Officer K. Venka Reddy accorded Non-Agricultural Lands Assessment (NALA) certificate (permitting conversion of agricultural land to non-agriculture purpose) to other landowners who entered into a development agreement with Hilltop Developers.

The KUDA sanctioned the layout plan. However, there were complaints against the RDO for failing to protect government land which was declared as

agriculture surplus way back in 1976.

The RDO realised his mistake and cancelled the previous permission.

But, using the same set of registration documents, the landowners reapplied for NALA and the same RDO issued a fresh permission. "The boundaries declared by the landowners themselves in the property schedule of the registered documents do not match with the map shown in the NALA certificate and the proposed layout," said Suman Reddy.

The KUDA finds it convenient to take shelter under the permission accorded by revenue authorities. "We are processing the application of Hilltop. We merely go by NALA permission given by the RDO," said E. Ajit Reddy, planning officer, when asked

about the discrepancies in the boundaries, though he is equally responsible to verify the correctness of the boundaries.

When contacted O. Narasimha Reddy, a partner in Hilltop, denied allegations of encroaching into Suman Reddy's land or use of political clout to obtain permissions erroneously.

"The RDO cancelled previous permissions and after a thorough survey showed our part of land and issued the NALA certificate afresh. A latest report by the RDO also states that NALA certificates were issued based on the physical possession of the landowners. How are we, as developers, responsible for the mismatch of boundaries when the revenue and municipal authorities finalised them," he questioned.

TS REGISTERS
1,456 NEW
COVID CASES,
FIVE DEATHSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Due to festive season and declining trend of Coronavirus in Telangana state health authorities have in the latest round tested only 38,565 samples for the virus. 1,456 of these samples turned out to be positive.

With this, the total number of Covid-19 positive cases in the state has reached 2,27,580. There have been five new deaths, which has taken the death toll in TS to 1,292. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation reported 254 new cases. Ranga Reddy and Medchal Malkajgiri had 98 cases.

Rural areas are seeing a decline in the number of new cases.

There are 20,183 active Coronavirus patients in the state of whom 16,977 are being treated at home or are in institutional isolation. The total number of recovered patients in TS has reached 2,06,105.

CCMB'S CORONAIID TO BOOST IMMUNITY

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

In a major fillip to the fight against the dreaded Coronavirus, a city-based start-up incubated at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has developed a novel nutraceutical which, they claim, will boost immunity.

The start-up, Clone Deals, incubated at Atal incubation centre-CCMB (AIC-

CCMB), has developed 'CoronAid', a food supplement made from a mushroom (Cordyceps militaris) that grows in the Himalayan region and is known for its immune-boosting and anti-oxidant components.

With the results of the clinical trials, the product is expected to be available from December 2020 in most cities and towns in the country.

Enforce wearing of
masks, says TSFCCDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Ensuring strict regulation in terms of use of masks in public places will be the top priority, was an assurance given by health minister Etala Rajender to members of the Telangana State Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Trade (TSFCC) here on Thursday. Many members expressed concern as masks are not being used in public places. They urged the minister to toughen their stand against such protocol violators.

Prakash Ammanabolu, president of TSFCC said, "Senior doctors have recommended that proper use of masks is a good prevention against SARS-Cov 2. We are seeing a lapse in the protocol and urge the government to take strict action against those who violate the protocols."

Rajender said that in the last six months, the govern-



Prakash Ammanabolu

ment has been successful in keeping the infection rate low and the fatality rate was 0.56 per cent. They are working hard to spread awareness among the people, he said.

There are continuous online awareness programmes with different community groups, trade bodies and others urging them not to be off-guard during the festive season. People must also follow the protocols for hygiene and cough.

Fracture patients
delay their treatmentKANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

More than 50 per cent of people who suffered from fractures since the Covid-19 lockdown have come late to hospitals leading to complications and mortality stated experts. The delay has been due to a fear of Covid and now they are coming to hospitals with severe conditions.

Most of these cases are of people above 50 years of age. Sudden falls due to fragility, imbalance, slippery floors, neurological and hormonal problems leading to dizziness or partial blackout for a few seconds have caused the trauma.

Many experts state that there was data with regard to who suffered deaths at home. Even emergency care is being postponed without

realizing the consequences.

Dr Sree Sowjanya Patibandla, consultant emergency medicine physician at Continental Hospitals, says, "Due to delay there is a significantly higher mortality rate in elderly patients with fractures. Delay is also leading to permanent disability in them as they do not recover due to their age."

Elderly patients with fractures and medical comorbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity and lung problems are found to be severely affected with infections and that reduces their functional ability to improve.

Due to restricted space at home too many senior citizens are having difficulty as they are confined to one place. They cannot walk inside the house and go outside.

Cops trace stolen
₹1 crore worth goldDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

City police have cracked the case of 143 tolas of gold ornaments being stolen from Road No. 3 in Banjara Hills with arrest of four labourers of Nagarkurnool district. Hyderabad city police commissioner Anjani Kumar presented the four — G. Niranjan, P. Balapeer, Ranjit Kumar and M. Venkataiah — before the media on Thursday afternoon. The commissioner said 125 tolas of gold ornaments worth ₹1 crore have been recovered from the four.

Police had received a complaint on October 10 that a bag containing 143 tolas of gold ornaments being carried by a jewellery shop executive on a scooter the previous day had gone missing

when the two-wheeler met with an accident while it was raining heavily at Road No. 3 in Banjara Hills. Apart from gold ornaments, the bag also contained a cellphone.

Investigation was headed by detective inspector Mohd Hafeezuddin with SI G. Bharat Bhushan in the team. The team collected call details of the cellphone and started perusing them. They realised that the mobile phone had been switched on in Jagathgiri on October 12 and switched off immediately. Basing on this information, the team checked out mobile shops in Jagathgiri and traced the mobile phone to four people with the help of CC cameras. On Wednesday, 125 tolas of gold ornaments have been recovered from the possession of accused.

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The Power to Surprise

SHORT TAKES PG STUDENTS SEEK ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Ten private medical colleges in the state have not returned original certificates of postgraduate students for which a petition has been filed with the state human rights commission by Healthcare Association head Dr Mahesh Kumar.

Despite constant reminders by students for their original certificates, there has been no response from the colleges.

Dr Kumar regretted that there has been no response even from the health department. He said that there was no other option but to approach the Commission as these certificates are required for them to start practice.

RGIA CONDUCTS MOCK TERROR OPERATION

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

The Airport Security Group (ASG) of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) organised a full-fledged "Counter terrorist contingency" mock exercise on Wednesday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport around 11 am.

The operation was carried at the western departure ramp of the airport involving key airport stakeholders, apart from Octopus (Telangana Anti-Terrorist Squad) and local police.

Close to 400 personnel from CISF, Octopus, Raxa (GHIAL security), Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), GHIAL security team, terminal operations, Apollo Medical Centre and local police were involved in the high-decibel counter terrorist drill. A mock terror situation was simulated as per SOPs with activation of relevant security protocols, leading to successful neutralising of the mock terrorists. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport comes under India's Hypersensitive Airports.

AP HC PULLS UP SEC ON OFFICIAL RESIDENCE IN HYD

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 22

Andhra Pradesh High Court has pulled up state election commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar for wanting his house in Hyderabad to be declared as his official residence. The court asked whether having two official accommodations in both Vijayawada and Hyderabad was not a waste of public money.

High Court bench headed Justice B. Devanand was hearing a case in this regard on Thursday. Referring to the affidavit filed by the petitioner (state election commissioner) attaching pending bills, the court observed that some bills amounting to ₹40 lakh were related to making arrangements for conduct of polls. That amount had already been released by the state government. The court took note of other pending bills of ₹10 lakh for payment of fees to advocates. When the petitioner informed the High Court that some posts had not been filled up by the state government in the SECo, the court asked for details of the posts. The petitioner said a letter had been written by him asking for appointment of attenders for him at his residence.



TPCC chief and MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy along with other Congress leaders participated in a door-to-door campaigning in Dubbaka on Thursday. — P. ANIL KUMAR

Uttam: Cong win will be a gamechanger

TPCC chief tells Dubbaka voters of failed vows of TRS

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has urged people of Dubbaka to teach a fitting lesson to "incompetent and arrogant TRS government" in the forthcoming by-elections in the assembly constituency.

Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with former ministers Damodar Reddy and G. Vinod, apart from other senior lead-

ers, participated in the door-to-door campaigning in Dubbaka town.

He requested voters to realise the importance of their vote and said victory for Congress could change the entire course of politics in Telangana state. He reminded people about the failed promises of TRS and urged them to elect Congress candidate Ch. Srinivas Reddy.

The TPCC chief strongly condemned Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for not taking the required

measures for handling the flood situation in Telangana, especially Hyderabad.

He said despite early warnings of heavy rains from Met Department, no steps were taken to protect lives and property. He pointed out that more than 100 people have died in rain-related incidents so far. However, he said, instead of helping families of those killed due to floods, KCR governments are hand-in-glove in suppressing facts related to floods," he declared.

floods on October 13 and the central government has sent its team today. The situation has changed significantly in last nine days. How would the central government assess the real damages that occurred a week earlier? Further, the central team is visiting only a few select areas and media has been barred from covering its visit. This clearly shows that both TRS and BJP governments are hand-in-glove in suppressing facts related to floods," he declared.

Congress complains to EC against Harish Rao

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Congress party on Thursday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission against Finance Minister T. Harish Rao and sought filing of a bribery case against him.

TPCC election coordination committee chairman Marri Shashidhar Reddy has also written a letter to Chief Election Commissioner in this regard. He mentioned that Minister Harish Rao was offering huge

sums of money to Congress leaders for joining ruling TRS just prior to the elections. He alleged that this is nothing but offering bribe, which is a serious violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

Shashidhar Reddy referred to the video of Thoguta Congress mandal president Laxman Goud joining the TRS in the presence Minister Harish Rao. It has revealed that the minister is offering money, if required, for Congress leaders to join the TRS.

The TPCC election coordinator also referred to the notice of CEC the biased role being played by Siddipet collector and police officers deputed in the Dubbak constituency for the elections. He demanded that the CEC remove the officers immediately for conduct of a free and fair election. Shashidhar Reddy alleged that the state officials have failed in controlling money and liquor distribution in the constituency, which is scheduled to go for bypolls.

BHAGWAT RELEASES POSTER OF FILM ON WOMEN

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

In keeping with the mass appeal of cinema and short films, Rachakonda Commission-erate collaborated with a short filmmaker to produce 'Ammay', which deals with problems faced by women and the societal risk they are

confronted with in order to educate women on how to handle such situations.

Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat released the poster of 'Ammay' a short film directed by R. Shashank, which shows how women should react when they face unexpected situations, attacks from people and sexual

harassments. After the launch the commissioner stated that Rachakonda police is conducting Kalari Payattu (self-defense art) for girls under a student-police cadet program. The main purpose is that every woman should become her first weapon for protecting herself before help from police or society.



Nayani Narasimha Reddy

Nayani cremated with state honours

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT 22

Noted trade unionist, mass leader and former home minister, Nayani Narasimha Reddy, passed away at a private hospital in the late night of Wednesday, following a prolonged illness. He was 80. He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

Reddy suffered from pneumonia and other health complications after recovering from Covid-19 about three weeks ago. According to Apollo hospitals, Reddy passed away at 12.25 am. He was admitted a week ago for post-Covid-19 complications with extensive lung damage.

The first home minister of Telangana after its formation, Reddy was born to a farmer couple in Neredugummu of Devarakonda mandal in erstwhile Nalgonda district. Ins-

pired by his father, Deva Reddy, an active member of the socialist party founded by Ram Manohar Lohia, Reddy also joined the party after completing his HSC in 1958 and took part in various agitations.

Deva Reddy was shot dead during the police action for the merger of Hyderabad state with the Indian Union in 1948. His son started off as a labour union leader in VST industries. He continued as honorary president of Hindu Mazdoor Sangh.

Active part of the separate Telangana movement between 1969 and 1971, Reddy was imprisoned several times during this period. He also fought against the Emergency imposed in 1975 and was jailed for nearly one-and-a-half years.

After Emergency, Reddy joined the Janata party and in 1978 elections, he

got elected to the state assembly from Musheerabad, a constituency he went on to represent thrice. He also served as the member of legislative council (MLC) from the Governor's quota whose term expired in April this year.

Continuing in the Janata party till 1999, Reddy then joined the Telugu Desam and was active in the second spell of the separate Telangana movement led by current Chief Minister,

K. Chandrashekar Rao, in 2001. Reddy was one of the founding members of TRS in 2001 and since the launch of TRS, he has been a close associate of Rao's. He continued in the TRS politburo till his last breath. When TRS entered into an alliance with Congress in the 2004 Assembly elections, he served as the minister for technical education in Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy's cabinet. Reddy became the first home minister in the newly formed TS in Rao's cabinet and remained in the post till the 2018.

Rao, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, TPCC president, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and BJP state president, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, ministers and leaders of political parties condoled the death of Narsimha Reddy. The last rites of Narasimha Reddy were performed

with state honours at Mahaprasthanam in Jubilee Hills in the afternoon of Thursday. Several ministers, including IT and industries minister, K. T. Rama Rao and leaders of the TRS and other political parties paid tributes.

INTUC national president, G. Sanjeeva Reddy condoling the death of Narasimha Reddy said that he was an incredible fighter for trade unions and had seen a lot of challenges in his life. While conveying his deepest condolences to the bereaved family members, Reddy said that the former home minister spent most of his life for the cause of labour and unionism. He will always be remembered for his trade-mark moustache as well as his unique attire of white dhoti along with a white khadi shirt and a dark half-coat on it and the values he represented.

EASY-TO-LEARN COURSE LAUNCHED BY URDU ACADEMY

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Telangana Urdu Academy is launching an easy-to-learn Urdu language course developed by a group of education and learning experts.

Urdu Academy secretary Dr. Mohammed Ghouse said owing to its linguistic beauty, Urdu is a popular and acceptable language across the world. To propagate it further, the Urdu Academy has taken an initiative to devise a simple language learning course using artificial intelligence.

Dr. Mohammed Ghouse asserted that the course will help anyone learn Urdu within one week. The course can be easily accessed through smartphones, tablets and desktop/laptop computers. The course platform is versatile and uses text, audio, video and quiz formats for easy learning. The course material will be available in PDF format also.

The academy secretary explained that the course is time-bound and delivered in four easy sections.

It contains alphabets and numbers, their shapes and sounds, inflexions, syntax and pronunciation, and understanding of two and three-letter words. The course will be starting on November 2.

● **URDU ACADEMY** secretary Dr. Mohammed Ghouse said owing to its linguistic beauty, Urdu is a popular and acceptable language across the world. To propagate it further, the Urdu Academy has taken an initiative to devise a simple language learning course using artificial intelligence.

Onion prices hit the roof, sell at ₹100 a kg

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Onion prices have shot up to ₹100 per kg in continuation of its steady rise for the past few weeks.

Following the rise, which was noted in the first week of October, shops and grocery stores have increased the prices as also Rythu bazaars, which sell vegetables at wholesale prices. Customers have to buy onion at ₹80 to ₹90 per kg while in some places, the price has risen to ₹100.

SPECIAL TRAINS FOR FEST SEASON

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

To cater to the rush during the festive season, Indian Railways has reportedly decided to hike the fare by 30 percent for special and clone trains until November 30. At

"The wholesale price for onions was ₹72 per kilo at the markets, in private markets it is going up to ₹100. The price has risen because of incessant rainfall, which has destroyed crops. Since onion export has been banned, farmers were leaving them in the storeroom. But, the rainwater entered the storerooms and damaged them as well," said an official of the Agriculture department.

Similarly, even traders attributed the spike in onion prices to a supply crunch from Maharashtra and Karnataka.

least 1,384 trains will be operational during the festive season in the south central region. This was confirmed by SCR CPPO, Ch Rakesh.

These trains will start from the South Central region, pass through it or stop in the region, he said.

OBITUARY

Sri. ALEVOOR V ACHAR
DOB: JAN 08, 1940
DOD: OCT 22, 2020

Formerly Regional Manager, Vijaya Bank Ltd. General Manager, Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd. District Governor 1998-99, ROTARY International, Dist. 3150 Currently Lead Auditor & Lead Tutor with BSI GROUP (India), Hyderabad Text to : 9396221700

Vedavathi Achar (Wife)
Veena Achar (Daughter) and Vinay Achar (Son)
Murthy and Sneha

OBITUARY

We regret to inform the demise of Sri M. Krishna Reddy Garu (Former Director of Town & Country Planning) on 21-10-2020. Inserted by: Family Members

INTEGAAL PURMALAL

12/01/1938 - 22/10/2020

Alhaj Professor **Dr. SHAMSHAD HUSSAIN** S/O. Haji Mustafa Husain Passed away peacefully on 22/10/2020

Deeply mourned by:
Dr. Behjat Hussain (Son)
Ms. Rabab Fatima (Daughter-in-law)
Ms. Mirwat Hussain (Daughter)
Mr. Nabeel Hussain (Son-in-law)
Mr. Iftekhar Hussain Family & Relatives
Pray for the departed soul to rest in everlasting peace

MEMORIAL SERVICE

...Served God's Purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep, Acts 13:36

Late. DASARI JOHN PURUSHOTHAM
D.O.B : 28-11-1942 D.O.D : 16-10-2020
S/o. Late Rev. D.P. John, Pastor, Agapally
A Fountain Head of Knowledge and Source of Inspiration. He left behind a rich harvest of memories to Cherish and Honour.
Memorial Prayer Meeting on 24-10-2020 at 11:30 A.M.
Venue : Baptist Church, Vanasheepuram, B.N.Reddy Colony.
Solely remembered by:
Wife : MARIA ASUNTHA
Daughter & Son-in-law : SNEEBA, CORNELIUS ALETI (USA)
Grand Children : CHRIS, STEVE, JONATHAN, AND DASARI FAMILY MEMBERS
Cont.No. : 8808803555, 9300067043, 9908600560

MISSING YOU FRIEND

KAPARTHI SREENIVAS
Inserted by:
Pippala Veeresh, Chela Vijay, V.Sunder, V.Madhu, P. Bhim Shankar, T. Ganesh, Kotha Ravikanth, V. Praveen.

In Remembrance

Mrs. MAVIS GOVIND
(W/o. Late C.S. Govind)
Retd. Nurse, E.S.I Hospital, Sanathnagar
DOB: 20.03.1934 DOD 23.05.2019
Son-Daughter-in-law
Grand Children
9985756962, 9849727770

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
On 23-10-2020 DURGAASTHAM!

Late Smt. VEERAMALLA SUGUNA DEVI
DOD: 09-10-2016 (DURGAASTHAM!)

Alwal
"Missing your presence every moment may your blessings be with us."
Still mourning : V.C. Jangalah (Husband)
Daughters, Sons-in-law,
Grand Children and loved ones
Venue: #N.1-16-142, Madhav Nagar, Alwal.

SHRADHANJALI

"A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered"
Om Shanti

Demise of Sri KAPARTHI SRINIVAS
Inserted by: CAPSGOLD, KALASHA FINE JEWELS

OBITUARY

Nilesh Shivji Dharod
1958-2020 (Expired on 22-10-2020)
Wife: Neena, Son: Mayur, Dau. in Law: Sonali
Grand son: Neel Mayur Dharod
Father: Late Shivji Virji Dharod
Mother: Nirmalaben Shivji Dharod
Brothers: Deepak, Nitin, Girish,
Sisters: Jyoti, Neelam, Brother in law: Amresh,
Sister in law: Manjula, Nisha, Usha
Deepak Transport Agency
Deepak Trans Express

18th ANNIVERSARY

Late BITLA ARUNA
DOB: 10-2-1947 DOD: 23-10-2002
You always remain in our hearts

Inserted by:
Bittla Narsing Raj (Husband)
Sons - Daughters-in-law
Daughter - Son-in-law
and Grand Children.
Plot No. 27, Krishna Nagar Colony,
Picket, Sec'bad. Ph: 9391023075

22nd Death Anniversary

"In Loving Memory"
I will dwell in the house of the lord forever PS:23:6

Rev. Dr. EKELI ANANDAM
D.O.B.: 15-7-1949 D.O.D.: 23-10-1998
"You are always live in our hearts"
Inserted by: Stella - Wife
K. Solomon Raj & Julie (Son-in-Law & Daughter)
Jessica, Jayne (Grand Daughters)
E.Joe Vincent & Hepsiba (Son & Daughter-in-Law)
Joyce, Jenny (Grand Daughters)
Late E. Jason (Younger Son)
Saritha (Daughter-in-Law)
Aaron, Asher (Grandsons)

SHORT TAKES

ANTI-TANK MISSILE
'INS KAVARATTI'
COMMISSIONEDDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The indigenously built anti-submarine warfare (ASW) stealth corvette "INS Kavaratti" was on Thursday commissioned into the Indian Navy by Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane at a ceremony held at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

Having completed sea trials of all her equipment, Kavaratti has been commissioned as a fully combat-ready platform providing a boost to the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy.

INS Kavaratti is the last of the four ASW Corvettes, indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The ship has upto 90 per cent indigenous content.

INS Kavaratti is manned by a team comprising 12 officers and 134 sailors with Commander Sandeep Singh at the helm as her first Commanding Officer. The ship would be an integral part of the Eastern Fleet under the Eastern Naval Command.

The ship is propelled by four diesel engines. It has state of the art equipment and systems to fight in nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) warfare conditions. The weapons and sensors suite onboard is predominantly indigenous and showcases the nation's evolving capability in this niche area. Some of the major systems developed indigenously include combat management system, torpedo tube launchers and Infra-Red Signature Suppression System among others. In addition to its anti-submarine warfare capability, the ship also has a credible self defence capability and good endurance for long-range deployments.

The ship has enhanced stealth features resulting in reduced Radar Cross Section (RCS), which make her less susceptible to detection by the enemy.

Kavaratti takes her name from erstwhile INS Kavaratti which was an Arnala class missile corvette. The older Kavaratti distinguished herself by operating in support of was Bangladesh's liberation in 1971.

PROHIBITORY
ORDERS TO STOP
PUJA GATHERINGAKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHAWANIPATNA, OCT. 22

The Odisha government on Thursday decided to clamp prohibitory orders under Section 144 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) at Bhawanipatna in Odisha's Kalahandi district to prohibit large public gatherings during the season of Durga Puja and Chhatar Jatra of Maa Manikeshwari and related pre and post rituals.

The decision was taken on Thursday to ensure strict implementation of the Covid-19 guidelines and avoid large congregations in the town, informed Kalahandi district collector Gavali Parag Harshad.

The administration also issued necessary guidelines to be followed during the festival to contain the spread of Coronavirus and ensure the safety of life of the general public.

An order issued in this regard mentioned that the prohibitory orders will remain in force from October 22 (midnight) till October 25 (midnight) to restrict the movement of the people.

BJP vows free Covid vaccine
for all in Bihar, 19 lakh jobs

Manifesto titled '5 sutras, 1 lakshya, 11 sankalp' unveiled by Nirmala Sitharaman

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 22

The BJP on Thursday promised free Coronavirus vaccine and 19 lakh jobs for youth in its manifesto for the Bihar Assembly elections. The manifesto titled '5 sutras, 1 Lakshya, 11 Sankalp' (5 sutras, one goal, 11 resolution) was unveiled by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Patna.

"Bihar has set an example in its fight against Covid-19 pandemic. It is our resolve that as soon as the Coronavirus vaccine will be available after the approval by ICMR, we will provide free vaccination for people of Bihar", the BJP manifesto released on Thursday said.

The announcement has triggered a political row in the state ahead of polls as the Opposition coalition feels that the BJP is politicising the Covid-19 pandemic for electoral gains. The RJD leaders in Patna said that "the vaccine is for the entire nation and it should not be used as a political tool for winning elections".

Political analysts feel that the 19 lakh job announcement by the BJP could also be an attempt to divert public attention from RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav who has been holding the NDA responsible for unemployment in the state and also recently announced around 10 lakh government jobs for youth after winning the election.

Talking about the issue, BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal said, "Those who are making big announcements before the polls will start thinking about their families once they are in power." The manifesto was released a day before Prime Minister Narendra



Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav addresses an election campaign rally in Kaimur district on Thursday, ahead of Bihar Assembly polls.

— PTI

Modi is to begin his election campaign in Bihar.

The BJP also talks about turning Bihar into an IT hub, providing higher technical education including Engineering and Medical in Hindi to ensure that a large section of students benefits from the National Education Policy, better and stronger industrial base and making around one crore women self-reliant in the next five years if the NDA is voted to power.

"People of Bihar are politically sensitive and well informed. They are well aware and understand the promises political parties make. If anyone raises questions about our party's manifesto, we can answer them with confidence as we have fulfilled what we promised," Nirmala said.

Poll fever set to rise further with
Modi, Rahul campaigning today

Patna, Oct. 22: The political temperature in Bihar is set to go up substantially as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi take a direct plunge in electioneering on Friday, addressing a series of rallies for their respective alliances in the state.

Prime Minister Modi will address three rallies — at Dehri-on Sone (Rohtas district), Gaya and Bhagalpur — to seek support for NDA nominees for different Assembly constituencies going to vote in the first phase on October 28.

According to BJP sources and reports from the districts on Thursday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will join Modi at the rallies in Dehri and Bhagalpur. In Gaya, JD(U) leader in the Lok Sabha Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lallan will share the dais with Modi along with former chief minister and president of Hindustani Awam Morcha Jitan Ram Manjhi.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is also slated to launch his campaign in Bihar elections on Friday. He will address two ral-

lies Friday — at Hisua in Nawada and Kahalgau in Bhagalpur district.

Sources in the Congress as well as in the RJD said that Tejashwi Yadav, the chief ministerial face of the Mahagathbandhan, will join Gandhi at Hisua, where Congress nominee Neetu Singh is taking on sitting BJP MLA Anil Singh. In Kahalgau, Rahul Gandhi will be accompanied by Shaktisinh Gohil and other senior party leaders, besides some district-level office bearers and candidates of the coalition partners. — PTI

Active cases in
India below 10%DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 22

The trend of steady decline in active cases in India continues as active cases are now below 10 per cent of the total cases for the last three days suggesting only 1 in 10 cases are active Covid-19 patients across the country. Presently, the active cases comprise 9.29 per cent of the total positive cases of the country that stands at 7.16 lakh.

The overall cases in India reached 77.07 lakh out of which 55,839 cases were detected in the last 24 hours. With 702 new fatalities, the total number of deaths in India are over 1.16 lakh.

According to Union health ministry, the daily Positivity Rate has also been less than five per cent over the past three days indicating that the spread of infection is being effectively contained. The daily Positivity Rate on Thursday was 3.8 per cent. Officials said the decrease in the daily positivity rate is simultaneously mapped by the falling active cases, which continue to be under 7.5 lakh on Thursday.

The total recovered cases are close to 69 lakhs and the difference between active cases and recovered cases is consistently increasing and stands at 61.59 lakh. In the last 24 hours, 79,415 patients recovered taking the national Recovery Rate to 89.20 per cent.

TN CM ASSURES
FREE VACCINE
TO ALL IN STATE

Pudukottai (TN), Oct. 22: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami on Thursday assured free immunisation against Coronavirus for all sections of people in the state as soon as a vaccine is made available.

"I would like to announce that as soon as the vaccine is developed (and made available to states) all people in Tamil Nadu will be immunised and the government shall bear the cost," he said here during an official visit.

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan has last week said India is expected to have a Covid-19 vaccine in a few months and the country should be in the process of delivering it to people in the next six months. — PTI

PM REMAINED MUM ON MANY ISSUES
BUT SPEECH WAS 'CRISP': SHIV SENA

Pune, Oct. 22: Taking a swipe at PM Narendra Modi over his address to the country, Shiv Sena mouthpiece *Saamana* said on Thursday that he remained silent on major issues, but it was "one of the best speeches" made in the last few months.

There was nothing to dislike in Modi's Tuesday's address, and the PM had a "radiant glow" on his face which will rid the

country of its problems, the editorial in the Marathi daily said in a sarcastic tone. "What did Modi tell the countrymen through his address? What was new? Did he give any assurance to the flood-hit people in Maharashtra? Which monetary package was announced? All such criticism can be directed at the speech, however, the speech was short and effective," it said. — PTI

Twitter puts Leh
in China, India
warns network

New Delhi, Oct. 22: India has warned Twitter over its location setting that showed Leh in China, saying any disrespect of the country's sovereignty and integrity is totally unacceptable.

In a strongly-worded letter, Ajay Sawhney, secretary in the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY), asked Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey to respect the country's sensitivities, sources in the ministry said.

Twitter came under heavy criticism and faced backlash from social media users after its geotagging feature displayed "Jammu & Kashmir, People's Republic of China" in a live broadcast from Leh's Hall of Fame, a war memorial for fallen soldiers in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

This triggered angry responses from netizens who demanded that stringent action be initiated against the micro-blogging platform. Twitter, earlier this week, called it a technical

issue which has been swiftly resolved.

Sources said Sawhney, in the letter sent on Wednesday, warned Twitter that any attempt to undermine the sovereignty and integrity of India will not just bring disrepute to the micro-blogging site but also raise questions about its neutrality and fairness as an intermediary.

Conveying strong disapproval of the government over misrepresentation of the map of India, Sawhney in his letter reminded Twitter that Leh is the headquarter of the Union Territory of Ladakh. And that both Ladakh as well as Jammu and Kashmir are integral and inalienable parts of India, governed by the Constitution of India. The government has asked Twitter to respect the sensitivities of Indian citizens and made it clear that any attempt by it to disrespect the sovereignty and integrity of India is totally unacceptable and unlawful. — PTI

SHIVRAJ TO
MOVE SC OVER
VIRTUAL RALLIESRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 22

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday cancelled his two poll meetings, scheduled to be held in Ashok Nagar district in the state, in the wake of restrictions imposed on election rallies by a local court in view of the pandemic.

Chouhan who had announced to challenge the directive by Gwalior bench of the MP High Court to nine district collectors in the state not to allow candidates or political parties to hold election rallies without compelling reasons, was scheduled to attend public meetings in Shadora and Bhandar in Ashok Nagar district ahead of the November 3 by-elections. "We will challenge the court's directive in the SC. A bizarre situation has emerged following the court order. In some parts of MP election rallies are allowed, while in some other parts they are not allowed. Even in Bihar, rallies and public meetings are held. There cannot be two laws in one land," he said.

Navy's 1st batch of women pilots
'operationalised' on DorniersRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, OCT. 22

The first batch of women pilots of the Indian Navy has been operationalised on Dornier aircraft by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi. They are Lieutenant Divya Sharma from Malviya Nagar in New Delhi, Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop from Tilhar in Uttar Pradesh and Lieutenant Shivangi from Muzaffarpur in Bihar.

The three women pilots were part of the six pilots of the 27th Dornier Operational Flying



From left- Indian Navy pilots Lt Shivangi, Lt Shubhangi Swaroop and Lt Divya Sharma who were part of the six pilots of the 27th DOFT Course.

Training (DOFT) Course, who graduated as 'Fully operational Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) Pilots' at a passing out ceremony held at INS Garuda, Kochi on Thursday. She has as NC Chief Staff Officer (Training) Rear

Admiral Antony George presented awards to the pilots who are now fully qualified on Dornier aircraft for all operational missions. These officers had initially undergone basic flying training partly with the IAF and partly

with the Navy prior to the DOFT course. Amongst the three women pilots operationalised for MR flying, Lt Shivangi was the first to qualify as a naval pilot on December 2 last year.

The course comprised of one month of the ground training phase, which was conducted at various professional schools of the SNC and eight months of flying training at the Dornier Squadron of SNC, INAS 550. Lt Divya Sharma & Lt Shivam Pandey were adjudged 'First in Flying' and 'First in Ground' subjects, respectively.

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Cricketer & RBI Employee

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IN BRIEF

London gas explosion: 2 die

London: Two people were killed after a suspected gas explosion that led to a building collapse in Southall, the west London suburb with a large Punjabi-origin Indian diaspora population. The explosion occurred at a hair salon and phone shop underneath a set of flats on Wednesday. Four adults and one child, of Punjabi-origin, were rescued at the rear of the property using a ladder, while several people from nearby homes evacuated the King Street area of Southall as London Fire Brigade worked on the "protracted" incident. The Metropolitan Police said the two people killed in the explosion are yet to be formally identified but some local reports indicate that the victims may be of Indian-origin. "A large explosion was found to have taken place inside a shop. Emergency services entered the building and sadly, two people were pronounced dead at the scene. Formal identification has not taken place."

Indonesia mine landslide: 11 die

Jakarta: Intense rains caused a landslide at a coal mine on Indonesia's Sumatra island that killed 11 miners, authorities said Thursday. The slide occurred Wednesday in a mine tunnel about 20 metres (65 feet) deep at Tanjung Lalang village in Muara Enim district of South Sumatra province, according to National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Raditya Jati. Local rescuers have recovered all the bodies. Seasonal rains and high tides in recent days have caused dozens of landslides and widespread flooding across much of Indonesia, a chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains close to rivers. Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said the area could see light to moderate rainfall for the next three days. Most parts of Indonesia have entered the rainy season this October. In addition, the La Nina phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean can set off intense rainfall across the islands.

Trio who lived on ISS return to Earth

Moscow: A trio of space travellers safely returned to Earth on Thursday after a six-month mission on the International Space Station. The Soyuz MS-16 capsule carrying NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy, and Roscosmos' Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner landed on the steppes of Kazakhstan south-east of the town of Dzhezkazgan at 7:54 a.m. (2:54 GMT) Thursday. After a brief medical checkup, the three will be taken by helicopters to Dzhezkazgan from where they will depart home. Cassidy will board a NASA plane back to Houston, while Vagner and Ivanishin will fly home to Star City, Russia. The crew smiled as they talked to masked members of the recovery team, and NASA and Roscosmos reported that they were in good condition. As part of additional precautions due to the Coronavirus, the rescue team members meeting the crew were tested for the virus.

LTTE DE-LIST MOVE: LANKA LODGES PLEA

Colombo, Oct. 22: Sri Lanka has appealed against a judgement from Britain's Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission, which has delisted the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a proscribed terrorist organisation. A foreign ministry statement issued here said that Sri Lanka has been made aware of the Open Judgement by the Commission on Wednesday. It said the decision of the Commission arises from an appeal filed in May 2019 by an LTTE front organisation challenging the decision of British Secretary of State for Home Affairs dated March 8, 2019, which refused the application by the group to de-proscribe the LTTE from the list of Proscribed Organisations under the UK Terrorism Act of 2000. While Sri Lanka was not a party to these proceedings at the Commission and could not make direct representations, the Lankan Government assisted the British government by providing relevant information with regard to continued terrorist activities.

Iran behind emails to intimidate voters: US

Nat'l intel director says aim was to hurt Don in election

Don mismanaged Covid-19: Obama

Washington, Oct. 22: US officials have accused Iran of being behind a flurry of threatening but fake emails sent to Democratic voters in multiple battleground states in a late-stage efforts to sway public opinion and interfere in the presidential election. Purportedly from far-right, pro-Trump groups like the Proud Boys, the fake emails were apparently aimed at intimidating voters. John Ratcliffe, the government's national intelligence director, said the aim was to hurt President Donald Trump in the contest against Democrat Joe Biden, though he did not elaborate on how. One possibility is the messages may have been intended to align Trump in the minds of voters with the Proud Boys after he was criticised for failing to unequivocally denounce the group during the first presidential debate. The threatening emails officials did not lay out specific evidence for how they came to pinpoint Iran. — *Agencies*

AFTER CHAOTIC DEBATE, TRUMP, BIDEN TRY AGAIN

Washington, Oct. 22: After meeting last month in perhaps the most chaotic debate in modern history, President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, will take the stage Thursday to give it another go. The bar to improve upon their last prime-time meeting is low: Their first debate was punctuated by frequent interruptions, mostly from Trump, leaving the two men talking over each other and Biden eventually telling the president to "shut up." A planned second debate didn't happen after the president was diagnosed with Covid and refused to participate in a virtual format. — *AP*

H-1B speciality jobs: US against issuing biz visas

Washington, Oct. 22: The State Department has proposed not to issue temporary business visas for H-1B speciality occupations which allowed several companies to send their technology professionals for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US, a move which could affect hundreds of Indians. The proposal, if finalised, will eliminate any misconception that the "B-1 in lieu of H policy" provides an alternative avenue for foreign professionals to enter the US to perform skilled labour that allows, and potentially even encourages them and their employers to circumvent the restrictions and requirements relating to the H non-immigrant classification established by Congress to protect the US workers, the State Department said.

The move, made public on Wednesday, less than two weeks ahead of the November 3 presidential election, is likely to impact several Indian companies which send their technology professionals on B-1 visas for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US. On December 17, 2019, the Attorney General of California announced a \$800,000 settlement against Infosys Limited to resolve allegations that approximately 500 Infosys employees worked in the state on Infosys-sponsored B-1 visas rather than H-1B visas, the State Department said. "The proposed changes and the resulting transparency would reduce the impact of foreign labour on the US workforce of aliens performing activities in a specialty occupation without the procedural protections attendant to the H-1B classification," it said. In its federal notification issued on Wednesday, the State Department said the US architecture firm seeking protection from rising labour costs in the country might believe it could lay off its US architects and contract for the same professional architectural services to be provided by a foreign architecture firm. If the foreign firm sought H-1B visas for its architects, it would be required to pay the prevailing wage for architects in the area of intended employment in the United States, presumably the same wage the US architects had been paid, and meet the other requirements enacted by the Congress to protect US workers. But under the B-1 in lieu of H policy, the foreign architects could ostensibly seek B-1 visas and travel to the US to fill a temporary need for architecture services. — *PTI*

Nigerian prison set afire after protesters shot

A general view of smoke arising from the Ikoyi prison that is on fire in Lagos on Thursday. Gunshots could be heard and smoke was billowing from the prison in central Lagos as fresh unrest rocked Nigeria's biggest city after the shooting of protesters. Police close to the scene told AFP that assailants had attacked the detention facility in the upscale Ikoyi neighbourhood. — *AFP*

Oxford vaccine trial on after participant dies

London, Oct. 22: The University of Oxford says the late-stage trial of its Covid-19 vaccine in Brazil will continue following reports of a participant's death. The university said it can't comment on specific incidents but an independent review found no reason to be concerned about the safety of the Brazilian trial. It says an "independent review, in addition to the Brazilian regulator, have recommended that the trial should continue." The Oxford vaccine is being developed in conjunction with the international pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. Trials are underway in the United States and the UK, as well as Brazil, to determine whether the potential vaccine is safe and effective in humans. A team at Bristol University used recently developed techniques to validate that the vaccine accurately follows the genetic instructions programmed into it by the Oxford University team. The experts say that the novel analysis provides even greater clarity and detail about how the vaccine successfully provokes a strong immune response. "This is an important study as we are able to confirm that the genetic instructions underpinning this vaccine, which is being developed as fast as safely possible, are correctly followed when they get into a human cell," said Dr David Matthews, Reader in Virology from Bristol's School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine (CMM), who led the research. "Until now, the technology hasn't been able to provide answers with such clarity, but we now know the vaccine is doing everything we expected and that is only good news in our fight against the illness," he said. — *PTI*

GERMAN DAILY CASES SPIKE PAST 10,000

Berlin, Oct. 22: Germany's disease control centre is reporting a new daily record increase in Coronavirus infections, which rocketed past the 10,000 mark for the first time as the pandemic continues to spread. The Robert Koch Institute said Thursday that it had recorded 11,287 new cases over the past 24 hours, shattering the previous record figure of 7,830 daily infections set on Saturday. The news comes the day after Health Minister Jens Spahn tested positive for COVID-19 himself. He has been quarantined at home and told *Bild* newspaper that so far he's just suffering from "cold-like symptoms." — *AP*

EU's HR prize to Belarus Oppn leader

Brussels, Oct. 22: The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line reign. "It is an honour to announce that the women and men of the democratic opposition in Belarus are the 2020 Sakharov Prize laureates," European Parliament president David Sassoli said. They have on their side something that brute force can never defeat: The truth. Do not give up on your fight. We are by your side."

The 27-nation bloc agreed this month to impose sanctions against officials suspected of election misconduct and a brutal security crackdown on protesters in Belarus. The EU has warned it is ready to sanction Lukashenko himself if he fails to enter into talks with the opposition and order an end to the repression launched after a disputed election. Lukashenko won his sixth term in office in a presidential election widely seen as rigged. Since the Aug. 9 polls that handed Lukashenko a victory with 80% of the vote, mass protests have rocked the ex-Soviet nation. — *AP*

Deport Nawaz: Pakistan

Islamabad, Oct. 22: Muslim League (Nawaz) who was ousted from power in 2017 by the Supreme Court on corruption charges, is in London for medical treatment. A letter for the deportation of the three-time prime minister was handed over personally to the British High Commission here some three weeks ago, *Dawn* newspaper reported. Through the letter, the Pakistani government asked the British authorities to consider cancelling Sharif's visit visa, which has allowed him to live in London on medical grounds since November. — *PTI*

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

No. DNR/S&T/Tele/2020/3 Danapur, Dtd. 21.10.2020

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal www.ireps.gov.in for the following work:

1. Name of work with its location : Provision of monitoring through CCTV at 09 Nos. of interlocked LC gates in Danapur Division. 2. Approximate cost of work : Rs. 10943623.27 3. Earnest Money : Rs. 204700.00 4. Last Date & Time of Submission : Up to 15.00 hrs. on 17.11.2020 5. Opening of tender : 15.30 hrs. on 17.11.2020 6. Website particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen : www.ireps.gov.in 7. Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained : Sr. Divl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur. Note : Any corrigendum if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days.

DSTE
E. C. Railway, Danapur

PR/0805/DNR/S&T/T/20-21/44

Stay Protected from Corona

Wear your mask properly

Frequently wash your hands with soap

Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work :

1. Name of the work with its location : Removal of over head infringements 33/11KV, provision of 11KV incoming feeder with transformer at stations, electrification of signal buildings, PF lightings, circulating area lightings, street lighting at stations between Kakarghatti to Shisho Halt in connection with new bypass line of Darbanga Yard. e-Tender No. EL/CON/MHX/ETEN/76/20-21. 2. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹2,05,95,564.5, 3. Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited : ₹2,53,000/- and Rs. Nil respectively. 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 10.11.2020 upto 12:00Hrs. 5. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website : www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at CEE/CON/ Mahendraghat office. CAO/CON/ECR office Complex, Patna - 04.

Dy. CEE/Con/North/ ECR/Samasipur

PR/0812/CON/Ellec/T/20-21/44

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NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

NIT No:14 Short Tender Notice No. 14/SE (P-N&EZ)/GHMC/2020-21 Dt. 22.10.2020. Name of the Work: "Dismantling of affected properties under Road widening (120ft to 150ft) for proposed elevated corridor, from Uppal X road to Nallacheruvu, Uppal PD-EZ, GHMC-Phase-IV", Estimated Amount / ECV: Rs. 50.00 Lakhs, Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: Start Date: 23/10/2020, 04.00 P.M., Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 02/11/2020, 04.00 P.M. Name & Address Officer Cell No: O/o Superintending Engineer, (Projects-N&EZ), GHMC, 9989930408

Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Or can be contact Office of the Superintending Engineer (P-N&EZ), GHMC in office working hours. I.O. No.: 6221-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Project-N&EZ), GHMC

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Public Notification U.S. 15 (3) of HMDA Act, 2008 (G.O. Ms.No.143, dated 21.09.2020)

In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), the Government hereby makes the following variation to the land use envisaged in the Notified MPD-2031 vide G.O. Ms.No.33 MA & UD, dt: 24.01.2013 as required in the sub-section (1) of the said section. The site in Sy.No.220 & 223 situated at Malkajpur (V), Choutuppal (M), Yadadri District to an extent of 12444.09Sq.mtrs which is presently earmarked for Residential use zone (R3) is now designated as Manufacturing Use zone for setting up of unit for manufacturing of Steel Structures under 'White' category. The details of the above are available in Web sites <http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/>. Sd/- R.O. No: 1047-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 for Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA, HYDERABAD.

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-procurement T.No. SE(AM)/TS/HYD/EP/ 04 /2020-21, Dated: 20.10.2020. Online Tenders are invited by Superintending Engineer (AM), Hyderabad from the Registered Civil Contractors and Reputed Agencies for Galvalume Sheet Roofing for the following (3) Works at Various Market Yards in Wanaparthy, Nirmal and Rangareddy Districts of costing Rs.17,47,49,396/- E-procurement site opening Date on 23-10-2020 at 5.00 PM. The Non-refundable Processing fee shall be paid through online and counterfoil / receipt signed by the bankers with receipt journal number / UTR number shall be scanned and uploaded along with bids. Any other information can be had from the <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> or office of the Superintending Engineer (AM), Hyderabad. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (AM) Officiating R.O. No: 1049-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 O/o Director of Agri. Marketing, Govt. of Telangana.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)

(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. RS(S)/2020/747/2 New Delhi, dated : 22.10.2020

CORRIGENDUM-1

E-TENDER NO. 2020IS201 FOR PROCUREMENT OF COMPACTOR SS DUSTBINS (17458 Nos.) FOR 8729 COACHES THROUGH e-RA METHOD

1. Para 14.2 of General Tender Conditions of Tender Document of e-tender No. 2020IS201 has been modified in ireps website vide Corrigendum dated 21.10.2020

2. All other Terms and Conditions of e-Tender shall remain unchanged.

(G.S. Raja)
Director, Railway Stores (W)
For and on behalf of the President of India

2325/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM/RFCF on behalf of President of India for following items:

Sr. No.	Tender No. / Due Date	Description	Quantity	Earnest Money (IN Rs.)
1.	01201164/27.11.2020	Plate Spring	8360 Nos.	NIL
2.	01201165/17.11.2020	Link Pin	14130 Nos	94,640/-
3.	01201168/23.11.2020	Set of Pins for LHB Bogies	1266 Set	1,24,220/-
4.	01201170/20.11.2020	Locking Pin	29750 Nos	NIL
5.	01201171/25.11.2020	Safety Wire Rope Assly	8800 Nos	54,210/-
6.	01201180/17.11.2020	Adjusting Shim	17848 Nos	NIL
7.	01201181/26.11.2020	Centering Disc	7580 Nos	NIL
8.	01201191/17.11.2020	Fixation Ball Joint	17676 Nos	64,930/-
9.	01201195/18.11.2020	Rubbery Spring Centring	4526 Nos	NIL
10.	01201197/30.11.2020	Security Disc	5700 Nos	NIL
11.	01201198/19.11.2020	Set of Control Arm Support	283 Set	1,20,590/-
12.	01201202/27.11.2020	Spring Pot	2126 Nos	1,09,970/-
13.	01201222/17.11.2020	Set of Axle End Cover	1293 Set	98,960/-
14.	07201178/19.11.2020	Set of High Tensile Hardware For Flat Bogies	Total Quantity 1065 Sets	248850/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website: <http://ireps.gov.in> Drawings/ specifications, wherever required can be download from RCF Website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in> Class III-b digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>. 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and tender will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Help desk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF help desk at 011-23378658. Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. "All above mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenders are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> For more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website PCMM T.No. RCF/122-01/IT/07/78/2020-21 Dated: 22.10.2020

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SALE OF 5 NUMBER ROTATEK PERFECT NT (RK-500) PRINTING MACHINES IN WORKING CONDITION

Manual Advertise Tender No. S.120.TROTATEK.2019-20 closing date Due on 10.11.2020. Principal Chief Material Manager, Central Railway, 1st Floor, New Administrative Building, D.N. Road, CSMT, Mumbai-400001, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Manual Advertised Tenders, offer to be submitted manually at above address. **Scope of Work :** Sale of 5 number Rotatek Perfect NT (RK-500) printing machines in working condition. This machine is capable of Printing 5 colours on front side and 4 colours on back side or 9 colours on one side by perfect dot to dot register of colour printing. This machine can also be able to Print in different combination such as 4 Back + 5 Front, 3 Back + 6 Front and 2 Back + 7 Front, the machines are Computerised / Electronically Controlled multi-colour Rotary Web-Offset Printing Machine with online Numbering and processing unit for sprocketing, perforation, rewinding, Zig-zag folding/ Fan folding, sheeting unit including electrical and electronic devices complete with Concomitant accessories viz. Spooling machine in a working conditions. Details at annexure-II of tender document. The soft copy of the tender documents are available at central railway website at www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in at free of cost and IREPS website also. For any detail please contact DyCMM/Sales/HQ at mobile no 8828110761 and SMM/Sales HQ at mobile no 8828110781 and email address centralrailwaysales@gmail.com, dycmm.s.cstm@gmail.com, dycmm@cr.railnet.gov.in. Manufacturer : M/s ROTATEK PRINTING MACHINERY, S.L.U., Barcelona, Spain Numbering system by M/s. Leiberger Numbering Machines and systems, Germany. **Date & Place of installation :**

Sr.	Date of installation	Place of installation	Earnest Money to be deposited along with the offer
1	2014	Eastern Railway Press Howrah	Rs. 8,72,000/-
2	2015	Southern Railway Press, Royapuram, Chennai	Rs. 8,90,000/-
3	2016	South Central Railway Press, Secunderabad	Rs. 9,90,000/-
4	2017	Central Railway Press, Byculla, Mumbai	Rs. 10,30,000/-
5	2018	Northern Railway Press, Shakurbasti, Delhi	Rs. 12,50,000/-

a. Purchaser shall quote separately for each machine as per the locations mentioned above. b. Purchaser may choose to quote either for single or more machines located in different cities of India. c. EMD should be submitted separately for each machine quoted. d. Evaluation of the offer will be done separately for each machine. e. Tenderer must quote Ex-works price "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". f. Purchase shall quote price offered and GST separately for each machines. This is manual tender, offer should be submitted manually to Principal Chief Material Manager, Central Railway, 1st Floor, New Administrative Building, D.N. Road, CSMT, Mumbai-400001. **Cost of Tender Booklet :** Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand only) Per Booklet (Non Refundable). Tender booklet is available with Principal Chief Material Manager, 1st floor, New Admin. Bldg., Central Railway, CSMT, Mumbai-400001. There will be no tender cost for the tender downloaded from website. **Model :** Rotatek Perfect NT (RK-500). **Tender Closing time :** Closing date due on 10.11.2020 at 11.30 hrs. **Tender opening :** Opening date due on 10.11.2020 at 11.45 hrs.

----- SD -----
PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIAL MANAGER

Railway Helpline 139 RPF Security Helpline -182 459

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,558.49	-0.37
Nifty 50	11,896.50	-0.35
S&P 500*	3,436.26	0.02
Dollar (₹)	73.54	0.08
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.57	-0.57
Euro (₹)	87.16	0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,709*624	-1.22
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.66	0.93
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.915	0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.826	0.010

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Siberia holds world's biggest gold deposits

Polyus PJSC said its untapped Sukhoi Log deposit in Siberia holds the world's biggest reserves. An audit showed Sukhoi Log has 40 million ounces of proven reserves, CEO Pavel Grachev said. That means the field — accounting for more than a quarter of Russian gold reserves — is bigger than Seabridge Gold Inc.c.'s KSM Project in Canada and Donlin Gold in Alaska.

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RBI calls for universal QR codes for payment

Sets March 31, 2022 deadline; bans new proprietary codes

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, OCT. 22

In a move that would make it convenient for customers to transact digitally, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday asked Payment System Operators (PSOs) that use proprietary Quick Response (QR) codes to move to one or more interoperable QR codes by March 31, 2022.

The RBI also prohibited launch of any new proprietary QR codes by any payment system operator for any payment transaction.

The central bank said that the two interoperable

QR codes in existence — UPI QR and Bharat QR shall continue as at present. "The above measures are expected to reinforce the acceptance infrastructure, provide better user convenience due to interoperability and enhance system efficiency," said the central bank in a notification.

A QR code is a machine-readable code consisting of an array of black and white squares typically used for storing large amounts of information and facilitates mobile payments at the point of sale.

"Payment System Operators (PSOs) that use proprietary QR codes

shall shift to one or more interoperable QR codes; the process of migration shall be completed by March 31, 2022. No new proprietary QR codes shall henceforth be launched by any PSO for any payment transaction. The RBI shall continue a consultative process to standardise and improve interoperable QR codes, to enable beneficial features identified by the Phatak Committee," the RBI said.

A key hurdle in expansion of the ecosystem is that several payment operators use their own closed-loop system for payment processing. A close-loop QR system only accepts

payments from the mobile application of its deployer which goes against the principle of interoperability agreement between the third party payment application and the banks that govern the UPI ecosystem.

The RBI had constituted a committee led by Professor Deepak Phatak to review the current system of QR Codes in India and suggest measures for moving towards interoperable QR Codes. The new norms are based on the recommendations of the committee.

The RBI also said the PSOs may take initiative to spread awareness about interoperable QR codes.

Boycott China call fails to hit China handsets 3 in every 4 smartphones sold in India are Chinese

New Delhi, Oct. 22: Smartphone segment in India rebounded after the lockdown to touch an all-time high of 50 million units in September quarter with Chinese companies collectively holding 76 per cent market share, according to research firm Canalys.

All the top five smartphone vendors — Xiaomi, Samsung, Vivo, Realme and Oppo — saw their shipment grow in the third quarter compared to the year-ago period.

"Smartphone shipments in India recovered in Q3 2020, posting 8 per cent growth to 50 million units (from 46.2 million units in year-ago period). This is an all-time record for smartphone shipments in a single quarter in India," Canalys said in a statement.

Xiaomi remained the market leader with 26.1 per cent share, shipping 13.1 million units.

Samsung reclaimed the second place from Vivo,

Ongoing tension between India and China has been a hot topic in the past few months, but we have yet to see a significant impact on purchase decisions of mass market customers

VARUN KANNAN, Canals analyst

with 10.2 million units (20.4 per cent share) — helped by its aggressive product portfolio and pricing strategy in the low-end paid off, it added.

Vivo had 17.6 per cent share (8.8 million units), while Realme had 17.4 per cent share (8.7 million units) and Oppo had 12.1 per cent share (6.1 million units) in the said quarter.

Apple regained momentum in India in the third quarter with double-digit growth to nearly 8,00,000 units.

Despite a call to boycott Chinese products after a

bloody border clash in Ladakh, Chinese vendors collectively comprised 76 per cent of total smartphone shipments this quarter, which has grown from 74 per cent a year ago. This is, however, slightly lower than the June 2020 quarter, when Chinese companies had around 80 per cent cumulative share.

"Ongoing tension between India and China has been a hot topic in the past few months, but we have yet to see a significant impact on purchase decisions of mass market customers," Canals Research Analyst Varun Kannan said.

However, the tensions have caused Chinese smartphone brands to act conservatively in recent months, reducing their marketing spend, and carefully trying to project the image that they are important contributors to, and stakeholders in, the economic future of India, he added.

— PTI

Realty sees hope in future, but present remains tense

FC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 22

The future sentiments in the real estate market have turned positive for the first time this year, though the current sentiments still remain negative.

The *Future Sentiment Score* for Q3 2020 of the Knight Frank-Ficci-Nareco Real Estate Sentiment Index, which shows the sentiments of the stakeholders of the industry for the next six months, climbed the optimistic zone at

52 points for the first time in 2020. It moved up from 41 in the previous quarter. The *Current Sentiments Score*, an indicator of past six months, also recorded a significant improvement from the previous quarter low of 22 points to 40 points in Q3 2020.

A score of above 50 signifies 'optimism' in sentiments, a score of 50 means the sentiment is 'same' or 'neutral', while a score below 50 shows 'pessimism'.

This revival in sentiments is attributed to the

remarkable upturn seen in the real estate business, especially in the residential segment, in the third quarter of 2020 as a result of the unlocking process.

In Q3 2020, residential launches and sales bounced back from the Covid-induced decline, across cities.

The office sector also resumed operations, at varying occupancies across markets as occupiers took steps to ensure continuity in business operations to their highest potential.

Employment rate declines in October

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 22

After recording a month-on-month recovery till September from the lows of April, the employment rate has once again dropped in the first three weeks of October: The significant drop in MNREGA man-days has pulled down rural jobs and stagnated the employment rate. There was a marginal drop in August to 37.5 per cent, but September once gain saw a recovery to 38 per cent.

DRL servers face cyber attack

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 22

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, the country's second drugmaker by market value, said on Thursday that it had isolated all its data centre services as a preventive measure after it detected a cyberattack. "We are anticipating all services to be up within 24 hours and we do not fore-

see any major impact on our operations due to this incident," Dr Reddy's chief information officer Mukesh Rathil said.

The company, which has tied up with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) for conducting clinical trials of Sputnik-V Covid-19 vaccine in India, did not reveal the source of the attack. The breach could possi-

bly aimed at accessing classified information from the servers.

As per the tie-up, RDIF will supply 100 million doses of the vaccine to Dr Reddy's upon regulatory approval in India.

According to sources, the company had temporarily closed down some of its plants across the world because of the breach.

GAMES

AUSSIE T20s

World's top trio sign for Big Bash

Sydney: All three of the world's top-ranked Twenty20 players have signed on for Australia's Big Bash League with Afghan spin king Rashid Khan Thursday confirming his return to the Adelaide Strikers.

The 10th season of the eight-franchise tournament is set to start on December 3 and end with the final on February 6, with the Sydney Sixers defending their title.

Rashid will be back for a Strikers side coached by Jason Gillespie. His return follows the signings this week of England's top-ranked batsman Dawid Malan for the Hobart Hurricanes and Afghan allrounder Mohammad Nabi by the Melbourne Renegades.

Others on board include English internationals Alex Hales (Sydney Thunder), Tom Banton (Brisbane Heat) and Tom Curran (Sydney Sixers). More are expected to sign-up because Big Bash clubs this year are allowed a third overseas player after the Australian Cricketers Association dropped longstanding opposition to the move. — AFP

Live on TV

CRICKET
IPL: Chennai Super Kings vs Mumbai Indians from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD
FORMULA ONE
Portugese Grand Prix: Practice 1 from 2.25 pm; Practice 2 from 6.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD
FOOTBALL
English Premier League: Aston Villa vs Leeds United from 12.30 am (Saturday) on Star Sports Select 2, HD
Italian League: Sassuolo vs Torino from 12.15 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2, HD
WWE SMACKDOWN
Bouts from 5.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1

Junior Badminton off

New Delhi: The 2020 World Junior Badminton Championship, which was postponed to be held in New Zealand in January, was on Thursday cancelled due to the restrictions and uncertainty resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sun too hot for RR

Holder, Pandey script warm win against Royals

Dubai, Oct. 22: Manish Pandey smashed eight sixes in a blistering 83 after Jason Holder made an instant impact with the ball as Sunrisers Hyderabad kept themselves in the race for IPL play-offs with an eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals here on Thursday. Pandey and Vijay Shankar (52) stitched an unbroken 140-run partnership after Holder led a disciplined bowling display to restrict Rajasthan Royals to 154 for 6.

Playing his first match of the tournament, Holder (3/33) came up with an impressive bowling effort while also affecting a run out to destabilise the RR innings. Rashid Khan (1/20) and Vijay Shankar (1/15) picked a wicket each.

During his unbeaten 47-ball knock, Pandey hit four balls to the fence and eight over it, while Shankar struck six boundaries.

The duo played intelligently in a must-win game for the Sunrisers.

With the win, Sunrisers moved up to the fifth spot, while the Royals were pushed down to seventh.

Earlier, Sunrisers, who were struggling at the penultimate spot in the points table with only three wins from nine outings, opted to bowl after winning the toss at the Dubai International Stadium.

For RR, Sanju Samson (36 off 26 balls) was the top scorer.

Put in to bat, Robin Uthappa looked in rampaging form, hitting the first four and six of the innings. He quickly raced to 19 off 13 balls.

However, his time in the middle was short lived. After Ben Stokes (30) hit Holder for back-to-back boundaries in the fourth over, the West Indians skipper effected Uthappa's run out as the Indian was late to turn back at the non-striker's end.

RR then lost wickets at regular intervals. — PTI



Manish Pandey of Sunrisers Hyderabad hits a six against Rajasthan Royals during their IPL match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

— BCCI

SCORECARD

Rajasthan Royals: Robin Uthappa run out 19, Ben Stokes b Rashid Khan 30, Sanju Samson b Jason Holder 36, Jos Buttler c Nadeem b Vijay Shankar 9, Steve Smith c Pandey b Holder 19, Riyan Parag c David Warner b Holder 20, Rahul Tewatia not out 2, Jofra Archer not out 16. **Extras:** (W-2) 2. **Total (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 154.** **FoW:** 1-30, 2-86, 3-86, 4-110, 5-134, 6-135. **Bowling:** Sandeep Sharma 4-0-31-0, J. Holder 4-0-33-3, Vijay Shankar 3-0-15-1, T. Natarajan 4-0-46-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-20-1, Shahbaz Nadeem 1-0-9-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner c Ben Stokes b Jofra Archer 4, Jonny Bairstow b Jofra Archer 10, Manish Pandey not out 83, Vijay Shankar not out 52. **Extras:** (LB-1, W-6) 7. **Total (for 2 wickets in 18.1 overs) 156.** **FoW:** 1-4, 2-16. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-21-2, Ankit Singh Rajpoot 1-0-11-0, Kartik Tyagi 3-1-0-42-0, Ben Stokes 2-0-24-0, Shreyas Gopal 4-0-32-0, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-25-0.

CSK up against formidable MI

Sharjah, Oct. 22: Their campaign turning from bad to worse, CSK are expected to try out a few of their younger players when they take on defending champions MI in an IPL match here on Friday.

Though skipper M. S. Dhoni conceded after the loss against RR that the season might be already over them, CSK can still get to 14 points if they win their remaining four games, giving them an outside chance of making the play-offs.

Things have gone pear-shaped for CSK since their win over MI in the tournament opener on November 19.

The team received a hammering at the hands of RR and would be without the services of the injured Dwayne Bravo, who is out of the tournament.

Dhoni himself has not been at his best along with

the others barring Faf du Plessis.

However, they would be up against a formidable MI side which won five games in a row before KXIP halted the juggernaut, turning the tables in a double Super Over on Sunday night.

The four-time IPL champions have been in ominous form and the varied bowling attack could prove a challenge for the CSK batters, who are low on confidence.

Also, the MI batting lineup has been in good nick with Quinton de Kock in splendid form while Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan have had their moments.

That's not all, the power-hitting abilities of Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya have rescued Mumbai Indians when the big guns have not fired.

— PTI

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	10	7	3	0	14	+0.774
Royal Challengers Bangalore	10	7	3	0	14	+0.182
Mumbai Indians	9	6	3	0	12	+1.201
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	5	5	0	10	-0.828
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	4	6	0	8	+0.092
Kings XI Punjab	10	4	6	0	8	-0.177
Rajasthan Royals	11	4	7	0	8	-0.620
Chennai Super Kings	10	3	7	0	6	-0.463

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

INDIAN TEAM ALLOWED TO TRAIN IN QUARANTINE

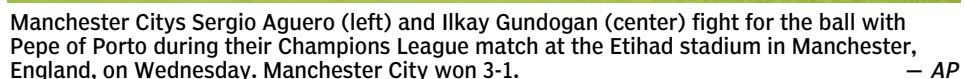
Sydney, Oct. 22: Sydney and Canberra are set to host the white-ball leg of India's tour of Australia after the New South Wales government allowed the visiting team to train during its mandatory quarantine upon arrival.

ESPNewsinfo on Thursday reported that New South Wales government and Cricket Australia have struck a deal to allow Indian and Australian players returning from IPL to train in Sydney while quarantining.

The Indian team was initially supposed to land in Brisbane but the Queensland state health authorities did not relax their 14-day quarantine rule to allow Virat Kohli and Co to train during that period.

India are scheduled to play three T20s, three ODIs and four Tests in Australia. The first two ODIs are set to be held on November 27 and 29 at the Sydney Cricket Ground before final game of the series in Canberra's Manuka Oval.

— PTI



Jurgen Klopp's side kept a clean sheet and took all three

Luis Diaz gave Porto the lead with a superb individual goal but Sergio Aguero's

Also in Group C, Egyptian substitute Ahmed Hassan headed in a stoppage-time winner as Olympiakos downed Marseille 1-0.

—AFP

Pele is Brazil's all-time

state league titles, which was a top tournament at the time, six Brazilian championships, two Copa

Pele was also Brazil's sports minister from 1995-98. Two years later, he shared the FIFA award for Player of the Century with

Pele has had mobility problems since a failed hip replacement surgery in 2012. He has been forced to use walkers and wheelchairs in public. He has also been admitted to hospitals in recent years for kidney and prostate procedures. The celebrations in Brazil for Pele began on February 20, but he didn't attend the unveiling of a lifesize statue of him at Maracan Stadium in Rio de Janeiro that day. — AP

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