

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 27 SEPTEMBER 2019

WEATHER



Max: 29°C
Min: 22°C
RH: 89%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain, thundershowers likely. Max/Min 31/22°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula
Trayodasi till 7.30 am,
Bhadrapada Bahula Chaturdasi
till 3.45 am
(Saturday)
Star: Purvaphalguni till 1.03 am
(Saturday)
Variyam: 11 am to 12.24 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.32 am to 9.20
am, 12.31 pm to 1.19 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Muharram 27, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.06 am
Zohar: 12.17 pm
Asar: 4.26 pm
Maghrib: 6.14 pm
Isha: 7.21 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.09 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.23 AM
MOONSET TODAY 5.19 AM

COUNTER

POINT



You want 100 seats?
Does your party have
100 leaders?

BRIEF

Trouble in store for Vadra

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday told the Delhi High Court that it wanted custodial interrogation of Robert Vadra because the “money chain” in a case of money laundering was allegedly directly linked to him. Mr Vadra was not cooperating with the investigation in the case, the agency added. Mr Vadra is facing allegations of money laundering in the purchase of a London-based property.

■ Report on Page 7

Srini daughter is TNCA prez

Chennai: Rupa Gurunath, daughter of former BCCI chief N. Srinivasan, was on Thursday elected unopposed as president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA), making her the first woman to head a state unit of the Indian Board. Ms Rupa is the wife of Gurunath Meiyappan, who is serving a life ban for his involvement in the 2013 Indian Premier League (IPL) spot-fixing scandal.

■ Report on Page 13

SPEAK OUT

As the authorities, readers and the general public wake up to the city's much-loved grievances column Speak Out, Deccan Chronicle feels proud to dedicate an additional page to the weekly column to highlight citizen woes. We request readers to keep up the pace and write to us with your problems, civic in nature, pointing out any lacunae in governance, services and infrastructure.

INSIDE

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Don't use Rantidine for time being: Docs

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AP HC overturns YSRC's gag order

WORLD 10

Trump calls impeachment probe by Democrats a ‘joke’



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TABLOID

Tamannaah Bhatia will be seen as a kabaddi coach in her next film



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Rain brings muck, filth home City gets into clean-up mode; Met predicts rain for 24 hours

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

After two days of torrential rainfall, the city is now busy cleaning up the muck and filth huge flooding by rainwater has brought to its doorsteps. Over the last two days, humungous amounts of silt, mud and construction debris, which were dumped earlier on to roadsides, have made its way over onto the middle of the roads.

A senior official from the sanitation department said that most of the waste that was cleaned up was mud and sand that swept up to the roadsides. He said that the rainwater could have brought the mud along with it.

Making matters worse was the fact they were plastic bags and cups clogging up the drains of the Panjagutta flyover, which made way for the creation of an impromptu swimming pool of sorts, not that any Hyderabad



Mithalainagar at Jillelaguda remains flooded for the second day on Thursday, following the heavy downpour in the city.

— P. SURENDRA

would be too eager to swim in rainwater accumulated on a road.

“Workers of the monsoon teams cleared the Panjagutta flyover. There is no water on the flyover

now. But on inquiry, we learnt that a lot of the water was stopped from entering the vents due to plastic and paper waste,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Met

department said the city would continue to witness sparse amounts of rainfall for the next 24 hours.

■ More reports on Page 2

Human rights panel yet to be split, complaints pile up

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The two Telugu States were divided, but amongst the unfinished agenda is the division of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State Human Rights Commission (HRC), pending which, the worst abuse of power and greatest of citizen grievances — abuse of human rights — remain ignored. The HRC, tasked with providing timely relief to distressed citizens, has become non-functional, as the bifurcation of the Commission for the Telugu states is yet to be finished.

The HRC, which in particular dealt with several sensational cases and delivered justice to the victims before the formation of Telangana state, has been completely non-functional for last three years, with the bifurcation of the Commission still pending between Andhra Pradesh and TS. Thousands of victims from both the Telugu states are awaiting justice to their grievances that were put before the HRC. With vacancies for several posts, including that of the chairman, members, and executives have been not filled from December 2016, the victims were forced to

wait for the relief. The Commission had earlier dealt the cases which involved victims of police cases, encounters, and attacks, and several victims received justice.

The 10th Schedule of the State Re-organisation Act stipulates that the Commission on Human Rights should be divided into two; however, after close to 200 weeks, no progress has taken place. The governments of AP and TS have completed division of corporations and other organisations in 10th Schedule, but not the HRC.

■ Page 5: CMs's meet did not take up HRC split

BIG CRACK IN PVNR EXPRESSWAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The P.V. Narasimha Rao Expressway developed cracks on Pillar No. 20, creating panic among motorists. After the recent incident at Ameerpet metro station, everyone's focus is on flyovers and the construction of the Metro Rail.

However, officials of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority said there was no need to worry.

■ Report on Page 3

KTR bachcha, plays dirty politics: Uttam

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) made serious comments against K.T. Rama Rao, minister and working president of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), saying, KTR was a *bachcha*, who was playing dirty politics of family and caste.

Earlier, N. Padmavathi, wife of Uttam Reddy, and the Congress candidate in byelection for the Huzurnagar Assembly constituency, filled her nomination on Thursday.

Speaking to media on

this occasion at Suryapet, Mr Uttam Reddy posed a question to KTR, saying, if the TRS was sure of winning in Huzurnagar, why was he trying to purchase Congress leaders. He challenged KTR to give an account of the development done by the TRS government in the Huzurnagar Assembly constituency. He alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's family was looting the state. He said that the KCR government was tapping the phones of opposition leaders.

■ Page 5: 'How much was looted in Bhagiratha'

ACB CORNERS 17 OFFICIALS IN MED SCAM

COREENA SUARES | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

Dr Ch. Devika Rani, director, Insurance Medical Services (IMS) has come under the scanner of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), besides 16 other government officials, including two other doctors holding key positions. The ACB sleuths carried out searches at 23 locations, including office and residences of 17 government officials, besides four private persons.

The ACB's investigation revealed that the director of IMS and other officials were involved in making 'fake indent', falsification of records, violating rules in purchase of medicines and surgical kits. It is estimated that this has caused a loss of ₹9 crore to the government exchequer.

Following a complaint filed with the Vigilance & Enforcement (V&E) against these officials, a probe was ordered. The V&E's year-long investigation unearthed a multi-crore scam in the supply of medicines to dispensaries and ESI Hospitals by non rate contract (RC) firms, involving top government officers. The V&E investigated all the medicines supplied by firms for a period between 2016 and 2018, and concluded that large-scale violations had been committed in the purchase of medicines and surgical kits.

■ Page 4: Indents split to avoid tenders

Must respect people's sentiments: Jaishankar

No cricket with Pak, says India

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Minister for external affairs Subramanyam Jaishankar ruled out the possibility of India playing cricket with Pakistan. While referring to Islamabad's support to terrorism, Mr Jaishankar said that New Delhi can't take a “tea break” and say “let us go and play cricket” with Pakistan.

Speaking in New York on Thursday, Mr Jaishankar said that the “dominating narrative of the relationship” between New Delhi and Islamabad “is of terrorism, suicide bombings, violence and then you say, ‘okay guys tea break, let us go and play cricket.’”

He highlighted the recent terror attacks in India at Uri, Pathankot, and Pulwama and said that “it's a very hard narrative to sell to people... It's a democracy, sentiments do matter and one message [that] I don't want to give [is that] you do terrorism by night, and [then] it's business as



THE ISSUE is, how do I talk to a country that is conducting terrorism and which frankly I would say follows a policy of implausible deniability.”

S. JAISHANKAR, EAM

usual during the day.”

Mr Jaishankar said that despite being a neighbour, Pakistan will not trade with India, is a member of the WTO but will not extend MFN status, even though they are legally obliged to and New Delhi did it.

“You have a neighbour who would not allow you connectivity. So we have, for example, the potential to use Pakistan to transit on to Afghanistan, Iran but they will not allow you that connectivity,” he said. Such an attitude has slowed down regionalism, largely because of a concern that that might integrate them more with India's economy, he said.

“So it's a very challenging neighbour.”

EC defers bypolls to 17 K'taka seats

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

The Election Commission on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it would defer the byelections to 17 Assembly seats in Karnataka that fell vacant after the disqualification of MLAs belonging to the JD(S) and the Congress after they defied the party whip and stayed away from voting on the confidence motion by former chief minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

The EC said this as a bench comprising Justices N.V. Ramana, Sanjeev Khanna and Krishna Murari decided to hold a final hearing on October 22-23, and decide on the petitions by 17 MLAs challenging their disqualification.

Appearing for the EC, senior counsel Rakesh Dwivedi told the court the poll panel can use Section 153 of the Representation of the People Act 1951 and defer the byelections, which were announced on September 21, and the nominations for which were to begin from September 29.

Section 153 of the RP Act states: “It shall be competent for the Election Commission for reasons which it considers suffi-



● BYPOLLS IN Karnataka were to be held on October 21 and counting of votes on October 24.
● SUPREME COURT to hold a final hearing on October 22-23 and decide on the petitions by 17 MLAs challenging their disqualification.

cient, to extend the time for completion of any election by making necessary amendments in the notification issued by it under Section 30 or sub-section (1) of Section 39.”

Former Karnataka Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar had rejected the MLAs' resignations, and acting on a complaint by the Congress disqualified them. Of the 17 MLAs who were disqualified, 14 belonged to the Congress and three to the JD(S).

■ Page 7: Bypolls in Karnataka inevitable: EC

CITIZENS IN TEARS: ONION TOUCHES ₹58

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The misery for Hyderabadis just increases. Already under an onslaught from a plethora of difficulties — a health epidemic of viral fevers, dengue and malaria, incessant rainfall, water-logging, bad roads, and below-par sewage and water supply, people now have a new cause for tears — rising prices of onion. The retail price of onions has shot even above the high levels of ₹55 for a while and breached the ₹58 per kilo mark, the second time in a month that the prices have risen.

Supermarkets have purchased large stocks of onions at a higher price from wholesalers and prices will thus stay in this range till stocks run out.

■ Page 5: Mantri blames hike of prices on hoarding

SC FIRM ON TEMPLE CASE DEADLINE

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Sunni Waqf Board on Thursday assailed the ASI report, based on its excavation at the disputed site, saying that its conjectures were moving in a “preconceived” direction, in favour of the Ram temple.

Thursday was the 32rd day of the hearing that commenced on August 6, 2019. “There will not be any extra day after October 18. It will be miraculous, if we deliver the judgement in four weeks in the matter,” said Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi who is heading the five-judge Constitution bench said. CJI Gogoi, is set to retire on November 17.

■ Report on Page 7



Quick moves

KTR says stating government is taking steps to reopen the Ramagundam Fertilisers factory as soon as possible



Representation given to minister G. Kishan Reddy against frequent road closure

— A. Revanth Reddy
Malkajigiri Congress MP

IN BRIEF

Protest at Osmania over fees

Hyderabad: A section of Osmania University students staged a protest at Arts College to demand the release of fee reimbursement and the filling up of vacancies, on Thursday. They said the government owes students ₹2,453 crore as fee reimbursement. Several students had discontinued their education because they did not receive the money. ABVP Hyderabad secretary P. Srihari said many teaching and non-teaching posts were lying vacant and teachers were overburdened.

UoH student polls end peacefully

Hyderabad: The University of Hyderabad student elections concluded peacefully on Thursday and the results will be announced on Friday. Students patiently waited in long queues and exercised their franchise at the 16 polling booths. A total of 24 candidates are in the fray for six posts: president (five candidates), vice-president (five), general secretary (four), joint secretary (four), cultural secretary (three) and sports secretary (three candidates). In addition, 124 candidates contested for the position of school board members, school councillors and internal complaint committee representatives.

SCR to run special trains in Nov.

Hyderabad: South Central Railways (SCR) will run special trains from the city to various destinations to clear the extra rush of passengers. Sixteen trains will be run between Kacheguda and Kanpur on Fridays from November 8 to December 27. There will be 10 weekly specials between Hyderabad and Kochuvelli from November 2 to 30. There will be another eight weekly special trains between Hyderabad and Ernakulam on Wednesdays, from November 6 to 27.

HC: NOT RIGHT FORUM FOR ROYALTY DISPUTE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The High Court made it clear that the petition of Doravari Dastagiri Reddy and four others claiming to be legal heirs of freedom fighter Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy would not be maintainable. Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili was hearing a plea of the petitioners urging the court to direct the Censor Board not to clear a biopic on the freedom fighter. The judge observed that if the petitioners had filed the plea with the intention of getting royalty, the High Court was not the forum to resolve civil disputes. The petitioners had the alternative remedy — to approach the civil court. Counsel for the film-makers submitted that the petitioners were seeking ₹20 crore as royalty. To a pointed query from Justice Shavili on whether the petitioners were seeking money and whether they had an agreement with the movie makers, their counsel P. Janardhan Reddy replied that they are seeking money as per the agreement. Justice Shavili wondered how a civil dispute could be shown as a reason for seeking to stall the release of a film. “To get the agreement enforced, you have to approach a civil court,” the judge said. Citing Section 32 of the Cinematography Act, counsel for the petitioners said that censor certificate cannot be granted if objections are raised.

TRS leader protests over bad roads

Heavy rains led to water-logging in many areas of the city; road in Hayathnagar has not been levelled

COREENA SUARES | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

In what may turn an embarrassment for the TRS government, ruling party corporator from the Hayathnagar ward in the city went on to lie down on the road in protest against heavy water logging due to a dug-up road in his division that affected 800 residents of the Green Meadows apartment. Wednesday's heavy rains over the city led to water logging in many areas of the city. One such locality turned out to be in the Hayathnagar ward along the Auto Nagar road leading to the highway. Hayathnagar corporator Sama Tirumal Reddy said, “Over 800 people live in Green Meadows apartments that house 204 flats. The road near these apartments has been dug up by contractors. Despite several request to the Zonal GHMC office, the road has not been laid. Due to incessant rainfall during the last two days, water has stagnated in the area, thereby obstructing movement of people. Many children are afraid of using the road.” The corporator went on to say, “The residents are blaming me for the apathy. With no option left, I had to lie down on the road in protest.” The road has not been levelled as on Thursday.



Despite the skies remaining clear for most parts of Thursday, the cellar of an apartment complex in Malkajigiri remains flooded. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Goshamahal school kids stranded

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

Students of Government High School, Goshamahal, get stuck in their classes during the rainy season whenever the nearby Osmangunj nala overflows. Sometimes, teachers carry children on their shoulders in the knee-deep water inundating the school to leave them outside the main gate. There is also an urban hostel on the school premises. During heavy rains in the nights, inmates of the hostel are forced to take shelter in classrooms on the first floor, as water enters the rooms on the ground floor.



Waste from the overflowing nala is seen at the premises of the Goshamahal government high school. — DC

Parents complain that even drainage water enters into the school premises whenever the area receives a heavy rain. This has been happening

over the years and civic authorities have failed to solve the problem. Many parents say this is causing illness among their children. School teacher Sarwat says in case there are rains during the day time, water stagnates in the school ground and they have to carry the children on their shoulders. “We have shifted the classrooms from the ground to the first floor because of this problem,” she pointed out. Another teacher said whenever water stagnates on the school ground, they inform the Metro Sewerage Board authorities, who immediately come to their rescue.

ROADS ARE RID OF RAINWATER IN MALKAJIGIRI

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

After torrential and record-breaking rainfall for the last 48 hours, residents of water-logged areas like East Anandbagh and Malkajigiri finally breathed a sigh of relief on Thursday. Over the last two days the narrow nalas led to massive run-off of excess rainwater onto the streets. “We struggled to travel along the roads as most of them were at least knee-deep in water. But now the sun is out, the drains are cleared and the roads are rid of any water,” said a relieved B.T. Srinivasan, resident of Tarnaka. Some had to force the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to de-silt and clear the garbage before the monsoon started. “Alwal and the low lying areas here are the most prone to flooding and that is why we ensured that the GHMC did their job in the area beforehand. Fortunately, with the silt out of the way, the run-off water easily flows into the drains and nalas,” said G.V. Rao, a resident of Alwal.

City’s tryst with rain isn’t over yet

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 27

The city’s tryst with the rain is not over yet. According to officials of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the city will continue to witness sparse amounts of rainfall for the next 24 hours. “There is a forecast of rainfall decreasing across

the city from Friday onwards, as the upper air cyclonic circulation—that brought on the torrential rainfall over the last two days—has moved away from the city. It will gain strength over Maharashtra soon,” Dr K Nagaratra, chief of weather prediction, told Deccan Chronicle. While that is the case, the incessant rains triggered in the city have turned it into a rainfall surplus one. “Given the heavy rainfall that took place in the city over the last two-days the city has become a rainfall surplus as high as 37%,” she added. As against an average of 157mm in September, the city has received a cumulative average rainfall of 215.4mm up to September 25 this month. According to the IMD’s records, in September 2016, the city had received 439.7 mm over the course of the entire month and 231.1 mm in September 2010. However she refused to comment on the weaning away of the south west monsoon, as she claimed that this particular piece of information has to be issued by the New Delhi office of the IMD.

Sachin praises AIG chairman

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The hard work put in by doctors was acknowledged by Sachin Tendulkar when he mentioned how Dr Nageshwar Reddy, chairman of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG), works till 1.30 in the night and is available by 7.30 am for a surgery. The commitment and passion Dr Reddy has for medicine, is the same as his own commitment to cricket, said Mr Tendulkar, who was the chief guest at AIG’s 25th year celebrations in Hyderabad. The hospital, which started as an outpatient department, is now a full-fledged and reputed gastroenterology hospital not only in the country but the world. Over 25,00,000 patients have passed through its doors in the past 25 years. AIG is also committed to community service and around one crore people have been screened for gastro-intestinal disorders through community and rural screening programmes that are free. Dr Reddy, in an interactive session with the cricketing legend, talked about



Asian Institute of Gastroenterology chairman Dr Nageshwar Reddy gives a personal tour to Sachin Tendulkar of the hospital campus.

cricket and also the need for sports medicine in India as most Indian sportsmen are going to Australia and the United Kingdom for treatment. Mr Tendulkar, who took a tour of the hospital, is considered ‘lucky’ by Dr Reddy as he had also visited his hospital in Somajiguda in the year 2005. AIG’s in-patient services started in 1994 and expanded in 2004 in Somajiguda. During this 25-year period, it evolved from a clinical care hospital to carrying out cutting-edge research and training in gastro-enterology. It is also the first centre in the world to use flexible robotic endoscopic techniques in gastric cancer.

Don’t use ranitidine for time being, warn doctors

Recalling from retail market not possible

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

Prescribing ranitidine as medicine for acidity, ulcers and other gastrointestinal problems must be stopped forthwith for patient safety, rather than inspecting manufacturing units in the state, pharma experts have stated. They observed that the need of the hour is to educate people that ranitidine, the most commonly used medicine for diabetes, heart diseases, ulcers, geriatric and gastrointestinal ailments, has traces of carcinogenic elements. They must shift to alternative medications, suggested Dr Sanjay Reddy, president of Telangana Pharma Society. He said, “The Drug Controller must, in coordination with the TS Medical Council and health department, issue instructions that doctors stop prescribing ranitidine. Presently, it is only an advisory that is hardly

■ AN ADVISORY of caution with regard to the medicine has been issued. Healthcare providers must educate people on switching to alternate medicines, the drug inspector added.

being followed. Doctors must be ordered to stop prescribing this medicine.” The antacid is used by a large section of the population on a daily basis. This is a cause for concern, as use of this drug leads to buildup of toxic elements in the body and can lead to development of cancer cells, Dr Sanjay warned. Dr Satya Sunil, a senior consultant pharmacologist, stated, “Ranitidine is available in tablet form in dosages of 150 mg and 300 mg. A large number of people take these tablets for various diseases.

Many of them self-diagnose acidity and purchase the medicine. Antacids are among the highly misused medicines in India.” Following the warning by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), it has been found that the existing stocks of ranitidine with wholesalers will last six months while retailers have a stock of three months. There are 26,000 chemists in the state. To recall these medicines from the retail market is not possible, say drug inspectors. A senior drug inspector, on condition of anonymity, disclosed: “We are collecting samples from the stocks of manufacturing units and wholesalers to check which batches of these medicines have impurities. Accordingly, those batches will be stopped. It is not possible to recall the complete product from the market, as the medicine is needed by many patients.”

Crack found on PVNR

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The P.V. Narasimha Rao Expressway developed cracks on pillar no. 20, creating panic among motorists. After the recent incident at Ameerpet metro station, everyone's focus is on flyovers and the construction of the Metro Rail. However, officials of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) said there was no need to worry.

The crack was first identified on Wednesday and a few people had posted photos of the damaged pillar on Facebook and Twitter. Later, film director Kona Venkat shared a picture of it on his Facebook and Twitter feed. He pointed out that pillar no. 20 of the PVNR Expressway had developed cracks and asked the authorities to take care before it was too late.

The director tagged GHMC and the Minister for municipal administration and urban development, Mr K.T. Rama Rao in his post.

Local people said that they found it only yesterday but can't say when the cracks first developed. They said it may have developed following the torrential rains that lashed the city over the last few days.

They said there may be no danger to the structural health of the expressway, but they fear what would happen if a piece fell down.

Chief engineer of HMDA, Mr B. L. N. Reddy, said a team of engineers inspected the spot and it was found that there is no danger to the structure as the cracks were not developed either on a pillar or girder.

"The flyover is totally intact. People should not panic," he said.

He added that repair work would be carried out overnight.

■ **FILM DIRECTOR** Kona Venkat shared a picture of the pillar on his Facebook and Twitter feed and asked the authorities to take care before it was too late.



Crack above pillar no. 20 of the PVNR expressway.

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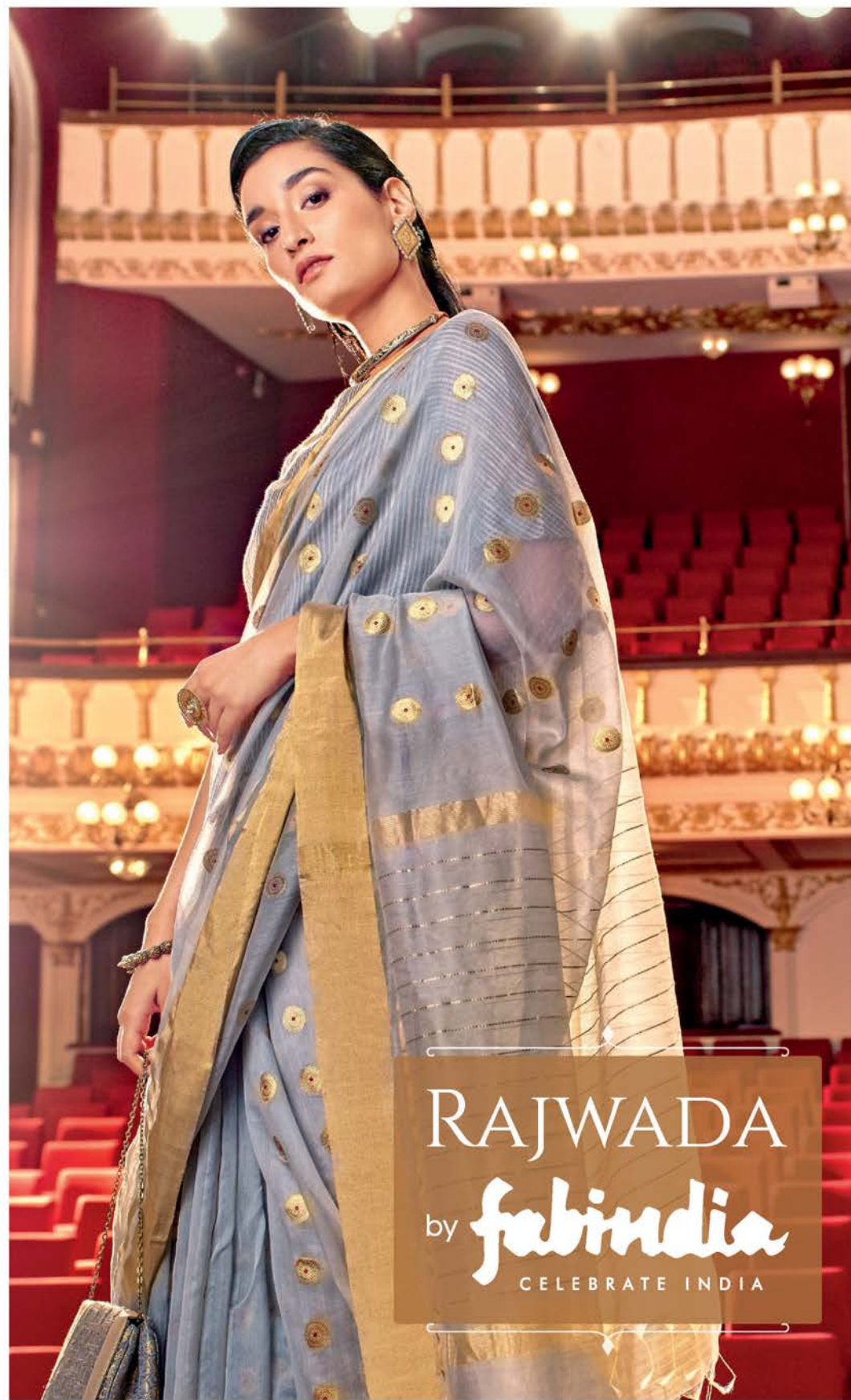
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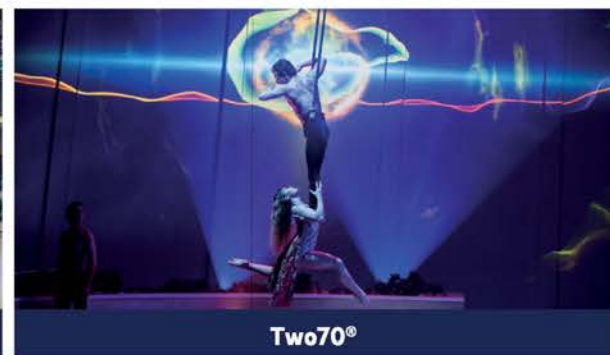
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Cop work

Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar says 488 applicants selected as constables were coached by cops



Trump praised Modi keeping in mind the US presidential elections

— V. Hanumantha Rao
AICC secretary

Bizmen arrested for selling vapes

Hyderabad: The West Zone Task Force team conducted raids on a shop named as 'Alam's Pan Shop' at Balkampet, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad in the limits of S.R. Nagar P.S. on Wednesday and found illegal marketing and sales of banned electronic cigarettes (ENDS). The police arrested Imran Alam and Mohd. Kamruddin and seized 29 e-cigarette machines of different companies from their possession. The apprehended accused persons, along with seized property, were handed over to S.R. Nagar police for further investigation.

GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTES 9 POCSO COURTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The state government on Thursday constituted nine more special courts to be located across Telangana in deal with cases registered under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, 2012.

In a GO, the government mentioned that the existing fast track courts situated in nine districts, including Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy, are being converted into special courts to exclusively deal with the trial and disposal of cases under the POCSO Act.

The following are the fast track courts being converted as special courts to solely deal with trial and disposal of cases under the POCSO Act: XIII Additional Chief Judge (FTC), City Civil Court, Hyderabad, IV Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court (FTC), Karimnagar, II Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court (FTC) situated at Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Medak at Sangareddy, Nalgonda, and Nizamabad; IX Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court cum X Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court (FTC), Cyberabad, Ranga Reddy, at L.B. Nagar, and IV Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court (FTC), Warangal.

After the Supreme Court directed all the states to constitute special courts for dealing with cases lodged under the POCSO Act, the Telangana High Court addressed a letter to the state government, which resulted in the conversion of fast track courts into special courts.

■ **IN A GO**, the government mentioned that the existing fast track courts situated in nine districts, including Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy, are being converted into special courts to exclusively deal with the trial and disposal of cases under the POCSO Act.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Indents split to below ₹5L to avoid tenders

After probe, ACB carried out searches at 23 locations

FROM PAGE 1

Subsequently, the investigating agency recommended the initiation of disciplinary action against errant officials to principal secretary, labour employment training and factories department.

The V&E, in its final report, a copy of which your newspaper has procured, said, "it has been observed that certain drugs were procured from non-RC firms at high rates when compared to RC firm. The officials have deliberately split indents to below Rs 5 lakh, the official limit to avoid limited tender, and then went for local purchases in violation of G.O No. 489 of Finance."

The report further said, "Devika Rani and five other top officers are not convincing in their responses. It was found that no e-procurement system of purchase of medicines was followed up to 2018, most of the drugs were purchased locally by accepting quotations without forming a local purchases committee and obtaining certi-

'ALLEGATIONS' AGAINST OFFICIALS OF INSURANCE MEDICAL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

■ Allegations that two fake indents for medicines worth ₹1.03 lakh were prepared by Dr. K. Padma, serving as joint director, Hyderabad and claimed bills though concerned in-charge medical officers of Patencheru and Borabanda dispensary, who have not indented those medicines. The bills were passed by Ch. Devika Rani, director, IMS.

■ Medicines worth ₹1.22 crore indented and received by K. Padma, joint director, IMS Hyderabad, but the stock was not sent to dispensaries of Bollaram and Bonthapally during May 2018.

■ Serious allegations that Devika Rani and assistant director Vasanta Indira, including other officials, caused loss of ₹9.43 crore through purchase of medicines through special drug dispensing units (SDDU) in local purchase, instead of rate contract during 2017-18.

■ Same officials inserted 286 purchase orders (POs) in August 2018 as if it is issued in May 2015 by cancelling 26 earlier purchases orders by inserting ante dated registered number entries in records for causing benefit to pharma companies.

cates, which is mandatory."

Based on this preliminary report, the government had ordered the ACB to further probe the matter in detail. After 45 days of investigation, the ACB on September 26 carried out searches at 23 locations, including

houses of 17 government employees. Those whose houses were searched include Devika Rani, Dr. K. Padma, joint director, Warangal, Dr. K. Vasantha Indira, assistant director, stores, M. Radhika, pharmacist, Ms. Um Fatima, pharmacist (grade II) and

other supporting staff, besides four private persons.

Director of IMS, Devika Rani has been on the radar of ACB for a long time. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, the investigation officer said, "The searches will continue, but no arrest has been made so far."

Officials shut illegal school in Malakpet

RAJESHWARI PARASAI DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

A private school in Malakpet was shut down on Thursday by officials of the School Education Department, as it was running without any permission from the government or its agencies.

This has affected 350 children who, officials say, would be accommodated in nearby schools.

Officials inspected the Integral Foundation School, following a complaint by the Telangana Private

Teachers Forum. They found that the school did not have any kind of permission, whether a no-objection certificate (NoC) from the fire department, building permission from the GHMC or the permission required from the traffic police. Following this, the authorities sealed the school.

The school started in the 2018-19 academic year and was running classes till IX, on an average collecting ₹28,000 to ₹30,000 in fees per student.

Sources said the school will have to re-

fund the fee to the parents if it fails to obtain permission before the Dasara holidays.

One of the parents, on condition of anonymity, said, "We would have been happy if this was done at the beginning of the academic year. Officials should make sure that such schools do not start at all. Now our children will have to suffer." One of the complainants, Mr Shabbir Ali, president of Telangana Private Teachers Forum, said parents need to be careful when admitting their kids to school.

90-yr-old tries to end life

PULI SHARAT KUMAR DC
RUMAGUNDAM, SEPT. 26

A 90-year-old person who allegedly tried to commit suicide by jumping into the Godavari was saved by locals in Godavari-khanti of Ramagundam, Peddapalli district. According to Assistant Commissioner of police Umendar, Mr Adla Sanjeeva Reddy, a resident of Mamidapalli in

Veenavanka mandal of Karimnagar district, attempted suicide by jumping off the bridge on the river. Mr Sanjeeva Reddy lives with his sons Narayana Reddy and Narasimha Reddy for the past few years, after the death of his wife. Few days ago, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy handed over his property of 20 acres along with ₹3 lakhs divided equally between his sons. After this, they allegedly

started harassing him and did not even provide him food. Moreover, they started abusing him and pressured him so much he decided to jump in the waters and end his life, he said. Unable to bear the torture by his sons, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy jumped into the Godavari river from the bridge. The locals who noticed this, rescued the old man and informed the police, he added.

Bus mows down cyclist in Hayathnagar

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

A BSNL employee who was riding a bicycle was killed when a pri-

vate bus hit him at Hayathnagar on Thursday morning.

According to police, the incident took place at around 6.30 am on

the main road near the police station, when S. Ramulu, 57, an attendant with the BSNL was crossing the road on his bicycle.

Ramulu, a resident of SBH Colony in Munaganuru, was taking a U-turn, when a speeding bus (AP05 TP22) belonging hit the bicycle.

LONG CAREER

Since 2005, he committed over 50 thefts

Driver held for burglaries

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

A car driver from the city, wanted in nine burglaries, was arrested by Cyberabad police on Thursday. The accused, Mohammed Ibrahim, a resident of Golconda, had been taken into custody seven times in 11 years.

According to the Cyberabad police, Ibrahim, 40, started committing burglaries from 2005. He kept an eye on locked houses and broke into them whenever an opportunity arose. His latest theft was on September 12 at

Rajendranagar when the inmates of a house had gone to watch the Ganesh idol immersion procession. When they returned that night, they found the house burgled.

Police disclosed that between 2005 and 2016, Ibrahim was arrested seven times for being involved in 43 thefts. He was an expert in breaking into locked houses using a screwdriver and an iron rod. In 2016, he was booked under the Preventive Detention Act and detained in Chanchalguda Central Prison. On release from the jail in January 2019,

he took up job as a driver with a businessman.

Rajendranagar detective inspector D. Ashok said: "Ibrahim used to borrow his employer's car saying that he wants to take his family members for a ride. But he used it to commit thefts from locked houses. While most burglars lavishly spent the money they made on themselves, Ibrahim always spent the money made to meet his family's needs. He has a wife and four children, and often faced difficulty in meeting their expenses."

With clues collected from the scene of

offence in Rajendranagar, Ibrahim was nabbed during the wee hours of Thursday at P&T Colony in the Sun City area.

Investigations have revealed his involvement in four cases in Rajendranagar, three in Golconda and two in Asif Nagar, said the detective inspector.

Based on Ibrahim's confession, 17 tolas of gold, silver articles weighing 500 gms, ₹1.4 lakh cash, a car (AP13 J 7916) used in committing the offences, apart from an iron rod and a screwdriver were recovered from him.

CMS' MEET DID NOT TAKE UP HRC SPLIT

FROM PAGE 1

There have been allegations that the delay in the Commission's division is due to a lack of communication between concerned officers. Due to this, the governments of the two states have not focused on the appointment of a chairman and other members.

Justice Nisar Ahmad Kakru served as the last chairman of the Human Rights Commission. He retired on August 21, 2016. In August 2015, members of the commission had completed their term. Since then, both the AP and Telangana governments did not constitute the commission.

At least 3,960 petitions are pending with the HRC since January this year, the total pendency is estimated to be in several thousands. Recently, the chief ministers of the two states have met and discussed the issues related to the bifur-

cation of employees and usage of river waters and other issues, but the HRC appointments did not come up for discussion. Political parties and NGOs say that both states governments are neglecting the constitution of the working body for the HRC, deliberately. Despite several letters from the NHRC to both states on the formation of the commissions at the earliest, the issue was never addressed. The NHRC and HRCs of several states are now delivering services online to citizens, whereas the Telugu states even are lacking in appointing members.

Tera Rajinikanth Reddy, secretary, Telangana High Courts Advocates Association, said, "When citizens face any distress or denied of justice from the government bodies, they approach the Human Rights Commission. But for people of the two Telugu states, no services are being rendered."

WOMAN SENTENCED TO 2-YR JAIL FOR THREATENING 2

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

A 50-year-old woman who failed to repay a debt of ₹15 lakh taken from two women and threatened them when they asked for their money back, was convicted by a court on Thursday.

The court directed her to undergo two years of rigorous imprisonment and pay ₹10,000 as fine.

A case was registered against K. Arundhathi, 50, a resident of Bharani Colony by Neredmet police in 2016, on the complaint of one S. Radha Devi, that the former has abused and threatened her when she was asked to repay her debt.

The Rachakonda police said that Radha Devi and her friend Rama Devi, had given ₹10 lakh and ₹5 lakh respectively to Arundhathi, as a loan in 2015, with a promise to claim the debt in a year.

When the duo asked Arundhathi about the money, she abused them in filthy language and also threatened them with dire consequences if they asked for the money. Subsequently, a case was registered against her under sections 420, 406 and 504 of IPC.

After the investigation, the case was charge-sheeted before the 12th Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Court at Malkajgiri.

The court conducted a trial and on Thursday gave a judgement convicting Arundhathi and directed her to undergo two years of rigorous imprisonment, and also to pay ₹10,000 as fine, said the police.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



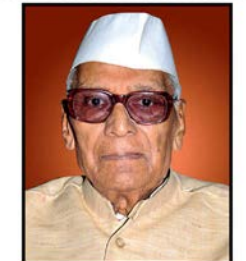
GANDIBOINA ABRAHAM RAJU
S/o (Late) Gandiboina Prakasham
DOB: 27.09.1952 DOD: 30.09.2002
Your memories are in our heart forever. We miss you DAD
Inserted by Children:
G. Christina, G. Sujay, G. Supreeth

IN LOVING MEMORY



Late Sri Putrevu Radhakrishna Murthy
DOB: 11-11-1931 DOD: 27-09-2014
Years may pass by, but the light of your beautiful soul continues to shine bright in our hearts. Your exceptional life, lived to the fullest, inspires us to do our best everyday.
PUTREVU FAMILY

105th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



Acharya Konda Lakshman Bapuji
Born: 27-09-1915 Deceased: 21-09-2012
Your memories are stronger than ever. You are in the temple of our hearts forever
WEAVERS WELFARE TRUST
Padmashali Bhavan, Rajmohalla, Hyd. 040-24755559, 24765558

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Smt. K. MANJULAVANI
Former JMSI, SBI
DoB: 27.09.1953 DoD: 07.04.2005
On this day a star descended on this planet whose light can never be extinguished in their hearts who knew you.
As we cut your birthday cake with no candles, the cherished memories of your life will linger in our hearts and minds perennially. We deeply love you and miss you.
Happy Birthday!
By Husband, Son & Daughter
(S/1920/000906)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Sri KOTHAPALLY NARASIMHA
(Bhishma Pithamaha, Meru Sangam)
Your memories are with us all the time.
Inserted by:
K.N. Son's Tailors & Kothapally Srinivas & K. Ramu
(B/1920/000100)



Shri Ratnakar Indurkar
Retd. Executive Engineer, R&B, S/O Late Shri Gopal Rao Indurkar.
Passed away on 21/09/2019
Indurkar Family
7702865410
7337399930

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY



PEREJI MARY MEENA KUMARI
D.O.B: 27-09-2016
Mother in Heaven
Missing You Always
Inserted by:
Best Price Wholesale Sale Medical
9666208209

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Late SARDAR TRILOK SINGH
(Punjab & Sind Bank)
S/o Late Sardar Laxman Singh (Contractor)
D.O.B.: 27.09.1949 D.O.D.: 17.01.2016
"Your memories will always be in our heart. Miss you daddy!"
Inserted by:
Mr. & Mrs. Ashvinder Singh (Son)
Mr. & Mrs. Arvinder Singh (Son)
S. Sukhvinder Singh (Son)
(B/1920/000101)

76th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Mr. F.C. RAJKUMAR PILLAI
(S/o Chinniah Pillai)
DOB: 27-09-1943 DOD:16-09-2013
You live in our heart forever. We miss you & your love Dad
Inserted by: **Wife: Mrs. Prem Raj Kumar Children & Grand Children**

9th ANNIVERSARY
Jesus said, "Those who believe in me will live, even if they die." John 11:25



Smt. KUCHIPUDI HANNAH RAJAKUMARI
15.09.1940 - 27.09.2010
W/o Sri A. Jeremiaiah
Dear beloved mother,
You live always in our hearts with your loving memories.
Inserted by:
Husband, Sons,
Daughter, Daughters-in-law,
& Grand Children. Ph : 040 - 23703555

OBITUARY



Mrs. Mariamma Varghese
W/o Late Mr K.M. Varghese
Call to Eternal Glory on 24-9-2019
Funeral Service on Friday, 27-9-2019 at 10.30 am at residence Royal Heights, 103, JJ Nagar Colony, Alwal at 11.30 am at St. Andrews Orthodox Syrian Vaillya Church, West Marredpally and the final service at 12.30 noon at Garrison Cemetery No.12, Trimligherry.
Inserted by: Remy, Reena, Ruby, Vinu, Binoy, Noby and all Grand Children
Contact: 9606734388, 963117911

CHALIS WA on 28.09.2019 Saturday



Late KHAJA FAROOQ ALI
Date of Death: 28.08.2019
National Chess Champion in 1963
Retired Employee of R.B.I.
Add:- Plot No. 134, Ghouse Nagar, Bandlaguda, Opp. Abu Bakar Siddique Masjid.
Contact No.: 9032426171
Inserted by:
Khaja Mujahed Ali, Maqsood Ali
(S/1920/000941)

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



KOMMU SUBUSHAN KUMAR (Sunny)
DOB: 19.02.1976 DOD: 27.09.2018
Inserted by:
Mrs. K. Esther (Wife),
Nora Jennifer, Shannon Stane and Niraly Jemima
You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure
(S/1920/000952)

SHRADHANJALI



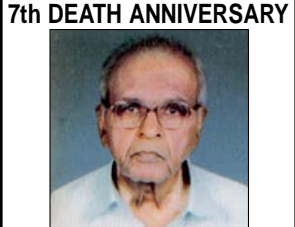
Smt. MEKA VIMALA
Born: 08 July 1962 Died: 23 Sep 2019
Your presence was our strength
Your touch was our comfort
Now your memories will be our treasure
Inserted by:
Mr. M. Amarendra (Husband)
Mr. M. Navaneet Kumar (Son)
Mrs. B. Lavanya (Daughter)
Mrs. S. Bhavani (Daughter)
Sons-in-Law & Grand Daughters
(S/1920/000951)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Sri KOTHAPALLY NARASIMHA
(Bhishma Pithamaha, Meru Sangam)
Your memories are with us all the time.
Inserted by:
Kothapally Family.
(B/1920/000909)

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. PS: 23:6



Late S.S. RAJARATHNAM
DOB: 01.09.1929 DOD: 27.09.2012
We always remember & cherish your good deeds & your memories
Sanjeev (Son)
Shirley (Daughter-in-Law)
Sheeba (Grand Daughter)
Sam (Grand Son)
(S/1920/000949)



Paying tribute

KCR recalls contribution made by Acharya Konda Laxman Babuji to the statehood struggle on his 104th jayanti



Disburse insurance amount to farmers within a week of the death of a farmer

— T. Harish Rao
Finance minister

IN BRIEF

Bar Council to meet on Sec. 41

Hyderabad: With advocates seeking the repeal of amendments to Section 41 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Bar Council of Telangana has decided to convene a joint meeting of the Bar Council and presidents and secretaries of bar associations on October 19. The amendment enhances the powers of the police, advocates say. An officer would have the right to give bail to an offender or serve notice to a person who commits any offence for which the punishment is below seven years jail to appear before the police officer.

MPs ask SCR for more trains

Hyderabad: About 15 MPs from TS and Karnataka took part in a meeting hosted by South Central Railway with regard to Secunderabad and Hyderabad divisions. SCR GM Gajanan Mallay briefed the MPs on the green initiatives, water conservation, avoiding use of plastic. The MPs raised issues related to development works and services in their constituencies. The demands included construction of new lines, introduction of trains, extension of services, additional stoppages, construction of bridges and providing improved passenger amenities. TS MPs also demanded more MMTS services.

BJP says, probe Karimnagar funds

Hyderabad: Karimnagar BJP MP Bandi Sanjay and state party president Dr K. Laxman asked Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan to inquire into the alleged irregularities in tenders for the works by the Karimnagar Smart City Corporation and alleged illegal granite mining in the district by a cartel of the MLA and officials. They also demanded a CBI probe. In a memorandum, Mr Sanjay said the Centre had earmarked ₹1,878 crore for taking up developmental works in Karimnagar but there are irregularities in the tenders and contracts had been given to ineligible contractors.

AP HC overturns YSRC's gag order

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN I DC
VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 26

The AP High Court has set aside an informal ban reportedly imposed by the Jagan Mohan Reddy government, whose ministers threatened multiple-system operators (MSOs) to black out two Telugu TV.

The court upheld the pleas of ABN and TV5, which had sought restoring of telecast, causing a major embarrassment to the ruling party. The unofficial gag order on the pretext of opposing their journalistic lapses in covering the 'achievements' of the government in its first 100 days, has drawn severe criticism from the Editor's Guild, the opposition Telugu Desam and BJP, besides intellectuals, journalists and the public. AP ministers Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Perni Venkata Ramaiah and Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao reportedly held a meeting with MSOs at a government office located on the premises of Pandit Nehru bus station and instructed them to stop the telecast of ABN and TV5, and allegedly threatened them of dire consequences if they did not comply. The two channels were blacked out.

The YSRC is drawing criticism even from general public as it is reportedly directing the police to book cases against those who post critical remarks for going on a spree of undoing what the TD did.

TD MLA K. Atchennaidu said, "The YSRC is unable to tolerate criticism from any quarter."

BJP senior leader P. Satyanarayana said, "Even as people are giving clear cut mandate in each election, the YSRC and the TD are unable to understand that the people can no longer be influenced by biased mass media. The government should allow media to play its role."

An MSO official said, "Both the YSRC and the TD adopt same tactics to suppress the media. When TD was in power, it forced closure of Sakshi TV and NTV twice. The YSRC is taking revenge by shutting down ABN and TV5."

Asked about the issue, YSRC Amalapuram MP Chintla Anuradha said, "We will accept constructive criticism. If a section of media deliberately takes up mis-information campaigns, it is unfair on their part and we will not accept such a tendency."

BJP in two minds on Huzurnagar bypoll

Party fears poor show may affect new-found momentum

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

State BJP leaders are brainstorming over contesting the Huzurnagar byelection. As per the suggestions of some senior leaders, the party's core committee decided to drop the idea of contesting, fearing that a defeat could have a cascading negative impact on the ensuing municipal elections.

The BJP's candidate secured a meagre 1,500 votes in the December 2018 Assembly elections in the constituency. In the Lok Sabha polls that followed a few months later, the BJP nominee secured only 3,000 votes from the Huzurnagar segment.

Keeping in view the poor performance of the party in the Assembly segment, certain senior party leaders have reportedly suggested that the party should not contest the byelection, and instead concentrate on the ensuing elections to urban local bodies (ULBs).

Sources in the party disclosed that senior leaders are of the view that instead of focusing on the byelection, it would be a better strategy for the party to focus on polls to the ULBs, especially given that BJP's core voters have mainly been based in the urban areas.

There is another section of leaders within the party which does not want to be seen as running away from the contest or conceding defeat, especially at a time when the party is growing stronger in the state.

Mr N. Ramachandra Rao, MLC and member of the BJP Telangana core committee, said that though some leaders might have opined and advocated dropping off from the contest in

TRS win will help one family: Cong

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU I DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The Huzurnagar byelection is gradually heating up, with comments and counters by the leading contenders — the TRS and the Congress.

TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao had said on Wednesday, "If TRS wins in Huzurnagar, it will benefit the people. If the Congress wins, it will only benefit TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy."

In their reply, Congress leaders said democracy would benefit if the Congress won the bypoll, but only "one family" — a reference to the Kalvakuntlas, the first family of the TRS — would benefit if the ruling party won.

TPCC vice-president Mallu Ravi, speaking to mediapersons here, said that it was ridiculous for

the TRS to say that Mr Rama Rao would develop Huzurnagar if the party won the bypoll. Had not the people already elected the TRS to govern and develop the state, he asked.

Mr Ravi said the people should make a statement against dictatorship and save democracy by defeating the TRS.

Former MLC Ramulu Naik said the byelection was a fight between money power and people's power. He asked by TRS leaders why, if they were confident of winning the bypoll, were deputed one minister for each mandal and one MLA for each village.

TPCC working president J. Kusuma Kumar alleged that the TRS was misusing power. He said the TRS candidate would represent a handful of elites while the Congress would take the voice of the people to the Assembly.

Huzurnagar; there is no desire to concede defeat or drop out of the contest.

Sources disclosed that the core committee has examined all probables and shortlisted the names of Ms Srikala Reddy, daughter of Jitender Reddy, former MLA of Kodad; Mr L. Appireddy, an NRI, and three senior BJP leaders from Nalgonda district, Dr Rama Rao, Mr Ashok Naik and Mr S. Ram Reddy, of whom, the party will select one as a candidate.

Sources revealed that keeping in mind the caste and other political factors, Ms Srikala

Reddy was the forerunner and the core committee would likely nominate her.

A senior party leader, on condition of anonymity, said that though the winning chances maybe less when compared with the Congress and the ruling TRS in the segment, the party has to improve its position in the segment as well as in the district.

"There has been a lot of change in the political scenario compared with the situation during the Assembly elections in December, 2018. We will certainly put up a good show," the leader told this newspaper.

HC to hear PILs on civic polls

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

The High Court has agreed to hear PILs against on municipal elections on Friday, following a request by the State Election Commission (SEC) and the government.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy were about to adjourn the hearing to October 21,

when counsels for the SEC and the government said a single judge had on July 25 directed that the civic polls be conducted within 119 days from the day the orders were issued.

Additional advocate-general J. Ramachandra Rao said municipal authorities had rectified the objections raised in the PILs regarding delimitation of wards, publication of the voters' list and other grievances.

Chinnola Naresh Reddy, counsel for the petitioner, had said that five MPs had filed affidavits stating they had not been informed of the division of wards. Responding to this, the Chief Justice asked why they had not mentioned their political affiliation in the affidavit. He asked if Karimnagar BJP MP Bandi Sanjay, who had alleged that his signature was forged, had lodged a police complaint.



Uttam Kumar Reddy

UTTAM ASKS KTR ABOUT 'LOOT' IN BHAGIRATHA

From Page 1

Mr N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee, asked TRS working president and state minister K.T. Rama Rao to "reveal how much money was looted in Mission Bhagiratha scheme".

Describing the Huzurnagar byelection as one which will be a turning point in the history of Telangana state, he said that TRS had given its ticket to a person hailing from Yamaram village of Dachepalli mandal in Guntur district.

Mr Reddy said that Gutta Sukhender Reddy, TRS MLC, was indulging in unethical practices and was pressuring local Congress leaders to join the TRS.

He said that they would lodge a complaint with the Governor besides the Chairman of the Legislative Council against Mr Sukhender Reddy.

The TRS was trying to woo the voters and local leaders with power, money and liquor, he said, and demanded that the Election Commission conduct the byelection with Central forces.

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For details of above referred materials, timing and date of inspection, Last date & Process of submission, Terms of Sale, Conditions applicable and other related details, please refer to <http://www.ilfsengg.com/>

Mantri blames increase of onion prices on hoarding

From Page 1

Wholesalers said that once new stock comes into the market, price will drop. Onions are being sold at ₹35 to ₹45 per kg in the wholesale market.

Heavy rain has destroyed the onion crop in Maharashtra, the largest producer of onions. This has exacerbated situation and led to a steep price rise. Other major onion growing states such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have had heavy rainfall.

Traders say that once the new stock comes into the market, prices will drop to ₹500 per quintal, bringing down retail prices as well. Those who had hoarded large stocks are now selling

them at high prices.

Mr S. Niranjana Reddy, agriculture and marketing minister, said that in view of reports that certain traders were creating an artificial scarcity, the marketing director was asked to hold discussions with traders to control prices and not to burden people.

He said that there were reports that new crop of onions is coming into the market and prices should drop in the next two to three days.

The minister disclosed that the government was in touch with the Centre to boost supply by lifting Central buffer stock to maintain prices, in case the situation gets worse.

"Once the flood situation in Maharashtra is nor-

malised, retail price of onions will come down," Mr Reddy assured.

Mr Venkata Ramana, president, Onion Imports and Exports Traders Association of Hyderabad, said that around 135 truckloads of onions had come from Maharashtra and 35 loads were sufficient for the city. He said that onion stocks were coming in from Maharashtra and Kurnool.

"It has become very difficult to manage our household needs with the rising prices. We use onions in many ways — raw onions in salads, and in many dishes. The price rise has hit our monthly budget," said Ms Urvashri M., a homemaker. "The government should keep track and not allow these steep price rises."

TS REPORTED 6,000 ROHINGYAS, SAYS KISHAN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

Minister of state, home, G. Kishan Reddy said the TS government had informed the Centre that the state had 6,000 Rohingyas.

Asked whether the National Register of Citizens would be implemented in the state, he said

the Centre had not taken a decision.

Mr Reddy criticised Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao for blaming the Centre for the economic crisis in the state.

"There has no decrease in the Budget from the Centre to the state. The Union Budget is very different from the state Budget. The

Central Budget has fiscal discipline while the state Budget has none."

To a question on MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's statement on US President Donald Trump for calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'father of India', he replied "Owaisi is an MP. He does not have the level to question the US President."



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CUSTOMS, INDIRECT TAXES & NARCOTICS, FARIDABAD

ADVERTISEMENT

Please refer to advertisement issued in national newspapers on 28.08.2019 regarding the online written examination for Customs Brokers Examination, 2020 scheduled to be held on 06.03.2020. The pattern of the examination for the written and oral examination will be as follows:

The written examination will be a Computer Based Examination with Multiple Choice Questions. Questions will be bilingual i.e. in English and Hindi. Candidates have the option to answer either in English or Hindi. Other details are as follows:

No. of questions	: 150
Time duration	: Two and half hours (10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs)
Marking scheme	: +3 for each correct answer -1 for each incorrect answer
Maximum marks	: 450
Qualifying marks	: 270 (60%)

Those qualifying in the written examination will have to appear in oral examination in terms of Regulation 6 of the Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations, 2018, as amended, during the second quarter of the calendar year 2020. The pass percentage marks for qualifying in the oral examination will be 60%.

For any query, please visit the websites (www.cbic.gov.in and www.nacin.gov.in) or contact the nearest Customs Commissionerate/ NACIN, Faridabad @ e-mail id. cbire.helpline@gmail.com.

davp 15502/11/001/17/920



Petroleum Conservation Research Association
Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. Of India

NOTICE

Saksham National Competition-2019

Notice is hereby given to extend the date of registration and participation in Saksham National Competition-2019 till 31st October, 2019 by schools/students for Essay, Painting and Quiz categories.

For any queries or information, students/schools may contact on our helpline number- 011 26715360 on any working day (0930 to 1730 Hrs.).

To register/participate, please log on to

www.pcracompetitions.org

Sd/-

Executive Director, PCRA

davp 33104/11/0003/1920



ICMR AWARDS AND PRIZES (2019)

The Indian Council of Medical Research invites nominations/ applications from Indian scientists for ICMR Awards/Prizes for the year 2019 in various fields of biomedical sciences. For details and application format, kindly visit ICMR website: <https://www.icmr.nic.in> Last date of receipt of nominations/applications is 30th November 2019. Correspondence address: The Director General, Kind Attention: Dr. N.C. Jain, Scientist-G & Head, Division of Human Resource Planning and Development (HRD), Indian Council of Medical Research, V. Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, Post Box No. - 49111, New Delhi-110029 Telephone: 011-26589258 email: drencejain@gmail.com

davp17152/11/0015/1920



केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड
CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION



CENTRAL TEACHER ELIGIBILITY TEST PUBLIC NOTICE

The Central Board of Secondary Education will conduct the 13th edition of Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) on 08-12-2019 (Sunday). The test will be conducted in 110 cities all over the country. The online application-process for CTET December 2019 examination has been started from 19-08-2019.

It is hereby informed that due to administrative reasons, the last date for submitting online application has been extended till 30-09-2019 (Monday) and the fee can be paid upto 03-10-2019 (Thursday) till 15.30 p.m. Online correction in particulars of application form will be available from 04-10-2019 (Friday) to 10-10-2019 (Thursday). No corrections shall be allowed under any circumstances after this date.

The Information Bulletin containing details of examination, syllabus, languages, eligibility criteria, examination fee, and examination cities are available on CTET official website www.ctet.nic.in. The interested candidates may apply through online mode accordingly.

DIRECTOR (CTET)
&
SECRETARY, CBSE

केन्द्रीय अध्यापक पात्रता परीक्षा एकक, पी० एस० 1-2 इन्स्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, आई० पी० एक्सटेंशन, पटपगंज, दिल्ली-110092
CTET Unit, PS, 1-2 Institutional Area, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092
फोन / Telephone: +91-11-22235774, 22247154, 22247176 वेबसाइट Website: www.ctet.nic.in

davp 21107/11/0009/1920



History

There is a need to correct Indian history distorted by colonial rulers, said Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

FRIDAY | 27 SEPTEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Nation

PAGE
6



The country had entered a stage of recession. — Sitaram Yechury
CPI(M) general secretary

NAGAS SEEK POLITICAL SOLUTION

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, SEPT. 26

After civil society initiatives, the Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has started mounting pressure for an early solution to the ongoing Naga peace talks by writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an 'honourable political solution' to the political issue.

The NSF, in a detailed letter to the prime minister, has made an appeal to usher in an 'era of peace' through a political solution that defines and recognises the identity of the Naga people.

"We believe that the right time has come for the government to recognise and materialise Nagas' desire and the right to live together under one political roof," the NSF stated.

The letter signed by NSF president Ninoto Awomi and general secretary Liremo R. Kikon has also drawn the prime minister's attention to the Naga people's unique history and the solution that can be put forth based on it.

According to the NSF, Nagaland, which it defines as Nagalaim, was placed within the Indian Union neither by conquest nor by the consent of the Naga people, unlike the then princely states, which agreed to form the Indian Union.

"The Naga leaders never agreed to be a part of India. They neither signed the instrument of accession nor did they gratify the Indian Independence Act 1947. This is the unique history of the Nagas and it has been acknowledged by the government of India," the NSF pointed out.

The NSF also pleaded not to compare or subject the Naga issue to any other political issue in the country, and even abroad.

"Since time immemorial, each individual Naga village was a sovereign republic. No invading forces or kin could exert their dominance over the entire stretch of Naga territory.

Even the Britishers, post-1885, had adapted the policy of non-interference in the Naga Hills after they overran Assam. On January 10, 1929, the Naga Club, on behalf of the Naga people, submitted a memorandum to the Simon Commission that the Nagas would not want to be part of independent India," the NSF, while referring to and reminding the government of the unique history of Nagaland, said.

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

In a major relief to registered clubs, their members and guests, the Madras High Court quashed a circular dated March 23, 2010 issued by the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise, Chennai, denying permission to the members of clubs or their guests to bring liquor or wine or any sort, from outside the premises and consume in the club premises.

Allowing a batch of petitions from Madras Club, Madras Gymkhana Club and 18 others, Justice M.S. Ramesh said, "The authorities shall not prohibit the members of the registered clubs or its guests from carrying liquor from outside the club premises for consumption on the club premises, so long as such liquors are within the permissible quantity namely, 4.5 litres of IMFL, 4.5 litres of foreign liquor, 7.8 litres

- Members of the registered clubs or its guests are now authorised to carry liquor within the permissible quantity namely, 4.5 litres of IMFL, 4.5 litres of foreign liquor, 7.8 litres of beer and 9 litres of wine, as per the court order
- At any given point of time, any person carry liquor in permissible limits across the state, advocates say.

of beer and 9 litres of wine".

According to advocate Abudukumar Rajaratnam, appearing for Madras Gymkhana Club, it has been a regular practice of the members of the petitioner club to carry their own liquor to the club for consumption on the premises of the club, which holds a permit to supply liquor. The petitioner club charges an additional fee known as 'Corkage' for permitting their members to use their own liquor on the premises of the club.

To the shock and surprise of the petitioner club and its members, the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise

had issued a circular dated March 23, 2010, citing Rule 34 (2) of the Tamil Nadu Liquor (License and Permit) Rules by which all F.L.2 licensees have been instructed not to permit the members of the club or their guests to bring liquor from outside and consume it in the clubs.

The circular had been issued as though the rule contains an implied negative meaning so as to prohibit carrying of liquor by members of the club from outside. Moreover, as per the rules, any person can possess 4.5 litres of IMFL, 4.5 litres of foreign liquor, 7.8 litres of beer and 9 litres of wine at a given point of time, within the

state, Abudukumar added.

Extracting Rule 34 (2) of the TN Liquor (License and Permit) Rules, the judge said, "A careful perusal of the aforesaid provision does not, even remotely imply to the effect that, consumption of liquor within the club brought from outside the club is prohibited. The said rule only contemplates and enables the club to supply liquor to its members and their guests and that, liquor supplied by the clubs could either be consumed within the premises of the club or removed from there in sealed bottles.

As such, the assumption of the Commissioner, Prohibition and Excise, Chennai, that there is an implication for restriction of liquor being brought inside the club for consumption, is misconceived. On this short ground, the circular dated March 23, 2010, is liable to be quashed".

'Super' tourists at the symbol of love



Supermodels from 16 countries at the Taj Mahal on the eve of World Tourism Day on Thursday.

— PTI

Jacobites cause tension at Ernakulam church

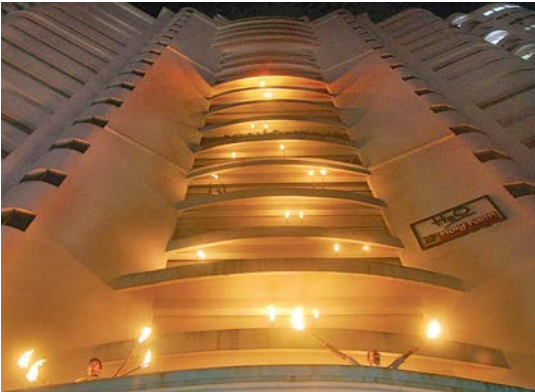
Unable to enter church, orthodox faction staged protest

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI, SEPT. 26

The Ernakulam district collector took control of Piravom St. Mary's Church in Kerala amidst dramatic scenes on Thursday following a High Court order to implement the Supreme Court verdict and submit a report by 1.45 pm.

The wailing and shouting protesters of the Jacobite faction along with bishops and priests were arrested and removed by a strong contingent of police ending the stand-off between the rival groups of Malankara Church.

The Jacobites had locked the gates of the church on Tuesday night and were holding a 'prayer protest' inside the church in the presence of Catholics Baselios Thomas-I, metropolitan trustee Joseph Mar Gregorios and other senior members of the Church.



Members of laity cry after the police removed the protesters inside the St Mary's church at Piravom in Kerala on Thursday.

— ARUN CHANDRABOSE

Collector S. Suhas sealed the gates and the rooms of the church and the keys will be submitted to the High Court on Friday. The members of the Orthodox faction, who were staging a sit-in protest to enter the church, ended it following discussions with the police officials. The police swung into

action following the High Court fixing a deadline to remove the Jacobite group from the church premises.

Although the cops requested them to vacate the premises, they refused to budge and the police forced open the gates with chain cutters. They first arrested the metropolitans and

priests before removing the members of the laity from the spot. The entire operation was conducted peacefully as the Jacobite bishops said they will not create any law and order problems. A total of 67 people were arrested and removed from the premises. They were later released on bail.

The police and the district administration handled a highly tense situation in a deft manner amidst emotional scenes with priests and nuns weeping openly.

The members of the Orthodox group came to celebrate Mass on Wednesday as per the apex court order. But they were unable to enter the church and staged a sit-in protest.

The group then approached the High Court which directed the civil authorities to take steps to implement the SC verdict.

PRIYANKA SLAMS ARREST OF LAW STUDENT

New Delhi, Sept. 26: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday hit out at the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh over the arrest of the student who has accused former Union minister Swami Chinmayanand of rape, and asked if this is the BJP's justice.

The law student was on Wednesday arrested on charges of extortion and sent to 14-day judicial custody. Hours later, her bail plea was rejected. "Unnao rape case: Victim's father is killed. Victim's uncle is arrested. Following massive public pressure and after 13 months, accused MLA arrested. Attempt to kill the victim's family. Shahjahanpur rape case: Victim arrested. Victim's family being pressured," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet.

The police deliberately delayed action against the accused BJP leader and it was after public pressure that they arrested him, said the Congress general secretary in-charge of eastern UP: "Even the charge of rape has not been put on the accused BJP leader. This is BJP's justice?" she said.

Chinmayanand, sent to judicial custody after his arrest, was booked under section 376C of the IPC, a charge with lesser punishment than rape.

— PTI

■ The law student, who has accused Chinmayanand of rape, was arrested on charges of extortion and sent to 14-day judicial custody on Wednesday, and hours later, her bail plea was rejected

Trains deck up with Bapu pics for Oct. 2

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Indian Railways has elaborate plans for October 2, to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. While the Railways has already announced to junk single-use plastic on its trains from October 2, the Central Railways has decided to have pictures of Mahatma Gandhi on its locomotives.

The work to paint the locomotives started about two months back and already, 15 of them have been completed while work on seven more is on.

Already, some of the locomotives with the pictures are running on the Mumbai-Pune and Mumbai-Konkan routes. Central Railway officials said that the locomotives are being painted in the locosheds.

During a meeting with the general managers (GM) and divisional railway managers (DRMs) of Zonal Railways through video conferencing on

Thursday, Minister of state for Railways Mr Suresh C. Angadi directed all zones and divisions to complete preparations with regard to 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi in time.

"Various initiatives being taken in this direction include elimination of single-use plastic from railway premises, provision of bottle crushing machines, cleanliness in stations, trains and railway premises, tree plantation and development of 150 track side nurseries," railway officials said.

On Wednesday, the Railways had circulated the guidelines with regard to plastic waste management. Railways has already decided to replace its plastic cutlery with more environment-friendly products.

Meanwhile, during the meeting the minister also reviewed safety, punctuality, freight loading, passenger traffic, infrastructure projects and other ongoing developmental projects.

RS BYPOLLS ON OCT 16 FOR JAITLEY, JETHMALANI SEATS

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

The Election Commission of India on Thursday announced bypolls for the two Rajya Sabha seats that fell vacant following the deaths of former Union ministers Arun Jaitley and Ram Jethmalani. The polls for these two seats will be held on October 16.

The ECI will issue notification for the by-election on September 27 and the nominations will begin from the same day.

The counting of votes will be held on October 16 at 5 pm. BJP leader Jaitley represented Uttar Pradesh while Mr Jethmalani represented Bihar from RJD. Mr Jaitley's term, who passed away on August 24, was to end on April 2, 2024 while that of Mr Jathmalani's was to end on July 7, 2022.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items.

(1) LED Flood Lanterns with Latest Chip On Board (COB) Technology with Various Wattages with 5 Years Warranty, Re-invited e-tenders

(2) 44890 - Copper Conductor Cable in Various Sizes & Colours, (3) 44293 - Display of Advertisements by Affixing Kiosks on Street Lighting Poles, (4) 44381 - Cable Fault Locating Van, (5) 44795 - Services for Implementation and Support of ERP Project at BEST Undertaking along with the Cloud Hosting Services and Procurement of COTS Licences,

Note : For more details, at (Sr. Nos. 1, 2 & 5) log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> & (Sr. Nos. 3 & 4) www.besttender.com

PRO/AAM(M)/84/2019

GENERAL MANAGER

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. 01/1920/CD

Short Description:- Supplying 43 Grade Ordinary Portland Cement conforming to IS: 269/2016 (with latest amendments) packed in new synthetic/Jute bags at Pilot Workshops, Mohali, Muktsar and Sarma.

Quantity:- 9430 MT

Last Date and Time of downloading of Tender Documents:- 24.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs.

Last Date and Time of uploading of Tender Documents:- 31.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs.

Last Date and Time of opening of Tender (Part I & II):- 31.10.2019 at 15:30 Hrs.

Tender specification can only be downloaded from <https://pspcl.abcpocprocure.com>

Note:- In case of any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender, the prospective bidders are Requested to get clarification from this office or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd. contact number +91-9646980011, 9904407996, 9904407989. It is also requested to get their digital Signature issued well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL website, www.pspcl.in.

C-389/19
RO : C-7281

Dy. CE/Civil Design,
PSPCL, Patiala.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
DIRECTORATE OF PURCHASE & STORES
NRB PURCHASE & STORES UNIT (NRBPSU)

E-TENDER NOTICE

NRBPSU invites ONLINE tenders for the supply of items mentioned below as per the tender notice given in our E-Tender portal <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in>. The suppliers need to get enrolled in the E-Tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. However, EMD in the form of DD, drawn in favour of PAY & ACCOUNTS OFFICER, NRB, MUMBAI should be sent by post to our Mumbai Office, so as to reach us by the tender opening date. No paper quotation will be accepted.

Sr. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date of Uploading the tender	Opening Date
1	DPS/NRBPSU/09/N1/130/TPT	2 Te EOT Cranes	14/11/2019	14/11/2019
2	DPS/NRBPSU/03/N2/45-A/TPT	Mechanically Actuated Diaphragm Metering Pumps & Spares	22/11/2019	22/11/2019

Details of EMD, Pre-Bid Meeting (if applicable) are given on the above portal. Bidders shall ensure that, minutes of pre-bid meeting and / or corrigendum if any uploaded on the E-Tender portal will be viewed / verified for any modification before uploading their offer.

For details on Bid Preparation, please see the user manual in the portal. For technical assistance please contact help desk 020-25315555 or email: support.dpsdae@nextenders.com. Website- etenders.dpsdae.gov.in

Part II opening date in the tender will be intimated after evaluation of part-I to only those bidders who have been technically selected. Date of pre-bid meeting if any, is given in the tender.

The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

Regional Director, (NRBPSU)

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice)/368, dt. 24.09.2019. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah invites Open Tender for the under-mentioned electrical work.

Tender No. : EL/HWH/25/21/3040.

Name of work : Implementation of RDSO scheme for Push pull train operation of rolling stock of LHB HOG variant coaches and WAP7/WAP5 locomotives for reliable Communication between maser and slave locomotives.

Tender Value : ₹ 2,14,93,838. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,57,500. Closing date and time of tender : 18.10.2019 at 15.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website : www.ireps.gov.in

Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. (HWH-180/2019-20)

Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

EASTERN RAILWAY

The following E-Tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Remote Control Building, Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700014 in connection with the following work :

Tender No.: ELEG-OT-742-2019-20, Dated: 24.09.2019. Particulars of the work: Implementation of RDSO Scheme for push pulls Train Operation of Rolling Stock of LHB HOG Variant Coaches and WAP7/WAP5. Tender Value : ₹ 2,29,76,561. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,64,900. Tender Submission Start Date: 04.10.2019. Tender Submission End Date : 18.10.2019 at 15.00 hrs.

Tender Bid Opening Date : 18.10.2019 after 15.00 hrs. Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in

(SDAH-179/2019-20)

Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender Notice No. RE-DNR-Engg-Gr-234-WT-5 Date - 23.09.2019

On behalf of the President of India, Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur, invites open & sealed tender for the following work from experienced, financially and technically sound contractors, to be opened on 16.10.2019.

1. Name of the work & its location : Provision of Independent Bridge masts along with ancillary works for bridges under jurisdiction of CPD/RE/DNR. 2. Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 2,32,89,433/11- 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 2,66,500/00- 4. Date for submission of the tender and opening of Tender : For submission : From 02.10.2019 & up to 11:00 Hours on 16.10.2019. Tender will be opened at 11:30 Hrs. on 16.10.2019. 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of e-tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender from can be purchased etc : website <http://trep.gov.in> / Notice board location & Add. of the office :- Office of the Chief Project Director (Engg), Railway Electrification, Danapur, (Near Jagjeewan Stadium), PO-Khagaul, Patna-801105, (Bihar)

Chief Project Director (Engg.)
Railway Electrification, Danapur
PR/01297/RE/ENGG/ T/19-20/40

CENTRAL RAILWAY

NAGPUR DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO.: DRMNWGP/72/2019 OF 24.09.2019

Sr. No. 1: Proposed construction of RCC box 5.5 x 4.5m by pushing/sliding method in connection with elimination of various LCs on Amla - Nagpur Section by providing road Under Bridge/LHS. (A) LC no. 285/C' class manned at railway km. 992/44-16 between Melpanjara - Sonkhamb (B) LC no. 276/A' C' class manned at railway km. 960/12-14 between Narkher - Teenkheda (C) LC No. 287/A' C' class manned at railway km. 1008/4-6 between Kohli-Kalmeshwar (D) LC No. 277/C' C' class manned at railway km. 965/4-6 between Kalamba Teenkheda (E) LC No. 280/A' C' class manned at railway km. 974/29-31 between Kalamba Katol (F) LC No. 286' C' class manned at railway km. 998/33-35 between Sonkhamb Kohli (G) LC No. 287/C' C' class manned at railway km. 1011/11-13 between Kohli Kalmeshwar (H) LC No. 290/C' C' class manned at railway km. 1026/13-15 between Kalmeshwar - Bharatwara. (I) Approximate Cost :- Rs.258500639.45. (ii) Earnest Money :- Rs. 1442500.00. Sr. No. 2) (A) Proposed construction of RCC Box 5.5 m x 4.0 m by Pushing / sliding method in connection with elimination of LC No. 114 'C' class manned at railway km. 814/2-4 between Gungaoon-Bultori on Nagpur-Wardha section by providing Road under Bridge/LHS. (B) Proposed construction of RCC Box 4.0 m x 3.0 m by Pushing / sliding method in connection with elimination of LC No. 106 'C' class manned at railway km. 796/2-4 between Borkhedi-Sindi on Nagpur Wardha section by providing Road under Bridge/LHS. (C) Proposed construction of RCC Box 5.0 m x 4.0 m by Pushing / sliding method in connection with elimination of LC No. 109 'A' class manned at railway km. 803/30-804/40 between Bultori-Borkhedi on Nagpur-Wardha section by providing Road under Bridge/LHS. (i) Approximate Cost :- Rs. 108933510.80. (ii) Earnest Money :- Rs. 694700.00. Date & time of closing of tender : 16.10.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Complete details and instructions for e-tendering and on line participation for the above work is available on Railway's Website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (Works)
Central Railway, Nagpur

331/DC For & On behalf of the President of India
SECURITY HELP LINE 182



Top posting

Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat will receive baton of Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee from Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa, making him the front-runner for Chief of Defence Staff post



BJP's *ab ki baar 75 par* slogan reflects onion, petrol, prices

— Randeep Singh Surjewala, Congress leader

IN BRIEF

17 KILLED IN PUNE RAINS, 16K RESCUED

Pune: At least 17 people were killed in various incidents of flooding and wall collapse after intense rainfall battered Maharashtra's Pune city and various other parts of the district, officials said on Thursday.

Nearly 16,000 people, including some stuck on rooftops and trees, were rescued from Pune city and other parts of the district, they said, adding that four persons were missing.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said he was pained to know about the loss of lives due to heavy rains in Pune. He said teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were deployed in the city and Baramati tehsil, and all necessary assistance was being provided in the affected areas. Schools and colleges in various tehsils of Pune declared a holiday on Thursday in view of the deluge. Five people sleeping at a dargah in Khed-Shivapur village, located on the Mumbai-Bengaluru National Highway, were washed away after the heavy downpour, Superintendent of Police Sandip Patil said.

Besides, 12 people, including five women, lost their lives in various other incidents.

SOCIAL MEDIA TO FOLLOW ELECTION CODE

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Google, Sharachat, TikTok and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) have assured the Election Commission of India (ECI) that they will follow the "Voluntary Code of Ethics" during the upcoming elections in Haryana and Maharashtra legislative Assemblies and the various byelections that are to be held simultaneously.

Since social media platforms are the biggest source of fake news and misinformation, particularly during the time of elections, the ECI had vigorously pursued that they take responsibility for content being circulated on their platforms. Following this, they joined hands with IMAI to develop a "Voluntary Code of Ethics" which it came into effect from the day it was presented to the ECI, on March 20 this year.

ODISHA GOVT TO WEED OUT INEPT STAFF

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has decided to go for premature retirement of employees of doubtful integrity or inefficiency from public service to ensure efficiency in administration, an official said on Thursday.

The General Administration and Public Grievance department has issued a circular in this regard to all the secretaries asking them to weed out officers and employees of doubtful integrity or inefficiency from public service.

The employees who have completed 30 years of service or have attained 50 years of age, whichever is earlier, and those who have attained the age of 55, will come under the purview of this process, the circular said.

Performances of such state government employees belonging to Group A, B, C and D categories will be reviewed by committees every three months.

The secretary of the administrative department is also empowered to constitute internal committees to scrutinise all the cases to be reviewed in each quarter and finalise the specific cases to be reviewed.

UN okays bank access to Hafiz

Request cleared after objections raised

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT 26

In a controversial move taken in August this year, it has come to light that the United Nations Security Council has reportedly approved a request by Pakistan for global terrorist and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed to be allowed to use his bank account to meet "basic monthly expenses for himself and his family", according to website and TV reports from New York.

Pakistan's request is being seen once again as part of Islamabad's open support for terrorism but questions are also being raised on why the UNSC allowed it either on humanitarian or procedural grounds.

According to reports, in a letter dated August 15, the United Nations Security Council said that the request was approved after no objections were raised by the deadline of the same date. "The Chair has the honour to refer to his draft letter to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan communicating the Committee's decision with respect to the intention of the Pakistani authorities to authorise



Hafiz Saeed

■ Pakistan is in danger of being blacklisted by the FATF due to Islamabad's failure or lack of willingness to take action against terrorism

certain expenditures to the benefit of Hafiz Muhammad Saeed (QDi. 263), Haji Muhammad Ashraf (QDi. 265) and Zafar Iqbal (QDi. 308) to cover basic expenses, as specified in the note verbatim of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the letter by the UNSC Chair was quoted by these reports as stating on August 15.

Pakistan had reportedly earlier written a letter to the UN to release the expenditure on a request from Saeed to cover basic living expenses for him-

self and his family. According to media reports, Pakistan's letter went on to elaborate that his bank account was made inaccessible after the UNSC's resolution to freeze his assets. Saeed has requested PKR (Pakistani Rupees) 1,50,000 to cover the expenses. Islamabad's request to the UN apparently mentioned that the mastermind behind 2008 Mumbai terror attack was an assistant professor of engineering and technology in Lahore.

Incidentally, Pakistan is in serious danger of being blacklisted next month by the FATF — a global inter-governmental body to combat terror financing — due to Islamabad's failure or lack of willingness to take action against terrorism emanating from its soil.

India has been maintaining that no credible action has been taken by Pakistan against terrorists on its soil and that no action has been taken by Pakistan to bring the perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks of 2008 on Mumbai to book.

Saeed's arrest comes just ahead of Pakistan PM Khan's maiden visit to the US on July 21.

'ASI report in favour of Ram temple'

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

Sunni Waqf Board on Thursday assailed the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) report, based on its excavation at the disputed site, saying that its conjectures were moving in a "preconceived" direction, in favour of the Ram temple.

"There is a direction this report (of ASI) is going on... see how report proceeds, it proceeds with preconceived view. All through the report Babri Masjid is described as a 'disputed structure', but Ram Chabutra as 'Ram Chabutra', senior counsel Meenakshi Arora told the five-judge Constitution Bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi.

Pointing to discrepancies in the ASI report relating to the existence of a massive structure that was supported by pillars, which is sought to be described as Ram temple by lawyers appearing for Ram Lalla, Ms Arora took the bench through the location of pillars' and their foundation, showing there was no clarity in what existed when, and whether these pillars supported a massive structure.

The ASI has, in its report, claimed the existence of 85 pillars — five each in 17 rows. These pillars are spread over four separate levels, and each level belongs to a separate

■ The ASI has, in its report, claimed the existence of 85 pillars — five each in 17 rows

period of history. The time gap between the four floors of pillars could be a century or more.

But the manner in which the pillars have been numbered seems random, and this led to discrepancies in the conclusions drawn, Ms Arora pointed out. She told the court that pillar basis number 18 is shown at floor 4, 19 on floor 3, 21 at floor number 3 and 22 at level number 4.

Ms Arora is dealing with the archaeological evidence that surfaced in the course of excavation order by Allahabad high court in 2003. Apart from the pillars, a wall measuring 50 meters, and a five-feet wide base, was also discovered.

Arora said that these "levels" in the ASI report must not be visualised as present day high-rise buildings where one floor is constructed over the other. She said that these layers are separated by centuries and each succeeding layer sits unevenly on the surface on the earlier structure, which got buried under the earth and disappeared.

She said this while addressing the question when this massive structure came about and whether it was a temple or not.

HEIGHTENED | THREATS

■ Among the latest gadgets to be acquired shortly are the mini UAVs

Paramilitary forces on shopping spree

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD SEPT. 26

Post August 5 — the day the Centre abrogated (or as some will have it, de-operationalised) Article 370, and bifurcated the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories — the country's paramilitary forces appear to be on a shopping spree.

With heightened threats to their campuses not only in J&K but elsewhere, the ministry of home affairs (MHA) has fast-tracked the process of acquiring latest state-of-the-art gadgets and equipment to fully secure the campuses belonging to the paramilitary forces.

From mini Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to the latest Intrusion Detection Systems, hydraulic tyre killers, non-crash

rated boom barriers to detect forced intrusions, automated licence plate recognition systems, bollards, road blockers — the list is long.

Sources in the security establishment told *Deccan Chronicle* that ever since the Centre made Article 370 inoperative, instructions have been issued by the Union Home Minister to fast-track the purchases of all the latest gadgets and equipment to secure the major campuses which house the officers, men and their families.

The decision to fast-track the purchases was taken in anticipation of the threat that would emerge from terror groups who will repeatedly try to strike at the forces.

Over the last several days, multiple alerts have been issued to the paramilitary forces — particularly the Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) — what with both agencies playing a crucial role in maintaining peace in J&K.

While the BSF guards the International Border, CRPF is deployed all across the Kashmir valley to tackle law and order problems besides taking up anti-terror operations.

Over the last one month, several groups of technical experts on surveillance equipment, which has been constituted by the MHA, have held meetings to finalise the new and latest equipment required to foil the nefarious designs of the terrorists.

Among the latest gadgets to be acquired shortly are the mini UAVs with a range of 15 kilometres and loiter time of 60 minutes at target with maximum payload up to launch altitude of 1,000 metres above

sea level. The mini UAVs, whose weight will be less than 35 kg will have day and night cameras and will be capable of storing 100 or more flight routes with each route having capacity to configure minimum 70 way points.

Similarly, latest intrusion detection systems for safeguarding border areas or security of a campus of paramilitary force is also being acquired. The acoustic sensors in the system are useful for detecting tunnelling activity under the ground. There are various technologies available and already quite a few firms have come forward and given a demonstration.

To prevent terrorists from storming into the campuses on a four-wheeler, state-of-the-art tyre killers will soon be installed

at the entry points of the campuses. "The spikes are being designed in such a way as to ensure that tyres of intruding vehicles, irrespective of the direction of the approach, will be disabled. It has already been tested in one of the locations wherein the four radial tyres of an intruding SUV were punctured instantly," sources explained.

Besides, more under-vehicle-scanning systems, automated licence plate recognition systems, passive night telescopic sight for 5.6 mm INSAS rifles and other weapons is also being purchased.

"The Army and Air Force bases already have most of these latest gadgets and equipment in place and the paramilitary forces were lagging behind. But not any more," sources added.

about New Zealand's new strategic paper 'India 2022: Investing in the relationship', which is a continuation of the NZ Inc India Strategy 2011.

Modi and Ardene recalled their earlier meeting in November 2017 in Manila and noted that following the visit of former New Zealand prime minister John Key to India in October 2016, new institutional mechanisms have been instituted, which has substantially enhanced the bilateral relationship, the statement said.

Modi also thanked his New Zealand counterpart for accepting his invitation to participate in the event 'Relevance of Gandhi in the contemporary Times' held on the sidelines of UNGA on Tuesday.

— PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern during a meeting, in New York, USA on Wednesday.

— PTI

Modi, Ardern condemn Pulwama

New York, Sept. 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart Jacinda Ardern strongly condemned the Pulwama and the Christchurch terror attacks as they met here and extended support to each other to fight terrorism.

Modi and Ardern met on the sidelines of the UNGA summit and reviewed the bilateral relations and discussed steps to intensify political, economic, defence, security and people to people relations, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

They also discussed the global and regional issues of mutual interest, including the issue of international terrorism and appreciated the convergence of views between

the two countries on this issue.

"Both countries have strongly condemned and extended support to each other following the Pulwama and Christchurch terror attacks," the statement said.

In February, tensions flared up between India and Pakistan after a suicide bomber of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) killed 40 CRPF personnel in Pulwama. Amid mounting outrage, the Indian Air Force carried out a counter-terror operation, hitting the biggest JeM training camp in Balakot, deep inside Pakistan on February 26.

A month later in March, at least 47 people, including five Indians, were killed when a Australia-born white supremacist

opened fire on worshippers at two mosques in New Zealand's Christchurch town, in one of the worst attack on Muslims in a western country.

The 28-year-old gunman had published a racist manifesto on Twitter before livestreaming his rampage.

India had also supported the joint New Zealand-French initiative on Christchurch Call of Action, which aims at eliminating terrorists and violent extremist content online, the statement said.

During the meeting, Ardern noted that the Indian diaspora and students in New Zealand are important bridges between the two nations and contributing to bonds of friendship.

She also informed Modi

Byelections in K'taka inevitable, says EC

From Page 1

Addressing the court, Mr Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, said even if court set aside the disqualification of the former legislators, their membership of the state Assembly would go due to their resignations, thus suggesting that the bypolls were inevitable either way.

He said it was not just the question of the right of the disqualified MLAs to contest the election but also the rights of the electorate of 17 constituencies to have representation in the Assembly.

"If there is a right of an individual to contest, there is a right of a constituency to be represented", Mr Dwivedi said, opposing the suggestion to put the election on hold. Mr Dwivedi said this before the court said it would hold a final hearing on the matter.

Appearing for the Congress, on whose complaint the legislators were unseated, senior counsel

Kapil Sibal said that the Speaker, while deciding whether the resignations were voluntary and genuine, could not be oblivious of the fact that these disqualified MLAs were hobnobbing with the BJP and were staying at a hotel in Mumbai under high security.

In a dig at the argument that the rebel MLAs were not comfortable with the working of the coalition government headed by then CM H.D. Kumaraswamy, Mr Sibal said it was not that they were uncomfortable with the coalition but were "more comfortable" with the BJP.

Mr Sibal said in the first place they did not submit their resignations to the Speaker but to the governor, and then left for Mumbai in a BJP MLA's private aircraft from the HAL airport.

In the course of arguments, Mr Sibal said the issue needed to be referred to the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

BJP RELIEVED WITH BYPOLL SUSPENSION

DC CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26

The Election Commission's U-turn in the Supreme Court vis-a-vis crucial bypolls to 15 Assembly constituencies and the subsequent decision to defer till October 22 hearing of petitions against disqualification came as a manna not only to disqualified legislators but also to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and senior leaders of party.

With four days left for filing nomination papers for polls originally scheduled for October 21, all disqualified legislators were anxious about the apex court's verdict on their petitions and mounted pressure on Mr Yediyurappa to protect their interests.

DECCAN

Chronicle

27 SEPTEMBER 2019

CBI, ED, I-T, agencies used to play politics

In any fair-minded biography of the BJP in power, there is apt to be, along with other landmark episodes such as demonetisation and depriving Kashmir of its constitutional autonomy, a chunk dedicated to the saffron party's ties with its political opponents.

The filing of an FIR by the Enforcement Directorate against NCP founder Sharad Pawar and others under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act earlier this week is a signifier of that relationship. The principal characteristic of the ruling side's dealings with key national and regional parties that dare to stand up to it is to seek to demonise them. A subset of this approach is to send the ED, CBI or income-tax investigators after them with a view to reduce them in public esteem and, subliminally, create the tag of "corrupt" for them.

In some cases, the ruling party's calculus is that targeted individuals may be terrorised into submission and switch over to the Hindutva party. This has happened in West Bengal, for instance, where a leading former Trinamul Congress leader has had criminal cases dropped against him and is now the BJP's chief spotter in the state. A prominent BJP leader of Assam, a former Congressman, is also a defector against whom cases have been dropped.

The trouble, however, is that the party which rules at the Centre unleashes its power only against its political opponents and their relatives... The lesson is that justice in India does not depend on institutions.

top boys of the ruling side. (There is an impressive list.)

A noteworthy feature is that the cases against the Opposition leaders are rarely brought to a conclusion. We still hear about Bofors from BJP leaders, though many years of BJP rule have brought no fresh evidence after the Delhi high court cleared the late Rajiv Gandhi. Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra's investigation never seems to end.

Sonia and Rahul Gandhi have been booked in the so-called *National Herald* case, although their culpability is hard to fathom. P. Chidambaram is sought to be humiliated in jail when investigations — based solely on documents — are long done. Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar's remand also does not end.

The lesson is that justice in India does not depend on institutions. It's a gift of those in power. For a democracy that is a shame we must live through until we are able to change our structures.

It's topsy-turvy in UP

Things are indeed topsy-turvy in Uttar Pradesh. A rape survivor is in jail while the alleged rapist, a former Union minister, is in hospital, ostensibly because he's too ill to be in judicial custody. Doctors may have a different medical opinion about Swami Chinmayanand, but he enjoys the privileges of being given the maximum leeway by the Yogi Adityanath government. The case took a startling turn with the police taking the alleged extortionists, including the rape survivor who is a law student and her three friends, into custody saying they had confessed. The charges were brought against the rape survivor on the strength of a complaint, not by Chinmayanand but by others against the alleged blackmailers. This is the state of affairs in India's biggest state, which sends the most MPs to Parliament.

The string of episodes in the Chinmayanand saga would have made an intriguing plot for a Kafkaesque novel or film screenplay if not for the original sin of rape committed in the real world by another person in a position of influence. How the establishment sprang to shield him after the details were revealed doesn't surprise us because of the state where the incidents took place. UP has a history of governments being at the beck and call of ruling politicians, caged parrots aplenty. The politician in seen as a bridge between the BJP and its supporters with a host of schools and colleges, while heading an *akhara*. Only a Supreme Court-monitored inquiry might bring out all the facts. Rape is rape, regardless of extortion after it, and if guilty the swami must even hang by the new punishments possible in the laws against rapists.

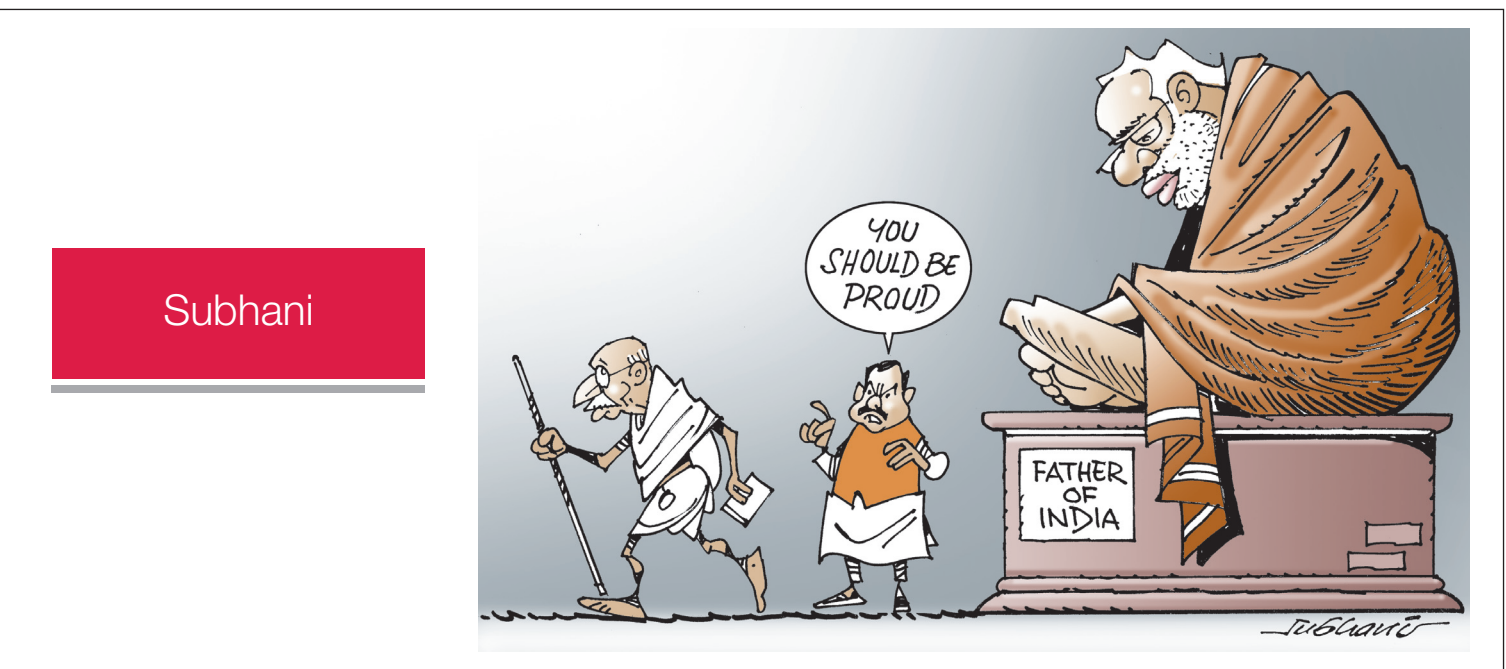
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How will one card solve any of India's problems?



Shikha Mukerjee

As a balloon sent up to test the air or the windsock to test the direction and speed of the wind, the "one card-one nation" proposition was brain numbing. The purpose of "The Card", according to home minister Amit Shah, would be that "all data should be put together in a single card". The question is why? What will this card do? How will the holder of the card benefit from it?

Apart from the fact that neither passports nor driving licences would be valid if these documents were put on to a "single card", the idea of "The Card" tells us nothing at all on what makes it "should" do. On the other hand, the idea of "The Card" is going to raise hackles in some quarters, create opportunities for endless speculation and enable a conversation that can only go around in circles, as no one really knows what it means.

Indians already have cards. Those who need to travel overseas or even those who dream of doing so but never may have passports. Just about 50 per cent of the population have 574 million bank accounts (though some, like me, may have multiple accounts, all duly filed with the income-tax authorities, in the interests of full disclosure) and presumably chip-enabled cards. Almost everyone of eligible age has a voter card, totalling some 897 million voters as per the 2019 elections. Even so, there are eligible citizens who do not have voter cards; thousands and thousands of women are not on the list, because they have either never been enlisted or they have moved or their names have changed. This is quite apart from the mysterious exclusions that occur every

time the voters' list is revised.

Cards and lists that precede the making of the cards are error-ridden, annoying, time-consuming, income terminating, albeit temporarily, misadventures in India. Nothing ever gets done in one shot. Just how inefficient the system is has been proved with heart-stopping clarity by the failure of the "system" to produce a flawless list of registered/eligible citizens in one corner of a not very heavily populated state, namely Assam.

The trouble with Mr Amit Shah's statement on why there should be yet one more card is that he wears at least two hats. He is the Union home minister as well as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party. What exactly is his status within the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is not equally important, but if he has one, it must come with some responsibilities. If "The Card" idea was floated by Mr Shah in his BJP persona, it would be a deliberately provocative political poke. If, on the other hand, "The Card" idea was proposed by Mr Shah as home minister, then it is an altogether different ballgame.

The BJP may have been right when it laid down the law — one man-one post. It would have avoided the current confusion over which Amit Shah proposed the idea of "The Card". Trying to figure out the exact point

The trouble with Mr Amit Shah's statement on why there should be yet one more card is that he wears at least two hats. He is the Union home minister as well as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

A BJP president with a definite target to keep the party in power in as many states as possible for as long as possible has a political agenda. 'The Card' is in the service of that agenda...

at which Mr Shah slips in and out of his two roles when speaking in public and making significant announcements is mind-boggling. Given his stamina, Mr Shah may not get disoriented, but others do, juggling with the multiple personalities and the disorder that follows.

A BJP president with a definite target to keep the party in power in as many states as possible for as long as possible has a political agenda. "The Card" is in the service of that agenda, as one more effort at weeding out whoever is required to be politically declared *persona non grata* or whatever is the fancy word for a person who sneaked in across the border as an illegal, makes a lot of sense. As a euphemism for the very flawed and extremely exasperating process known as the National Register of Citizens and its concomitant, the Citizenship Amendment Bill, "The Card" could cut the derision as well as the apprehension that is now inevitable, after Assam.

A home minister, however, needs to be far more cautious in proposing an idea that is, to begin with, a snafu. Passports cannot be put on the same card and the highly experienced bureaucrats in the home ministry must have known it. If they did not advise the minister on what to list as the data that "should be put together in a single card", then the minister should watch out on what is happening on his turf, because he is in serious danger of being misled, and so in misleading the nation.

As home minister, Mr Shah has the additional responsibility that he is accountable for his words as much as for his

actions in that role. Irrespective of how dysfunctional Parliament may be, the fact is that a ministry is accountable for the work it does and the minister likewise.

"The Card" is not an idea floated for political purposes when the home minister announces it. It becomes a proposal of the government that must then tell citizens what the card is for. Saying "should" is simply not enough. Saying that it puts together data is seriously dangerous, because the purpose of the government is not surveillance.

Making cards costs money. It requires to be paid for through budgetary provisions. Therefore, the home minister has to explain why this card is necessary and how it will benefit people. He is answerable for when it will be rolled out. And why the card is to be linked to digitisation of the Census. Such random connections are not appropriate for the home minister, however suitable these may be for the BJP chief, because these are irresponsible statements. The home minister must explain and justify the expenditure of public money and the benefit such a card will provide.

Will this too be a "Jumla", as Mr Shah once famously described the 2014 election promise of ₹15 lakhs in every Indian's bank account? It ought not to be. In 2014, he was only the BJP president. As home minister of the sixth or seventh largest economy in the world, a country that is internationally significant, he owes the public either an explanation or a retraction.

The writer is a senior journalist in Kolkata

The government must tell citizens what the card is for. Saying 'should' is simply not enough. Saying that it puts together data is seriously dangerous, because the purpose of the government is not surveillance.

LETTERS

LYNCHING BARBARIC

Killing innocent children for open defecation is barbaric (2 Dalit kids lynched for open defecation in MP, DC, Sept. 26). Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in the US announced that 99 per cent of open defecation has been curtailed in India. But here, destitute children are being killed. Statistics mislead, ground reality is different. Instead of publicity, government must ponder upon providing facilities, especially in villages.

G. Thirupathiah
Kothapet, Hyderabad

HYDERABAD ROADS

Authorities must provide better infrastructure in roads and flyovers to meet the increasing traffic demands rather than imposing heavy fines (*Record 132mm rain sinks city, DC, Sept. 26*). This would up morale of those who follow rules. Tuesday's rain havoc supports the fact.

Mohammed Abdul Muqeeth
Hyderabad

FATHER OF INDIA

US President Donald Trump praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him 'Father of India'. Why is MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi shocked? A world-renowned leader praising our PM is not an insult to India. It is wrong to think that Mr Modi 'divides country', since 2014 Mr Modi has been spreading 'pride of India' globally.

Vivaan Ramvikas Raj
Kacheguda, Hyderabad

MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, before criticising US President Donald Trump must get his facts correct. 'Father of India' title was not given to Gandhiji, though we call him so out of respect. This was the clarification given by home ministry to an RTI query. Such title can be given to anyone.

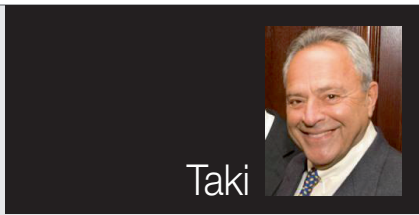
K. Ganesh
Hyderabad

ERRANT AUTO DRIVERS

As suggested by Mohd Usmani, traffic police should start issuing challans to errant autorickshaw drivers also. Police is having misplaced sympathy for autos, but auto drivers commit all kinds of traffic offences: park on roadside, engage in gossip, stop in middle of the road, change lanes abruptly, drive on wrong side of road, etc.

Dr K.S. Rao
Shaikpet, Hyderabad

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Taki

Why cows can be preferable to humans

The cows are coming down, the cows are coming down, and I'm off to the Bagel. My Swiss neighbours have cut, raked and baled the grass that the sweet four-legged ones with bells around their necks will be eating all winter while indoors. They will parade through the town next week, and it will certainly be an improvement after the kind of tourists we've been getting of late. Give me four-legged beings any old day — and I really mean that.

I'll give you a brief example. Last week, when I was in the Gstaad local bank, a couple came in and went to the teller next to mine. As I had to wait for something complicated (gone are the days when one could send moolah with a simple name and address), I couldn't help but overhear their conversation. The man was tall and blond, the woman was from somewhere in the Gulf and much younger. They enquired about the amount that can be deposited for a 12-year-old student at the Rosey

school to draw on. The teller, whom I know, smiled and asked the couple how much they had in mind. "Well, not a million or two," answered the man. That's fine, said the teller, still smiling. But how much? Seven to eight hundred, came the answer. That should do, said the teller. Then came the bombshell: "Seven to eight hundred thousand." The teller gasped but said nothing. "Is it illegal?" asked the father. "No, no, but you said the child is 12." I looked at them and they seemed normal enough, but how normal is it to give that kind of dough to a 12-year-old to play with?

See what I mean about preferring four-legged creatures to humans? Exclusivity has always been the ethos of the very rich, but today's rich bums are out of control. All one has to do is to look south — at Saudi Arabia for one. Forget the bad taste, the outrageous conduct towards women, the killing of dissidents and the bullying of servants that goes as far as torturing them if they don't

execute orders to the letter. For example: Princess Hassa bint Salman, the sister of the present Saudi strongman, was just condemned by a French court for ordering her bodyguard to beat up a plumber in her apartment. He had photographed pieces of furniture in order to put them back in the right place. The Saudi woman was outraged. And this happened in Paris, of all places. This lot sees us as a bunch of money-hungry peons they can manipulate and push around. That bloody woman, needless to say, had left France by the time the verdict was delivered. It will all be swept under the carpet in due course.

And like all cowardly bullies, the Saudis cried foul when two of their oil installations blew up over the weekend. Houthi drones did it. Good for the drones, say I. The Saudis and their allies have killed nearly 100,000 people and are starving millions with their airstrikes and blockades. They are using hunger as a weapon, and have the gall to cry foul when the

injured ones retaliate.

One of the reasons I rarely go into the Swiss village nowadays is the horrors that one sees. And it's bound to get worse. Winter is better because the rats can't stand the cold. Still, it's strange to live in one of the most beautiful spots on this earth and hesitate to walk through the picturesque village because of who you might meet. Pundits keep banging on about equality and freedom — but what kind of freedom is it when you have Saudi and Gulf potentates mistreating their Filipino servants behind closed doors right here in Switzerland, supposedly the most democratic nation of all? One of the reasons I think feminism and political correctness are bad jokes is that there are thousands, if not millions, of Harvey Weinstains in that part of the world, and we refuse to do anything about it. Instead we kiss their extremely ugly asses.

Never mind. Back in good old New York, the Sacklers, the billionaire family behind OxyContin, have

offered up to \$12 billion to settle more than 2,000 opioid claims. The opioid crisis has caused the death of more than 400,000 people. Twelve billion smackers for 400,000 dead comes to how much per dead person?

The Sacklers, meanwhile, are relocating to Palm Beach. Once they are there the family will be fine. They won't join the Everglades club, or the Bath & Tennis — strongholds of old money made the old-fashioned way — but they will be welcome to the Palm Beach Country Club, where Bernie Madoff was among the most popular members. The OxyContin heiress Joss Sackler just had a fashion show in New York. If there were any shame left in this world, there would not have been polite applause at the end of the show. Goody, goody gumdrops: next time I write I'll be among the vomit-inducing, cynical insincerity of Noo Yawk groupies. Yippee!

By arrangement with the Spectator

An extensive system of roads or highways that surround a city

A librarian who specialises in locating, prioritising and organising information on the Internet

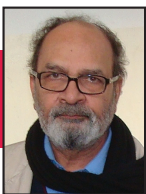
DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Oped

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Saudi-Iran tussle always goes Tehran's way at UN



Saeed Naqvi

Wide Angle

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's West Asia peace plan will be dissected, discussed and digested because it is essential to stabilise a hugely disrupted region. Of course, any idea from one side of an arbitrarily drawn Shia-Sunni faultline will possibly cause Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman of Saudi Arabia to throw a ginger fit, but after recent setbacks he is something of a wounded stag and may be amenable to reason.

The attack on Aramco, claimed by the Houthis, is a wound, of course, but so is the wasted four-year-long war in Yemen. It is now turning upon him. The sight of his buddy,

Benjamin Netanyahu, hanging from the precipice is not reassuring either. Mr Netanyahu may well clamber on again, or he may fall without a trace, the chances of him being a durable figure in Israeli public life are at a discount. The picture must cause despair in Riyadh and Tel Aviv now that there is no John Bolton, holding a top secret folder to his chest and muttering: "I shall do such things, what they are I know not but they shall be the terrors of the earth." (Lear)

The up-and-down in Iran's image in Washington is frequent. An unforgettable image is the Oped page of the *New York Times* of March 20, 2005: Columnist Thomas L. Friedman had recommended

Ayatollah Sistani for the Nobel Prize. Paul Bremer, US representative in Baghdad, had written a note to Ayatollah Sistani, seeking an interview. Sistani's response was cryptic: "Neither you nor I belong to Iraq: Let Iraqis settle their affairs."

The two belong to the same culture. Any observer of Iran would have anticipated the essence of President Rouhani's message: "Let the region settle its affairs."

The drone attack by the Houthis on Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq oil facility in Buqayq was devastating for the Saudis, of course. But it was much more worrying for the American military-industrial complex. The question uppermost in the minds of the Saudi ruling elite will be "if the trillions of dollars of Western arms which we have bought over the years cannot protect our crown jewels" and the US arms market may take a profound hit worldwide, which will not be a happy development at a time when President Donald Trump is looking for deep pockets to clean out the Chinese in the trade war.

The Saudis are sitting on a heap of rubble in Yemen, in Aramco and in Syria. Iran, meanwhile, has consolidated itself with the Hezbollah in Beirut, the Hashd al-Shaabi (in Iraq) and the Houthis in Yemen.

Mr Netanyahu is not a very "likeable" person in Tehran, as elsewhere. This was one of the ingredients in the anti-Semitism sweeping through the Western world. The persistent lobbying by the Israeli leader to demonise Iran has not worked. Indeed, it has boomeranged. In fact, he himself has had egg on his face as, for instance, at the high-powered conference in Warsaw last February with the known purpose of isolating Iran. Russia slammed the planned meeting at the very outset as "counterproductive" because of its obsession with Iran.

The conference collapsed

after Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz had crossed all the possible diplomatic red lines. "Poles suckled anti-Semitism from their mother's milk", he told his hosts, leaving the conference in tatters. A meeting scheduled in Jerusalem to carry forward the ideas from Warsaw was cancelled. Can you blame the Poles for hating him? The Law on Restitution of Jewish Property was passed by the Poles because the Jews, as Holocaust victims, were successfully laying claim to property with the help of the Jewish clout globally. The US state department sent out instructions to all its missions to keep an eye on Jewish property cases. This behaviour comes across as high-handed to most sovereign states.

Here is an opportunity for the leader of Blue and White Party, Benny Gantz, to make Israel not just feared, but also loved. I have in years past travelled around the length and breadth of the Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank with my dear friend, the late Eric Silver. Israel then was never a harsh,

forbidding place it appeared to be in the Netanyahu years.

Just after Donald Trump became President, two grand old men and leaders of the strategic community, Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, turned up in Oslo as guests of the Nobel Foundation. I could distil the point which had great urgency. The Arab-Israeli faultline was losing saliency to the Shia-Sunni faultline. There was an assumption that the Sunnis, being numerically superior, would in the end prevail. And with US and Israeli support, they could ask for the moon.

To get the calculations right, one must set aside Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, and Malaysia, both Sunni but different from the Arab world. In Indonesia, particularly, there is a quaint co-existence of Islam and Hindu culture. Even though Islam is the religion of an overwhelming majority, the Mahabharat and Ramayan define the nation's culture.

The Gulf Cooperation Council put its heads together largely in

response to the Iranian revolution of 1979. But it is far from a Wahabi-Salafi dominated homogenous group. In Bahrain, the conflict is unique — an 80 per cent majority Shia population is treated by the Wahabi ruling sheikhs as the only opposition. In 2011, when the Arab Spring was in the air, US diplomat Jeffrey Feltman had very nearly worked out a power-sharing arrangement between the ruling sheikh and the main Opposition. The arrangement was scuttled by the late King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, who saw any arrangement with the Shias as a compact with Iran, and therefore the devil. He saw Iran as "the head of a snake which had to be cut off".

Has this approach worked for the Saudis? They are sitting on a heap of rubble in Yemen, in Aramco and in Syria. Iran, meanwhile, has consolidated itself with the Hezbollah in Beirut, the Hashd al-Shaabi (in Iraq) and the Houthis in Yemen.

The writer is a senior journalist and commentator based in New Delhi

Greta, Malala & Jonathan: Kids who are fearlessly taking on the world

Michael Morpurgo

The first book I ever produced, some 50 years ago, was a collection of poetry written by children. I called it *Children's Words*. There are poems in there by the young Daniel Day Lewis and Montagu Don, among others, and another by one Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

I was a young teacher trying all I could to help children find their voices. It was at a time when teachers were not so confined to and driven by a narrow curriculum, the children not so taught to the exam, not so forced. So teachers like me could all have more time and space to explore ideas, discover worlds, write our poetry, tell our tales, sing our songs, paint our pictures, make and act our plays. It was a good time to teach. The work they were producing was extraordinary; I was already beginning to realise just how immense the potential and talent of these young people was. I should have known. I had children of my own.

What had not occurred to me so much then but has become much more apparent to me now, and to all of us, I suspect — and has been one of the great and important benefits of social media — is the power of young people to change lives, change the world and how we see it.

Patronise if you dare! The determination and courage of the young to take on the adult world, its hypocrisy, its greed, its idiosyncrasies, its hubris, its self-delusion, its ignorance, its absurd preconceptions and prejudices, "to bravely go where no one has gone before", has taken most of us by surprise.

Some of us might not have thought that young people had it in them. Some of us did not think they were old enough.

Some of us did not think they would understand such things. And some did not think they had a right to stand up for their beliefs, to say and write what they feel, to do what they think is right, and what should be put right. It wasn't long ago that there were some who thought of women that way. That's worth remembering.

Worth remembering too is the contribution millions of children today are making to the world over towards the lives of others, towards this good earth, towards human rights, towards peace and reconciliation.

Let me mention just three of the millions who have made us sit up and think and change, who are telling us straight how it is, who are pricking our consciences and showing us a new way forward, a better way.

In Pakistan, some ten years ago now, Malala Yousafzai, a young schoolgirl of 11, was speaking out for the rights of all girls to be educated, and educated well. In full knowledge of how some in Pakistan might object to this — the Taliban in particular, and others — and understanding fully what risks she was taking, she went on speaking out. Her blogs for the BBC became well known. And the Taliban came for her, to silence her. They shot her in the school bus on her way home.

The assassination attempt backfired. After long months in hospital with all the world looking on, through social media, all of us, young or old, wishing her well again, the doctors worked miracles and Malala recovered. And once recovered she simply went on where she had left off, flying the flag for the rights of girls the world over to be educated.

And by then, of course, the world was listening, applaud-

Let me mention just three of the millions [of children] who have made us sit up and think and change, who are telling us straight how it is, who are pricking our consciences and showing us a new way forward, a better way

ing. She spoke at the United Nations. They have their Declaration of Human Rights; but standing there before them was a young girl from Pakistan who had nearly lost her life for those rights. She received the Nobel Peace Prize, the youngest ever to do so. A child had changed the lives of others, changed the world for the better.

Then another young girl came along, Greta Thunberg, 15, who decided enough was enough. She could see how climate change was threatening, how Sweden, her country, ecologically speaking supposed to be among the most enlightened of countries, was not moving nearly fast enough in the reforms that urgently need to be made. In school her teachers were telling her to switch off the lights and save the planet, and then they flew off all over the world for their holidays. Against all advice from parents and teachers she went on strike from her school, sitting in the street beside her banner. When asked, she replied, in her own parlance: "I am doing this because you adults are s****ing on my future."

This rang a bell for young people all over the world. Here was one of their own, brave enough to face up to the adult world that they knew was being hypocritical. This was their world that was being systematically polluted, exploited and destroyed. Young people are aware of the power of social media, know how to use it, and they used it. Greta's message

went around the world. Millions of children went on strike from school, marched in the streets. The great and powerful, the politicians and the establishment, may have shaken their heads in disapproval, but they knew well enough that they had been rumbled, that Greta was right, as were her supporters, who will very soon be voters.

Greta has just sailed across the Atlantic, to bring her message to the US. She does not lack courage. Atlantic storms or President Donald Trump, she faces them down in her own manner, quietly, firmly, politely. The other day she was protesting outside the White House. She is championing a great cause, to end climate change before it is too late, now, because it is an outrageous injustice to the planet, and a cruel injustice to future generations. This is a cause the young all over the world have taken to their hearts, and quite a few million old folk like me. We could not wish for a better champion.

And now to a hidden injustice I knew little or nothing of until I met a young boy called Jonathan Bryan. He was 10 when I met him. He has suffered from severe cerebral palsy all his life. He has locked-in syndrome. He is entirely reliant on his family and his carers, and on 24-hour medical support — life support effectively. He hears, he sees, he feels, he smiles. But he has no ability to speak at all, so cannot communicate. Well, that's what people often think about such children, and why people often give up on such children.

His mother and his family thought otherwise. For a while Jonathan simply existed. He would lie there in a room, the television on, with other children similarly afflicted. His mother knew there was a child in there longing to communicate: that Jonathan had a spirit, a mind, a personality, and that he was longing to express himself. Between his mother and his family and his carers, and

Jonathan, they found the key to unlock this locked-in boy.

Jonathan could blink, he could move his eyes. He learned to spell out words, blinking at letters on the board his carer held out in front of him. Looking on, his mother spoke his words. It took years of practice to make the words make sentences, make conversation, make writing, make poetry, make a book, his first book, *Eye Can Write*. And can he write! And can he speak! I should say so.

I've known him for four years now. When I first met him I did not know what to say. I knew he was a poet. All I could manage was a rather awkward: "It's good to meet a young writer." And he replied slowly, in his own blinking way: "And it's good... to... meet... an... old... writer!"

I never patronised Jonathan again. Not good enough for this remarkable boy to learn to speak with the blink of an eye, not good enough to write a book. No, Jonathan Bryan began a campaign. He went to see ministers, talked to those who can make things change, went armed with a persuasive statement and an insistent demand which has important implications for the education of all children everywhere. His message is simply this. Never underestimate a child's potential. Give us the teaching, give us all we need to fulfil ourselves, to make the best of ourselves. Look at me. I had the help, support and encouragement I needed. And *Eye Can Write*. And with my writing I can change things, change lives. I can make a difference.

Three children, all of whom found a voice of their own, a mission of their own, found the courage to endure and to speak out, and are making the lives of others immeasurably better. Listen to the children. It's their world as much as ours. More really. They'll be here longer.

By arrangement with the Spectator

What do Saudis gain from acts of largesse towards Pak leaders?



F.S. Aijazuddin

What could be more disarming than to be chauffeured by a debonair, dusky Prime Minister? (Canadian Premier Justin Trudeau does not qualify. His duskiness was self-applied.)

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman has not forgotten Prime Minister Imran Khan's endearing hospitality. He reciprocated by opening the doors of the Holy Ka'aba for Imran Khan to enter Islam's holiest epicentre, a privilege the Saudis extend only to those they allow close to them.

Over the years, Pakistani rulers have become accustomed to such spontaneous acts of Saudi largesse. In mid-December 2000, a deposed Prime Minister — Nawaz Sharif — was released from Attock fort where he had been sentenced to life imprisonment, convicted of kidnapping, hijacking and corruption. He had been incarcerated there for 14 months when suddenly he and his family were flown out of Pakistan in a private jet belonging to the Saudi royal family. Immediately after his arrival at Makkah, he performed umrah, thankful for his unexpected deliverance.

In March 2004, President General Pervez Musharraf visited Saudi Arabia where, according to his then information minister Sheikh Rashid (now Imran Khan's voluble minister of railways), Musharraf held a "one-on-one meeting with the Saudi Arabian leadership and discussed issues including Kashmir, Palestine, the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan". Sheikh Rashid's effervescence bubbled: "President General Pervez Musharraf is the first Pakistani leader who has been blessed with the honour of going to the roof of Khana Ka'aba after performing umrah."

Later, in 2016, Musharraf revealed in an interview that "a few months [after] leaving Pakistan he went to Saudi Arabia to perform umrah and King Abdullah then asked him where he was staying. Musharraf said King Abdullah considered him as a younger brother and gave him a big amount of money by opening a bank account in his name in London."

More recently, retired Gen. Raheel Sharif (the first Army chief in over 20 years to retire without an extension) has been given a lucrative sinecure by the Saudis. He is employed as commander-in-chief of the Saudi-led Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition. What explanation, one wonders, would this new C-in-C have given

his employers for not anticipating the crippling attack on their oil facilities at Abqaiq and Khurais?

One news report contends that the Saudi defence equipment there proved "ineffective ... due to the inability to track and engage low flying targets". The British *Guardian* newspaper gave a different explanation. "The [Saudi] defences were pointed in the wrong direction [...] pointed across the Gulf towards Iran and south towards Yemen." The Israelis once joked about an Egyptian tank being designed with the unusual configuration of three reverse and one forward gears. The three reverse gears were needed should the Israelis attack from the front, and the forward gear in case they made a surprise attack from the rear.

A recent press conference by the Saudi minister of state for foreign affairs in Riyadh provided no clarity. He explained that he was sure the attack "was not launched from Yemen, but from the north". He disclosed that the Saudis had asked the UN and other countries to conduct a probe into the attacks. When that probe is completed, the Saudis will decide on "appropriate procedures" to respond to the aggression. Could any communiqué have been more benign or forgiving, or dilatory? By asking the UN to probe into the drone and missile attacks on its vital oil facilities, the Saudis seem to be deliberately inviting delay. Neither the Saudi crown prince nor Imran Khan will recall that it took the three-member UN Commission of Inquiry nine months to investigate the death of Benazir Bhutto. And even then, the commission concluded that "it remains the responsibility of the Pakistani authorities to carry out a serious, credible criminal investigation".

Dare one ask what do the Saudis gain from such open-pursed benefactions to Pakistani representatives? And why do Pakistan's leaders degenerate so readily into postures of obsequious gratitude? It is rumoured that the Saudis are behind furtive overtures to free an earlier favourite, Nawaz Sharif. He is currently serving a second prison sentence. Prime Minister Imran Khan has sworn he will not release him. Yet, his record shows that he can take a U-turn whenever it is expedient.

Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif can boast a qualification his successor does not have, as yet. He has at least two convictions.

By arrangement with Dawn

Clear vision dictates sound action



Swami Tejomayananda

Edison, the famous scientist, had set up a very expensive laboratory, which one day caught fire. There was no panic. Instead, he called up his wife and said, "Please come, you will not get to see such a spectacle again!" After that he went home and slept peacefully. An objective attitude helps greatly. However, to keep calm in the face of misfortune requires mental strength. Once, I met a young girl who had lost both her legs. The centre of everyone's sympathy, she remained completely

unfazed. Smiling from her wheelchair, she confidently declared, "In two weeks I will get artificial limbs and begin to walk again." This just proves that some can remain calm in the face of even great trauma. Like the man, who having lost everything in a financial crash, said to his friend, "I came empty handed into this world and shall leave empty handed."

Situations in life demand decisions. Theoretically, life could present several options, but one must choose a practical course, within one's reach

and follow it up with action. Just do it! The choice will depend on one's vision of life; a spiritual outlook will differ.

We find it difficult to break an attachment with loving and kind people and it is much easier to break a bond with someone whose conduct is disturbing. Wisdom is in not having expectations from anyone, because the only one we can truly depend upon is the Lord — our sole well-wisher and friend. Our response to the varied situations life presents is determined by our vision. We cannot imitate others. Aman once tried to imitate Jesus Christ. When he was slapped once, he turned the other cheek. However, when slapped on the other cheek, he retaliated with a hard smack. On being asked

why he was not following Christ, he said, "Jesus said turn the other cheek when you are hit. But he did not say what to do when the other cheek is also slapped. So, I gave it back." Imitation cannot stand the test of a crisis. This is when our true nature is revealed. How long can we remain indecisive? Consider the various standpoints, take decisions with clarity about the vision, goal and values. Don't be doubtful. Arrange matters in accordance with the end result. However, be ready for all consequences — conducive or otherwise.

Swami Tejomayananda is from Chinmaya Mission. To find out more about Chinmaya Mission and Swamiji, visit www.chinmayamission.com.





Reef contradictions

Weeks after the Australian government downgraded the Great Barrier Reef's long-term outlook to 'very poor,' PM Scott Morrison says the world heritage site is vibrant and resilient

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World

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The world is facing an unprecedented threat from intolerance and terrorism

— Antonio Guterres
UN secretary-general

BRIEF

Ex-French Prez Chirac dies at 86

Paris: Jacques Chirac, a two-term French president who was the first leader to acknowledge France's role in the Holocaust and defiantly opposed the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, died Thursday at age 86. His son-in-law Frederic Salat-Baroux said that Chirac died "peacefully, among his loved ones." He did not give a cause of death, though Chirac had had repeated health problems since leaving office in 2007. Chirac was long the standard-bearer of France's conservative right, and mayor of Paris for nearly two decades. He was nicknamed "Le Bulldozer".

Student lay dead in dorm for 2 months

Wellington: A teenager lay dead in his campus dorm room for up to two months, a New Zealand university said on Thursday, with the young man's body only discovered after fellow residents complained of the smell. The remains of the first year University of Canterbury student were so badly decomposed that specialist disaster investigators were brought in to identify them. "Clearly there's been quite a big failure here," New Zealand education minister Chris Hipkins said. "And if that means that things need to change to make sure this sort of thing doesn't happen again in the future, then we will do that." The 19-year-old, who has not been publicly identified, was described by friends as a "good and confident guy", but who would sometimes "go off the grid for a week or so." He began his course in July opting to live on the university's leafy campus.

Cholera outbreak in Sudan, 8 dead

Khartoum: Eight people have died from cholera in Sudan including six in the war-torn state of Blue Nile, according to the World Health Organisation, amid a surge in the number of reported cases. A total of 184 cases of cholera were reported in the African country over the past month, including 128 cases from Blue Nile and 56 in Sennar state, WHO said in a statement late Wednesday citing health ministry records. "Eight cholera-related deaths have been recorded by the federal ministry of health, including six in Blue Nile state and two in Sennar state," WHO said.

TREMORS RETURN TO HAUNT PAK

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 26

An Earthquake had on Thursday again hit Pakistan Administered Kashmir and other parts of Pakistan and triggered fear among the people.

The tremor struck Mirpur, Jhelum, Sargodha, Rawalakot, Narowal, Sangla Hill, Dina, Sheikhupura and other areas. People came out of their homes, offices, educational institutions and other buildings in panic.

The epicentre of the 4.7-magnitude tremor was 10 kilometres deep near Jhelum. 70 persons were injured in the incident.

At least 38 people lost their lives while 160 received severe and 360 sustained minor injuries in an earthquake that rattled Pakistan on Tuesday.

The quake had completely damaged 270 houses whereas 2,709 buildings were partially destroyed. The earthquake levelled homes and shops and split open roads in an area between the towns of Jhelum and Mirpur to the north, which is in Pakistan's portion of Kashmir.

Trump calls impeachment probe by Democrats a 'joke'

White House releases whistleblower complaint to members of Congress

Washington, Sept. 26: In the days following the phone call between US President Donald Trump and Ukraine's new president, senior White House officials intervened to "lock down" all records of the call. That's according to a declassified whistleblower complaint released on Thursday by the House Intelligence Committee.

The complaint says that the whistleblower learned about the effort from "multiple US officials."

Committee members are hearing the testimony on Thursday over the complaint and details of the July 25 call on which Trump prodded Ukraine's leader to work with Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and the US attorney general to investigate Democratic political rival Joe Biden.

Trump has said he's done nothing wrong. "They are getting hit hard on this witch hunt because when they look at the information, it's a joke," he said. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced a formal impeachment inquiry.

The House Intelligence Committee has released a redacted version of a whistleblower complaint at the centre of Democrats' impeachment probe of President Donald Trump. Lawmakers began



US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speak during a meeting in New York on Thursday.

TRUMP WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT 'VERY TROUBLING', SAY LAWMAKERS

reviewing a classified version of the complaint on Wednesday evening ahead of testimony on Thursday morning by acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire.

House Democrats who have read the document say it's "deeply disturbing."

The whistleblower's identity was not made public.

The complaint is at least in part related to a July phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The White House released a rough transcript of that call Wednesday morning.

— AFP

September. That document has now been declassified, Republican Congressman and House Intelligence Committee member Chris Stewart said late on Wednesday.

Top Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer told reporters the complaint was "very troubling"—an assessment echoed by Republican Senator Ben Sasse.

Trump struck a subdued tone at his first press meet since Democrats launched an official impeachment inquiry.

— AFP

Indonesians protest in Parliament



Protesters break a hole in the wall of Parliament building compound in Kendari on Thursday during a rally against the government's proposed change in its criminal code laws and plans to weaken the anti-corruption commission. Hundreds of Indonesians gathered in several major centres across the archipelago on Thursday as authorities braced for more violent opposition to a major overhaul of the criminal code.

— AFP

Defiant Boris demands polls in UK

London, Sept. 26: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson challenged Opposition parties to table a no-confidence motion against his government to trigger a general election, amid chaotic scenes in the House of Commons after a historic Supreme Court verdict over-ruling his earlier suspension of Parliament.

Johnson, who had to dash back from the UN

summit in New York to face furious parliamentarians on Wednesday evening, appeared unrepentant as he stuck to his stand that the senior judges had been wrong and rejected the pleas of Members of Parliament to moderate his inflammatory language as an attempt to frustrate his Brexit strategy to meet the October 31 deadline.

Instead of facing the vot-

ers the Opposition turned tail and fled from an election. Instead of deciding to let the voters decide, they ran for the courts it is absolutely no disrespect to the judiciary to say I think the court was wrong, he declared, amid extraordinary verbal clashes in the Commons.

Other Parliamentarians also rounded on Johnson for his lack of contrition following the unanimous

defeat for the government in the highest court of the country.

Responding to Johnson, Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn accused him of failing to take the court defeat seriously, branding his statement "10 minutes of bluster from a dangerous Prime Minister who thinks he is above the law but in truth is not fit for the office he holds."

— PTI

VIOLATORS | MARKED

■ Smugglers enticing Rohingya refugees in camps to take boat journeys

Bangladesh 'shames' human traffickers

Dhaka, Sept. 26: Bangladesh border guards are marking the homes of suspected drug and human traffickers in a public shaming campaign as part of a bid to tackle a sharp rise in crime, officials said Thursday.

The impoverished South Asian nation has been battling a surge in the trafficking of cheap methamphetamine pills called yaba from neighbouring Myanmar, and prescription drugs and alcohol from India.

Human trafficking has also increased, with smugglers enticing Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh camps to take boat jour-

neys to other countries.

Officials have been writing slogans such as "this is a house of a drug trafficker" in red paint on some dwellings in the border districts of Brahmanbaria and Joypurhat, popular routes for criminals.

"We have done this as part of our social campaign to discourage others from committing such crimes," Border Guard Bangladesh regional commander Lieutenant Colonel Golam Kabir said.

Kabir said accused were repeatedly committing the same crimes "despite being arrested multiple times", as they keep getting bail.



Bangladesh border guards watch as a home belonging to a suspected drug trafficker is marked with red paint, which reads, "This is a house of a drug trafficker" — in Akhaura.

— AFP

A local villager in Brahmanbaria, Mohammad Ali, welcomed the move and said that "we

hope they will think about their children's futures".

But rights activists criticised the campaign, saying

entire families were being "vilified".

Bangladesh shares a 4,200-kilometre land bor-

der with India and a 273-kilometre border with Myanmar.

■ BANGLADESH Army said the accused were repeatedly committing the same crimes "despite being arrested multiple times"

A large part of the border is poorly policed, allowing criminals to smuggle humans, drugs and cattle.

Authorities have also shut down dozens of travel agencies in recent months over charges they are used as fronts for human trafficking.

— AFP

Sikh woman, 15 ultras arrested

Kuala Lumpur, Sept. 26: An Indian Sikh woman was among 16 terror suspects arrested by the Malaysian Police for allegedly planning to attack leaders of local political parties, a media report said on Thursday.

The suspects, some of whom were linked to the Islamic State, were arrested in a special operation conducted between August 10 and September 25

■ THE SUSPECTS, some of whom were linked to the Islamic State, were arrested in a special operation conducted between August 10 and September 25

■ THE 16 SUSPECTS, comprised 12 Indonesians, three Malaysians and one Indian national, it said.

■ THE 38-YEAR-OLD Indian woman, who worked as a cleaner, was a member of the secessionist Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) group.

The 16 terror suspects comprised 12 Indonesians, three Malaysians and one Indian national, it said.

Quoting Ayob Khan Mydin, assistant director of Malaysian Police's counter-terrorism division, the report said the 38-year-old Indian woman, who worked as a cleaner, was a member of the secessionist Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) group.

India in July banned the pro-Khalistani group for its alleged anti-national activities.

The US-based SFJ pushes for Sikh Referendum 2020 as part of its separatist agenda. The group's primary objective is to establish an "independent and sovereign country" in Punjab.

He said two Malaysians detained in Sabah were responsible for spreading IS propaganda and acted as facilitators for an Indonesian couple and

three of their children who carried out a suicide bombing attack on a church in Philippines in December last year.

The two also arranged for funds to be channelled to the Maute terrorist group in southern Philippines, he said.

Mydin said some of the suspects created new IS cells in Malaysia and promoted the group through social media.

"They were also active in recruiting new members, including Indonesians and Malaysians, and planned to launch attacks in Malaysia and Indonesia after recruiting as many members as possible," he said.

— Agencies

Mayor dumps trash on beach in S. Korea

Seoul, Sept. 26: A South Korean mayor who dumped a tonne of trash on a clean beach to give environmental campaigners something to pick up has said sorry for his deception.

Officials trucked in litter and waste that had already been collected from rubbish-strewn coasts, and scattered it all over the pristine sand of southwest Jindo.

The following day hundreds of volunteers scoured the shores and bagged up the garbage as part of an event to mark International Coastal Cleanup Day, a global event aimed at counter-

ing the scourge of sea-borne waste. "We brought in waste styrofoam and other coastal trash gathered from nearby areas so the 600 participants could carry out clean-up activities," said Lee Dong-jin, Jindo county mayor, in a statement.

His office apologised for causing trouble and said the event was meant to "raise awareness about the seriousness of coastal waste". Lee said all the litter had been retrieved and taken care of "100 percent". He said none had entered the ocean and there had been "no secondary pollution".

— Agencies

FB AD RULES STRICTER IN POLL-BOUND SINGAPORE

Singapore, Sept. 26: Facebook on Thursday introduced strict criteria for political ads on the social network in Singapore to prevent the spread of misinformation as the city-state gears up for elections.

Faced with criticism the site has been used to manipulate polls, Facebook has been tightening rules on such adverts around the world, from the US to India.

Those advertising in Singapore about elections and politics on Facebook or its Instagram app will now have to first confirm their

identity and location, and disclose who is responsible for the ad, the social network said.

They must also give a phone number, email or website, said Katie Harbath, Facebook's public policy director.

In addition, the new requirements will apply to those wanting to run ads on social issues like immigration and crime — hotly debated by Singaporeans on Facebook.

"To enable healthy discourse, we've taken steps to reduce the spread of misinformation," she said.

— AFP

MFs asked to invest in listed securities

Stiglitz sees 'significant slowdown', not crisis

Overleaf



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,989.74	+1.03
Nifty 50	11,571.20	+1.15
S&P 500	2,975.51	-0.31
Dollar (₹)	70.88	-0.21
Pound Sterling (₹)	87.45	-0.22
Euro (₹)	77.46	-0.25
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,685.497	-1.28
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	62.13	-0.42
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.710	-0.045
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.687	-0.045

* As of 9:30 pm IST

FAL sells 5% in ICICI Lombard for ₹2,500 crore

FAL Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Canada-based Fairfax Financial Holdings, offloaded a 5 per cent stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co Ltd for over Rs 2,500 crore through open market transactions. The shares were picked up by a host of Indian mutual fund houses, insurance companies and foreign investors.

Axis Bank raises ₹12,500 crore through QIP



Axis Bank said it has raised Rs 12,500 crore through qualified institutional placement (QIP) to fund business growth. "We understand that the transaction is the largest ever QIP by a private sector issuer in India. Despite a challenging macro-economic and market environment, the placement has witnessed strong reception," Axis Bank said in a statement.

Govt to take a call on IT relief later: Thakur

The government will take a decision on raising the income tax exemption limit at an appropriate time, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said. "When the time arises to take a call on it (income tax relief), the government will do so. The government in the past has also increased (the limit) from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh," he said.

Onion prices to cool from Nov: Niti official

Onion prices, which are ruling high at Rs 70-80 per kg in the national capital and other parts of the country, will calm down from November onwards when fresh kharif crop hits the market, Niti Aayog Member Ramesh Chand said on Thursday. To keep a lid on prices, the Centre is offloading onion from its buffer stock through agencies like Nafed, NCCF and Safal outlets.

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■ 60% increase in sales seen on small town outreach Festive season may see ₹45,000 cr online splurge

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

Slowdown or not, e-commerce will have its festive splash in October. The festive month, which includes Puja and Diwali, is expected to see e-commerce sales of \$7 billion, or Rs 45,000 crore. The six-day sales around Puja itself could garner sales of \$3.7 billion or Rs 24,000 crore.

Bengaluru-based RedSeer Consulting said the gross sales revenue of \$7 billion expected for the month would mark a 60 per cent jump, from \$4.3 billion, or Rs 28,000 crore, clocked during last year's festive month.

Included in this festive month calculation is the Puja week, which starts from September 29 and ending by October 4. The Puja week alone may see 60 to 65 per cent growth in sales to \$3.7 billion, or Rs 24,000 crore, against \$2.3 billion, or Rs 15,000 crore a year ago. More than 75 million gross transactions are expected over this six-day period.

Compared to usual business days, e-tailers may see a gross merchandise value (GMV) spike of 7X on these festive days against 6X last year.

As the e-commerce players gear up with offers and discounts in various products and categories, the number of shoppers making purchases is also expected to go up by 60 per



Amazon eyes 100 mn more buyers

FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

Amazon said it has been working towards bringing the next 100 million customers online this festive season, through enhanced presence in smaller cities and support services in local languages.

Manish Tiwary, Amazon India's VP for Category Management, said driving accessibility in regional and tier-II-plus cities "is a huge part of Amazon's vision for India." He said of the next 100 million, a majority is expected to come from tier-II and below

geographies.

He said to help customer migration, "Amazon.in has shopping experience in Hindi, customer service and as well as seller supports in five languages – English, Hindi, Kannada, Telugu and Tamil."

"We are expecting this to be the biggest festive season for us in terms of traffic, new customers as well gross sales. We have added 1.5 lakh more sellers to last year's count of 3.5 lakh and we have our highest selection and we have 1.5X more fulfillment capacity," Tiwary said.

cent to 32 million from 20 million last year. The growth will be primarily driven by new shoppers from smaller towns and cities.

Newer customers will get attracted to e-commerce due to a host of factors, including vernacular interface of platforms, which are breaking the accessibility barriers. Wider than ever selection across categories, attractive deals, wider than ever

enough demand for loans. To cash in on the festive demand, Sitharaman urged the lenders to join the outreach programme in 400 districts to push lending and boost consumption.

After meeting the top management of 29 leading private sector financial institutions, she said, "On the whole, it was a tonic-like meeting where I have heard a lot of good things, positive things and not one voice said there is a concern, there is a shortfall of demand but to my sur-

prise...None of them voiced liquidity concerns." She said economic slowdown seems to have bottomed out and the coming festive season will help the economy start looking up.

"Things are looking forward and upward. That is why I started by saying it was like tonic for me and I hope this message goes across...The message that I get from this meeting today is consumption is happening," the minister added.

"From what has emerged today I think demand will get back and motivate our economy to move at a faster rate... In the coming half year things will have to look up..." she added.

—PTI

Economy to look up from H2: FM

ARI ALTSTEDTER
SEPT. 26

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, India's largest hospital chain, is considering passing on the proceeds of corporate tax cuts announced last week to its shareholders, people familiar with the matter said.

Apollo may also use some of its tax savings to pay down debt and invest in the business, which operates 71 hospitals throughout India, said the people, who asked not to be named discussing internal matters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government pared the corporate tax rate to 22 per

cent from 30 per cent, as it tries to ignite an economy.

The people familiar with these plans didn't elaborate on how Apollo will deliver the proceeds to investors, whether by paying dividends or through a buy-back.

Apollo's moves to return tax savings to shareholders would be a further boost after a surge in the stock price this year as the company pivots away from multi-year investments to build new hospitals to focusing on increasing

profitability. The biggest beneficiaries would be Apollo's founders and largest shareholders, the Reddy family, who have been selling assets to pay down their own debt and trying to lower the amount of shares pledged as collateral with lenders.

An Apollo spokesman declined to comment on how the firm intends to use this unexpected windfall. Apollo's effective tax rate last year was 46 per cent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Other companies are employing this tax saving in different ways. Maruti Suzuki India, India's biggest carmaker, said on September 25 that it'll cut prices of some car models by Rs 5,000 (\$71) to pass on the tax cut benefit. Bajaj Auto said the extra money will defray costs and boost its ability to invest in technology, as the sector fights a sales slump that's near two-decade low.

Apollo Hospitals is led by its octogenarian founder Prathap C. Reddy, and his four daughters, who share the roles of Chairman and Managing Director between them. —Bloomberg

per cent. "It's interesting to see how the travel and hospitality industry has evolved in recent times. Driven by the availability of hands-on internet and demand for unique hospitality experiences, people are experimenting with itineraries, breaking away from mainstream destinations and heading out to different tier 2 and tier 3 cities in search of more nuanced

experiences," said Gaurav Ajmera, Chief Operating Officer, India & South Asia, Oyo Hotels and Homes. Rather than spending days in one location, people are increasingly looking to explore new places on their own. According to Oyo's data, Ahmedabad was the top tier-2 city chosen by solo travellers, recording 27 per cent increase sequentially.

Govt plans to sell 'whatever is saleable'



Mumbai, Sept. 26: Terming privatisation as the top-most priority, a senior Finance Ministry official on Thursday said the government will sell "whatever is saleable", and is also planning to breach the minimum 51 per cent ownership level in select entities.

Getting down the government stake below 51 per cent will require amendments in the laws and will also ensure that these companies move beyond the remit of oversight agencies like the Central Vigilance Commission and the Comptroller & Auditor General.

The official explained that the Cabinet had in the past decided to own at least 51 per cent in PSUs but it will now have to take a call on going down below that level.

"The government is proposing/planning to bring down its equity holding below 51 percent in select central public sector enterprises," the official said, requesting not to be named. This will also take out these units out of the purview of various central oversight agencies, the official said. Privatisation, the official said, is "the top-most priority" for the government for the next three-four years.

"We have a strong support from the prime minister. With that support, I am 100 percent sure that whatever is saleable will be sold, and whatever is

not saleable also will be tried," the official said.

Addressing the annual Capam conference in Mumbai, a senior government official said the government is confident of exceeding the divestment target for the fourth consecutive year.

"We have a very well laid-out strategy for achieving the divestment target this year also. Last three years we exceeded the target and there is no reason why we will not exceed the target this year as well," Dheeraj Bhatnagar, Additional Secretary in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, said.

The budget has set a divestment target of Rs 1.05 lakh crore for the current fiscal, up from Rs 90,000 crore last fiscal that it had overshot.

He said the government wants to sell excess land holdings held by state-run enterprises and will soon be appointing international consultants for the same.

"We are in the process of appointing international consultants for the property (sale). They will be handling these transactions," Bhatnagar said.

The list of excess land or non-crore holdings held by the enterprises will be collected first by the Niti Aayog in consultation with the PSU's administrative ministry, the DIPAM and the concerned state government. —PTI

PMC Bank board sacked, withdrawal limit raised

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, SEPT. 26

After a huge outcry from the general public, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday raised the cash withdrawal limit for Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank) customers to Rs 10,000 per account from Rs 1,000. The revised limit will include the Rs 1,000 that customers may have already withdrawn.

The central bank said that with the raised withdrawal limit, more than 60 per cent of the bank's depositors will be able to withdraw their entire account balance.

The central bank also sacked the board of the bank and appointed an administrator. The bank's Managing Director Joy Thomas has also been suspended effective Wednesday. As a result, the PMC Bank called off its 36th annual general meeting that was scheduled to be held on September 28 in Mumbai.

Thomas notified the development to stakeholders late on Wednesday.

The RBI has also asked PMC Bank to keep the amount required to pay the depositors separately in an escrow account and/or in earmarked securities which will be utilised by the bank only to pay to the depositors.

"It has been decided to allow the depositors to withdraw a sum not exceeding Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) (including Rs 1,000/- wherever already withdrawn) of the total balance held in every savings bank

ALL IN A DAY
▶ Cash withdrawal limit raised to ₹10,000
▶ The central bank also sacked the board of the bank and appointed an administrator
▶ The bank's MD Joy Thomas has been suspended effective Wednesday

▶ Former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya and several account holders filed police complaints
▶ PMC Bank asked to keep the amount required to pay the depositors in escrow account
▶ Bank Unions write to FM, demand stern action

account or current account or any other deposit account by whatever name called, subject to conditions stipulated in the RBI Directive dated September 23, 2019...

With the above relaxation, more than 60 per cent of the depositors of the bank will be able to withdraw their entire account balance," the RBI said. It said the Directions were necessitated on account of major financial irregularities, failure of internal control and systems of the bank and wrong/under-reporting of its exposures under various Off-site surveillance reports to RBI that came to the Reserve Bank's notice recently.

One reason for the RBI action was the high under-reporting of bad loans by the bank. The gross non-performing assets (NPAs), as per its FY19 balance sheet, was at 3.76 per cent of its advances but news reports pegged it in high double-digits.

Thomas in an interview has admitted that the problem rose because of under-

reporting of NPAs from the loans granted to real estate group Housing Development Infrastructure (HDIL), which has gone bankrupt.

Former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya and several account holders of PMC Bank filed police complaints on Thursday against top officials of the bank and HDIL for allegedly looting Rs 3,000 crore of the depositors, police said. Somaiya went to Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and filed a written complaint, alleging that money of at least 9.12 lakh depositors of the PMC Bank was looted by its top management and HDIL and that there should be a forensic audit of these transactions.

The bank unions, the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) and the All India Co-operative Bank Employees Federation (AICBEF) wrote to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman seeking stern action against the RBI officials responsible for the bank's oversight.

AAI arm to do luggage scanning

Mumbai, Sept. 26: Airports Authority of India (AAI) said on Thursday it has mandated its integrated logistics arm AAICLAS to carry out in-line baggage screening at various airports from next months.

In the in-line baggage screening system, passengers don't have to queue up near the X-ray machines to scan their baggage before check-in.

To this effect, the AAI Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company (AAICLAS) and AAI have inked a pact on Wednesday, an official release said.

The pact entails AAICLAS carrying out hold baggage screening function under the control, supervision and administration of AAI at various domestic and international airports, the release said.

This is in compliance with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security norms for ensuring safe and secure in-line hold baggage screening system, it said. Starting October 1, AAICLAS will first commence operations at Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Calicut. —PTI

Short trip to small cities is new travel trend

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

As the economic slowdown bites, Indian travellers are exploring pocket-friendly smaller cities to satiate their wanderlust, it seems. Going by Oyo booking numbers, people are looking for short trips to new places to find balance between work and leisure.

Surprisingly, Guwahati emerged as the most

booked destination and the most sought after by couples, while Kochi topped the charts of being the tier-II city mostly booked by families.

The new-age hospitality company says it witnessed an upward surge in bookings in its hotels in smaller cities in the September quarter compared to the previous quarter and the same quarter last year. Surat and Nagpur saw

daily average bookings shooting up by 493 per cent and 291 per cent, respectively, in the September quarter against the same quarter last year.

Among different cities, Puri witnessed 62 per cent growth in the September quarter over the June quarter, Kanpur 49 per cent, Nagpur 49 per cent, Surat 41 per cent, Varanasi 38 per cent, Faridabad 38 per cent and Prayagraj 37

World shares up over trade war thaw

Beijing, Sept. 26: World shares were mostly higher on Thursday after President Donald Trump suggested a costly tariff war with China could be resolved soon.

But Wall Street stocks dipped in early trade as investors weighed a whistleblower complaint in impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump.

Germany's DAX advanced 0.5 per cent to 12,296.76 and the CAC 40 in Paris climbed 0.8 per cent to 5,626.55. Britain's FTSE gained 1.1 per cent to 7,371.02.

US stocks had rebounded on Wednesday after Trump told reporters China wants "to make a deal very badly" and it "could happen sooner than you think."

"Investors have been 'trade war' bearish for so long that any sliver of optimism is cheered," said Stephen Innes of AxiTrader in a report.

In Asia, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 picked up 0.1 per cent to 22,048.24 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.4 per cent to 26,041.93.

The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.9 per cent to 2,929.09. —AFP

Basmati rice exports to be muted this year

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

Basmati exports are facing headwinds in the current fiscal, after two years of strong growth.

Due to uncertainty over exports to Iran as well as likely moderation in average export realisations, Basmati rice exports are expected to be muted in FY20, finds Icra.

In FY19, Basmati rice exports were at an all-time high at Rs 32,806 crore, primarily led by aggressive buying by Iran. Iran has been making aggressive pre-emptive buying in the first half of FY2019 due to anticipated impact on its global trade with re-imposition of US trade sanctions later in that year.

On a comparative basis, Basmati rice exports in 4M FY20 stood at Rs. 10,847 crore, 6 per cent lower than Rs. 11,575 crore in the corresponding period in the previous fiscal. During the current fiscal, Basmati rice exports realisations stood at Rs 75,589/MT for 4M FY2020, only 2 per cent higher than the previous fiscal.

RBI's report on liquidity framework

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPT. 26

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday released the report on liquidity management framework submitted by an internal working group that was set up to help the central bank manage system liquidity more effectively. The RBI panel has recommended largely maintaining the present corridor system with call money rate as the target rate. However, it has suggested making it more flexible to adapt to the needs of the system, when it is in deficit or surplus mode.

"Minimizing the number of operations should be an efficiency goal of the liquidity framework. Consequently, there should be ideally one single overnight variable rate operation in a day, supported by fine-tuning operations, if required. The current provision of assured liquidity — up to one per cent of net demand and time liabilities — is no longer necessary since the proposed liquidity framework would entirely meet the liquidity needs," said RBI.

■ Economist says Trump has introduced a new level of chaos Stiglitz sees 'significant slowdown', not crisis

ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ
PARIS, SEPT. 26

Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said the global economy is entering a severe slowdown, but told AFP in an interview he did not see it hurtling towards crisis.

"I would say that I don't see a crisis," said the US economist in Paris where he was promoting the French version of his latest book: *People, Power, and Profits: Progressive Capitalism for an Age of Discontent*.

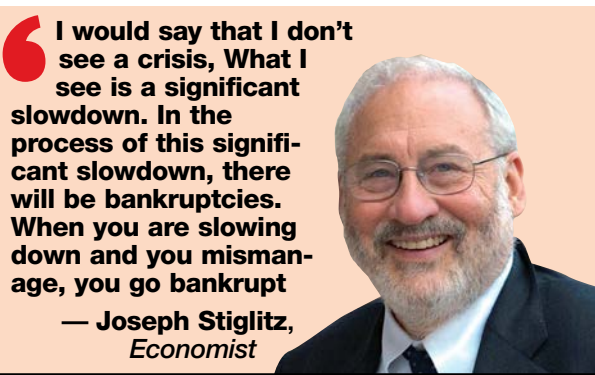
"What I see is a significant slowdown," he said. "In the process of this significant slowdown, there will be bankruptcies."

He said that slowdown deprived corporate managers of a cushion to soften the consequences of their errors.

"When you are slowing down and you mismanage, you go bankrupt."

This made people nervous, "but the particular situation for a global crisis requires much more disruption than that", he said.

Stiglitz said some developing countries like



Argentina might be swept into dire straits "but I don't think it is likely that Europe and America will."

The 2001 winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences said he was concerned about rate cuts by US and eurozone central banks and a revival of liquidity injections into the economy.

"I think the benefit that they get out of this is very little," he said. "They are clearly losing ammunition in case the situation gets worse."

Stiglitz said the three main economies — China, the eurozone and the United States — were all

having problems.

"China has been having a hard time going from a manufactured export led growth to a more domestically driven growth," he said.

Germany is under pressure to stimulate its own economy as well as its eurozone partners, while the US "has a problem called Trump", said Stiglitz.

"It's not just a trade war. He has introduced a new degree of political uncertainty, a new level of chaos" that has reduced growth.

"Those three together mean slow economic growth," said Stiglitz.

"The trade war just

MFs asked to invest in listed securities

New Delhi, Sept. 26: With an aim to safeguard mutual fund investors from high-risk assets, regulator Sebi has asked asset management companies to make all their investments in listed or to-be-listed equity securities.

The new framework comes after the board of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) approved a proposal in this regard in August. Exposure to risky debt securities has emerged as a major risk for capital market investors, including those coming through the mutual fund route, and the regulator has been making efforts to enhance its regulatory safety net against such risks.

"All investments by a mutual fund scheme in equity shares and equity related instruments shall only be made, provided such securities are listed or to be listed," the regulator said in a notification dated September 23.

Besides, Sebi has allowed mutual funds to invest in unlisted non-convertible debentures (NCDs) up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the debt portfolio of the scheme. This would be subject to such investments in unlisted NCDs having simple structures, being rated, secured and with monthly coupons.

"Mutual fund scheme shall not invest in unlisted debt instruments including commercial papers, except government securities and other money market instruments. Provided that mutual fund schemes may invest in unlisted nonconvertible debentures up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the debt portfolio of the scheme," the regulator noted.

Sebi to take view on rights issue

Mumbai, Sept. 26: Sebi said it will take a view on a proposal to reduce the time taken for rights issues to around 31 days.

Besides, the market watchdog is in the process of taking steps to further strengthen the framework for alternative investment funds (AIFs), Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi said at a Ficci event here. He further said Sebi is examining the concept of company 'promoters' and studying if we can shift to 'controlling shareholders'. The concept of 'promoters' has been prevalent in India for a long period of time. Globally, rather than promoters, the concept of 'controlling shareholders' is more prevalent.

—PTI

Also mutual funds have been permitted to accept upfront fees with disclosure of all such fees to valuation agencies, and standard methodology for treatment of such fees would be issued by industry body AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India) in consultation with Sebi.

"The balance-sheet shall disclose under each type of investment (s) in securities, the aggregate market value or fair value of securities classified as below investment grade and default," Sebi noted.

—PTI

Volvo to unveil first EV XC40 SUV in Oct

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, SEPT. 26

Volvo Cars, the Swedish luxury car brand, will unveil its first fully electric car called XC40 small SUV next month for the global market in the US.

The brand has promised that its first EV will be "one of the safest cars we've ever built". India launch and its assembly in the country is also on the cards. It will unveil the electric version of the SUV on October 16 in America.

The company, famed for its safety, said that it aims to maintain its established reputation for safety with the new model.

"Regardless of what drives a car forward, be it an electric machine or combustion engine, a Volvo must be safe," Malin Ekholm, Head of Safety at Volvo Cars



The front structure of the XC40, which is built on Volvo's Compact Modular Architecture (CMA) platform, has been redesigned to account for the absence of an engine.

The XC40 SUV, with the starting price at Rs 39.9 lakh, is currently on sale in India. The demand for Volvo cars has been growing steadily in the country.

Its sales grew 11 per cent to 1,159 units in January-June period while mass car market continued to bleed.

Darwinbox raises \$15 mn from Sequoia, others

New Delhi, Sept. 26: Darwinbox, an enterprise HR technology platform, on Thursday said it has raised \$15 million (about Rs 105 crore) led by Sequoia India.

The series B round also saw participation from existing investors, Lightspeed India Partners, Endiya Partners and 3one4 Capital, a statement said.

Darwinbox's cloud based end-to-end Human Resource Management System (HRMS) caters to HR needs across the entire employee lifecycle (hire-to-retain).

"Partnering with marquee investors will accelerate our penetration into the Asian Enterprise market, drive product innovation and maximize value delivered to customers," Darwinbox co-founder Jayant Paleti said.

—PTI

STREETbuzz Vishwaraj IPO from Sept 30

Vishwaraj Sugar Industries, based in Belgaum District of Karnataka announced Rs 60 crore initial public offering in a price band of Rs 55 to Rs 60 per share of Rs 10 face value each, for listing on the main board of BSE and NSE.

The public offer of 1 crore equity shares from the company after an interval of more than 8 years opens on September 30 and closes on October 4, 2019.

The funds raised through are proposed to be primarily utilized to finance the working capital requirement of the company and bridge the funding requirement gap.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Himachal Pradesh for execution of 449 mega watt Dugar HE Project located in Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh. The project is a run of the river scheme on Chenab River. The estimated present day cost of the project is Rs 4,112 crore," NHPC said.

—RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

NHPC up on ₹4,112-cr MoU

Shares of government owned hydro electric power producer NHPC gained as the company bagged Rs 4,112 crore project from Government of Himachal Pradesh. NHPC shares closed 0.88 per cent up at Rs 22.95 on the BSE and touched a high of Rs 23.25 in the intra-day trading.

"NHPC has signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Himachal Pradesh for execution of 449 mega watt Dugar HE Project located in Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh. The project is a run of the river scheme on Chenab River. The estimated present day cost of the project is Rs 4,112 crore," NHPC said.

—RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

Muted growth seen in plastic exports

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, SEPT. 26

Notwithstanding the current growth trajectory, plastic exports are likely to see muted growth going ahead due to plastic import ban by different countries, US-China trade war and lingering working capital concerns. Diversifying into eco-friendly varieties and alternative product categories has become imperative for the plastic industry, finds a study.

The Y-o-Y growth in plastics exports is expected to remain tepid at best, finds a report by Drip Capital. The US-China trade war and the US's removal of Generalized System of Preferences are creating uncertainty for the future of plastic exports.

Consumers and markets are increasingly seeking eco friendly alternatives to single-use plastics. Many countries such as France, China and Malaysia, have banned these plastic goods entirely, necessitating a shift towards other possibilities.

In the midst of rising political and economic tensions globally, plastics could become a flashpoint for many trade conflicts. It is imperative that exporters and other stakeholders keep an eye on upcoming embargos/restrictions, similar to the ones in place in Southeast

Traders to give up plastic: Cait

Chennai, Sept. 26: More than seven crore traders across the country will give up single use plastic bags from October 2, says the national traders' body.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) had launched a nationwide campaign from September 1, to make traders and people aware about the impact of plastic usage on environment and has advised both traders to use alternatives of plastics and prompt their customers also to use cloth or jute bags or other alternatives. The traders are now ready for the change, said CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal.

—FC Bureau

Asia. In the long term, the sustainability of plastic exports remains to be seen, finds Drip Capital.

Moreover, the small and medium exporters are reliant on export incentive schemes like MEIS for working capital needs. While MEIS has been replaced by RoDTEP, the rates have not been announced yet.

Kristalina Georgieva named IMF MD

DOUGLAS GILLISON &
DELPHINE TOUITOU
WASHINGTON, SEPT. 26

The International Monetary Fund formally selected Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria to be only the second woman ever to lead the 189-member institution.

The selection had been all but guaranteed after the global crisis lender said earlier this month that Georgieva, a former World Bank CEO, was the sole candidate.

In acknowledging her selection, Georgieva spoke of tempestuous times for the global economy.

"It is a huge responsibility to be at the helm of the IMF at a time when global economic growth continues to disappoint, trade tensions persist, and debt is at historically high levels," she told reporters.

"This means also dealing with issues like inequalities, climate risks and technological change."

Georgieva is to take up her position as Managing Director on Oct 1, replacing Christine Lagarde, who is expected to take over the European Central Bank later this year.

She inherits the helm of an institution buffeted by the rise of populism in advanced economies and escalating trade conflicts — the largest of which has been driven by the United States, the fund's single biggest shareholder.

—AFP



OPENING BELL PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Market may retain positive trend

Sensex and Nifty-50 gained over one per cent after a day of profit booking in the previous session, with front line stocks as well as the broader market gaining as the future and options contracts for September month expired.

Sensex crossed 39000 mark intra-day and touched a high of 39158.07 and finally closed at 38989.74 up 396.22 points or 1.03 per cent. Broader Nifty-50 Index closed at 11571.20 up 131 points or 1.15 per cent.

In the broader market BSE Mid-Cap Index gained 0.92 per cent while BSE Small-Cap Index gained 0.42 per cent.

Technical View

Rahul Mishra, Assistant Vice President (Derivatives), Emkay Global Financial Services said, "Nifty started September month around 10800 level and was struggling to cross the 11000 resistance as the initial stimulus from FM could not help improve investor's sentiments till the corporate tax cut was announced. Nifty is currently trading above 50 and 200 day moving average and we believe 11300 will be the support level, 11600 will be good resistance and we may see supply around this level."

"From derivatives point of view, FPIs have doubled their position in Index future during the month so far. The monthly option data suggest that the Nifty range for the month of October will be 11000-11500, however, 12000 call holds a decent open interest making it the next resistance," Mishra said.

Rohit Singre, Senior Technical Analyst, LKP Securities said, "Nifty-50 expired September series at 11571 with gains of nearly 6 per cent. Immediate support for Nifty is coming near 11510-11450 zone and resistance is coming near 11625-11680 zone, immediate support for Nifty Bank is coming near 29850-29,650 and resistance is coming near 30300-30550".

Market View

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said, "Previous session's global selling was based on US political drama which reversed on Thursday. While Indian market recovered from profit booking from the sharp gain. Momentum was broad based with auto, banks and metals leading the gains on expectation of better demand during festive season. This positive trend is likely to be maintained in combination with ease in trade-war & domestic stimulus."

—RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

THIS FINTECH SAFARI COULD BE A WILD RIDE

ANDY MUKHERJEE

From ATMs to credit cards and PayPal, the West's dominance of innovation in consumer finance appears to have exhausted itself.

At the top of the emergent new order is the fintech duo from China — Alibaba Group Holding and Tencent Holdings. Next in line are Alphabet and Walmart, whose highly localized smartphone payment rivalry is playing out between Google Pay and PhonePe in India. In Southeast Asia, two homegrown ride-hailing giants are aspiring to dominate commerce.

But the ultimate frontier in tech-enabled consumer banking lies far from the Asian theater.

Consider this one statistic: In 13 countries, more than 10 per cent of the population uses mobile phones for payments. All of them are in sub-Saharan Africa, where a majority of adults don't

have basic bank accounts.

The rise of African mobile money is associated with M-Pesa, Kenya's digital-wallet revolution. Now traditional lenders like Standard Chartered, with a presence on the continent going back more than a century, are discovering that online banking can help them mobilize low-cost

Small, but profitable

StanChart's Africa lending operations are small, but the net interest margin on the continent is better than anywhere else

Region	NIM (%)	Customer loans (\$B)
Greater China & North Asia	1.48	128
ASEAN & South Asia	1.96	81
Africa & Middle East	3.10	29
Europe & Americans	0.55	26

Source: Standard Chartered/Bloomberg

Column

compress expensive and time-consuming know-your-customer processes? That's one question analysts will ask when the lenders finally arrive next year, after a delay caused by the ongoing anti-government protests in the city. The answer would partly determine the dent online-only banks will make in the sprawling deposit franchise of HSBC Holdings, Hong Kong's undisputed banking leader.

Large as it is, Africa remains a tiny laboratory for finance. The revenue

pool for the continent was \$35 billion in 2017, according to McKinsey & Co, which sees it expanding to \$53 billion by 2022. By contrast, HSBC's Hong Kong operations alone garnered \$18 billion last year.

There are other distinctions, too. Hong Kong and Singapore are giving out brand new virtual banking licenses, whereas in Africa, StanChart uses its existing commercial banks to offer its SC Mobile app. Not only will virtual banks in Asia, especially those that don't have pedigreed lenders backing them — have to win deposi-

tors' trust from scratch, they'll also have to find borrowers online. Big Data is supposed to make it easier to find creditworthy customers; yet that theory will be put to the test, since digital-only banks won't have any branch managers intimately familiar with local businesses and their prospects.

Africa won't be without its own peculiar challenges. The verdict will come down when StanChart begins digital-consumer lending operations there, starting with Kenya later this year. This is an area where fintech firms are growing fast, though the basic infrastructure for disciplined lending — consumer-credit registries — are underdeveloped in many parts of the continent.

The sudden decision by Tala to shutter its consumer-loan operation in Tanzania has also made the industry jittery. Just last month, the California-based fintech raised new money from the

likes of PayPal. Even in Kenya, where small and medium-size enterprises routinely fund themselves with working capital from fintech, onerous debt loads could become a problem.

StanChart is right to focus on deposits before it dips its toes into online lending. It's embarrassing enough that the lender was unable to tell regulators how some of its private-banking clients amassed their wealth, as Bloomberg News reported recently. Promoting an unsustainable credit culture among poorer African customers could be a PR disaster.

The rewards of getting it right are high, though. HSBC, StanChart's traditional rival, has bet big on the Beijing-sponsored Greater Bay Area, an economic powerhouse connecting the manufacturing hubs of southern China — and the gambling centers in Macau — with Hong Kong, and the financial and corporate service-

es the city has to offer. But not only is the mainland caught up in a global trade war, its relationship with Hong Kong is also fraying. And while StanChart has its strong presence in Southeast Asia, especially Singapore, to compensate for any weakness in China and Hong Kong, HSBC is far too reliant on both. Investors took note when Beijing snubbed HSBC by excluding it from the group of banks that help set the loan prime rate, a new policy tool.

The Africa push may not have a direct bearing on StanChart's digital plans in Asia, but it makes sense. Even StanChart's rivals privately say that the specialist emerging-markets lender, which CEO Bill Winters has been trying to remake with uneven success, has a good story to tell investors. A tale from exotic Africa, no less. And that, too, when HSBC is running thin on happy news.

—Bloomberg



Test call

Australia's one-day skipper Aaron Finch is keen to play Test cricket again after watching the top order fail to fire during the recent Ashes series



Ultimately for me, playing for India, you should not be picking and choosing series.

— Gautam Gambhir on Mahendra Singh Dhoni

SHORT TAKES

ICC, Facebook are in a partnership

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday announced a partnership with Facebook which will become the exclusive digital content rights partner for ICC global events in the Indian sub-continent. Facebook, a popular social media platform, will also carry post match recaps throughout the rest of the world through to 2023. Facebook will carry a range of digital content across four years including match recaps, in-play key moments and other match and feature content. "We are delighted to welcome Facebook to the global cricket family for this multi-year, multi-market partnership which is a first for our sport. The combination of one of the world's most watched sports with one of the world's largest platforms is exciting for the future of our game," ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney said. — PTI

Chappell retires as Oz selector

Sydney: Australia are on the hunt for a new national selector after Greg Chappell announced his retirement from the game on Thursday. The former Australian skipper, who played 87 Tests and 74 one-day internationals, had been Cricket Australia's national talent manager for the past nine years as well as a selector. Former Test wicketkeeper Graham Manou will take over an expanded role of national talent and pathway manager, with a replacement selector to be named at a later date. The current panel consists of Chappell, chairman Trevor Hohns and coach Justin Langer. Cricket Australia chief Kevin Roberts paid tribute to the 71-year-old for his "exemplary service" to the game. "Greg has had a profound and positive impact on cricket for generations," he said. — AFP

SA vs BP XI first day washed out

Vizianagaram: The opening day of the warm-up game between Board President's XI and the visiting South Africa side was washed out after heavy rain played spoilsport on Thursday. The first day's proceedings was called off in the post-lunch session as rain lashed the PVG Raju ACA Sports Complex. This is South Africa's only warm-up game before the first Test begins in Visakhapatnam on October 2. The focus of the warm-up match is Board President's XI skipper Rohit Sharma, who will be opening the innings as a pre-cursor to the opening Test. — PTI

PAK-LANKA SERIES KICKS OFF TODAY

Karachi: Karachi hosts a One-Day International for the first time in 10 years when Pakistan take on a depleted Sri Lanka on Friday, furthering the country's revival in international cricket. "History will be made on Friday when Karachi will host the first ODI. We must thank the Sri Lankan team for touring us," said Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed.

Teams have been reluctant to visit the cricket-mad country since a militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in 2009. Although no players were killed in the attack, several were injured and eight people died.

The attack forced Pakistan to play all their "home" Tests and most of its short-form games in the UAE with Zimbabwe becoming the first team to return to Pakistan in 2015. That tour was followed by a Twenty20 series by a World XI in 2017, a one-off T20 match against Sri Lanka that same year, and the West Indies for a Twenty20 series in Karachi in 2018. — AFP



Rupa Gurunath after being elected unopposed as president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association in Chennai on Thursday.



MY IMMEDIATE priorities are to finalise the lease agreement with the government and opening the three stands. Of course TNCA has zero tolerance for any form of corruption and TNCA will take appropriate action on any such issues.

— Rupa Gurunath, TNCA president

BOARD GAMES

Srinivasan's daughter Rupa to head Tamil Nadu body

Chennai, Sept. 26: Rupa Gurunath, daughter of former BCCI chief N. Srinivasan, was on Thursday elected unopposed as president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA), making her the first woman to head a state unit of the Indian Board.

Rupa is the wife of Gurunath Meiyappan, who is serving a life ban for his involvement in the 2013 Indian Premier League (IPL) spot-fixing scandal. Rupa was elected at the TNCA's 87th Annual General Meeting here.

As the filing of nominations came to a close on Wednesday evening, Rupa's was the only nomination filed for the post of president, whose election was announced on the floor of the house as per TNCA norms. "My immediate priorities are to finalise the lease agreement with the government and opening the three stands. Of course TNCA has zero tolerance for any form of corruption and TNCA will take appropriate action on any such issues," Rupa said after her election.

She said the TNCA will continue to provide all necessary amenities to the players to perform at their best. "We shall continue to provide all necessary amenities and any other requirements for the players to perform at their best and look forward to improve their performances in all forms of cricket," the new TNCA president said.

"I am happy to become the first woman president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association. The TNCA has been a professionally run state association, which has a long history and headed by eminent personalities," she was quoted as saying in a release.

Rupa is an executive director in India Cements, her father's company which owns the star-studded IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings, led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

The Supreme Court had on Friday allowed the

CoA asks TNCA to correct non-compliant rule book

New Delhi, Sept. 26: The Committee of Administrators (CoA) has deemed Tamil Nadu Cricket Association's new constitution as "non compliant" on 21 counts as per Lodha Committee's recommendations and asked them to take corrective measures by October 4 if they have to participate in the BCCI AGM on October 23.

The TNCA on Thursday elected former BCCI president N. Srinivasan's daughter Rupa Gurunath unopposed as its first woman president as the powers rested with the Tamil Nadu strongman.

It is being speculated that the newly-elected TNCA executive body, in its upcoming meeting will elect N. Srinivasan as its representative at the BCCI AGM in Mumbai. Srinivasan is 73 years old and as per amended BCCI constitution is ineligible for any role in Indian cricket set up.

The CoA believes that TNCA is "mischievously

● The CoA wrote that TNCA has been non-compliant on 21 counts, and asked it to incorporate all the proposed amendments in their constitution and register the modified constitution.

misinterpreting" the Supreme Court's order on September 20 where it stated that "disqualification is confined to office bearers only".

However, the CoA on Thursday wrote to TNCA "that various amendments have been made by TNCA in the Amended Constitution on a deliberate misinterpretation of the order dated 20th September, 2019."

The CoA in its mail wrote that TNCA has been non-compliant on 21 counts, namely "articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33 and 34."

The mail categorically states that the age cap of 70 years remains and Supreme Court has clarified that. "The CoA further clarifies that the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 20th September 2019 in no manner permits removal of all disqualifications in relation to Members of the Apex Council, as has been effected by TNCA in its Amended Constitution by removal of Rule 14 (3) to (5)," it stated.

It further stated: "Accordingly, TNCA is hereby again requested to incorporate all the aforesaid proposed amendments in their constitution and register such modified constitution with the Registrar of Societies, Tamil Nadu and provide a copy of the said registered constitution to the Committee of Administrators at the earliest."

TNCA is thereafter requested to conduct its elections in accordance with such registered and compliant constitution before October 4. — PTI

Danny is Meghalaya president

New Delhi, Sept. 26: Retired bureaucrat Danny Marak was elected unopposed the president of the Meghalaya Cricket Association (MCA) while college lecturer Gideon Kharkongor was elected as secretary at state body's Annual General Meeting in Shillong, on Thursday.

Conrad K. Sangma and Naba Bhattacharjee, the erstwhile president and secretary went into mandatory cooling off as per new BCCI constitution even though the north-eastern state became a full voting member only in 2018.

Dhrubajyoti Thakuria became the treasurer as elections were held only for two posts.

"Change is the only constant in life," Bhattacharjee said.

Meghalaya Cricket Association: Danny Marak (president), Dipul Rynthathiang (vice president), Gideon Kharkongor (secretary), Chiang D. Shira (joint secretary), Dhrubajyoti Thakuria (treasurer), Arowti Sumar (councillor).

— PTI

High-stakes HCA polls set for today

MOSES KONDETY | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 26

It's judgement day at the Hyderabad Cricket Association. After hectic campaigning, 155 private clubs, 51 institutional ones, 9 district associations and 11 former international players will vote on Friday to elect six members to the Apex Council that will steer the game in the State.

For the first time, former internationals will get to exercise their franchise and would play an active part in shaping up the Association that controls cricket in the State.

Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin is angling for the lead role as he matches his wits against Prakash Chand Jain and K. Dilip Kumar for the president's post.

Traditional heavyweights N. Shivalal Yadav, Arshad Ayub, Man Singh and the Agarwals are playing behind the scenes this time around as they fall foul of the sniping Lodha Committee recommendations.

However, the consortium controls a good chunk of the votes and is pulling strings from behind the curtain and throwing their weight behind the panel led by Azhar.

There's a block with multiple votes and then there are the single voters who are trying to huddle together to punch big. Also, there are a considerable number that are open to negotiations and can be swung

when persisted with. Yes, money does flow freely off the field.

There's so much at stake besides the cricket — awarding of contracts and getting men in positions on committees or HCA related works are the bargaining chips in the grimy game.

On election eve, members of the single club group led by treasurer aspirant C. Babu Rao and secretary contestant R. M. Bhaskar released their manifesto, promising to develop infrastructure, pick players purely on the basis of performance, round the year coaching camps, free coaching in the districts and boost the women's game among others.

The others, well, they've been promising everything under the sky, even the moon.

The ones in their elements will be known when the sun sets on the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium today.

THE CONTESTANTS

- **President:** Mohammad Azharuddin, Prakash Chand Jain, K. Dilip Kumar.
- **Vice-president:** K. John Manoj, Sardar Daljeet Singh.
- **Secretary:** R. M. Bhaskar, R. Vijayanand, S. Venkateshwaran.
- **Joint Secretary:** J. Shivaji Yadav, Nareish Sharma, Satish Chandra Srivastava.
- **Treasurer:** C. Babu Rao, Surender Kumar Agarwal, K. Hanmanth Reddy.
- **Councillor:** P. Anuradha, Ravinder Singh, Vinod Kumar.

Felicitation



Test batsman G. H. Vihari (third from right) and Team India fielding coach R. Sridhar (second from left) cut a cake during a felicitation function at the St John's Sports Coaching Foundation in Marredpally, Secunderabad, as former internationals VVS Laxman (left), M. V. Narasimha Rao (second from right) and coach John Manoj look on.

DOUBLE FOR RAJESHWAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD SEPT. 26

Hyderabad's Rajeshwar Reddy won both the singles as well as doubles title at the All India Ranking Tennis Championship Series held at Chamunda Tennis Academy in Karnal, Haryana.

In the Under 16 singles final, he defeated Prashanth Procha of Haryana 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 before pairing up with Pranay Keshruwala to beat Prashanth Procha and Sanjeev Rathee 6-3, 6-1 for the doubles trophy.

Earlier in the singles semifinal, Rajeshwar proved too good for Pranay, beating him 6-3, 6-2.

THE RESULTS

■ **Boys U-16 singles final:** Rajeshwar Reddy (Telangana) bt Prashanth Procha (Haryana) 3-6, 6-1, 6-3. **Semifinal:** Rajeshwar bt



Rajeshwar Reddy

Pranay Keshruwala (Gujarat) 6-3, 6-2. **Quarterfinal:** Rajeshwar bt Himesh Reddy 6-2, 6-2.

■ **Boys U-16 doubles final:** Rajeshwar Reddy/ Pranay Keshruwala bt Prashanth Procha/ Sanjeev Rathee 6-3, 6-1. **Semifinal:** Rajeshwar/ Pranay bt Rajesh Kunal Tikkiwala/ Ansh 6-7 (7-0), 6-4. **Quarterfinal:** Rajeshwar/ Pranay bt Aman/ Goutham 6-1, 6-3.

Honour



Kammela Saibaba (right), founding secretary of the Sports Coaching Foundation in Hyderabad receives the Best Sports Promotion NGO award from Renuka Sood, president of Haryana Private Schools & Children Welfare Association for outstanding contribution towards promotion of sports in underprivileged places at 8th India International Sporting Goods Forum held at Pragathi Maidan in New Delhi.

Deccan Conquest boxing from Oct. 5

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD SEPT. 26

As many as 48 boxers will contest in six weight categories over the next seven Saturdays in the professional boxing championship titled Deccan Conquest at Lal Bahadur Stadium between October 5 and November 23 in Hyderabad.

Corner Sports Promotions under its flagship title 'Club Fights' has

launched a Talent Search program in four South Indian States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in association with the Boxing Council and The South Indian affiliate of Professional Boxing India.

This initiative aims at scouting, developing and promoting the best boxing talent in India. The winner takes home the Deccan Champion title

and the belt. Top four boxers in each weight will qualify for further trials of Hyderabad Boxing League.

Talent recruited through this program will be awarded 'C' Grade contracts and will represent Telangana in Professional Boxing Championships across India.

The weight categories are bantamweight (53 kgs), featherweight (57 kgs), lightweight (61 kgs),

super welterweight (69 kgs), middleweight (72 kgs), heavyweight (90+ kgs).

Competition format consists four rounds of three minutes each, with one minute rest between each round. The competition is divided into two phases, a knockout/elimination phase and the deciders. The elimination phase will last four Saturdays with six bouts, one in each weight on a given day. The

winners of the elimination phase qualify for the semifinals and subsequently to the finals.

Club Fights is a concept property inspired by age old boxing fight nights promoting boxing on a live platform, where the most promising boxers will showcase their skills. Maiden edition of Club Fights was held in Hyderabad on 28th April where 16 boxers participated in eight weight categories.





Small wonder

Harvey Elliott, 16, becomes the youngest player ever to start for Liverpool as the winger plays for the club in League Cup on Wednesday



We believe in what we do. With humility and work you achieve a lot. This is just the start.

— Zinedine Zidane, Real Madrid coach after their 2-0 win over Osasuna in the Spanish league

SHORT TAKES

Kushagra, Nataraj continue to shine

Bengaluru: Kushagra Rawat triumphed in 400m freestyle to bag his fourth gold medal while Srihari Nataraj created a new meet record on his way to gold in 100m backstroke at the Asian Age Group Championship, here on Thursday.

Kushagra clocked 3:55.81s to finish ahead of Taipei's Chang Cheng Li Wei (3:56.82) and Abbas Omar (4:01.52) of Syria. Kushagra's idol, Sajan Prakash also made it to the top of the podium in the 200metres butterfly with a time of 2:00.38 seconds. He was followed by Wongcharoen Navaphat (2:01.16) of Thailand and Kizie Ayman (2:02.38) of Syria.

Nataraj enthralled the home crowd with his sensational sprint in the 100m backstroke for open category men. He created a new meet record clocking 55.06 while Atayev Merdan (55.28) from Turkmenistan settled for silver and Lau Shiu Yue (57.56) of Hong Kong won the bronze. — PTI

India start on a winning note

Antwerp: Mandeep Singh and Akashdeep Singh scored in the second half to guide the Indian men's hockey team to a superb 2-0 win over Belgium in the opening game of the three-match series here on Thursday. Mandeep and Akashdeep sounded the board in the 39th and 54th minute respectively to seal the match in India's favour.

In a gritty first quarter, India were the ones who took the initiative early, forcing Loic van Doren into a save from the first penalty corner of the game. The Belgium defense was at hand though denying them an opener.

Despite controlling a large amount of possession, India found it difficult to find a breakthrough. The teams went into half-time without troubling the scorers.

India kept the tempo up in the third period and forced van Doren into multiple saves. All the circle entries and creative play finally found it's reward in the 39th minute as Mandeep scored to give them the lead. It was this narrow lead they carried into the final quarter. — PTI

WFI LIKELY TO SACK IRANIAN COACH KARIMI

New Delhi: The Wrestling Federation of India is likely to sack men's free style national coach Hossein Karimi, six months after the Iranian was hired on a contract till the Tokyo Olympics.

The Iranian had joined the national camp in February but has been struggling to adjust to the 'system'.

He went on leave after India savoured its best ever performance at the World Championship in Nur-Sultan, where the men's freestyle wrestlers won four medals and three Olympic quotas.

"Karimi's days are numbered. He will soon be gone. The WFI is not happy with him," said an WFI source. It has been learnt that the diminutive Karimi himself is not happy with the way things work in India.

Source said he wanted to have his own program in place at the national camp in Bahalgarh in Sonapat district but country's elite wrestlers trained on their own. Bajrang Punia has been training with Georgian Shako Bentinidis while Sushil Kumar trains with Russian Kamal Malikov. — PTI

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Games

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SPANISH | LEAGUE

Real, Atletico ready for derby with wins

Madrid, Sept. 26: Real Madrid's crisis has been averted for the time being at least after they beat Osasuna 2-0 on Wednesday without Eden Hazard and Gareth Bale to go top of La Liga.

Hazard and Bale were among a number of players rested by coach Zinedine Zidane, with Real facing seven games in 21 days, the next of them against city rivals Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Vinicius Junior, who has endured a difficult few months, filled the void, bending a shot into the top corner before crying tears of what presumably were a mixture of joy and relief.

This time last year the 19-year-old exploded onto the scene but injury and then a dip in form saw him drift, with this a chance to reassert himself in a much-rotated line-up.

If Vinicius was Madrid's Brazilian sensation 12 months ago, Rodrygo might be one for the present.

The 18-year-old, who was bought from Santos in 2018 but joined last summer, added a superb second goal, and his first for the club, just one minute after coming off the bench for a remarkable debut.

"I'm glad for them," said Zidane. "Sometimes we forget they are 18 (and 19) years old. We have seen the emotion they felt about scoring at the Bernabeu. I liked Rodrygo's goal but I liked the control even more."

RESULTS

Real Madrid 2
(Vinicius 36, Rodrygo 72)
Osasuna 0

Real Mallorca 0
Atletico Madrid 2
(Costa 26, Felix 64)

Leganes 1
(Rodriguez 61)
Athletic Bilbao 1
(Raul Garcia 59-pen)

Valencia 3
(Gomez 30, 34, Lee 39)
Getafe 3
(Mata 1, Jason 66, Rodriguez Diaz 69)

Earlier, Atletico's Alvaro Morata made a swift impact too but with less positive results after he was sent off eight minutes after being introduced as a substitute against Real Mallorca.

Atletico were already 2-0 up thanks to goals from Diego Costa and Joao Felix but Morata will now be suspended for the derby at the Wanda Metropolitano.

The Spaniard's dreadful night got worse as he also appeared to engage in a heated exchange with a fan as he later left the stadium.

A week ago it would have been almost unthinkable that Atletico would play their rivals in a contest of first against second in La Liga but that could now be the setting this weekend, depending on Sevilla and Real Sociedad's results on Thursday. — AFP



Manchester United players celebrate their win over Rochdale in their League Cup third round match at Old Trafford on Wednesday. — AP

Rochdale kids keep Red Devils on toes

Man Utd survive shoot-out, West Ham crash out

London, Sept. 26: Manchester United survived a League Cup scare against third tier Rochdale as they won 5-3 on penalties, while West Ham suffered a shock 4-0 defeat at Oxford on Wednesday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's struggling side were held to a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford after 16-year-old Luke Matheson scored a 76th minute equaliser following Mason Greenwood's opener for United eight minutes earlier.

With United in danger of a humiliating exit, they held their nerve in the shoot-out, winning 5-3 as Daniel James converted the decisive kick after Sergio Romero saved Rochdale's second penalty from Jimmy Keohane.

Although United avoided the embarrassment of losing to a team 17th in

LEAGUE CUP	THIRD ROUND
THE RESULTS	
Brighton (Roberts 61) Aston Villa (Jota 22, Hourihane 33, Grealish 77)	1 Manchester United 1 (Greenwood 68) 3 Rochdale 1 (Matheson 76) <i>United won 5-3 on penalties</i>
Chelsea (Barkley 4, Batshuayi 7, 86, Pedro 43-pen, Zouma 56, James 82, Hudson-Odoi 89) Grimsby (Green 19)	0 MK Dons 2 Liverpool (Milner 41, Hoever 69)
Oxford (Moore 55, Taylor 71, Fosu 84, Baptiste 90) West Ham	1 Burton (Sarkic 14, Broadhead 72) 2 Bournemouth
Sheffield United (Power 9)	0 Wolves (Jordao 27) 1 Reading (Boye 90+9) <i>Wolves won 4-2 on penalties</i>

League One, the sloppy manner of their performance will raise fresh questions about Solskjaer's ability to inspire his side.

FOURTH ROUND DRAW
► Everton vs Watford
► Manchester City vs Southampton
► Crawley vs Colchester
► Oxford vs Sunderland
► Aston Villa vs Wolves
► Burton vs Leicester
► Chelsea vs Manchester United
► Liverpool vs Arsenal

Ties to be played in the week beginning October 28.

from six games. Liverpool eased to a 2-0 victory at third tier MK Dons.

Frank Lampard got a first home win as Chelsea boss under his belt as his youthful side thumped fourth division Grimsby 7-1.

Ross Barkley opened the floodgates and Michy Batshuayi struck twice. Later, third tier Oxford reached the fourth round for the first time in 22 years thanks to a stunning victory against West Ham.

Second-half goals by Elliott Moore, Matty Taylor, Tariqe Fosu and Shandon Baptiste left West Ham shell-shocked. Hammers boss Manuel Pellegrini made nine changes and handed a full debut to academy graduate Nathan Holland, but the under-21s weren't up to the task. — AFP



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior (left) celebrates with teammate Toni Kroos after scoring against Osasuna in their Spanish league match in Madrid on Wednesday. — AP

Skeet shooters fire big time

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD SEPT. 26

City's shooting talent came to the fore at the VI Hyderabad Open Shooting Competitions in Shotgun Events, conducted by the Hyderabad Rifle Shooting Association, under the aegis of Telangana Rifle Association at the SATS Shooting Ranges here.

Rahul Ro led the Men's Clay Pigeon Trap Shooting (NR) getting 39 out of 50, followed by Gusti Noria at 35 and Earla Chetan Reddy with 31.

In the Individual Clay Pigeon Trap Shooting Men (ISSF) National Championship, Fazal Ahmed Shueb Mohd won the title with 99+45.

In the Double Trap Shooting (NR) Championship Men, KMA Ansari won the first place with 37 followed by Rahul Rao and Earla Chetan Reddy with 30 each.

Hassan Bin Yesrab led the Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Championship Junior Men with 37 to his credit. Fauzan Bin Yesrab (29) and Mohd Arfaat (27) were second and third respectively.

In the men's category, Syed Ali Murtuza Hussain shot 36 for the title, followed by Saquib Bin Yesrab (31/50) and Arbaaz Ilyasi (30/50).

Earla Prajeeda Reddy won the Women's Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Championship with 20/50.

It was double joy for Muneek Battula. He won gold in the Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting Junior Men (ISSF) National Championship (Individ-



Medallists at the Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Championship Men and Junior Men categories pose with coach Viqar Ahmed Shafeeq (left) and Sports Authority of Telangana State shooting ranges official Alexander Francis (right) in Hyderabad.

ual) with 113 and 113+48 in the Men's category.

Zahra Mufaddal Deesawala took the Junior Women title with 110 and also the Women's Skeet Shooting (ISSF) National Championship (Individual) with the same score.

THE RESULTS

► **Clay Pigeon Trap Shooting (NR) Champion-ship Men:** 1. Rahul Rao 39/50, 2. Gusti Noria 35/50, 3. Earla Chetan Reddy 31/50.

► **Clay Pigeon Trap Shooting Men (ISSF) National Championship (Individual):** 1. Fazal Ahmed Shueb Mohd. 99+45, 2. K.M.A Ansari 102+41, 3. Dr. Sabir Ali Khan

101+32.

► **Clay Pigeon Double Trap Shooting (NR) Champion-ship Men:** 1. K. M. A. Ansari 37/50, 2. Rahul Rao 30/50, 3. Earla Chetan Reddy 30/50.

► **Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Champion-ship Junior Men:** 1. Hassan Bin Yesrab 37/50, 2. Fauzan Bin Yesrab 29/50, 3. Mohd Arfaat 27/50.

► **Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Champion-ship Men:** 1. Syed Ali Murtuza Hussain 36/50, 2. Saquib Bin Yesrab 31/50, 3. Arbaaz Ilyasi 30/50.

► **Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Champion-ship Women:** 1. Earla Prajeeda Reddy 20/50.

► **Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting Junior Men (ISSF) National Championship (Individual):** 1. Muneek Battula 113.

► **Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting Men (ISSF) National Championship (Individual):** 1. Muneek Battula 113+48, 2. Earla Chetan Reddy 98+47, 3. Rahul Rao 108+36.

► **Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting Junior Women (ISSF) National Championship (Individual):** 1. Zahra Mufaddal Deesawala 110.

► **Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting Women (ISSF) National Championship (Individual):** 1. Zahra Mufaddal Deesawala 110.

Incheon, Sept. 26: Indian shuttler Parupalli Kashyap on Thursday advanced to the Korea Open men's singles quarterfinals after beating Malaysia's Daren Liew here.

The 33-year-old from Hyderabad prevailed 21-17, 11-21, 21-12 over Daren in a contest that lasted 56 minutes.

He will next square off against former world no 2,

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Denmark's Jan O Jorgensen, an opponent he last played five years ago at the Denmark Open.

The 31-year-old Danish shuttler beat eight seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting 17-21, 21-16, 21-13 in 58 minutes.

Overall, Kashyap has a 2-4 record against Jorgensen, a

2015 World Championship bronze medallist.

"In the first patch in the second game he was playing really well. I was struggling and once he had a big lead, he played some very good shot. It was tough to make the scores equal. In the third game, I pushed the tempo and played a fast-paced game. I didn't give him a big lead," he said. — PTI

INDIA START CAMPAIGN SANS STARS

Doha, Sept. 26: Medal is too far-fetched a thought and even hopes of making the finals seem barely believable as India enter the World Athletics Championship without two of their biggest stars — the injured Neeraj Chopra and Hima Das.

World-class javelin thrower Neeraj is not taking part in the September 27 to October 6 showpiece as he has just started light training since undergoing an elbow surgery in May.

Another bright prospect, Hima, trained in Europe for nearly four months, winning some low level races before pulling out due to a lower back injury after being named in the initial team.

It is difficult to predict who among the Indians will reach the final though the AFI is pinning its hopes in the three 4x400m relays, particularly the mixed. — PTI



Sports Authority of Telangana State chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy (second from left) felicitates Telangana's cyclist Tanishq Goud (left), boxer Nikhat Zareen (second from right) and gymnast B. Aruna Reddy and during his visit to the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. Nikhat is preparing for the Indian Olympic Qualifying tournament to be held in Tokyo, Japan. Aruna Reddy is getting ready for the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, while Tanishq is participating in the selection trails for Asian Cycling Championship to be held in South Korea.