

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 14 OCTOBER 2019

## WEATHER

Max: 31.9°C  
Min: 21.6°C  
RH: 83%  
Rain: 0.2mm  
Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Rains are likely.  
Max/Min temp. 32/21°C

## ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Ashwayuja Bahula  
Padyami till 4.20 am (Tuesday)  
Star: Revati till 10.18 am  
Varjyam: Nil  
Durmuhurtam: 12.25 pm to 1.11 pm and 2.45 pm to 3.31 pm  
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am  
HILIRI CALENDAR  
Safar 14, 1437 AH  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 5.08 am  
Zohar: 12.12 pm  
Asar: 4.18 pm  
Maghrib: 6.01 pm  
Isha: 7.10 pm  
SUNSET TODAY 5.55 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.09 AM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 6.29 PM  
MOONSET TODAY 6.21 AM

## COUNTER POINT



We can't afford supersonic jets from France... let's buy drones made in China!

## Ganguly set to be BCCI chief

**Mumbai:** In a dramatic turn of events, former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly emerged as consensus candidate to be BCCI's new president after Brijesh Patel appeared to have grabbed the coveted post. Union home minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah will be the new secretary while Arun Dhimal will be the new treasurer. Monday is the last day to file nomination for BCCI posts. — P/TI

Full report on Page 15

## Lunar ice may be of recent origin

**Boston:** Some ice deposits found on the moon's south pole may be much more recent than previous estimates that they are all billions of years old, according to a study that may boost the already growing interest in exploring this part of the lunar surface. Researchers noted that counting the number of smaller craters formed inside the larger ones helped the scientists date the craters.

Full report on Page 9

## Prasad takes back comments

**New Delhi:** As Opposition parties came down heavily on his comments about big business done by three firms on October 12 to counter claims of an economic slowdown, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad withdrew his comments on Sunday saying they had been "twisted completely out of context".

Full report on Page 8

## Saudi team visits West Bank

**Ramallah:** Saudi Arabia's national football team arrived in the West Bank on Sunday, on a groundbreaking visit to play against Palestine on Tuesday. The game will be played in Al-Ram, between Ramallah and Jerusalem, and marks a change in policy for the Gulf state, which has previously only played against Palestine in third countries. Four years ago a similar game was ultimately played in Jordan after pressure on the Saudis not to go to Israeli territory. — AFP



## WORLD

France, Germany suspend arms to Turkey; Erdogan unfazed



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# RTC strike sings KCR

## Forty new electric buses benefit buddy Megha Reddy

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

An ongoing income-tax search has unearthed a link between Megha Krishna Reddy, a close acquaintance of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, and Olectra Greentech, a company that has been chosen to supply electric buses to the state.

Olectra Greentech has supplied 40 electric buses. Each bus costs close to ₹2 crore, out of which ₹1 crore comes from the

Central government in the form of a subsidy. The remaining amount is paid for by the state government. In the case of Olectra, that subsidy has not gone to the TSRTC, but to Olectra Greentech, which is owned by Mr Reddy's firm, Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL), which has so far conveniently pocketed an amount of ₹40 crore.

It is interesting in the backdrop of the ongoing RTC strike, when the Opposition parties have

already made several allegations that the real intention of a crackdown against the strike and firing over 48,000 employees was because of the TRS government desire to privatise the RTC and hand over its assets to companies close to its top leadership, that this exclusive dealing confirms such fears.

The income-tax search revealed that on August 10, 2018, MEIL bought one crore equity shares of Trinity Infrastructures, for a sum of ₹650 crore, and

took over the company. Trinity Infrastructures used to be owned by 'Goldstone' Prasad, prime accused in the Miyapur land scam. Mr Prasad also promotes the Goldstone Power. With the takeover of Trinity Infrastructures, Reddy's MEIL secured a 50 per cent stake in an associated company, Goldstone Infratech, whose name was subsequently changed to Olectra Greentech, after MEIL entered the picture, according to documents accessed by *Deccan Chronicle*.

What sweetened the deal was an assurance by the state government that it would offer a contract for purchasing electric buses to MEIL-Olectra Greentech Ltd on behalf of the TSRTC. Olectra Greentech Ltd is a manufacturer of electric buses and autos, and its plant is located at Jedcherla in the erstwhile Mahbubnagar district.

In the first phase of the deal, MEIL-Olectra supplied 40 buses. The buses were purchased following

a state government proposal to the Centre under a scheme called the Trinity Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) in India, Phase II. Under this, 334 electric buses were to be purchased, of which 309 are for the Greater Hyderabad Zone and the rest for Warangal as part of the Smart Cities mission.

IT sleuths recovered documents which show MEIL taking a 50 per cent control in Olectra Greentech Ltd. It also showed the entry of

Mr Reddy's family members, who are directors in MEIL, into the Trinity board. They include Mr Pamireddy Pitchi Reddy (whole-time director at MEIL), Mr Rama Reddy Pamireddy and other relatives, as non-promoter members of the Trinity board. A source close to the Goldstone Prasad family said that besides MEIL, which had 50 per cent share in Olectra, the Prasad family had 38 per cent share, while the rest was with the public.

## 2 RTC staffers end lives, turn martyrs

### Driver succumbs; Conductor hangs himself

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

An RTC conductor in the city committed suicide hours after an RTC driver succumbed to his self-immolation attempt at a city hospital on Sunday.

While D. Srinivas Reddy died at the DRDO Apollo Hospital, TSRTC employee B. Surender Goud committed suicide in the evening. The 48-year-old was working with the Ranigunj Depot-2.

Quoting from his family members, a Kulsumpura police official said Goud had borrowed money to construct a house. The salaries of RTC staff have not been paid this month, and Goud's EMI cheque bounced.

Depressed by this and the prospect of being sacked from the RTC, Goud committed suicide, the officer said. He committed suicide by hanging. His family members noticed him and shifted him to Mythri Hospital where he was declared brought dead. His body is being shifted to the Osmania General Hospital for post-mortem.

RTC driver Srinivas

## ANOTHER RTC DRIVER TRIES TO COMMIT SUICIDE IN STATE

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, OCT. 13

An RTC employee attempted to commit suicide in Narsampet on Sunday, the third such case in the last two days. The striking TSRTC employees were conducting *vanta varpu* at Narsampet in Warangal Rural district. All of a sudden, a driver,

Mr Bathini Ravi, poured petrol on himself and attempted suicide. Police and other employees who were present snatched away the petrol can from him and stopped him from putting a match to himself. Police threw water on him and shifted him to a hospital. Mr Ravi is a native of Nallabelli and works out of the Narsampet depot.

Reddy had died earlier on Sunday. He had doused himself with petrol and set himself on fire in support of the ongoing strike.

His dying declaration was recorded by a magistrate. In it, he said he took the extreme step due to the government's decision to dismiss striking RTC staff.

Srinivas Reddy, of Vastavai in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, lived with his family in Khammam and was a driver with the Khammam RTC. After attempting suicide, Srinivas Reddy reportedly said at a Khammam

hospital on Saturday that the sacrifice of his life was for the betterment of striking RTC employees.

Srinivas Reddy's suicide attempt left him with about 90 per cent burns. He was rushed to a private hospital in Khammam and was later shifted to Apollo DRDO Hospital in the city.

As word spread of his death, hundreds of striking RTC employees rushed to Kanchanbagh to pay their respects, and tension prevailed at the hospital.

Page 7: Cops blocked RTC protesters' entry

## CM may skip Huzurnagar

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The TSRTC has turned into such a headache for Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao that he has changed his mind about campaigning for his TRS candidate in the Huzurnagar by-election.

He was to address a public meeting on October 18, but the intense RTC stir and suicide of two RTC drivers have weakened his resolve. It has left party leaders hanging, though they put on a brave

face and insist that the public meeting will happen, come what may.

The police, which has to take care of the VIP's arrangements for a public meeting, also disclosed that it has no confirmation from the Chief Minister's Office about a public meeting on either October 17 or 18.

Suryapet police sources also have not received any application from the TRS seeking permission for a public meeting by the CM. Hence some TRS leaders feel he may not visit.

Party working president K.T. Rama Rao also cancelled his road shows in Huzurnagar this past weekend. He has addressed only one road show, that on October 8.

In view of intensifying RTC stir, the top TRS leadership feels opposition parties may provoke RTC workers to create some trouble during the ruling party's campaign. Internal reports suggest that the party candidate has an edge, TRS sources pointed out, and no one wants to disturb this.

## In memory of the fallen



TSRTC employees participate in a candlelight rally to pay homage to deceased RTC bus driver Srinivas Reddy at the martyrs memorial at Ramnagar in Hyderabad on Sunday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## GHMC drivers join RTC duty to earn more money

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The TSRTC strike has been tough on the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Drivers in its transportation wing were reluctant to attend duty as they prefer moonlighting at for private buses under RTC, which pay ₹2,000 per eight-hour day. This dwarfs wages at the civic body. As a result, garbage pick-up from transfer stations has suffered the past three days.

About 5,280 metric tonne (MT) of garbage is generated daily in the city. Of this, 2,510 MT is wet waste, 1,952 MT is dry waste and the remaining 820 MT is other waste. The GHMC uses nearly 500 trucks, 2,500 Swachh auto-trolleys and over 18,000 workers for the collection and disposal of waste in its 30 circles.

ABOUT 50 PER CENT of the drivers have evaded duty the past three days. It's believed that drivers are lured by the RTC's daily wages. As a result, piles of garbage have piled up at all transfer stations.

In recent years, 176 vehicles were declared unfit and auctioned. The GHMC uses 234 hired 25-MT capacity garbage vehicles to shift garbage to the Jawaharnagar dumping yard. Highly-placed sources say about 50 per cent of the drivers have evaded duty the past three days. Private agencies which maintain hired vehicles told civic body officials that drivers who visited their villages for Dasara never returned for duty.

It's believed that drivers are lured by the RTC's daily wages. As a result, piles of garbage have piled up at all transfer stations. Even GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar noticed this at Imliban transfer station during a surprise inspection on Saturday. He asked officials to clear it immediately.

However, matters were worse on Sunday as the transfer station was filled with garbage because the 2,500 Swachh auto-trolleys did not pick up from households. Private agencies were paying ₹800 to ₹1,000 as daily wages, for 12 hours. The RTC, on the other hand, is paying ₹1,500 to ₹2,000.

When contacted, Viswajit Kampati, additional commissioner (transportation), said the GHMC would ensure the clearing of garbage as a priority since it would impact city sanitation.

## OPP. BLAMES KCR, CALLS TO JOIN OCT. 19 STRIKE

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

TS Congress working president and MP A. Revanth Reddy alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's uncompromising behaviour resulted in RTC driver D. Srinivas Reddy's death. He invited members of the students' unions, the revenue unions, the Singareni unions, the NSUI, and other unions to join the state bandh called on October 19 by RTC employees. He also asked the police to join in.

"Rulers have built empires with the sacrifices of RTC employees and now the time has come for the empire to collapse," said RTC JAC convener Ashvathama Reddy. "We are fighting for our self-respect and we will win this fight. Very soon the people of the state will decide on who should be dismissed from their posts."

BJP state president Dr K. Laxman alleged that democracy has taken a back seat in the state. "The state failed to give salaries to the employees for their work. The CM is trying to privatise the RTC," he alleged.

Mr V. Latchi Reddy, president of the Deputy Collectors Association, and Mr N. Laxminarayana, president of VROs Association, said that the revenue unions were taking the RTC employees' side.

Page 7: Teachers' unions to support strike

## COLLATERAL DAMAGE Some schools and colleges defy TS order, ask students to attend classes

# Extended break irks schools, colleges

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

While educationists oppose extending holidays due to the RTC strike, the school education department will enforce the government order to keep schools closed, threatening cancellation of school recognition to those that disobey. Nonetheless some private schools and colleges have

asked students to attend classes from Monday.

The Ranga Reddy District Education Office said: "If any private school managements deviate from rules and disobey orders of enforcement, then their school recognition would be cancelled."

Educationists were critical. "Education and health are important and the government should not link

them with other issues. Today it's the RTC strike, tomorrow it might be something else. How can schools remain closed through? They are compensating it with Saturdays, but those days are already designated for other activities. It's not a solution," said academician Anjali Razdan. Schools are messaging parents to send students to school and teachers are

being warned with loss of pay in case of absence. Other institutes are running school behind closed doors for 9th and 10th class students. A few have asked students to come in casual dress.

Several colleges have decided to start classes from Monday as mid-term exams are scheduled. A message from the Sreenidhi Institute of Engineering

College said that this was in the interest of students. "The faculty is sacrificing in this regard," said SIEC. "All parents are requested to ask their wards to attend classes as per schedule, fourth year first semester exams will be conducted as planned, from October 14."

The institute told students it would provide transportation to those coming from Uppal and ECL.

Students on the other hand say that reaching those points from other areas in the absence of buses would be difficult. Many schools and colleges have nonetheless declared holiday with messages to parents that they would reopen on October 21. But TS welfare residential schools would be conducting classes as most students have returned to the institute.



# INTRODUCING DAILY DIRECT RETURN FLIGHT FROM HYDERABAD TO AURANGABAD.



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FLIGHT No.	FLIGHT*	DEP.	ARR.	
SG 1056	Hyderabad - Aurangabad	13:40	14:55	NEW
SG 1057	Aurangabad - Hyderabad	15:10	16:35	
SG 422	Hyderabad - Varanasi	11:05	13:05	2 <sup>nd</sup> Direct Flight
SG 635	Varanasi - Hyderabad	13:40	15:40	
SG 705^	Hyderabad - Bengaluru	13:35	14:40	3 <sup>rd</sup> Direct Flight
SG 708^	Bengaluru - Hyderabad	15:15	16:25	
SG 1267	Hyderabad - Bengaluru	08:15	09:40	4 <sup>th</sup> Direct Flight
SG 3463	Bengaluru - Hyderabad	18:50	20:10	
SG 3578^	Hyderabad - Shirdi	13:10	14:35	3 <sup>rd</sup> Direct Flight
SG 3579^	Shirdi - Hyderabad	15:00	16:25	

\*Starting from 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. ^Will be operational on all days except Tuesdays.

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### Top award

Police commissioner Anjani Kumar awarded Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award for excellence in police administration by Deshabhimani Charitable Society



10,000 participants extended support by participating in Cancer Run

— V.C. Sajjanar  
Cyberabad commissioner of police

### IN BRIEF

## CULTURE IN SOUTH INDIA IS MIXED: EXPERTS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

A composite culture developed in South India but not in north India stated historians, experts, professors and researchers who were discussing the impact of historical processes on the different states of India at the South India History Colloquium.

Br Labeed Shafi, president of the Student Islamic Organisation of India, said, "Indian history is being changed in a systematic manner. The history and cultures of South India are diverse and it is important to preserve them."

Prof. Suleiman Siddiqui, former vice-chancellor of Osmania University, said, "Muslims did not come to India because of Mohammed bin Qasim but had arrived during the time of the Prophet in Kerala. They were in trade from that time. The difference between north and south is that in the south, the Hindus and Muslims lived side by side, in peace with each other, and Hindu kings provided the Muslims with opportunities for trade. In the North, there was always a rift. A war for the government always persisted in this region between the religious communities. Mohammed bin Qasim was part of one such war."

# Crackdown on single-use plastic may begin soon

## Almost everyone will be affected by the imminent ban

ADITYA CHUNDURU DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The Telangana state government has ambitious plans to ban single-use plastic in all municipalities and panchayats. Municipal administration minister, K.T. Rama Rao, had on Thursday announced the decision on Twitter and said the cabinet would soon greenlight the proposal.

For a society that depends so much on plastic, it is anyone's guess how successful this ban will be. Almost everyone, without exception, will be affected by the imminent ban. For some, it will be a minor inconvenience; for others, it will be a blow to their livelihood.

Mr Harshit, owner of a shop on Subhash Road near RP Road, said he would stand to lose a lot once the ban is announced. He sells disposable cups, glasses, plates and covers. "Currently, I have no alternative. My shop's future depends precisely on what specific items the government will ban," he said.

Asked about the recent GHMC drive against single-use plastic, Mr Harshit said if he didn't sell the items, his competitors would and then he would go out of business. "Unless the manufacturers of plastic items in areas such as Katedan stop making them, sales will continue. There is a demand after all," he said.

Perhaps one of the most affected stakeholders are the manufacturers. Mr Imam Hussain, a PET bottle supplier operating out of Katedan, said he

Unless the manufacturers of plastic items in areas such as Katedan stop making them, sales will continue. There is a demand after all." — HARSHIT, a shop owner

had come to learn of the government's decision through a Telugu newspaper. He said he is clueless what to do about it since if plastic bottles, most likely to come under 'single use plastic', were indeed banned, he would be in trouble. "My business will suffer a major setback. I have no alternative. I hope the government takes us into account before it announces the rules, since there are so many like me," he said.

Large manufacturers too are quite wary. Mr Mohit Kakani, a member of the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Plastic Manufacturers Association (TAAPMA) and director of city-based Karni Packaging Private Limited, said he was waiting for the government to clarify its intentions. His company makes, among others, silver-coloured plastic pouches that are used to pack food.

"I panicked the moment I saw the chief minister's tweet," he said. "The problem is that there is no proper definition of single-use plastics. Even the cover of a biscuit packet should be banned. Almost all plastic is single-use," he added.

Mr Kakani said the ini-

tiative was a good one but there needs to be more clarity. "We need to be told what exact items are banned. We are facing such issues in states such as Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu where the ban is already in place. The lack of a strict definition leaves room for harassment by officials and that can lead to corruption," he said.

Mr Kakani added that in the coming days, representatives of TAAPMA would try and meet with government representatives to plead their case. "Business will definitely be affected," he said.

Roadside vendors were mostly unaware of the development. When asked about the matter, most of them said they did not know about the proposed ban. It may be recalled that Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, on October 2, Gandhi jayanti, had stated that single-use plastic would eventually be phased out across the country.

One vendor of dosas said he would simply stop using plastic plates. "I serve the food on steel plates with clear plastic sheets on them. I will not use the sheets. However, they are freely available at any shop," he said, puzzled by the question.

Meanwhile, officials lie in wait for the government order. Mr M. Praneeth Kumar, public relations officer of Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB), said, "There are a lot of stakeholders, TSPCB, GHMC and other local bodies. Unless we get the government order, we won't know what is

## SEVEN PLASTIC TRADERS SLAPPED ₹48,000 FINE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Seven plastic traders have been fined ₹48,000 as they were distributing plastic of less than 50 microns for their products. The plastic was being used for sweets, food products and other regular day-to-day requirements. Traders have also been booked for distributing garbage bags, plastic plates, cups and other disposables.

The deputy municipal commissioner of Hayatnagar has fined them in the anti-plastic drive carried out in their circle. The traders have been regularly supplying to weekly markets and have been told that plastic of less than 50 microns must not be distributed any more.

Mr Manohar P, a trader who was fined, said, "What are we to do with our stocks? There is stock which can last for three months. Before declaring that single-use plastic is banned, they

should have at least created awareness and given us some time. The government has not done any such thing."

The central government had declared the ban in August but the demand for the plastic products is very high and traders have stocked according to the demand. The action now being taken by the government has put traders and manufacturers on the back foot. They now have surplus stock with them and have to switch to an alternative.

The manufacturing units too in Balanagar, Jeedimetla are in a dilemma as they have to change the manufacturing process to shift to the alternative. The less than 50 micron units are also home-based manufacturing in small sections where the machines have been installed.

These will now have to be shut down as the environmental hazard of plastic waste is a major challenge.

expected of us." The GHMC too is waiting for further instructions.

However, it has sprung into action on discouraging the use of plastic. On Thursday, Ravinder Goud, assistant medical health officer (AMOH) at GHMC in Begumpet and Secunderabad, was part of a team that dished out three fines amounting to ₹65,000 for usage of plastic thinner than 50 microns.

He told Deccan Chronicle on Friday: "The public is still not aware of the rules on plastic. Many violators continue to feign ignorance. Once a government order is issued, there will undoubtedly be pressure on us to meet the prescribed targets and control plastic use."



Alfred Ford, great grandson of Henry Ford, at the Iskcon, Secunderabad, on Sunday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

## Ford to raise funds for Iskcon temple

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Alfred Ford, the great grandson of Henry Ford, was in the city to attend a function organised by the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) at the ISKCON temple in Secunderabad on Sunday. Ford was visiting the city as part of his effort to raise funds for the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium (TVOP), dubbed by the organisation as the largest temple in the world, in Mayapur in West Bengal.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Ford said the project was very close to his heart. "This was the dream of my guru, Srila Prabhupada. In the final years of my life, he asked me personally about financing this project," he said.

Ford's visit to the Secunderabad temple was

the third meeting of the day. The first meeting was with businessmen and the second with devotees in Abids. By the evening, they said, as much as USD 250,000 (₹1.7 crore) was raised for the temple. Overall, the temple is expected to cost USD 500 million. It is expected to open in 2022.

Ford said this was his first visit to Hyderabad. He has visited nearly 70 countries as part of the fund-raising drive.

"I really like Hyderabad. It is a clean city, the people are friendly and the roads are great," he said. We wonder which city he is talking about.

Also, as part of the Secunderabad event, the padukas (footwear) of Lord Balaram (Nityananda) were flown in from Mayapur. They were paraded inside the temple compound for the devotees.

**TSRTC TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
TSRTC invites Applications from ENTREPRENEURS for supply of Buses under "HIRE SCHEME" for operation by TSRTC on the Identified routes in the State of Telangana. Details and particulars viz. Tender Application Form, List of Routes, Daily KMs., Hire Rates, Criteria for Selection of Entrepreneurs, Caution Deposit, Model of Bus, Minimum Wheel base of vehicle, Bus Body Standards, Specifications, Bus Seating Capacity, Seating Pattern, Color Scheme of buses, Agreement Period, Terms & Conditions of Tender Notification, Date of Tenders and all other details will be placed in the TSRTC Website <https://tsrtc.telangana.gov.in> with effect from 15.10.2019. Corporation reserves the right to cancel this Notification without assigning any reason.  
No.P9359(55)2018-OPD(P), DLT3-10-2019 Sd/- Managing Director

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\*Conditions apply. Rs 8,900 Savings calculated against the general market finance scheme considering the certain loan amount & may vary on the actual condition. \*\*Honda Joy Club Program is a paid loyalty program and only members can avail mentioned benefits with respect to program terms and conditions. For further details visit [www.hondajoyclub.com](http://www.hondajoyclub.com) or call 1800-532-2555 (Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 6.30 pm). #Benefits up to Rs 11,000 is the sum total of the savings on the finance scheme in row one and the Joy Club Benefits. \*Rs 1,100 Low Down Payment Scheme is subject to financier policy and is available through preferred Finance partners at their sole discretion. \*\*Paytm cashback offer is subject to Paytm and respective dealers terms and conditions at their sole discretion. \*Contact your local HMSI dealership for details on EMI on leading credit & debit cards Powered by Pine Labs. The same is subject to availability at select dealerships. Multiple schemes & offers cannot be clubbed together, all the attached schemes and offers are applicable for a limited time period and can be withdrawn from the market without prior notice. All the schemes and offers are applicable on selected models or their variants. All the schemes and offers are available on selected dealerships. All disputes arising due to above shall be subject to exclusive jurisdiction of Gurugram, Haryana. Product shown in the picture may vary from the actual product available in the market. Accessories shown in the picture are not a part of the standard fitment. \*\*Conditions Apply.

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MARREDPALLY: Fortune Honda - 29709044, 99488 88079; SP ROAD: NEW BHOIGUDA: Fortune Honda - 04029888801; Fortune Honda - 48541878, 9948877736; KUKATPALLY: JSP Honda - 18005727177, 9209066669; MADINAGUDA: JSP Honda - 9959891188; CHINTAL: JSP Honda - 23084477, 9959891100; BALKAMPET: JSP Honda - 9959045592; MIYAPUR: JSP Honda - 9959251188; GANDIMAISAMMA: Ojasvi Honda - 9000033316; SOMAJGUDA: Pratul Honda - 66732233, 7036532323; ERRAGADDA: Pratul Honda - 23801312, 9959532323; MALAKPET: Aadi Honda - 441788887799, 9399999408; LB NAGAR: Aadi Honda - 3027930001, 9399999401; SANTOSH NAGAR: Aadi Honda - 24534477, 8790249708; VANSTHALIPURAM: Aadi Honda - 9399999402; TADBUND: Raam Honda - 8886423131, 888645072; BALANAGAR: Raam Honda - 9030055522; TIRUMALAGIRI: Raam Honda - 888645043; MEDCHAL: Sowmya Honda - 9951044400; TOLICHOWKI: Orange Honda - 23563333, 23569091, 9160188880; MASAB TANK: Orange Honda - 66469999, 9052282345; BAHADURPURA: Maximus Honda - 7670820146/147/148/149; 9705806488; IBRAHIMPATNAM: Maximus Honda - 9426809999; ATTAPUR: Dwaraka Honda - 2401122021, 8977001221; SHAMSHABAD: Dwaraka Honda - 900633177; KONDAPUR: Vaishnai Honda - 42102323, 9618277911; GACHIBOWLI: Vaishnai Honda - 65512727, 8886604420; VIKARABAD: 8886720099; HABSIGUDA: Ride Honda - 65522299, 9885418834; GHATESKAR: Ride Honda - 9492926060; AMANGAL: Narmada Honda - 9441274050; NARAYANPET: Shubham Honda - 9398833008; KODANGAL: Qadri Honda - 8501026666, 24446477; NARSAPUR: A1 Honda - 08458-286110, 9440202875; KOTHUR: Sun Honda - 08548-256161, 9000245092; TURKYAMJAL: Sri Sai Honda - 08415-234848, 9391334848; TUKKUGUDA: Dwaraka Honda - 7730974499; MEDAK RC PURAM: Harmony Honda - 23180000, 9491025000; SANGAREDDY: VenkataSaai Honda - 9603755559; GAJWEL: VenkataSaai Honda - 9603755559; SIDDIPET: Harmony Honda - 9491025048; ZAHEERABAD: Harmony Honda - 9491025020; SADASIVPET: Sree Krishna Honda - 9885921659; MEDAK: Sri Venkateshwara Honda - 9032003412, 08452-221999; TOOPRAN: VenkataSaai Honda - 9603755559; MAHABUBNAGAR: Narmada Honda - 9490140702, 0854-275255; 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It is unfortunate that nearly 50 trees have been cut and another 60 large trees are ready to be cut.  
— K. Shobha Rani, PC Apts, Somajiguda

## Poor roads add to waterlogging woes

### GARBAGE DUMP AT TOLICHOWKI X-ROADS

There is a huge garbage dump opposite a temple, under the flyover at Tolichowki cross-roads, where waste is rotting but officials of the GHMC don't take any action. Since it has been raining every day for weeks now, this dump has become a breeding ground for pests and flies, and the residents are suffering from various viral fevers, including dengue. There are several hotels and restaurants located very close to the dump. Even during the Dasara festival, the garbage was never removed by the GHMC.

— Mufaviz Khan Tolichowki



### MJ Colony has roads to hell

MJ Colony in Moula Ali is being neglected and treated very badly by the authorities. There is always a pile of garbage, uncleared and unattended to for many days, especially near the Bombay Heights entrance up to Road No. 5 and 6. We have tweeted pictures and registered complaints since January 2019, but nothing has been done in response.

There are dozens of stray dogs in our area, which are creating panic and fear among residents, especially women and children. They bark round the clock, especially through the night, disturbing the sleep of all residents. The road leading to the Gayatrinagar water tank is in a very bad condition since years. Last month, roads were dug in the entire area

for laying pipelines, and were closed with mud, without laying a new road. This muddy road is nothing less than hell during these rainy days, or rainy weeks. We, the residents, have requested our corporator and MLA to take up these issues seriously, but they don't respond.

— S.I. Hussaini MJ colony, Moula Ali

### WATERLOGGING IN OLD BOWENPALLY

This is to draw the attention of the GHMC and as well as the higher authorities that the sudden downpours have led to waterlogging, especially in Sri Sai Enclave Colony of Old Bowenpally, Division 119, and most low-lying areas nearby. Whenever there is rain, our colonies are almost immediately inundated. Commuters and residents have a tough time in moving or stepping out, causing severe inconvenience. Vehicles are getting stranded due to water-logging at regular intervals due to unattended manhole problems in the colony since a long time, due to the gross negligence by the GHMC. We urge higher authorities to fix the issue permanently and ease sufferings of residents of this area.

— Mohammed Wasif Ali Old Bowenpally



### Garbage near hospital in Shantinagar

I request you to publish this picture of garbage in front of rear gate of the Nice Children Hospital, Shantinagar, Masab Tank, Alamgir Masjid road. This is the condition of a hospital in a city, whose surroundings should be clean but where garbage has been not cleared for many days. Hospital authorities and the GHMC should coordinate to keep at least a children's hospital area clean and hygienic.

— Syed Irfan Malakpet



### GHMC NOT CLEARING GARBAGE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS

It is very unfortunate that garbage is not cleared by GHMC for months. Despite many complaints about sanitary issues, the local supervisor does not respond at all. Our area, in the vicinity of Jaguda police colony, with a police station less than 100 meters away, has become a hub of life threatening diseases. There is a school not more than 20 feet away.

— Sree Kishan Jaguda

### DRAINAGE OVERFLOW IN MASEED BANDA

The Sri Prabhupada Township in Maseedbanda of Kondapur, part of the Serilingampally mandal of Ranga Reddy district, have been suffering from a massive overflow of drainage from the past two months. No one is taking any action. It has become impossible to cross the road.

— R. Narotham Reddy Maseed Banda



### Save the park

I am writing to request authorities to save the park area near Naga Hills, Raidurgam, beside Prashanti Hills, Khajaguda. I request the GHMC officials of Serlingampally to immediately secure the park by constructing a bund and safeguard surrounding houses and area by laying a pipeline for the excess water flow. Due to recent rains, water has overflowed and submerged some of the houses and low lying areas, beside the park.

Due to waterlogging, there are chances of spread of dangerous diseases like dengue. Several people have reporting seeing snakes, causing fear and danger to lives of people. If kept open, the park can also be encroached upon, whose fencing has already been broken and damaged.

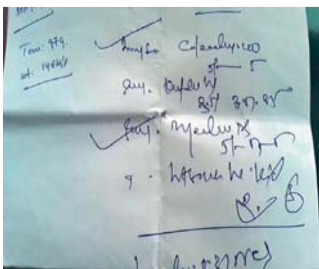
— T. Chandra Shekar Reddy Khajaguda



### DOCTORS, CURE YOUR HANDWRITING

I am attaching a copy of a prescription I got as a registered pharmacist. Despite a Supreme Court ruling over a year ago that doctors should write in block / capital letters or print prescriptions, the rule hasn't seen the light of the day. When would doctors start writing clearly and legibly so that patients and attendants do not have to get worried and anxious? When will we see doctors using technology to print prescriptions or write clearly for sake of correct dispensing of medicines by pharmacist? I hope this awakens the conscience of the most learned and respected set of humans.

— Deepesh Surana Sadar Bazaar, Bolaram



### PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have intended and proposed to acquire by purchase from its lawful owners and possessors 1) Sri. Lekkala Purushothama Naidu S/o. Late Sri. L. Padmanabha Naidu, 2) Smt. Lekkala Padmavathi W/o. Sri. L. Purushothama Naidu, and 3) Sri. Lekkala Jeevan Sivakrishna S/o. Sri. L. Purushothama Naidu, all residents of H.No. 3-6/9, Narsingi Heights, Narsingi Village, Rajendranagar Mandal, R.R. District, T.S., to purchase all that Plot bearing No. 10 in Sy.Nos. 160 & 161, admeasuring 5000 sq.yds., equivalent to 4180.00 sq.mtrs, situated at Narsingi Village & Gram Panchayat, Rajendranagar Mandal, R.R. District, T.S., if any person/s have any kind of right, title, claim or interest therein may inform the undersigned of their right, title, claim or interest therein with all the documentary evidence in support thereof within SEVEN DAYS of the publication of this notice. If no objections are received by the said date, my clients will proceed with the sale transaction and any objection/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

Sd/- (R.K. SUDHIR KUMAR) B.Sc., LL.B. Advocate 42, West Marredpally Secunderabad-500 026 Res & Off: 42, West Marredpally Secunderabad-500 026 Ph: 040-2780071 Mob: 9246370671

### OVERCHARGED FOR BOTTLED WATER

I went out for dinner in the last week with my family to Kinara Grand, formerly known as Swagath Grand, Attapur. After having dinner, when I was about to pay the bill, I noticed that a water bottle was charged ₹32 while the MRP (maximum retail price) is ₹20. I request the authority concerned to look into the matter and take necessary steps.

— Hassaan Ahmed Khan, Shaikpet

Sl. No.	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
1	ARILEY WATER	2	20.00	40.00
2	VANILLA MILK	1	95.00	95.00
3	APOLLO FISH	1	320.00	320.00
4	BUTTER MILK	1	220.00	220.00
5	VEG MANGURU	1	220.00	220.00
6	VEG FRIED RICE	1	190.00	190.00
7	Digital VEG Curry	1	250.00	250.00
8	Digital Prawns Stir Fry	1	330.00	330.00
9	Digital Maccas	1	120.00	120.00
Total Amount				1775.00



### INUNDATION, CHOKED DRAINS IN SIKH VILLAGE

The primary reason for city lanes and roads getting waterlogged even there is little rainfall is because of garbage- and sand-choked drainage. Over 15 days back, many homes on the ground floor were flooded in the SBI Colony, Sikh Village. The SCB sent a team of drainage cleaners and the garbage was removed. But it is still laying on the footpath of the SBI Colony and the Temple Rock enclave junction, which should be picked by the SCB Van. The question is whether SCB too doesn't have vehicles or is its fleet also missing? (as reported about the 900 apts of GHMC on October 6). Will we be able to see our colonies getting swatchh as publicised in the "Banega Swatchh India."

— Rinki Jagawat, Sikh Village

### ROADS DUG UP IN SINGADA BASTI NOT FIXED

The road leading to Crescent high school in Singada Basti, Road No 10, Banjara Hills, was dug up for laying it afresh 10 days ago. But since then, no work has been carried out on thjis stretch. The locality is heavily populated area and residents are facing hardships with foul smell emitting from the dug up drains on the road. We request the GHMC, area corporator and other concerned authorities to take up the road works at the earliest and end the difficulties people in the area are facing.

— Sultan M Ahmed Banjara Hills, Road No 10

### TERRIBLE CONDITION OF BADI MASJID

The Badi Jama Masjid, at Qutub Shahi, in Musheerabad, is suffering from neglect for over two years now. The famed plasters of its Minarets are falling off. The rainwater is seeping through the terraces and has become a danger for the faithful who offer prayers here. Despite several complaints to the Archaeology department, there has been no action. The most urgent attention of the Archaeology department is needed before any life is lost.

— S. Mohd & Arif Hussain Musheerabad

### GARBAGE DUMPS IN RK NAGAR PARK

The garbage dumps at RK Nagar park in Malkajgiri lie unattended to for weeks. Due to this garbage, elderly people and kids find it difficult to use the park. People are falling ill because of the flies and mosquitoes. Kindly help us to get rid of this.

— Kalyana Bala & Balaji Malkajgiri

**6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Ps. 23:6  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
  
**Mr. S.L. JAYARAJ**  
DOB: 05.05.1941 DOD: 14.10.2013  
We cherish your memories  
You will always be with us in spirit  
Inserted by:  
Wife: Mrs. Hemalatha Jayaraj  
Son & Daughter-in-law: Anil & Sunila  
Daughter & Son-in-law: Anitha & Sam  
Grand Son: Daniel Levi

**OBITUARY**  
  
**VICTOR WILSON**  
DOB: 30.04.59 DOD: 13.10.19  
Funeral today at St. Mary's Basilica at 11:00 a.m. followed by Burial at Bhoiguda Catholic Cemetery.  
Details : 9989432827 (CA-3039)

**OBITUARY**  
The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God. Wis 3:1  
  
**Manda Joseph Sunder Rao**  
(Aged 67 years)  
Husband of Ms. Neela Maria  
Passed away at his residence on 13.10.2019 in Nampally.  
The Funeral Requiem Mass will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ramnagar today at 2 PM, thereafter burial at the Bhoiguda Cemetery in Secunderabad.  
May his soul rest in peace. Amen  
Inserted by: Deepak Kiran (Son)  
Bhavana Shree (Daughter)  
Alex Mani (Son-in-law)  
Near & Dear in the Family  
Ph: 9963775172, 8978420054 (CA-3042)

**OBITUARY**  
  
**T. PRAKASH**  
DOB: 25.09.1968 DOD: 13.10.2019  
We regret to inform the sad demise of our Brother T. Prakash  
Funeral on 14.10.2019 at Bansilpet Crematorium  
Inserted by: T. Ravi Chander  
Brothers & Sisters  
9701073434 ; 9394800235 (CA-3041)

**OBITUARY**  
  
**Smt. MADHUBALA RAIBAGHI**  
DOB: 28.01.1948 DOD: 13.10.2019  
We are sorry to inform about sudden demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Madhubala Raibaghi on 13.10.2019.  
FUNERAL:  
Today (14.10.2019) at 11:00 a.m.  
Inserted by: Sons  
Sanjeev Raibaghi, Mehender Raibaghi  
Ph: 9290612965

**10th DAY CEREMONY**  
  
**Smt. Singuri Bhavani**  
W/o. Singuri Navanitan  
DOB - 07-12-1979 DOD - 06-10-2019  
10th Day Ceremony on 14th October '19 at our residence Plot No-81/B, Sai Baba Officers colony, Sainikpuri.  
Singuri Navanitan  
Contact no 6309609687

**Safe in the Arms of Jesus**  
  
**SUSAN LAWRENCE**  
DOB: 17.04.1956 DOD: 09.10.2019 (In Chennai)  
With deep grief and sorrowful hearts we mourn the loss of our dearest Susan Lawrence W/o Richard Lawrence.  
Daughters: Janet & Family, Sarah & Family  
Brothers, Sisters and Family  
May God in His mercy rest her soul in His peace.  
(S/1920/D01034)

**IN LOVING MEMORY**  
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith 2 Tim 4:7  
  
**Mrs. VELLORE DAYAMANI**  
W/o V. Mohan  
DOB: 14th Oct, 1950 DOD: 5th Oct, 2019  
Memorial Service on 14th Oct, 2019 Monday at 6:00 p.m. in CSI Wesley Church, Musheerabad, Hyderabad.  
Forever In Our Hearts  
Inserted by:  
HUSBAND & FAMILY MEMBERS (S/1920/D01031)

**2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
Death is swallowed up in victory 1Cor.15:14  
  
**JOHN ISRAEL THADI**  
DOB: 12.12.1967 DOD: 14.10.2017  
Inserted by: Smt. Priya John (Wife) and Family Members  
Ph : 9704294341 (S/1920/D01027)

**IN THE LOVING MEMORY OF**  
  
**C.J. SHAKUNTALA NAIDU**  
W/o. C.S. Jairam Naidu  
1st Year Death Anniversary will be held on 14.10.2019  
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS (S/1920/D01036)

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
  
**PAGOLA SUVARNA DEVAVARAM**  
DOB: 02.04.1935 DOD: 08.10.2019  
On Monday the 14th October 2019 at 7:00 p.m., Christ Church Lalaguda, Secunderabad-17.  
From: FAMILY MEMBERS  
Mob: 9573951065, 9849402611 (CA-3037)

**SHRADHANJALI**  
  
**Late Smt. PUSHPALALITHA YADAV**  
W/o. Late Sri Babulal Yadav (Boxer)  
We all miss you Ma.  
13th Day Ceremony will held today at 5:00 p.m. at 33-127/1B, Officers Colony, R.K. Puram, Secunderabad.  
Inserted by:  
From your Belovers, Children Grand Children & Great Grand Children.  
9989221829 (CA-3036)

**3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
  
**S. SABITHA**  
Days, Weeks, Months, Years are passing. But your memories are still fresh & alive.  
Inserted by:  
S. Satya Narayana (Husband)  
Dr. Hemant Shetty (Son)  
Mr. Ashok Shetty (Son)  
Smt. Sucharitha (Daughter) & Grandchildren. (S/1920/D01029)

**6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
  
**Kamala SAKU BAI**  
W/o Late, Kamala Dayanandam  
"You shall remain in our hearts for ever"  
Inserted by:  
KAMALA SAMASTHANAM  
Cell: 9866209473, 9550414675  
6300825310

**10th ANNIVERSARY**  
  
**Shri LALIT P. DOSHI**  
DOD : 14th Oct. 2009  
Your ideals are our guiding light.  
Your life is our inspiration.  
You'll always be there in our hearts!  
In memory:  
Kathiavar Stores & DOSHI FAMILY

**21st Year of Remembrance**  
  
**PARASA MANOHAR JOHNSON**  
Retd. Defence Accounts.  
Inserted by: Wife - P. Evelyn Johnson, Children Extended Family and Grand Children.  
Mobile: 7989641639. (S/1920/D01035)

**10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
The memory of the just is blessed Prov. 10:7  
  
**Mr. B.S. PETER**  
(Retd. Principal)  
Promoted to glory on 14.10.2009  
Your principled and prayerful life is a source of inspiration to all of us.  
your memories are still fresh in our hearts.  
Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children and Great Grand Children.  
Ph: 7386011380, 9849556477 (S/1920/D01026)

When representatives come for meter reading and print on-the-spot bills, they can as well collect the amount via digital means. — Govardhan Thoutam

## High time GHMC reboots garbage disposal



### Rainwaters overflow at Monda market

During the rainy season, we have an overflow of water to knee-level at Monda market. People are suffering from lots of allied problem during rains for months. The people are so vexed with this government and GHMC that there are memes going around that Monda market in Secunderabad has become a tourist attraction and a rival to the famous floating flower market of Thailand.

— Ajay Puneriya  
Monda market

### Illegal septic tank on road

On the Ocean Park main road, a new drive-in food place has sprung up, named Fire 44. The owner of the place has illegally constructed an open septic tank on the main road. Despite requests to remove it, the owner ignores the matter. The civic situation here has worsened, with drainage waste overflowing and reaching the road. It has covered the entrance of my property too. It causes health hazards to people around.

— Aashish Sirigiri  
Hyderabad



### SV Officers Colony in a mess

The Sri Venkateswara Officer's Colony in Ramakrishnapuram is in a pathetic condition. We, its residents, experience frequent power cuts, sometimes five to ten times, per day. We don't have power for four to five hours. When we call the Lal Bazaar electricity office, they do not respond. Phones are kept aside and the standard answer is the subscriber is unavailable. The AE does not pick up the phone ever when we try to reach out. When the supply is restored, often it is of either low voltage or only for one phase. Sometimes, for hours, one part of the road has power and the other side does not.

How is one supposed to manage a home, and work, operate online work, maintain electronic devices and appliances at home without power? When it comes to bills, the electricity department demands additional charges for customer service and development, fixed randomly. One wonders what service and what development?

— Catherine Philip  
S.V. Officer's Colony, R.K. Puram.

### DRAINAGE WATER FLOWING IN HOMES

I have made several complaints to the HMWS&SB, Red Hills division, about drainage water flowing into our house. It is regrettable that despite my repeated follow-ups, not action is being taken towards a repeated resolution. Every three or four days, drainage water is flowing back into our house. We are unable to stay and bear the toxic and unbearable smell. We seek immediate action to be taken for a permanent solution for this problem.

Online grievance reference: Grievance on 06/10/19, regarding chockage customer premises, registered with token number:1283. The reply was it would be addressed within 4 days and solved as per Citizen Charter.

— Mohammed Ali Nayyar  
Red Hills

### CLEAN UP AKBAR HILLS IN UPPERPALLY

I would like to draw the attention of the Rajendranagar authorities towards the unhygienic conditions in Akbar Hills, Upperpally. The roads of the locality are filled with water and dirt. During rains, drainage and sewage water flood our houses. It is more than 20 days now since our house has been flooded completely, as the main GHMC drain is blocked. As a result, our drinking water is contaminated. Germs and mosquitoes are breeding throughout our locality, causing illnesses and viral fevers among the residents, specially children. Repeated complaints and visits to the GHMC office at Rajendranagar have elucidated no response. I request the authorities concerned to look into this, clean the drainage and arrange for pest control.

— Dr Mohd Khadri  
Akbar Hills, Upperpally

### NO GARBAGE CLEARANCE AT JUMMERAT BAZAAR

I am a resident of Jummerat Bazaar, near Rani Avanti statue. The GHMC municipal workers don't come to our area to clear the garbage. Everyday, lots of people pee in the open. People dump garbage around openly. Stray animals come and make the area their place to hang. The unbearable foul smell from garbage impacts our lives. The GHMC takes no action, despite the fact that there is a temple and a school nearby. Please remove garbage from our area.

— Rameshwari Thakur  
Jummerat Bazaar

### Stray animal block roads at Saidabad

It has become very difficult to drive on most roads, especially while taking turns. In particular, the road opposite the Hanuman temple, Saidabad main road, where stray animals rest on the road for days but on one takes any action. It is risking the lives of motorists and creating severe traffic bottlenecks.

— Abdul Aleem  
Hafez Baba Nagar



### Parties create garbage, kid dies of dengue in Hussaini Alam

I am a housewife and don't want to disclose my identity out of fear in voicing this complaint. I live in Ahata Moosa Quadri in Hussaini Alam. In our locality, some people are regularly throwing parties. The problem is not their parties, per se, but afterwards they make the area unbearably dirty. It becomes difficult to walk through the street. Rains have made it disastrous. Our society has become an adda for dengue mosquitoes. Many children in the neighbourhood are suffering from dengue and other viral fevers. A boy died of dengue in our neighbourhood recently, the only son in his family. Help us to solve this problem created by these parties. The government has introduced Swacch Bharat Abhiyaan but it is limited to theory.

— Reader

Dear Readers, Deccan Chronicle is not just your favourite newspaper. It is also your voice, and a recourse. Bad roads? No water supply? Too many power cuts? Garbage dumps unattended? Sewerage blocked? Schools without teachers? Hospitals without doctors? Write to us. Your problems, your issues — and send a few photographs. We will fight for you, raise your issues, as always. Email to [editor@deccanmail.com](mailto:editor@deccanmail.com) with the subject line 'My Issue'.



## Garbage next to Muslim Maternity hospital



I am a resident of Osmanpura, Chaderghat. My house is located close to the Muslim Maternity Hospital. I wish to bring to attention of GHMC the irregular clearance of garbage in our locality, especially beside the maternity hospital. The city is in the grip of viral fevers. Our pathetic civic infrastructure has made people suffer from deadly diseases.

Our locality has become unhygienic and is a health hazard. What is especially unacceptable is that the dumping is being done just next to a hospital where women deliver babies. Is this the way to

receive our future generation? The boundary wall of the maternity hospital is being used by public to relieve themselves, which is disgusting for residents of the area, besides the unhygienic situation it creates. Pavements are overflowing with heaps of waste and uncollected garbage is left to rot. The air is filled with foul smell. The area has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies that spread deadly diseases. We request concerned authorities to take steps to clear the garbage at regular intervals and stop this menace.

— Mirza Maqsood Baig  
Osmanpura

## Traffic on Street No 9, Lingampally

In the last week of August, Deccan Chronicle had published my complaint about the wrong parking of vehicles on Street No. 9, Lingampally, adjacent to Reddy Women's College, in Narayanguda. The situation remains the same even now. In fact, it has worsened. This illegal park has not only blocked the traffic but also provides a "safe zone for public to urinate".

— Rajeev Deshmukh  
Narayanguda



### TRAFFIC CHAOS IN SCHOOL ZONES

All schools in Hyderabad and Secunderabad will have traffic problems at school zones once the school reopen. Stopping vehicles to allow children to cross the road causes huge traffic jams. There are often fights between the general public in a rush and stakeholders of the school — parents, school administrators and traffic police. Police also do not pay attention, and security guards deployed by school administration take total charge and stop vehicles. Traffic police seldom monitors traffic in front of schools, especially in the mornings. School zones are blocked by children's parents' vehicles. Police, if any, is busy doing the right thing, of course — helping children cross the road from the innumerable buses, cars and autorickshaws that ply the kids. Traffic police must come out with a clear policy to ensure fair rules for all concerned.

— Syed Shamsuddin  
Maghrabi and Minhaj  
Syed, Red Hills



### DRAINAGE OVERFLOW IN BHOLAKPUR

The drainage in our locality Bholakpur near the Sheker Reddy Hospital is overflowing since 15 days. No concerned official has responded to any complaints or is taking any action.

— Irfan Pasha  
Bholakpur

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU - WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
LOWER CAUVERY BASIN CIRCLE, THANJAVUR.  
TENDER NOTICE (TWO COVER SYSTEM)  
NIT No.4/2019-2020/LCB Circle/Thanjavur/dated.9.10.2019

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate work value (Rs. in crore)	EMD Amount in Rs.	Cost of Tender Schedule and GST	Name of Executive Engineer to whom the amount to be remitted
1	Construction of Tail End Regulator across Chakkiliyan vakkil drainage at L.S.11.50 km in Ethenjapuram Village of Vedranayam Taluk in Nagapattinam District.	4.65	2,50,000/-	Rs.15000 + Rs.1800	Executive Engineer, WRD., Vanner Basin Division, Thanjavur

Period of completion: 18 Months  
Eligibility Class of Contractor: Class I State level & Lower Cauvery Basin Circle level  
The cost of tender schedule and GST are noted against the work. The cost of tender schedule will have to be remitted in the State Bank of India or Government Treasuries under the head of account 8782-00-102-AD-0000 to the Credit of the Executive Engineer noted above. GST is to be remitted under Head of account 'GST 00000101A00000' separately and enclosed along with application.  
Tender documents can also be downloaded at free of cost from web site: [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)  
Superintending Engineer, WRD., Lower Cauvery Basin Circle, Thanjavur  
DIPR / 3578 / TENDER / 2019

పాఠకులను అలరించడంలో అగ్రగామి

# శింధుమామి

సచిత్ర వారపత్రిక

24 అక్టోబర్ 2019 రూ.15

వారి జీవితం... ఖాసీ సాహిత్యం

- ◆ సీరియల్స్
- ◆ కథలూ, కార్టూన్లూ
- ◆ కావలసినన్ని ఫీచర్లూ
- ◆ కంటికింపైన సచిత్రాలూ

వెల. 15 రూపాయలే

బింతా ఎన్నెన్నో ప్రత్యేకతలతో సర్వంగం సుందరంగా ముస్తాబై...

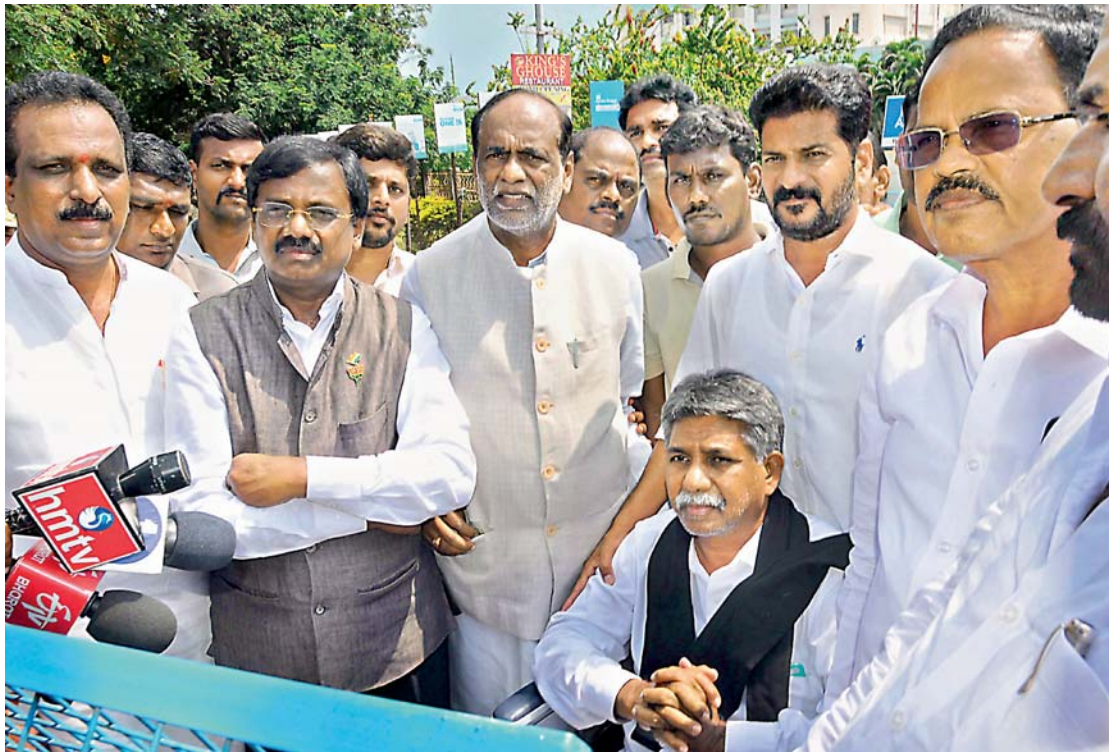
మార్కెట్లో వున్న అజా సంచకను వెంటనే కొని చదవండి.



## Power struggle

Jagan says AP is being penalised despite having the highest share of renewable energy at 25%

## RTC STRIKE



Several political leaders, including BJP state president Dr. K. Laxman, MRP leader Manda Krishna Madiga and Congress working president A. Revanth Reddy, along with TSRTC JAC leader Aswatham Reddy visit DRDO-Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad on Sunday.

# Suicide not a solution, BJP tells RTC workers

### Laxman blames TRS govt's attitude for driver's suicide

AVINASH PUJARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

TSRTC bus driver Srinivas Reddy, one among the 48,000 corporation employees sacked by the state government who set himself ablaze on Saturday, died on Sunday while undergoing treatment at the DRDO Apollo Hospital.

BJP state president K. Laxman said, "The state government's attitude towards TSRTC employees is atrocious. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is directly responsible for the death of Srinivas Reddy." He urged RTC employees not to take any extreme step as the BJP would remain with them till their legitimate demands are accepted and employees sacked en masse taken back on duty.

Laxman announced that the BJP will fully support the call of TSRTC JAC for statewide Bandh on October 19. The state BJP president and senior party leaders also visited the DRDO Apollo Hospital following the RTC driver's demise.

Senior BJP leader N. V. Subhash warned the Chief Minister that he will have to face the heat in coming days if he continues to ignore RTC employees and does not accept their demands. Party leader T. R. Srinivas said it is high time Chandrasekhar Rao gave up his ego and resolved the strike going on since past nine days.

## THOUSANDS GATHER TO RECEIVE DRIVER'S BODY

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, OCT. 13

Thousands of workers and people received the body of RTC driver Devireddy Srinivas Reddy, who succumbed to his self-immolation attempt, at Warangal crossroads in Khammam at 6 pm on Sunday.

Congress former MP V. Hanumantha Rao, BJP Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay, RTC JAC convener Aswathama Reddy and co-convener Raji Reddy accompanied with body from Hyderabad. Leaders from the CPI, Congress, CPM, Telugu Desam, BJP and CPI (ML) New Democracy paid tributes to Srinivas Reddy.

RTC workers, who took part in the procession from Warangal crossroads to Srinivas Reddy's residence at Raparthinagar raised slogans like 'Srinivasa Reddy Amar Hai', 'Your sacrifice do not go waste' and 'A martyr lost to protect RTC'.

His wife Savitri, sons Saibharam Reddy and Sai Karithik Reddy, who are working in the Indian Air Force and the Army, were consoled by the leaders.

Tension prevailed at the Khammam bus depot and bus station and police personnel

■ TENSION PREVAILED at the Khammam bus depot and police personnel were posted to deal with any situation.

Mr Sanjay said Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and his ego were the reason for the death of Srinivas Reddy. He said the sacrifice will not go waste and Mr Rao should agree to talks with the RTC JAC.

Traffic on Bypass Road was disrupted stranded with the procession of Reddy's body and Drivers from various depots paid tributes by garlanding the body and took an oath that they would continue the protest till their demands are fulfilled. Mr Aswathama Reddy said Srinivas Reddy sacrificed his life for the welfare of RTC workers. "We will not forget his sacrifice and continue our strike", he said.

RTC JAC leaders consulted with the family members on the last rites of Srinivas Reddy and it is decided to conduct them on Sunday night.

## STATE TEACHERS' UNIONS TO SUPPORT STRIKE

FROM PAGE 1

CPI(M) leader Tammini Veerabhadram said the state has to take responsibility for Reddy's death. He condemned the CM's comments on employees.

"Had if the CM responded positively on the issue of RTC employees, Srinivas Reddy's life would have not been lost," said CPI leader K. Narayana. "It was government provocation that led to his extreme step."

Jana Sena president K. Pawan Kalyan said the intervention of Telangana's political leaders would have saved Reddy's life. "Can we give him back to his family? It is disturbing that even after Telangana became a separate state, incidents like this are happening," he said.

Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao told the media that the CM was striving to develop the RTC's condition. He accused political parties of misleading RTC employees by saying that the CM would privatise the corporation.

The PRTU and 22 other teachers' unions said they would support the strike, and that they wanted to join the protest after Dasara holidays. The PRTU said that the extension of holidays at educational institutions by the government was meant to dilute the RTC issue.

## APSRTC STAFF TO FIGHT FOR TS COUNTERPARTS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA OCT. 13

The joint action committee (JAC) of APSRTC employees staged a protest at all depots of Andhra Pradesh in 13 districts supporting the TSRTC employees.

They announced to attend duties wearing red badges on October 19 after which they will announce their plan of action. On the occasion, all members of the JAC assured Telangana RTC workers that they will support them and appealed to them not to commit suicide.

Recalling the threatening speeches by TS Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, JAC convener Palliseti Damodara Rao said that even though the strike by RTC workers in TS entered the ninth day, it was not proper for the state government to behave adamantly.

# Rain fury slows down but floodwater yet to recede

T.S.S. SIDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Houses in Renukanagar, in Dammaiguda, were inundated with water after Saturday night's rainfall. The houses are still submerged 48 hours after the rains stopped.

Bal Raj, a resident of the colony, who opened his house doors only to let water in, said: "There was earlier a *kachha* bund near the water body, and this had never taken place. But for the last three-years, our houses are filled with water every time it rains."

The houses are thought to have been built on illegal land parcels that were grabbed from lake beds.

Asked if the house was legitimate, Mr Raj said he had purchased the house not the land. "We have no particular document which can clarify whether the land on which our house is built is legal. We had purchased the house from those who had registered it with the *taluka*," Mr Raj said.

P. Santosh, another resident of the area said, "Colonies like Ambedkarnagar and Sathanarayana Colony are completely waterlogged. Residents have to arm themselves with a mop and bucket to clear the water from their homes. The children and women have been moved out and only men are at home. We cannot leave as

## RAIN IN WITHDRAWAL MODE IN CITY, SPELLS CONTINUE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

After bearing the brunt of an aggressive southwest monsoon, during its withdrawal, the city on Sunday witnessed spells of light showers in isolated areas of the city.

According to officials from Skymet, a private weather forecasting outfit, the month of October began with a bang for the city in terms of rains.

During the last couple of days, the city of Hyderabad has been receiving light to moder-

ate rains and thunder-shower activities.

During the last 24 hours, the city has received a cumulative 0.9 mm of rainfall.

All these weather conditions are prevailing due to the presence of a cyclonic circulation over Andhra Pradesh and the adjoining region in the lower levels, reads a forecast issued by Skymet.

"Heavy rain is may occur at isolated places. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, are very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana," IMD said.

■ THE HOUSES are thought to have been built on illegal land parcels that were grabbed from lake beds.

there is fear of burglary," he said. A little further away, the Jawaharnagar Dumpyard's leachate is making its way into the Dammaiguda Lake, leaving a foul smell to permeate the residences in the area.

"There are puddles of black water in the open areas around our house. Courtesy of the leachate,

the Dammaiguda Lake is now frothing and triggering panic amongst residents of illnesses or rashes. I have been writing to the government and civic body for the last one-and-a-half months, but to no avail," said Venkata Subba Rao, a resident of Dammaiguda.

The stench is unbearable. "For years now, we have heard the government talk about shifting the Jawaharnagar Dump. But that has still not happened. Why are we bearing the brunt of Gachibowli or Jubilee Hills' waste?" questioned M Medha, resident.



Overflowing water gushes from clogged drains at Vidyanagar even as the area is inundated with rainwater.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

# PUBG-addict 16-yr-old boy stages kidnap drama

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Addicted to PUBG, an online game, a 16-year-old Intermediate first year student staged a kidnap drama and attempted to extort ₹3 lakh from his parents after they snatched his mobile phone.

The boy cannot be named as he is a minor. The resident of Srirammagar Colony was studying in a private college and undergoing coaching for IIT. Addicted to PUBG, he was not concentrating on his education and his mother took away the phone.

On October 11, the boy told his parents that he would visit his friend but did not return. After searching for him, his parents lodged a complaint with the

■ HE ATTEMPTED to extort ₹3 lakh from his parents after they snatched his mobile phone as he was not concentrating on his studies.

Raidurgam police and mentioned that he had taken away ₹2,000 from home.

Raidurgam inspector S. Ravinder said that during investigation it was found that the boy had boarded a bus to go to Mumbai the same day. He got down at Sholapur to use the toilet but the bus had left by the time he returned, police said. "The boy borrowed a mobile phone of a passer-by and called his mother. He changed his voice and told her that her son was kidnapped and asked for a ransom of ₹3 lakh," the

inspector said. On October 12, the boy's mother received a message that a ticket was booked online from Hyderabad to Machera in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, where the boy's maternal grandparents live. On sharing the information with the police, a team rushed to the bus stand and rescued the boy, he said.

The boy had scored 9.8 GPA during his Class X examinations. After getting addicted to the game, he lost focus on his studies and was not performing well, he said.

The inspector said: "The boy was depressed and undergoing what looked like withdrawal symptom. He was traced to MGBS at around 5 pm on Saturday and was handed over to his parents and advised to provide counselling."

# Mystery over girl's death

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, OCT. 13

Mystery shrouds the death of a 17-year-old girl who was found hanging at her parents' residence at Reddipalli village in Santipuram mandal late on Saturday. According to locals, the girl married a 19-year-old boy, Prabhu, of Oddumadugu village as the two were in love. She eloped and married

Prabhu at Gangamma temple in Tirupati on Friday, with the help of some friends. The parents of the boy and elders of the village convinced the couple to separate since the girl is a minor. They sent the girl home. However, the girl was found hanging in her room. Her parents cremated the body after informing the matter to the villagers on Sunday morn-

ing. Meanwhile, local Dalit associations said that they suspect the girl was murdered since she married a Dalit boy. Members of the Dalit associations lodged a complaint with the police.

Palamaneru DSP Arifullah and Kuppam inspector Saiprasad examined the cremation ground and booked a case. Investigation is in progress, police said.

It is painful to see the extreme form of protest and death of RTC staff

— Pawan Kalyan Jana Sena leader

## BRIEF

### Speeding SUV kills pedestrian

Hyderabad: A pedestrian crossing the road in Abdullapurmet was mowed down by a speeding SUV on Saturday night. The police have booked a case and have alerted their counterparts to trace the identity of the deceased person. Abdullapurmet Inspector S Devender said that the accident took place at around 10 pm on Saturday near Balijaguda crossroads close to Peddamberpet Outer Ring Road. A speeding car which was heading towards Vijayawada rammed a pedestrian who was crossing the road. The driver of the vehicle was rash and negligent and driving at high speed, he said.

### Lawyer held for abusing woman

Hyderabad: An advocate from Saroornagar was arrested on Sunday for allegedly outraging the modesty of a woman. He allegedly abused her and interrupted the Bhatukamma programme in which she was participating. According to Saroornagar police, a complaint was received from a woman living at Lingojiguda that when she along with her colony members were taking part in Bhatukamma festival and arranging a small sound system, a resident of their colony, B. Subash, an advocate, repeatedly complained to the police about the noise and interrupted the programme. When the woman and other residents went to Subash's house to question him for interrupting their programme, he reportedly used filthy language against her and also beat her.

### Woman's chain snatched

Hyderabad: A septuagenarian woman had her chain snatched on Sunday morning while she was plucking flowers from a tree in front of her house. The chain was stated to weigh four tolas. According to Chandanagar police, the victim, Laxmi Devi, 76, is a resident of Old MIG Quarters in BHEL area. At about 7.45 am, Ms Laxmi Devi was plucking flowers from a tree in front of her house when two unidentified persons on a motorcycle snatched the gold chain from her neck. The victim alerted her family members and then intimidated the police. She identified the bike model and said the snatchers could be between 20 and 22 years of age. Based on her complaint, a case of robbery was registered and a team is working on the clues to nab the suspects.

### TWO GIRLS DROWN IN MADANAPALLE

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, OCT. 13

Two girls drowned in a tank near Madanapalle when they ventured into the water to wash their legs on Saturday. Though their mother and aunt were nearby washing clothes they failed to notice Shameera, 11, and Asifa, 5, going to the water.

The children told their mother Raziya and aunt Nazrana that they are going to relieve themselves before they left.

The women realised that the two girls are drowned when they noticed their footwear close to the tank but the children were nowhere to be found.

Locals rushed to the spot after the women raised an alarm and fished out the girls and rushed them to the government hospital in Madanapalle.

However, medical officers declared them brought dead at the hospital. Rural sub-inspectors Dileep Kumar and Harihara Prasad registered a case and is investigating the matter.

## RTC STAFF HOLD CANDLELIGHT VIGILS AT DEPOTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Striking Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) employees conducted candlelight vigils in front of bus depots on Sunday honouring the memory of driver D. Srinivas Reddy who died earlier in the day following a self-immolation attempt.

Hundreds of employees gathered at RTC crossroads, which is near Bus Bhavan, the RTC headquarters, and bus depots holding candles. They counselled each other to stay strong and not take any extreme step.

"It is unfortunate that we have lost a soul in our struggle, we want all our comrades to be brave and fight for their rights. The government should conduct talks to end the strike," said a protestor on condition of anonymity.

A union leader, S. Babu, said they were requesting employees not to lose heart and commit suicides.

## Extended hols has parents in a tizzy

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Sunday morning was not calm and relaxed for parents of young children as the state government's decision to extend the Dasara holidays by a week has upset their plans. With both parents usually working, looking after children has become something of a juggling act.

The extension is a happy time for school children as one can judge from the celebratory emojis they have put up on their social media groups. But parents now have to do some detailed planning to ensure there is someone at home for the kids and they are sufficiently occupied and entertained.

Sangeeta K., a researcher with a pharmaceutical company, is very upset as these unexpected holidays are clashing with her quarterly research audit. "How can government take decisions based on their whims and fan-

cies? Our schedule for managing children is going haywire. Their school is from 8 am to 4 pm and after that there are classes till 8 pm at night. This helps us manage our home-work balance."

Grandparents who came to stay for the Dasara have returned to their homes as schools were to open on Monday. Serish V.K., who works in an insurance company, says, "We decided that we will split the responsibility and each of us will take time off from work. There is no other option. My son is in Class V. We cannot opt for a day care centre for seven days."

Some are planning to take their children to office at least for a day, while others are hoping to find a friendly neighbour. Pooja Shah, an IT employee, said, "I work in the evening shift and have decided to have my friend's children over in the morning. Seven days will be managed at each other's homes."



## Mudra gift

Planning Board vice-chairman B. Vinod Kumar appeals to PM to give Mudra loans to those running small businesses



Government should realise the agony caused by the RTC strike to the public

— G. Kishan Reddy  
MoS home affairs

## BRIEF

### UTTAM SLAMS KCR'S HANDLING OF RTC STRIKE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and Nalgonda MP Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly condemned the attitude and approach of Chief Minister Mr. K. Chandrababhan Rao in dealing with the RTC strike.

Addressing a series of corner meetings in Mattampally mandal as part of his campaign for the Huzurnagar byelections on Sunday, Uttam Kumar Reddy described KCR as the most irresponsible and insensitive chief minister.

He said that the TRS government did not respond when RTC unions served the strike notice following the rules and made no efforts to meet their justified demands. When the RTC employees went on strike, the chief minister reacted in an insane manner and the announced dismissal of more than 48,000 employees in a single stroke. He also stopped their previous month's salaries and they were also denied treatment at the RTC Hospital, he said.

### REVENUE STAFF SUPPORT RTC WORKERS' STRIKE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

In a major boost to the ongoing stir of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation staff, the Telangana Revenue Employees Association on Sunday announced their support to the strike.

Telangana Deputy Collectors Association president V. Latchireddy, Telangana Village Revenue Officers Association leaders S. Ramulu, G. Upender Rao, N. Lakshmi Narayana, Ravi Nayak, and V. Ramulu were speaking at the condolence meeting in the city on the suicide of RTC driver Srinivas Reddy.

The association leaders said that the state government has to change the anti-employees attitude and have talks with the employees' leaders to solve their demands.

They said that they would certainly foil the conspiracy to eliminate the revenue system in the state and they would also go for the strike for their demands in the coming days.

They said that there was no head of the revenue department in the state and the revenue portfolio was with the chief minister and he did not give an appointment to the revenue employees to discuss their problems.

The leaders reminded that it was the revenue staff of the state who had issued 58 lakhs *pattdar* passbooks during the rectification of the records drive taken up by the government.

They said that due to the work burden several revenue employees had lost their lives in the state while discharging their duties, but the state government was acting against the revenue staff with a vindictive attitude.

Meanwhile, the Telangana NGOs Association on Sunday accused the RTC JAC of launching strike without consulting it.

K. Ravinder Reddy, convener of the TNGOs, found fault with the RTC unions and other employees unions for criticising them for meeting Chief Minister Mr. K. Chandrababhan Rao. He said that they are ready to hold talks with the RTC JAC leaders about their demands and if they consult them they will meet the chief minister with a request to solve the issues of the RTC staff.

■ The association leaders said the state government would have to change its anti-employees attitude and hold talks with the RTC union to solve their demands.

# Caste, religion play little role here

■ Huzurnagar voters divided equally between Congress and TRS, BJP hardly present

SRIRAM KARRI | DC  
GARIDEPALLY  
(HUZURNAGAR), OCT. 13

As the sun sets after a hot humid day over the small town, a small convoy of Congress campaign vehicles drives slowly to the central junction and stops. Opposite the police station, possibly the oldest and most important building here, the Congress leaders stand on the vehicle that has been altered to act as an election stage, with mikes and lights. People come towards the vehicle, the gathering comprises party enthusiasts and activists as well as curious bystanders. The police and party cadre work hard to ensure there is no traffic jam, but the road is narrow and every-one driving past slows down to see the leaders.

A rare RTC bus passes, slows down and stops. The driver, not a staffer but a private employee hired in an emergency, ironically, wants to hear what the excitement is about. The travellers look on interestedly at the rally. A commuter tries to quickly buy a bottle of water from a nearby shop, shouting to the little girl at the counter to get him a chilled bottle and waving a ₹20 note through the window. A cow ambles down the middle of the road slowly, unsure whether to settle down on the left side or the right. No one minds it.

Children run around excitedly, trying to get a flag to hold. Activists shoo them away, but they keep coming back, pesky, rebellious, and reluctant to miss out on any action. Several youths stop their motorcycles and cycles by the roadside and listen as an Osmania University student gives a passionate speech about the youths who fought for Telangana statehood but have been betrayed by Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao. People cheer the speaker. He raises the tempo of the rhetoric. They cheer even more.

In nearby tea stalls and small old benches, menfolk gather to discuss the October 21 election. Not too many women are around post sunset, though womenfolk have been part of the campaign effort all day. I shortlist one group that is in the midst of a no-holds-barred fight, fit to be televised



As the D-Day draws closer, leaders and workers of the TRS and Congress have intensified their campaigns in Huzurnagar.

live. It is prime time TV stuff. I saunter towards them, listening, looking for an opening to become a part of it, lingering. "No way Saiji Reddy will win," one of them is arguing. "Who is he? It is about KCR alone, and his work. What has he given us?" Some of them nod in agreement, some laugh derisively. After a point I make them tell me their names and ask them to explain their stand. They are happy to respond, honestly, openly. The biggest takeaway is the secular nature of the constituency. Neither religion nor caste is discussed. It is not that they don't matter, but it is almost like they don't exist as factors. It is a rare distinction for any constituency in India; secular, oblivious to caste, but passionate about parties, and leaders. The TRS critic turns sar-

castic. "Why would I not vote for KCR? I have moved to my two-bedroom house. My son has got a job. We are getting drinking water from Mission Bhagiratha. Everything we hoped when we fought for Telangana state has come true." Some laugh, some are not amused. "Do we have power supply? Do we have pensions? Are not fathers of girls getting financial support during their wedding - Kalyan Laxmi or Shaadi Mubarak? Are not farmers getting Rythu Bandhu," one of them asks. Will the RTC strike and move to fire employees make an impact, I ask. "Of course, not. There are hardly a few hundred employees in Huzurnagar. For us it is about giving the TRS a chance, give Saiji anna a chance. We have stood by Uttam Kumar Reddy and the

Congress for so long. Now, we want a change," says Balakrishna. Meera interjects. "He is a TRS man. Balakrishna recently got married and got a bike in dowry. Does he go in buses? Ask me, I do, I will not for the TRS." But he won't vote for Congress either. It is all about their respective party. "I am a Telugu Desam supporter. I will show KCR who says my party is dead that it is not." The contest is two-party by a huge margin and neither the BJP nor the TD matter to most voters. The arguments go on, but it is clearly a tough contest. Election Commission observers are around, taking snaps, videos, checking bags and vehicles. Counting anything that is an expense. "In Nalgonda and Suryapet, and in Huzurnagar and Kodad regions, people

care passionately about parties. Most people work for one of the parties and back some leader. Years back, there would be murders over political differences. Now, we only discuss," explained Rajaiiah. He calls another person to share his views. The young man, Rambabu, visibly better off than most around, confesses he gets ₹1.2 lakh a year for his 12 acres of land as a farmer. But he will not vote for the TRS. "I am rich. I will get money no matter how I vote. What about people like Meera or Hafeez here? This government only works for the rich, nothing for the poor. We did not want a Telangana to create another era of exploitation." More leaders arrive, more speeches. More discussions, more jibes, and more rebuttals, and no conclusion. Every time a leader invokes the name of

Congress candidate Padmavathi Reddy, people cheer. Earlier in the day, I had witnessed Saiji Reddy undertake padayatra and address rallies. The energy is infectious, despite the hot, hot weather. The green fields and filled canals speak of a level of prosperity. "This part feels more like Andhra, and it is not too far either," said a TRS leader. "We have cement factories. But all aspirations of development have been belied. We need a new leader to arise." Across villages in Huzurnagar, Neredcherla, Garidipally and Mella-chervu mandals, more people were surprisingly forthright about who they would vote for, and why, than during the Assembly elections in December last. And the verdict is clear, no one can be too sure who is winning.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

# Secretariat shift rumours shadow Amaravati's fate

MD ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

Doubts about whether Amaravati will continue to be the capital city of AP are increasing every day, and are gaining strength based on speculations that the AAndhra Pradesh Secretariat at Velagapudi will be shifted.

Former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu used to work out of the temporary secretariat but Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy prefers to hold most reviews and meetings at his residence-cum-camp office at Tadepalli.

During the TD government, then speaker Kodela Siva Prasada Rao had proposed to conduct the Assembly in the Acharya Nagarjuna University campus but the plan did not materialise. Reports of officials submitting a report to the government about shifting of the Secretariat to Nagarjuna University or an adjacent private buildings is fuelling speculations among all sections of the society as well as political circles.

The Velagapudi Secretariat is 18 km from Vijayawada, 25 km from Guntur and 14 km from Mangalagiri. Most of the officials and staff stay in these towns and spend a long time travelling to their offices and back. The officials reportedly submitted a report to Mr Reddy about the shifting of the Secretariat to ANU, Mangalagiri and Tadepalli to ease the travel time.

Further, the YSRC government has announced the development of Mangalagiri and Tadepalli by merging adjacent villages. This is being seen in line with the decision to shift the capital city. The offices of several departments are situated at Guntur, Gollapudi and Vijayawada and preparations are being made to shift them to Tadepalli. The TD, Congress, BJP, JS and Communist Party leaders, after the stopping of work in Amaravati, have demanded that Mr Reddy clarify whether or

## MANGALAGIRI, TADEPALLI TO BECOME MODEL TOWNS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 13

Mangalagiri and Tadepalli, with road and rail connectivity, will be developed as model towns with the merger of 12 adjacent villages.

Chinna Kakani, Atmakur, Yerrabalem, Bethapudi and Nowluru are to be merged into Mangalagiri. Undavalli, Penumaka, Kolanukonda, Kunchanakapalli, Vaddeswaram, Gundimeda and Prathuru will form part of Tadepalli. The government is conducting public hearings in these villages to secure the approval of the locals for the merger.

As many as 31,571 people lived in Undavalli, Penumaka, Kolanukonda, Kunchanakapalli, Vaddeswaram, Gundimeda and

Prathuru and 33,944 live in Chinna Kakani, Atmakur, Yerrabalem, Bethapudi and Nowluru. There were allegations that the TD government did not develop Mangalagiri because YSRC leader Alla Ramakrishna Reddy won from there in 2014. The YSRC leaders several times demanded that the TD government develop Mangalagiri but in vain. During the recent elections, TD supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu's son N. Lokesh contested from Mangalagiri and promised to develop the constituency but lost to Mr Ramakrishna Reddy. YSRC leaders said that with the party in power, Mangalagiri would be developed and welcomed the merger of five villages into the town.

not the capital will continue to be located there. Indian Union Muslim League state president and AP High Court lawyer Basheer Ahmed said that the silence of Mr Reddy was creating suspicions about the continuation of Amaravati as the capital. Telugu Desam MLC and former minister Dokka Manikya Varaprasada Rao said after the rumors about shifting of the Secretariat to Tadepalli or adjacent areas and changing of the capital spread, price of lands and houses had fallen in Amaravati.



Four crest gates of Srisaillam dam was opened on Sunday after water in the reservoir recorded 884.80 feet against the total reservoir height of 885 feet.

# Srisaillam opens gates 6th time in 2 months

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, OCT. 13

Torrential rains in the past few days in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka states flooded the Srisaillam reservoir necessitating lifting of four crest gates on Sunday. This is the sixth time that these gates have been opened in a span of two months. Srisaillam dam Superintendent Engineer Chandrasekhar Rao said that historically the month of October often sees floods in Srisaillam upto October 14. "We are geared up for any eventuality," he said.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, he said that the Central Water Commission's alerts for the day did not warrant any continuous flood as it was localised and the trend was falling. He said rains between Narayanpur dam and Jurala on the Krishna river, and rains near Tungabhadra in the past few days had chiefly contributed to the fresh bout of floods that filled the reservoir to the brim. Water in the reservoir recorded 884.80 feet against the total reservoir height of 885 feet. The present storage capacity

is 214.8450 tmc against its maximum holding capacity of 215 tmc ft. Instant inflow at source for Srisaillam at Jurala was 1,35,597 cusecs while the realised inflows at the dam site was 1,47,573 cusecs. Four gates of the Srisaillam dam were lifted to a height of 10 feet letting out 1,11,932 cusecs. Outflows through AP Power House was 26982 cusecs while Telangana State Power House let out 42378 cusecs. Pothireddy padu head regulator discharged just 7000 cusecs on Sunday, the engineer said.

## COPS STOP RTC PROTESTERS AT HOSPITAL GATE

FROM PAGE 1

The Hyderabad police deployed a large number of personnel to prevent the striking workers from entering the hospital. The employees staged their protest in front, demanding that Reddy's body be shifted to Bus Bhavan at RTC crossroads. Police barricaded the area and took 86 employees into preventive custody at different stations.

Doctors from Osmania General Hospital were called to Apollo Hospital for the postmortem. His body was then handed over to his family and escorted by police to Khammam.

Congress Malkajgiri MP A. Revanth Reddy paid a visit to the hospital and consoled the family. He told the media that during the Telangana statehood movement five years ago, Srikantha Chary's death had propelled the movement till a separate state was achieved. Srinivas Reddy's death at the same hospital would create a similar movement in the state to support the RTC employees.

"Srinivas Reddy gave a dying declaration that calling the RTC employees as self-dismissed created chaos in their lives. So he attempted suicide," said Mr Revanth Reddy. "A case should be registered against responsible persons based on the dying declaration."

Kanchanbagh inspector J. Venkat Reddy said the dying declaration will be shared with the Khammam police which is investigating the case.

■ Doctors from Osmania General Hospital were called to Apollo Hospital for the postmortem. His body was then handed over to his family and escorted by police to Khammam.

## CITY HOSTING CHRISTIAN YOUTHS' MEET

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

Hyderabad is hosting over 450 Christian youths from different states at the Catholic Health Association of India training centre at Medchal to participate in the second national youth conference in collaboration with the Indian Catholic Youth Movement. The event, which started on Sunday, will continue till October 17.

Over the next four days, the youths are expected to engage themselves in various topics ranging from faith to environment, media, psychological health and relationships. This is seen as a cultural exchange event as each region showcases its speciality, said ICYM president Percival Holt.

"This year, we aim to break the stereotypical podium-and-audience pattern and have the participants engage in discussions not just in groups but also encourage them to be able to express their opinions and concerns rather than just being an audience, said Fr Richard, head of the Hyderabad Youth Archdiocese.

The event was inaugurated by Archbishop of Hyderabad Thumma Bala on Sunday alongside several priests and nuns from various dioceses. The inauguration was followed by Mass and cultural dances by participants from various regions.

■ The event was inaugurated by Archbishop of Hyderabad Thumma Bala on Sunday alongside several priests and nuns from various dioceses.



## Poll tactics

Criticising the BJP for highlighting the Kashmir issue during their campaigns for Maharashtra polls, Raj Thackeray questions its silence on issues like farmer suicides



There is nothing in the situation in J&K that in any way affects Pakistan

— Shashi Tharoor  
Congress leader

## IN BRIEF

### 45 per cent hike in Punjab farm fires

**New Delhi:** The paddy harvesting season has started in Punjab and the state has already recorded a 45 per cent increase in stubble-burning incidents till October 11, but officials hopes the farm fire counts will come down gradually as a result of intensive interventions made this year. The period between October 15 and November 15 is considered critical as maximum number of stubble-burning incidents take place in this span in Punjab and adjoining states and is one of the main reasons for the alarming spike in pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.

### Special Pak train for Sikh pilgrims

**Islamabad:** Pakistan Railways on Sunday introduced a special train for Sikh pilgrims from Nankana Sahib to Karachi. These pilgrims are in Pakistan to participate in the celebrations of the 550th birth anniversary of the founder of Sikh religion, Baba Guru Nanak. The train moved from Nankana Sahib and will reach Karachi city station today (Monday) while making a stop at Shorkot, Khanewal, Rohri, Nawabshah and Karachi cantonment. One portion of the train has been reserved for the recitation of the Guru Garanth.

### Indo-China military exercise in Dec.

**New Delhi:** After the two-day informal summit of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and Chinese President, Xi Jinping, the armies of the two countries will take part in their annual exercise 'Hand in Hand' in December in Meghalaya as a confidence-building measure. The exercise will be held at the company level where around 120 troops from each side will be participating. The exercise will focus on carrying out anti-terrorist operations, human assistance and disaster management. The annual exercise was not held in 2017 when both armies were locked in a stand-off at Doklam. It was resumed in December 2018 after the informal summit at Wuhan. Last year, the exercise was held in the Chinese city of Chengdu. Earlier, these exercises were held at the platoon level and were later upgraded to the company

### 12 HELD FOR CIRCULATING CHILD PORN

**Thiruvananthapuram, Oct. 13:** Twelve people have been arrested and cases registered against 20 people in Kerala for circulating child pornography through social media, police said here on Sunday. The action follows raids conducted by the Counter Child Sexual Exploitation Unit of Kerala Police at 21 places in the state. The CSEU works in coordination with the INTERPOL-Crimes against Children Unit and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. The raids started at 6 am on October 12 and ended at around 1 am on Sunday, a senior police official said. Laptops, mobile phones modems, hard disks, memory cards, computers and other electronic equipment were seized from those arrested, police said in a release. The WhatsApp groups which were sharing child porn content were also identified, it said. Police said that they were closely monitoring various groups in WhatsApp, Telegram and Facebook.

## Dousing the flames



Fire personnel douse a fire which broke out in a commercial building in Mumbai on Sunday. A 22-year-old man died and six others suffered from suffocation and other injuries after the blaze. — PTI

# PM dares Opposition on J&K special status

BJP to play up Article 370 in Maharashtra Assembly poll campaign

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

Highlighting the salience of the scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution yet again, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dared the Opposition parties on Sunday to bring back the provision that granted a special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP has already made it clear it would make the abrogation of Article 370 its main electoral plank in the Maharashtra Assembly poll campaign.

Addressing his first rally during the campaign for the Vidhan Sabha polls, in Jalgaon, Mr Modi said Jammu and Kashmir is "not just a parcel of land, but the crown of India", and claimed it would not take more than four months to normalise the kind of situation that prevailed there for 40 years. Stating that it was the Opposition parties which were "politicising the unprecedented decision of scrapping of Article 370," he accused them of "speaking on the same lines as the neighbouring country" on the issue. Accusing Opposition leaders of shedding crocodile tears on the issue of Article 370, he said: "I challenge them, if they



PM Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting ahead of Maharashtra elections, in Bhandara on Sunday. — PTI

## Modi is diverting attention: Rahul

**Latur, Oct. 13:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the media of distracting people's attention from core issues. Addressing an election rally at Ausa in Maharashtra's Latur for the upcoming state polls, Gandhi said when the youth ask for jobs, the government tells them to watch the moon, in an

apparent reference to ISRO's Chandrayaan-2. He also sought to know if Modi, during his recent meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, asked the latter about the 2017 Doklam standoff. He was referring to the alleged incursion of Chinese troops into the Indian territory in 2017. He alleged that Rs 5.5 lakh crore debt of "15 rich people" was waived off by the government. — PTI

have the guts, to declare in their manifesto for the state elections and future polls too, that they will

bring back Articles 370 and 35A, which the BJP, the Modi government, scrapped... that they will

## Prasad withdraws remarks linking film profit to economy

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

As Opposition parties came down heavily on his comments about big business done by three films on October 2 to counter claims of an economic slowdown, union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad withdrew his comments on Sunday saying they had been "twisted completely out of context".

The Opposition charge was led by Congress leader, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who said that it was a matter of shame that when lakhs of people were losing jobs and banks were sitting on their money, the government was bothered about movies. The minister should face reality, she said. While criticising a National Sample Survey

## FARMER WEARING PRO-BJP T-SHIRT HANGS HIMSELF

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

A farmer allegedly committed suicide on Sunday morning in Buldhana district while wearing a T-shirt promoting the BJP. Incidentally, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis is in the city where he is scheduled to address three rallies ahead of the October 21 Assembly polls.

The police said Raju Talware, 38, was found hanging at around 11 am at his residence in Khatkhed in Shegaon taluka, which is part of Jalgaon Assembly seat. "He was wearing a BJP T-shirt that read: 'Punha aulaya aaple sarkar' (Let's bring our government to power again)," said an official. "It is believed that Talware had run up debts. The truth will be known after a detailed probe. We have registered a case," he said.

change the August 5 decision. Stop shedding these crocodile tears on the issue."

# Man held for snatching handbag of PM's niece

**New Delhi, Oct. 13:** A 21-year-old man from Sonapat has been arrested in Haryana for allegedly snatching the handbag of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's niece Damayanti Ben Modi, police said on Sunday.

Damayanti Ben's bag, containing cash of ₹56,000 and two mobile phones, was wrenched from her grasp by two persons when she was alighting from an auto-rickshaw on Saturday morning.

Based on a complaint by her, the police registered a case and later identified the two snatchers, one of whom, Gaurav alias Nonu was arrested from Sonapat where he was staying at a relative's house, police said.

Gaurav is a resident of Sadar Bazar in Delhi but sometimes stayed in Nabi

■ The two persons, who were riding a scooter, snatched Damayanti Ben Modi's purse, mobile phones, some documents and other valuables

Karim here, they said. "Efforts are being made to nab his accomplice who has been identified as Badal," deputy commissioner of police (North) Monika Bhardwaj said, adding that Badal is a resident of Sultanpuri here. The two persons, who were riding a scooter, snatched her purse, mobile phones, some documents and other valuables around 7 am when she got down at the

Gujrati Samaj Bhawan in North Delhi's Civil Lines area, a senior police officer said.

The stolen items, including the ₹56,000 and some of the documents, have been recovered, the officer said, adding that the scooter was seized from the house of Gaurav's aunt where he had gone after the incident.

The two men were identified after examining CCTV camera footage. They were not wearing helmets.

During interrogation, Gaurav told police that he had spotted Damayanti Ben in an auto-rickshaw, a kilometre before targeting her, the officer said.

Damayanti Ben is the daughter of the Prime Minister's brother Prahlad Modi.

— PTI

## Jawan killed along LoC in Pak firing

**Srinagar, Oct. 13:** An Army jawan was killed on Sunday when Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir, an Army official said. The Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire in north Kashmir's Uri sector by resorting to unprovoked firing on Indian posts, he said. The Army jawan, who was injured in the Pakistani firing, was taken to a medical facility for treatment, where he succumbed, he said. The Army is giving a befitting

reply to Pakistani aggression. Normal life remained hit in Kashmir for the 70th consecutive day on Sunday since the abrogation of Article 370 as the main markets continued to be shut and public transport stayed off the roads, even as the weekly flea market here was open, officials said.

Mobile services remained suspended in Kashmir except in the Handwara and Kupwara areas in the north since the night of August 4. Internet services across also continued to be snapped. — PTI



Security personnel check documents of motorcyclists during a shut down in Srinagar on Sunday. — PTI

## INDIA, CHINA TO LOOK BEYOND PRISM OF PAK

SRIDHAR KUMARSWAMI | DC  
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

India and China have realised that they should look at their bilateral relationship beyond the prism of Pakistan and glaring differences within their national positions on several regional and global issues.

Sources said Chinese President Xi Jinping bringing up the issue of Pakistan PM Imran Khan's recent visit to Beijing during the second informal summit at Mamallapuram with PM Modi was "perhaps to clear the air", though the Kashmir issue, as already reported, was "neither raised nor discussed".

Though it seems intriguing why Mr Jinping referred to Pakistan PM's visit at all in his conversation with PM Modi, it is being seen in the context of a virtual war of words between India and China just before the summit.

## RELIGIOUS | FREEDOM Says Muslims colorful, dazzling beads in socio-cultural garland of India

# Indian Muslims happiest, Bhagwat says

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 13

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday evening said Muslims in India enjoyed the 'happiest' lives and they assimilated quite well with the great socio-cultural life of the land.

Addressing a meeting of intellectuals here, Mr Bhagwat said the Muslims

were the "colourful" and "dazzling" beads in the socio-cultural garland of India.

The RSS ideologue said that the nationalist organisation aimed at organising the entire society in the country and not just the Hindu community to transform and take India towards a better future.

"The right approach is to prepare the best person who can play an important role in changing the socie-

■ MOHAN BHAGWAT said that the nationalist organisation aimed at organising the entire society in the country and not just the Hindu community to transform and take India towards a better future

ty and transforming the country as it will not be possible to change the 130 crore people in it," he said. "It is important to bring in change in society so that the fate of the country improves and it is neces-

sary to prepare the best person — someone with a clean character and capable of taking the lead in every street and town, the RSS chief said. Individuals, he said, are insignificant before socie-

ty and it is important to create proper conditions which will pave the way for nation-building.

The RSS chief arrived here on Saturday on a nine-day tour of Odisha. During the visit, he is scheduled to attend the maiden meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal in Odisha, along with Bhayaji Joshi, the second-in-command in the RSS. Around 400 representa-

tives of the RSS will participate in the event.

An working committee meeting will be held from October 16-18 at a private university here.

Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Pratap Sarangi, BJP national president Baijayant Panda, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and several other state-level leaders of the BJP attended the meeting.





## Imran Khan in Iran

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Iran following a request from the United States and Saudi Arabia for him to try to defuse rising tensions in the Gulf.

# IS families escape Syria camp

## Turkey, proxies advance deep into Syria as US pulls out 1,000 troops; 26 civilians killed in fighting

**Qamishli, Syria, Oct. 13:** Hundreds of relatives of foreign jihadists escaped from a displacement camp in northern Syria, Kurdish authorities said Sunday, as the number of people fleeing a Turkish assault soared to 130,000.

Turkish forces and their proxies pushed deep into Syria Sunday, moving closer to completing their assault's initial phase.

Fighting raged along the border on the fifth day of an offensive that has provoked an international outcry and left dozens of civilians and fighters dead.

Kurdish authorities and foreign powers have warned repeatedly that the hostilities could undermine the fight against the Islamic State group (IS) and allow jihadists to break out of captivity.

The Kurdish administration in northern Syria said that Turkish bombardment near a camp for the displaced led to nearly 800 relatives of IS members fleeing.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights War Monitor reported on Sunday that 26 more civilians had been killed in fighting.

Scores of civilians have now died on the Syrian side, with Turkish reports putting the number of civilians dead from Kurdish shelling inside Turkey at 26.

Meanwhile, France said Sunday it was worried after Kurdish authorities reported that hundreds of relatives of foreign jihadists had escaped from a displacement camp in northern Syria, under Turkish assault.

"Of course we are worried about what could happen and that is why we want Turkey to end as quickly as possible the intervention it has begun," government spokeswoman Sibeth Ndiaye said.

Kurdish authorities and foreign powers have warned repeatedly that the hostilities could undermine the fight against the Islamic State group (IS) and allow jihadists to break out of captivity.

"I do not know today who exactly the people are who fled from the camp; it has been a worry for France since the beginning of this armed intervention," said Ndiaye.

She underlined France's stance that French jihadists fighting abroad must be tried in the country where they are apprehended.

Ndiaye said that in a call to Trump on Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron had pressed upon him France's concerns about the Turkish offensive, and underlined the need to prevent a resurgence of IS in the region.

Ndiaye said there were also fears for a "serious humanitarian crisis" in Syria, where the number of people fleeing has soared to 130,000.

Some 12,000 IS fighters — Syrians, Iraqis as well as foreigners from 54 countries — are detained in Kurdish prisons, according to official Kurdish statistics.

Displacement camps meanwhile host some 12,000 foreigners — 8,000 children and 4,000 women.

Ankara brands the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia as terrorists because of their ties to militants who have waged an insurgency in Turkey. US President Donald Trump has been accused of abandoning a loyal ally in the fight against IS.



Picture shows Turkish city of Ceylanpinar where smoke is rising from the Syrian border town of Ras al-Ain as fighting rages along the border on the fifth day of a Turkish offensive in Syria against the Kurdish Peoples Protection Units that has provoked an international outcry. — AFP

## Germany, France suspend sale of arms to Turkey

**Frankfurt, Oct. 13:** Germany has banned arms exports to Turkey over its assault against Kurdish YPG militia in Syria, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said on Saturday.

Turkey launched the military operation on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump withdrew some US troops who had been backing Kurdish forces in the fight against Islamic State.

The United States and European Union have already warned Turkey of possible sanctions over the offensive.

"Against the backdrop of the Turkish military offensive, the Federal government will not issue any new permits for all military equipment that could be used by Turkey in Syria," foreign minister, Heiko Maas said, according to the spokeswoman.

Meanwhile, France also said on Saturday that it has suspended all weapon sales to Turkey and warned Ankara that its offensive in northern Syria threatened European security.

"In expectation of the end of this offensive, France has decided to suspend all plans to export weapons to Turkey that could be used in this offensive. This decision is with immediate effect," a joint statement from the foreign and defense ministries said.

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### FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY

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**ARMS EMBARGOES CAN'T STOP US, SAYS ERDOGAN**

**Istanbul:** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday that threats of sanctions and arms embargoes by Western powers would not stop Turkey's military offensive against Kurdish militants in Syria.

"After we launched our operation, we have faced threats like economic sanctions and embargoes on weapons sales. Those who think they can make Turkey turn back with these threats are gravely mistaken," Erdogan said, adding, the Turkish military and its Syrian proxies now controlled the border town of Ras al-Ain.

## UEFA WILL EXAMINE TURKEY FOOTBALLERS MILITARY SALUTE

**Rome:** European football's ruling body said Saturday that they will 'examine' reports that Turkey footballers performed a military salute in their Euro 2020 qualifier against Albania to mark their country's widely-condemned armed offensive against Kurds in Syria.

"Personally, I have not seen this gesture, which could be considered a provocation," UEFA's press chief Philip Townsend stated.

"Does the regulation prohibit references to politics and religion? Yes, and I can guarantee you that we will look at this situation."

The salute was made after Cenk Tosun's winning goal for Turkey in the game in Istanbul on Friday.



After the match, a photo was also posted on the official Twitter account of the national team.

In it, the players are seen making a military salute with the tweet indicating the players "have dedicated their victory to our brave soldiers and fellow martyrs." In Turkey, it is common for celebrities, including footballers, to show their support for the security forces after attacks or during military operations.

## TRUMP SAYS HE'S AN 'ISLAND OF ONE' ON SYRIA

**Washington, Oct. 13:** US President Donald Trump said Saturday that he is an "island of one" for removing US forces from northeastern Syria.

But he remained steadfast and defended a move that drew widespread bipartisan criticism that he has endangered stability in the Middle East and risked the lives of Syrian Kurdish allies who helped the US bring down the Islamic State group in Syria.

Turkey, however, regards those Kurdish fighters as a terrorist threat and has launched a military operation against them. Trump said the U.S. cannot fight endless wars. "We have to bring our great heroes, our great soldiers, we have to bring them home. It's time. It's time," he said.

He portrayed the Middle East as a hopeless cause, despite years of American military involvement and financial investment.

"It's less safe now. It's less secure, less stable and they fight," he said.

"That's what they do. They fight." Trump announced that he had directed \$50 million in emergency aid for Syria to support Christians and other religious minorities there. He was joined on stage by Andrew Brunson, an American pastor who was released by Turkey in October 2018 after nearly two years of confinement.



## TURKEY ASSAULT COULD DISPLACE 4,00,000: UN

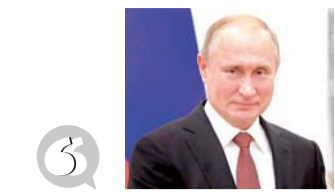
**Geneva, Oct. 13:** Turkey's deadly assault on Kurdish positions in northeastern Syria has forced 1,30,000 people to flee their homes, the UN said Sunday, adding it was preparing for that figure to more than triple.

"We have moved into a planning scenario where up to 4,00,000 people could be displaced within and across the affected areas," Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency OCHA told AFP in an email, adding that these people would be "in need of assistance and protection."

The UN had said Friday that some 1,00,000 people had been forced to flee their homes since the beginning of Turkey's military incursion on Wednesday, after Donald Trump ordered American troops to pull back from the border. But by Sunday it warned of further displacements from rural areas around Tell Abiad and Ras al-Ain with latest estimates "surpassing 1,30,000 people."

"Exact numbers cannot yet be ascertained," the agency said in an updated assessment document.

An increasing number of displaced were arriving at collective shelters.



Russia will work with Saudi Arabia against any attempt to destabilise the oil market

— Vladimir Putin

## Xi aid to develop Nepal, NRs 56b

**Kathmandu:** Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that China will provide NRs 56 billion assistance to Kathmandu over the next two years to help Nepal's development programmes as the two countries inked 20 agreements on Sunday to bolster their bilateral ties. Chinese President Xi, who arrived here on Saturday after a two-day informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, held talks with his Nepalese counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari on Saturday on the first day of his two-day state visit - the first by a Chinese leader in 23 years.

## Shooter opens fire at US wedding

**Washington:** A shooter opened fire at a wedding in a small town church in New Hampshire on Saturday, wounding two people before being subdued by guests at the event, police said. The motive of the attack is not known but the incident does not appear to be a random event, the Pelham Police Department said in a statement. The wedding was underway when the shooting broke out, police said. Wedding guests were subduing the shooter when police arrived three minutes later. The two victims were taken to hospital. Their conditions were not known. The governor of the northeastern US state confirmed the shooting at the New England Pentecostal Church.

## Trudeau wears bullet-proof

**Montreal:** Canadian leader Justin Trudeau wore a bullet-proof vest and was surrounded by heavy security during an election campaign rally after receiving a security threat, sources told the national broadcaster. Trudeau had body armour under his shirt and jacket, photos from the event showed, when he appeared an hour and a half late at the 2,000-strong meeting in a suburb of the capital Toronto on Saturday. He doesn't normally wear a jacket while campaigning. As Trudeau left the stage to greet supporters he was surrounded by security officers, some with large backpacks on, footage showed. They were present because of "a security threat, CBC news stated.

## FLASHMOB PROTESTS IN HONG KONG

**Hong Kong, Oct. 13:** Riot police clashed with anti-government protesters across Hong Kong Sunday, as masked activists vandalised businesses deemed sympathetic to Beijing in another weekend of chaos in the financial hub. Rallies erupted in multiple neighbourhoods, with some protesters blocking roads, sabotaging train tracks, and trashing pro-China businesses.

Police said an officer was taken to hospital after his neck was slashed. Local television networks also broadcast footage of a man beaten bloody by protesters after they found a baton in his bag and suspected him of being an undercover officer.

Police have increasingly posed as protesters, scoring some tactical successes and sparking widespread paranoia among frontline demonstrators. During cat-and-mouse encounters, officers made dozens of arrests but there were fewer protesters than have taken to the streets more recently during the four-month long protest movement. Protesters have increasingly turned on their ideological opponents.

## Kremlin relishes US pullback from Syria

**Moscow, Oct. 13:** From Syria, where the US pulled back in the face of a Turkish offensive, to Ukraine, where the newly elected president saw his image dented by a US impeachment inquiry, new fault lines and tensions offer the Kremlin fresh opportunities to expand its clout and advance its interests.

In Syria, the US military withdrawal leaves Russia as the ultimate power broker, allowing it to help negotiate a potential agreement between Syrian President Bashar Assad and the Kurds who were abandoned by Washington.

And in Ukraine, where Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a comedian turned president, has found himself drawn into the US political battles, Russia may use the volatility to push for a deal that would secure its leverage over its western neighbor.

Washington's abrupt decision to ditch the Kurds contrasted sharply with Moscow's unwavering support for its ally Assad, which helped his government reclaim the bulk of the country's territory in a devastating civil war.

Along with military power, Russian President Vladimir Putin has relied on diplomacy to achieve his goals in Syria, reaching out to regional powers — from Iran to Saudi Arabia, Israel and Turkey.

NATO member Turkey has become a particularly important partner for Russia. Even though the two countries have backed opposite sides in the Syrian conflict, they have pooled efforts to negotiate a de-escalation zone in the Syrian province of Idlib and co-sponsor talks on forming a committee that would draft a new Syrian constitution.

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An elderly woman is evacuated from a building in Akcakale. — AFP

## RESEARCH FIND Ice on moon's south pole may have more than one source

### New study sheds light on lunar ice deposits

Some ice deposits found on the Moon's south pole may be much more recent than previous estimates

Researchers said that the ice found in the recent craters may also have different sources. The older ice could have originated from water-bearing comets, asteroids impacting the surface.

**Boston, Oct. 13:** Some ice deposits found on the moon's south pole may be much more recent than previous estimates that they are all billions of years old, according to a study that may boost the already growing interest in exploring this part of the lunar surface.

Researchers, including those from Brown University in the US, observed the data from NASA's Lunar

Reconnaissance Orbiter — which has been orbiting the moon since 2009 — and noted the ages of large craters in which evidence for south pole ice deposits was found.

The study, published in the journal *Icarus*, noted that counting the number of smaller craters formed inside the larger ones helped the scientists date the craters. Since, the researchers had an approximate idea

of the pace of asteroid and comet impacts over time, counting the smaller inner craters helped them establish the ages of the terrains.

Majority of the reported ice deposits were found within large craters formed more than 3.1 billion years ago. The researchers found evidence for frozen water in smaller craters which they said seemed quite freshly formed.

## Hagibis leaves trail of destruction in Japan

**Tokyo, Oct. 13:** Japan sent tens of thousands of troops and rescue workers on Sunday to save stranded residents and fight floods caused by one of the worst typhoons to hit the country in recent history, which killed 23 people and briefly paralysed Tokyo.

There were also 16 people missing, public broadcaster NHK said, as Typhoon Hagibis left vast swathes of low-lying land

in central and eastern Japan inundated and cut power to almost half a million homes.

Landing restrictions at Tokyo's Narita and Haneda airports were lifted but more than 800 flights were cancelled for the day, NHK said, as were some Shinkansen bullet train services to the worst-hit areas.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe convened an emergency meeting.

**MIND POWER**  
**MARY KOM ELIUD KIPCHOGE**

I do not only rely on my technique or strength but also on my mind

Only the disciplined ones are free in life. If you are undisciplined, you are a slave to your moods.

**Edit**

**PAGE 10**

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 14 OCTOBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

**DECCAN Chronicle**

14 OCTOBER 2019

**Set middle class free, abolish income-tax**

Governments in deep financial trouble turning to businesses for advice on reinvigorating the economy and kick-starting a cycle of growth and prosperity is not new. Centuries ago, when an entire line of French emperors fought ruinous wars and bankrupted the economy, they paused to conduct an event not too different from our modern-day investor summit, hoping to create "confidence and boost business sentiment". The most profound suggestion offered by any businessman, but unlearned by all governments throughout history, was in a meeting in 1681, headed by Jean-Baptiste Colbert, a powerful finance minister, in which Le Gendre, a businessman, said, "Laissez-nous faire (Leave us alone, or leave it to us)."

It is time to tell India's finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman just that. If the BJP government sincerely wants to reinvigorate economy, jump-start growth, usher in investments, enhance confidence, increase consumer demand and enable job creation, abolish personal income tax. The over ₹5 lakh crore collected as personal income-tax from Indian taxpayers, mostly salaried employees, under the best government will serve the economy less well than it would in the hands of the people themselves.

Yes, the BJP government has been setting the mood to make a coup of an announcement, perhaps before Diwali, to usher in electrifying good news, but actual proposals like toying with slabs, reducing a percentage, would hardly work. If the government wants an extraordinary turnaround in mood, it must make extraordinary concessions, without worrying about either a political fallout or of being dubbed anti-poor and pro-rich by the Opposition, or get caught in the games of bureaucrats and officials — who would never want to lose their power to harass taxpayers. Dull, insipid concessions from the government on the front of income-tax would yield equally dull and insipid results. Ms Sitharaman needs to resort to innovative political coinage, like "pro-middle class", for instance, and take a bold plunge. Money in hands of citizens, especially the middle classes, would achieve so much more than merely "enhance consumer demand". It would mean a historic moment seized and a metamorphosis in the government's approach to creation of wealth — not by government but by the people. Money in the hands of the middle classes would mean more spend, greater demand, higher and faster investment and job creation cycles in the shorter term. In the longer term, we will create more families with higher levels of prosperity — a larger base of people with higher risk appetites, many of whom would potentially become angel investors for future start-ups. A \$5 trillion economy means creating an ecosystem where several billionaires and multi-fold more millionaires work and are invested in the country and economy.

Let the wise technocrats work on alternative fund-raising methods to manage the fiscal deficit. Let the additional pressure of reduced revenues push a whole new generation of reforms, privatisation and a massive exiting of the government from businesses across industries and domains.

For too long, Indian politics has professed love for the poor on a precondition that they must forever remain poor. It is time to stop viewing the middle class Indian as a cow to be milked, annually, 30 per cent at source. Unsheathe them as a force instead, a force to trigger and multiply the economy. Let them become a racehorse instead. They will gallop, and India will win.

**Science and the marathoner**

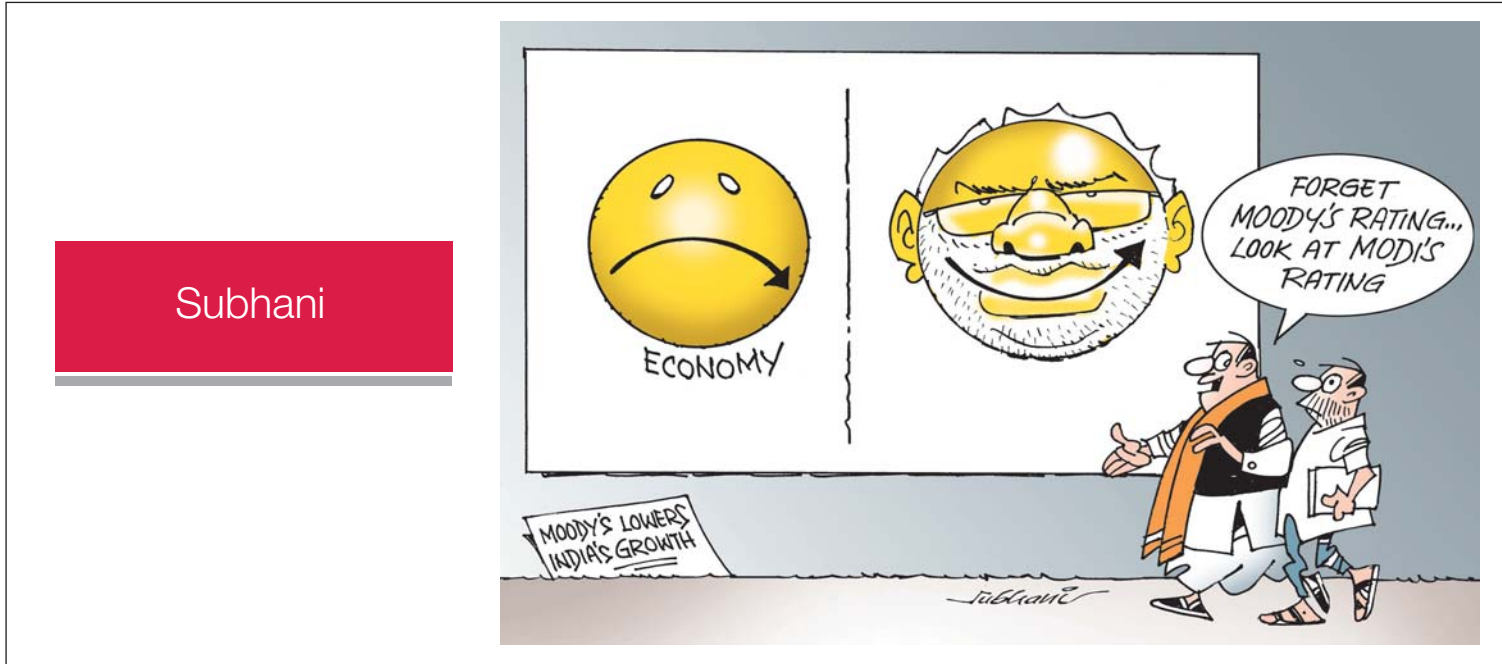
Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge has made history in breaking the two-hour barrier for the marathon. This represents a splendid breakthrough for human endeavour. Man's eternal quest to go faster, reach higher and get stronger has just found another great moment to celebrate. This was the equivalent of Roger Bannister breaking the four-minute barrier for the mile in 1954 and Jim Hines running 100 metres in 9.95 seconds in 1968. Each of these achievements highlighted man's indomitable spirit in aiming eternally for improvement.

Breaking the marathon barrier is the ultimate athletic performance, considering Kipchoge's speed has been calculated to be the equivalent of sustaining his run at 21 km per hour over the entire 26 miles and 385 yards, this modern marathon distance being a little more than the proverbial road from Marathon to Athens covered by an ancient Greek who wanted to convey the news of a military victory over the Persians in 490 BCE.

The last time the Kenyan runner, Kipchoge, lost a race was almost six years ago. His Saturday landmark time of 1:59:40.2 (the official world record is 2:01:39 by Kipchoge in Berlin 2018) would, however, not get into the record books since this run in Vienna on Saturday was more of an experiment with 41 pacemakers running in an arrow formation behind a car to protect Kipchoge from the wind. He was wearing the Nike Vaporfly shoes with a curved plate allowing his feet to glide without toe movement hampering momentum.

The harnessing of science and technology helped him break the barrier. But then that is the essence of modern man whose advantage over his predecessors is the application of evolving technology. The sheer joy of thousands of Kenyans who turned up on roads to watch on giant screens was also something to behold. "In breaking the two-hour barrier, I want to open minds to think that no human is limited," Kipchoge quite aptly said.

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**An India-China 'reset' and the future of Asia**



K.C. Singh

The "informal summit" between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Chennai on October 11-12 had the expected mix of pageantry, culture, history and religion. India's post-visit statement reveals the leaders had an "in-depth exchange" on long-term and strategic issues of global and regional importance. They evaluated the "direction of bilateral relations in a positive light", and the need for them to reflect the enhanced global roles of both nations. A "rules-based international order", including an international trading order, was desired. These anodyne incantations needed closer examination to decipher the facts.

The last-minute announcement of the visit, the diplomatic jousting between India and China at the United Nations, after the August 5 Kashmir gambit of the Modi government, and Mr Xi hosting Pakistan's PM Imran Khan literally before leaving for India set the scene for the summit. Just as the Wuhan summit in April 2018 was preceded by the Doklam Sino-Indian standoff in 2017 summer, when Indian troops intervened in Bhutanese territory to stop the Chinese incursion, this summit's primary purpose was to reset the relations after India upset the status quo in Kashmir, albeit by domestic constitutional changes.

India also repositioned itself to counter China. Since August 5, India has stymied Chinese attempts to put Kashmir on the UN Security Council's agenda. India also thwarted Pakistan rustling up enough votes to get the UN Human Rights Council at Geneva to discuss the matter. The "Howdy, Modi" Houston rally, attended by US President Donald Trump, signalled increased bonhomie between leaders of India and America. On

the UNGA sidelines, India attended the meeting, just upgraded to foreign minister level, of four democracies of the Indo-Pacific — Australia, India, Japan and the US, known as the Quad. On October 3, India's defence secretary led a delegation to Vietnam to discuss military cooperation. Finally, days before the Chennai summit, India conducted an Integrated Battle Group exercise in Arunachal Pradesh (which China claims), using new equipment and tactics, demonstrating mobility and punch to counter any Chinese transgression across the Line of Actual Control.

China arrived at the summit after celebrating the 70th anniversary of Communist rule and a Tiananmen Square parade which besides the usual marching troops displayed 580 pieces of weaponry, including DF-41 ballistic missiles capable of hitting any US city, as well as a hypersonic glide weapon. On the negative side, the continuing civil unrest in Hong Kong challenging the "one-country-two-systems" formula, exactly the principle that the BJP overturned in Kashmir, has been an embarrassment that the Chinese leadership has so far handled without brute force of the kind used to quell the Tiananmen Square uprising in 1989. China also faces a slowing economy and ongoing trade war with the US, with a deal stuck on Chinese unwillingness to commit on paper systemic changes to level the trading playground.

The Indian economy has also been sputtering as demand collapses. India needs investment and technology but suspects Chinese intent and practices. The trade deficit has mushroomed in China's favour from \$36.2 billion in 2013-14 to \$63 billion in 2017-18. China naturally eyes the Indian market as the US pulls its shutters down. It wants India in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

(RCEP), consisting of 10 Asean members and South Korea, Japan and China, besides Australia, New Zealand and India. Generally, after free trade agreements with the Asean bloc, India's trade deficit with many nations has worsened. Joining a free trade area centred on China, Japan and South Korea could turn India into a dumping ground, unless there are safeguards and their markets are opened for Indian services, pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, etc. The 5G and Huawei question lies at its heart. The US vehemently opposes Chinese dominance of this technology and its carrier. India is a market that both covet. But the trust deficit between India and China works against Chinese entry.

India will continue to resist Chinese attempts to dominate Asia, if not the world, by China creating a Sino-centric power structure, of which the Belt and Road Initiative is the skeleton. Two US Presidents preceding Donald Trump shared with India this vision to balance China. While Mr Trump may have skewed notions about global trade and US power, his trade war with China is slowing the Chinese economic juggernaut. Consequently, China may be both becoming more nationalistic and aggressive, but also more willing to cut smaller deals with nations like India or the Asean bloc to limit the skirmishes as it manages relations with America.

The next few months will show if indeed the "Wuhan Spirit", as the Indian statement claims, has transmuted into the "Chennai Connect". Hopefully, India has not, like Shah Rukh Khan, boarded 'Chennai Express', a wrong train. But a few concrete outcomes have emerged. Sister-state relations are to be established between Tamil Nadu and Fujian

**The next few months will show if indeed the 'Wuhan Spirit', as the Indian statement claims, has transmuted into the 'Chennai Connect'. Hopefully, India has not, like Shah Rukh Khan, boarded 'Chennai Express', a wrong train.**

To boost people-to-people contacts, 2020 shall be the Year of India-China Cultural and People to People Exchanges. A High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue mechanism was announced. The need to maintain tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control was reiterated. On the boundary question, the special representatives have been enjoined to craft a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement". The re-invocation of Political Parameters and Guiding Principles of the 2005 agreement is welcome as Chinese had been shunning them in recent times.

Lyrical phrases aside, the Chennai summit has "reset" relations to move beyond the Kashmir hurdle. But Prime Minister Naendra Modi and President Xi Jinping are domestically riding dangerous populist-nationalist moods, now undercut by slowing economies. If Mr Modi has Kashmir to contend with, Mr Xi has Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. Both leaders are airbrushing past history to resurrect reimagined past glory based on a selective reading of history. Hyphenating his India and Nepal visits and prefacing it with hosting Imran Khan are signals that Sino-Indian relations will simultaneously have cooperation, competition and even friction.

Informal summits so far have handled crises and restored some normality to relations. However, fundamental differences persist over the future Asian order — Sino-centric and China-dominated, or multipolar and balanced. The coming decade will determine the outcome as the Chinese growth levels off and Indian growth gathers pace and starts narrowing the gap in comprehensive power. Till then, India needs to follow Deng Xiaoping's "24-Character Strategy" of restraint and patience. But electoral needs, the core ideology of the RSS-BJP and leadership megalomania may preclude it, just as China under Mr Xi prematurely ignored it. There lies the risk for Asia and the world.

*The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh*

**LETTERS**

**SALUTE 'SPEAK OUT'**

I appreciate your efforts to bring out drawbacks of our civic conditions and voice the common people's problems through the Speak Out column. You must ensure that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and minister K.T. Rama Rao get to see the Speak Out pages so they can learn where this city stands and problems faced by common man.

**Col. V.P. Shrinivasan (Retd)**  
Asha Officers Colony

**GHMC BAD FOR TRS**

At the outset, lakhs of Deccan Chronicle readers appreciate the efforts of bringing to notice of GHMC the plight of citizens of their living conditions. You have clearly changed the sense of empowerment of people by increasing response every Monday, spanning two pages.

It is deplorable that GHMC officials are not keen to respond or take steps to improve living conditions, mainly bad roads and mosquitoes menace resulting in break out of dangerous diseases (GHMC Chief not keen to answer people, Oct. 11).

If citizens exercise their right to sue GHMC for compensation due to deaths and disabilities caused because of bad roads and negligence, GHMC will run out of funds. If GHMC cannot take seriously civic conditions in spite of directions by the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana, it will have a serious impact on political future of TRS.

**S. S. Rama Chandra Murty**  
HMT Hills, Kukatapally

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹300. Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com, or fax them to 27805256. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

**50 YEARS AGO IN**

**DECCAN Chronicle**

**PL-480 wheat, cotton for India: US pact signed**

NEW DELHI, OCT. 13. THREE million tonnes of wheat, 100,000 bales of cotton and 95,000 tonnes of vegetable oil will be supplied to India by the US under a new PL-480 agreement signed here today.

The wheat supply is intended to help India reach the target of five million tonnes of buffer stock, which is aimed at assuring price stability and ensuring regular food supplies despite fluctuations in domestic production.

The value of the commodities is 191.5 million US dollars (Rs. 143.63 crores).



A.G. Noorani

**As politicians cannot usurp power, judges must not too**

Enemies of the people," shrieked the Daily Mail earlier this year when judges ruled that the British government cannot invoke Article 50 of the European Union Treaty without parliament's sanction. The more recent unanimous ruling of its supreme court — that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's advice to the queen to prorogue parliament was bad in law and void — has incurred criticism in some quarters of the UK. It merits close study in South Asia given its relevance to any parliamentary democracy.

Governments cry "judicial intrusion in the political realm" whenever they suffer defeat in the highest court of the land on a constitutional question with political consequences. But the doctrine of "political question" has been rejected even in the country of its origin — the US. If the issue

before the apex court turns on the interpretation of its constitution, the court will not decline to judge the issue because its verdict may have political consequences. The problem arises when judges deliberately ignore — or, worse still, flout — the limits of their office to deliver rulings that reflect their subjective preferences.

India underwent a similar experience in the last century when its supreme court ruled in the Golak Nath case that even a unanimous vote of parliament cannot amend the chapter on fundamental rights, although there was no bar on this in the constitution itself. The first attorney general of India predicted that the ruling would invite packing the supreme court with pliant judges.

In April 1973, the supreme court retrieved the balance. Fundamental rights are amendable like any other,

provided that the "basic structure" of the constitution is not affected.

This has an amusing aftermath. Two senior lawyers in India and Pakistan each claimed authorship of the basic structure doctrine. Neither enjoyed respect in his country for integrity. Its real author was Dieter Conrad of the University of Heidelberg. He was influenced by his country's history. In 1975, the apex court nullified laws which sought to give Indira immunity from the reach of electoral laws on abuse of state power to promote a candidate's interests. This had two consequences. Indira did not pursue a constitutional amendment, which gave her immunity from the reach of criminal laws. Meanwhile, she had inflicted a blow on the supreme court from which it has still not recovered. The very day after the court decided the fundamental rights case, in April

1973, she appointed a new chief justice of India (CJI) in supersession of three of his seniors. The supreme court took its revenge in 1993 by setting up a "collegium" comprising its own judges to select judges of the superior courts and decide on transfers. The collegium has no sanction in the constitution. It rests on the ipse dixit of judges. In practice, it is a farce. As Robert Stevens wrote in The English Judges, "Judges choosing judges is the antithesis of democracy".

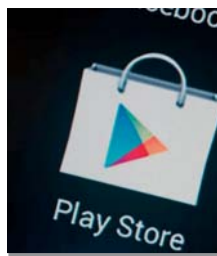
There was a deep divide in India then, which has lasted. The supreme court's July 1991 ruling in the case of the chief justice of the Madras High Court is atrocious. The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered a case against him under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. The court ruled that no criminal case concerning corruption can be regis-

tered against a sitting judge without the prior consent of the CJI.

The CJI was invested with infallibility. No other country in the world has built such a wall. Almost from the beginning, this court has been a lawmaker, albeit, in Holmes's expression, "interstitial" lawmaker. Indeed, the court's role today is much more. It is expanding beyond dispute settling and interstitial law-making. It is a problem solver in the nebulous areas.

This is a naked usurpation of power opposed to the constitution and the rule of law on which it rests. It subverts both and democracy itself. It has survived still for 28 years, thanks to a supine bar and media. Usurpation of power by judges must be resisted as much as those by politicians.

By arrangement with Dawn



## Predatory payday loan

Google has fought predatory loans for a while, but now it's taking that fight to its app store

### SHORT TAKES



## WHATSAPP PAY TO LAUNCH SOON: NPCI

Mumbai, Oct. 13: Facebook-owned instant messaging giant WhatsApp will be compliant with data localisation norms over the next two months, post which it can roll out its much-delayed payments service here, says the National Payments Corporation.

Even after the launch of WhatsApp's payments service, it will take at least two years to reduce the cash dominance in the economy as the user base of digital payments must at least treble to 300 million to have any tangible impact on paring cash usage, the RBI-created NPCI's CEO Dilip Asbe told PTI in an interview.

WhatsApp has been running a beta version of its payments service since last year in the country, and its official launch is being keenly watched by stakeholders, including its over 300 million users. Many think WhatsApp can help India emulate China's WeChat story, and help achieve the cashless payments objectives.

"There are still a couple of intermediaries where work is in progress. One is Google, second is WhatsApp. We believe WhatsApp will be fully compliant in the next two months' time," Asbe said.

WhatsApp has capped the number of payment service users at 1 million now as it is yet to fully meet RBI's data localisation norms which require foreign companies to store transaction and user data within the country and delete the same from foreign servers within 24 hours.

According to Asbe, a third-party audit by a firm empaneled by the RBI is currently underway to ascertain WhatsApp's compliance. "Once the auditors complete their probe, we will review the same and will see how to go ahead," he said.

Asbe also clarified that he did not meet the WhatsApp leadership team when they visited the city recently. He also said that other applicants like Xiaomi, Amazon Pay and Truecaller have not been able to launch their payments services because of data localisation rules.

Citing a Niti Aayog survey, Asbe said over three-fourths of the financial transactions are under ₹100 and this is the space where unified payments interface (UPI) has to make inroads to replace cash and one step in this regard has been increasing the acceptance points.

He hoped increased use of NPCI-developed UPI platform by intermediaries like WhatsApp will help grow the digital payments scene. Currently, there are only 100 million users of digital payments and this must touch at least 300 million to have any material impact on cash in circulation, he said, underlining this as the real challenge.

On the acceptance side, he said there are 3 million points of sale (POS) machines and 10 million QR codes active now. However, there must be at least five-fold growth in both if we are to see any significant reduction in cash usage, he noted. He added that though the number of digital payments users has touched 100 million in the past three years, it will be a difficult journey to broaden the ecosystem.

"It will be difficult for all of us, including banks and non-banks, to get the next 200 million digital users onto the UPI platform," he said, adding that banks and fintechs should do more in this area.

Small value payments of under ₹500 will be on UPI, while for the rest, cards will remain the mainstay, he said. Only 5 per cent of digital users use scan-based features for payments, while in China it is over 600 million a day, mostly scan-based ones, Asbe added.

NPCI has no plans to launch a third version of the UPI platform now, but there will be regular incremental changes such as PAN verification, which will be available within the next two months, Asbe said. On reports about tax incentives being planned to push UPI usage, he said it may take some time as it involves sharing a part of GST revenue as discounts. He also favoured cashbacks to drive usage.

—PTI

# Internet's dark side stirs fear after 50 yrs

## As UCLA marks the anniversary, a new lab will focus on mitigating some of its unintended consequences

San Francisco, Oct. 13: On October 29, 1969, professor Leonard Kleinrock and a team at the University of California at Los Angeles got a computer to "talk" to a machine in what is now known as Silicon Valley.

The event gave birth to a network that later became known as the internet — hailed at first as a boon to equality and enlightenment, but with a dark side that has emerged as well.

As UCLA marks the anniversary, Kleinrock is opening a new lab devoted to all things related to the internet — particularly mitigating some of its unintended consequences on the internet which is now used by some four billion people worldwide.

"To some point it democratizes everyone," Kleinrock told AFP.

"But it is also a perfect formula for the dark side, as we have learned." So much is shouted online that moderate voices are drowned out and extreme viewpoints are amplified, spewing hate, misinformation and abuse, he contended. "As engineers, we were not thinking in terms



Dr. Leonard Kleinrock poses in his new lab under construction at the University of California Los Angeles in Los Angeles, California, ahead of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the internet.

of nasty behavior," said Kleinrock, 85.

"I totally missed the social networking side. I was thinking about people talking to computers or computers talking to computers, not people talking to people." The new Connection Lab will welcome research on topics including machine learning, social networking, blockchain and the inter-

net of things, with an eye toward thwarting online evils.

Kleinrock expressed particular interest in using blockchain technology to attach reputations to people or things online to provide a gauge of who or what to trust.

For example, someone reading an online restaurant review would be able to see how reliable that

author's posts have been.

"It is a network of reputation that is constantly up to date," Kleinrock said. "The challenge is how to do that in an ethical and responsible fashion; anonymity is a two-edged sword, of course."

He remained optimistic about the internet's woes being solved with encryption, blockchain or other innovations. "I do still worry. I think everyone is feeling the impact of this very dark side of the internet that has bubbled up," Kleinrock said.

"I still feel that the benefits are far more significant; I wouldn't turn off the internet if I could."

### BUSINESSES BEING BAD

He blamed many of the internet's ills on business-

es hawked things that are outdated or unneeded, violating privacy to increase profit.

Instead of clever lone hackers that vexed the internet in its early days, bad actors now include nation states, organized crime and powerful corporations, "doing big, bad things," Kleinrock lamented. "We were not the social scientists that we should have been," Kleinrock said of the internet's early days.

He regretted a lack of foresight to build into the very foundation of the internet tools for better authenticating users and data files. "It wouldn't have avoided the dark side, but it would have ameliorated it," he said.

He remained optimistic about the internet's woes being solved with encryption, blockchain or other innovations. "I do still worry. I think everyone is feeling the impact of this very dark side of the internet that has bubbled up," Kleinrock said.

"I still feel that the benefits are far more significant; I wouldn't turn off the internet if I could."

### WHAT KIND OF BEAST?

In the early days, US telecom colossus AT&T ran the lines connecting the computers for ARPANET, a project backed with money from a research arm of the US military.

A key to getting computers to exchange data was breaking digitized information into packets fired between machines with no wasting of time, according to Kleinrock.

A grad student began typing "LOG" to log into the distant computer, which crashed after getting the "O." "So, the first message was 'Lo' as in 'Lo and behold,'" Kleinrock recounted. "We couldn't have a better, more succinct first message."

Kleinrock's team logged in on the second try, sending digital data packets between computers on the ARPANET because funding came from the US Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) established in 1958.

Credit for creating the internet is a topic of debate, since there are a series of key moments in its evolution including

arrival of protocols for how data is routed, and creation of the World Wide Web system of online pages.

The name "internet" is a shortening of the "inter-networking" allowed when one computer network could collaborate with another, according to Marc Weber, curatorial director at the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley. "The billion dollar question is, what kind of beast has the internet become?" Weber asked.

"It has become the default main way for humans to communicate, and that is not small." While marking its 50th anniversary, the internet as we know it is a "rowdy teenager" in the eyes of Internet Society chief technology officer Olaf Kolkman.

"The internet has done more good than harm," Kolkman said.

"The biggest challenge we have in front of us is that while we cope with big problems enabled by global connectivity that we don't throw the baby out with the bath water." —AFP

## FB researchers to use maths for translation

Paris, Oct 13: Designers of machine translation tools still mostly rely on dictionaries to make a foreign language understandable. But now there is a new way: numbers.

Facebook researchers say rendering words into figures and exploiting mathematical similarities between languages is a promising avenue — even if a universal communicator a la Star Trek remains a distant dream.

Powerful automatic translation is a big priority for internet giants. Allowing as many people as possible worldwide to communicate is not just an altruistic goal, but also good business. Facebook, Google and Microsoft as well as Russia's Yandex, China's Baidu and others are constantly seeking to improve their translation tools.

Facebook has artificial intelligence (AI) experts on the job at one of its research labs in Paris. Up to 200 languages are currently used on Facebook, said Antoine Borde, European co-director of fundamental Artificial Intelligence research for the social network.

Automatic translation is currently based on having large databases of identical texts in both languages to work from. But for many language pairs there just aren't enough such parallel texts.

That's why researchers have been looking for another method, like the system developed by Facebook which creates a mathematical representation for words.

Each word becomes a "vector" in a space of several hundred dimensions. Words that have close associations in the spoken language also find themselves close to each other in this vector space.

Automatic translation is currently based on having large databases of identical texts in both languages to work from. But for many language pairs there just aren't enough such parallel texts.

### FROM BASQUE TO AMAZONIAN?

"For example, if you take the words 'cat' and 'dog', semantically, they are words that describe a similar thing, so they will be extremely close together physically" in the vector space, said Guillaume Lample, one of the system's designers. "If you take words like Madrid, London, Paris, which are European capital cities, it's the same idea." These language maps can then be linked to one another using algorithms — at first roughly, but eventually becoming more refined, until entire phrases can be matched without too many errors.

Lample said results are already promising. For the language pair of English-Romanian, Facebook's current machine translation system is "equal or maybe a bit worse" than the word vector system, said Lample.

But for the rarer language pair of English-Urdu, where Facebook's traditional system doesn't have many bilingual texts to reference, the word vector system is already superior, he said.

But could the method allow translation from, say, Basque into the language of an Amazonian tribe?

In theory, yes, said

Lample, but in practice a large body of written texts are needed to map the language, something lacking in Amazonian tribal languages.

"If you have just tens of thousands of phrases, it won't work. You need several hundreds of thousands," he said.

### 'HOLY GRAIL'

Experts at France's CNRS national scientific centre said the approach Lample has taken for Facebook could produce useful results, even if it doesn't result in perfect translations. Thierry Poibeau of CNRS's Lattice laboratory, which also does research into machine translation, called the word vector approach "a conceptual revolution".

He said "translating without parallel data" — dictionaries or versions of the same documents in both languages — "is something of the Holy Grail" of machine translation.

"But the question is what level of performance can be expected" from the word vector method, said Poibeau.

The method "can give an idea of the original text" but the capability for a good translation every time remains unproven.

Francois Yvon, a researcher at CNRS's Computer Science Laboratory for Mechanics and Engineering Sciences, said "the linking of languages is much more difficult" when they are far removed from one another.

"The manner of denoting concepts in Chinese is completely different from French," he added.

However even imperfect translations can be useful, said Yvon, and could prove sufficient to track hate speech, a major priority for Facebook.

—AFP



## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM GOOGLE'S HARDWARE EVENT

When: October 15

Where: New York

WITH AN IPHONE 11-LIKE CAMERA SQUARE, FACE UNLOCK TECH AND A MOTION-SENSING RADAR, PIXEL 4 WILL BE THE SHOWSTOPPER OF THE EVENT.

■ Ahead of the show, there's hardly any secret about the Pixel 4 that has yet to be leaked.

■ Other than the smartphone, Google, which had demoed what it called the "next generation Google Assistant" at its I/O conference in May, said that the next-generation Assistant is coming to "new Pixel phones later this year"

■ The leak about the new Assistant suggest that it will be "noticeably quicker" and the UI looks pretty slick

■ In 2017, Google had launched the original Pixelbook. Since then, the company had been silent about its plan for laptops. Now, The Verge and 9to5Google report that the tech giant will launch the next generation Pixelbook at the event

■ Joining the true wireless earbud segment, Google is expected to launch the Pixel Buds alongside the Pixel 4 smartphone.

■ On the smart home segment, Google may unveil two new devices — Google Nest WiFi and Google Nest Mini. The Nest mini model is likely to have improved sound, a 3.5mm stereo jack, and new colors

# London-based start-up aims to tackle online extremism

## Jihadist online networks are known to be difficult to infiltrate

London, Oct. 13: Vidhya Ramalingam believes it's always possible to change, even for people deeply involved in the murky online world of jihadist and far-right extremism.

Her company Moonshot CVE has the ambitious aim of trying to get anyone tempted by violence back on the straight and narrow.

Over the last four years, the London-based start-up has grown quietly but not anonymously, if a recent partnership deal with Facebook is anything to go by.

US national Ramalingam and the firm's co-founder Ross Frenett previously worked as researchers into extremism and believe radical groups are often one step ahead when it comes to technology.

"There was a lot of recognition that terrorists were using the internet in creative ways, that they were reaching young audiences, that they were able to innovate," she told AFP in an interview.

"Yet those of us that were trying to counter them simply were moving too slowly and had too many constraints to actually replicate those methods for counter-terrorism purposes." That led to the idea of a technology start-up able to keep up with and fight against all forms of violent extremism, from jihadists and neo-Nazis, to nationalists and even "incels".

There was a lot of recognition that terrorists were using the internet in creative ways... Yet those of us that were trying to counter them simply were moving too slowly.

**VIDHYA RAMALINGAM**  
Founder, Moonshot CVE



clients ranging from governments to technology firms. One project is a collaboration with the Canadian government against jihadism and the far-right. Another works with the UN on online Islamist content in Asia.

The company has also had a partnership for several years with Google, using online advertising to target people looking up violent extremism on the net. The Facebook contract involves Moonshot analysing how effective the social network could be to "deradicalise" users looking up extremist content.

Moonshot is classed as a "social enterprise" in that it reinvests most of its profits into the projects it develops and technology, guaranteeing independence. It's known for having developed the "redirect method" of finding individuals taken in by violent extremism then trying to make them change their ways.

That involves identifying people searching for

such content online, finding out as much possible how they are doing it and what ideas they are looking for, before intervening.

That can even include direct contact, using social workers or mental health specialists who work in the "real world".

PEACE ACTIVISTS Jihadist online networks are known for being more difficult to infiltrate, and often use hard-to-access encrypted software such as the Telegram messaging app and other platforms.

Far-right extremists and white supremacists on the other hand are often more inclined to air their views openly, which makes them easier to find, said Ramalingam.

"Obviously, if we believe someone poses an imminent threat, that's where it's beyond our organisation," she added. "Only on rare occasions we'll engage with law enforcement on this." Since 2015, Moonshot has gathered huge amounts of data and experience, while Ramalingam says direct messages sent to users offering help have been particularly successful.

"I've worked with so many individuals that were deep in these sort of groups," she said.

"They've now left and turned their life around and some of them have become peace activists. It's a huge transformation. To my mind change is always possible because I've seen it with my own eyes. You have to have an optimistic view." —AFP

## By 2020, 4K gaming on PC will be affordable: AMD VP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

While the next-gen console, PlayStation 5 and Xbox Scarlett, which are set to release during the holiday season in 2020, are likely to support gaming at 8K resolution, the top-notch gaming PCs, which support 4K at playable frame rates, remain prohibitively expensive and out of the reach.

However, AMD Vice-President (Software Development & Management) Andrej Zdravkovic believes that the scenario will change quickly with the turn of next year as companies will look to focus on 8K gaming with playable frame rates.

Speaking on the sidelines of GameOn, Mr Zdravkovic, recalling his personal experience, told Deccan Chronicle, "The jump from 2K to 4K took

about 2 years and the same will be true for the transition to 8K. While the top-notch devices are already starting to support 8K, but affordability is a factor as well... On 4K, we expect that true 4K gaming will be possible by end of next year." "Currently with the help of software, 2K content is upscaled for 4K," he added. Meanwhile, India has a huge potential for esports, he said.

Buy property to skip LTCGT

Route map for preparing for a sabbatical



Money

## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,127.08	+0.65
Nifty 50	11,305.05	+0.63
S&P 500	2,970.27	+1.09
Dollar (₹)	71.02	-0.07
Pound Sterling (₹)	89.65	+1.53
Euro (₹)	78.48	+0.47
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,160.126	+0.32
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	60.51	+2.39
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.727	+0.048
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.745	+0.089

\* As of Saturday

## FPIs pull out over ₹4,950 cr from equities

Foreign portfolio investors withdrew over Rs 6,200 crore from the capital markets in the first two weeks of October. They pulled out a net Rs 4,955.2 crore from equities and Rs 1,261.9 crore from debt, taking the total net withdrawal to Rs 6,217.1 crore during October 1-11, as per latest depositories data. FPIs were net buyers last month and infused a net sum of Rs 6,557.8 crore.

## 'Co-ops need self-regulatory mechanism'



Leaders of cooperative sector should think of a self regulatory mechanism to strengthen it and prevent recurrence of scams like the PMC Bank case. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said. He said whistleblowers should come forward wherever such things are happening. It would not be possible for the government to look at every institution and issues, he said.

## Prez Xi pledges NRs 56 billion in aid to Nepal

Chinese President Xi Jinping has said in Kathmandu that China will provide Nepalese Rs 56 billion assistance to Kathmandu over the next two years to help Nepal's development programmes as the two countries inked 20 agreements — pertaining to sectors such as transport, agriculture, industry, commerce and supply — on Sunday to bolster their bilateral ties.

## Sitharaman to meet PSU bank CEOs today

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a review meeting with CEOs of public sector banks (PSBs) today to discuss various issues, including progress on credit offtake, as part of efforts to prop up the economy. The meeting is expected to review fund flow to stressed NBFCs and MSMEs. Banks are expected to present reports on partial credit guarantee scheme and fund raising from market.

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■ Cyclical slowdown is severe due to consumption dip: WB

## From 7.5%, World Bank cuts India growth to 6%

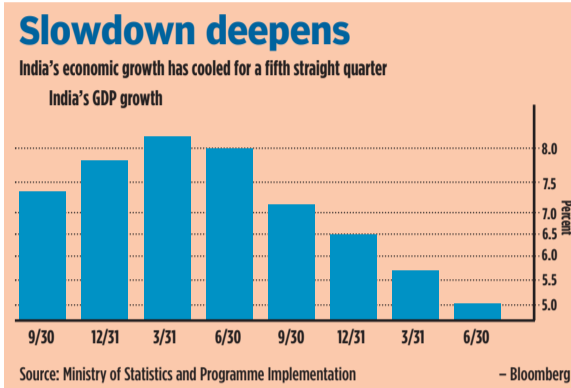
FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

After global rating agency Moody's Investors Service, the World Bank on Sunday cut India's economic growth rate to 6 per cent on account of sharp decline in private consumption on the demand side and the weakening of growth in industry and services on the supply

side. The report, which has been released ahead of the annual meeting of the World Bank with the International Monetary Fund, noted that India's economic growth decelerated for the second consecutive year. In 2018-19, it stood at 6.8 per cent, down from 7.2 per cent in the 2017-18 financial year.

However, the 6 per cent growth projected for FY20 is higher than the Moody's projection of 5.8 per cent.

Interestingly, the bank had in its previous forecast in April said that India's economic outlook was strong and projected a growth of 7.5 per cent for the current fiscal year. "India's cyclical slowdown is severe," the bank said. The weakness is mostly due to a deceleration in local demand, according to the bank. "In such a weak economic environment, structural issues surface and the weak financial sector is



## Bangladesh, Nepal ahead of India

Washington, Oct. 13: Bangladesh and Nepal are estimated to grow faster than India in 2019, according to the World Bank. Pakistan's growth rate is projected to deteriorate to 2.4 per cent this fiscal year. Growth in South Asia is projected to fall to 5.9 per cent in 2019, down 1.1 percentage points from April 2019 estimates, the World Bank said in its latest report, the South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) centraliza-

tion Work. Imports have contracted between 15 and 20 per cent in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

In Bangladesh, the real GDP growth is estimated at 8.1 per cent in 2019, up from 7.9 per cent in 2018, the report said.

In Nepal, GDP growth is projected to average 6.5 per cent over this and next fiscal, backed by strong services and construction activity from rising tourist arrivals and public spending. —PTI

becoming a drag on growth," it said. India is currently growing at its slowest pace in six years, expanding at just 5 per cent in the April-June quarter. "In the first quarter of 2019-20, the economy experienced a significant and broad-based growth deceleration with a sharp decline in private consumption on the demand

side and the weakening of growth in both industry and services on the supply side", the report said, adding that a long period of weak growth would hamper the government's fiscal consolidation plans.

Moreover, the bank in its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus said the country was expected to gradually recover to 6.9 per cent in 2021 and 7.2 per cent in 2022 as it assumed that the monetary stance would remain accommodative given benign price dynamics.

It said persistently low food prices remained well below the RBI's mid-range target of 4 per cent in the first half of 2019-20. "This allowed the RBI to ease monetary policy via a cumulative 135 basis point cut in the repo rate since January 2019 and shift the policy stance from neutral to accommodative," it said.

The World Bank report also noted that the current account deficit had widened to 2.1 per cent of the GDP in 2018-19 from 1.8 per cent a year before, mostly reflecting a deteriorating trade balance. On the financing side, significant capital outflows in the first half of the current year were followed by a sharp reversal from October 2018 onwards and a build-up of international reserves to \$411.9 billion at the end of the fiscal year.

## CCI to examine telecom market

MANOJ RAMMOHAN  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

Fair trade regulator CCI will conduct a study about the telecom sector to assess various competition aspects as the market dynamics have undergone significant changes in the recent past, according to its Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta.

From time to time, the watchdog commissions studies through independent agencies to gather qualitative as well as quantitative information and insights from market participants and assess the state of competition in a given sector.

In an interview to PTI, Gupta said the Competition Commission of India

(CCI) has started the preparatory work for the study about the telecom sector and it is expected to commence in November.

"As a market regulator, it would give us insights into what we need to be watchful of, and what we need to do. This, would also enable the Commission to craft a competition advocacy strategy and recommendations tailored to the needs of the telecom sector," he said.

The country's telecom sector has witnessed a churn with stiff competition, especially after the entry of Reliance Jio, and the lower tariff regime that has impacted

the financials of market players. There has also been consolidation in the market.

"Given the criticality of the telecom services and their overarching interface across economy, it becomes imperative for market regulator to keep a close watch on the developments in the sector."

"The telecom market dynamics have undergone a significant change in recent past by way of entry of new player, wave of consolidation, change in competition strategies and business models in the sector," Gupta said. —PTI

## Comm Min told to keep dairy out of RCEP deal

New Delhi, Oct. 13: Union Minister Giriraj Singh has asked the Commerce Ministry to keep dairy sector out of the proposed RCEP free trade pact, voicing reservation on possible import of milk produced by cattle that are given animal feed.

Opening of free trade in dairy sector will affect farmers of India, which is the world's largest producer of milk, the dairy and animal husbandry minister said.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) — a mega free trade agreement being negotiated among 10 ASEAN countries with their six FTA partners (India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand).

The proposed deal is expected to be finalised and signed by the next month. Last week, RCEP member countries met in Bangkok for three days of negotiations, perhaps for the last time to conclude the deal.

Explaining reasons why dairy sector should be kept out of the ambit of the proposed RCEP trade pact, the minister said: "I have objection on two issues. We will not accept the milk produced by cattle that are given animal protein. Our condition is milk imported should have not any animal feed."

India does not use animal protein as feed to cattle, the minister said.

Noting that India is the world's largest milk producer and has highest cattle population, Singh said, "Despite all, the country's per capita milk yield is lowest in the world and as a result the cost of production of milk is higher compared to other countries." —PTI

## Five-year e-visa set to bring in more Chinese

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

In a major boost for the tourism industry, especially during the ongoing season, India has relaxed its e-visa policy for Chinese nationals. China being the largest and fastest growing source market, the move is expected to attract more Chinese tourists.

"October 2019 onwards, Chinese nationals can apply for an e-Tourist visa (e-TV) of five-year validity with multiple entries. The visa fee for this five-year multiple entry e-TV will be \$80," according to Indian embassy in China.

Prospective tourists can avail of single-entry 30-day validity e-TV at a reduced visa fee of \$25 and for a 30-day e-TV during the months of April to June the visa fee will be only \$10. The one-year multiple-entry e-TV will continue to be offered at a reduced visa fee of \$40.

In addition, e-TV, the existing e-medical visa, e-conference visa, and the one-year multiple-entry e-business visa will continue to be issued through the online platform.

It is anticipated that this unilateral liberalisation of e-TV for Chinese nationals



will further enhance people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and encourage more Chinese tourists to choose India as a destination for tourism purposes, the release said.

"China is the largest outbound market in the world. With India being a medium haul destination, we are best positioned to take advantage of this huge market with the new visa fees reduction. With the recent visit of the Chinese Premier, the mood is positive between the two countries and this is the right time to launch incredible India in China," said Dipak Deva, Managing Director, Travel Corporation of India.

According to reports, Chinese travellers made nearly 150 million outbound visits in 2018, which was up 14.7 per cent year-

on-year. Thailand, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the United States, Cambodia, Russia, and the Philippines were the top 10 destinations for Chinese travellers in 2018. Due to proximity and widespread availability of Chinese cuisine, India has a lot of potential to attract tourists from the country. However, China is not a major source market for India yet. Last year, India received 2.5 lakh Chinese, while 7.5 lakh Indians visited China. Nevertheless, Chinese tourists are increasingly searching for Indian destinations, hotels and restaurants. As per a study by TripAdvisor last year, China topped the list with growing interest in India, with a whopping 134 per cent YoY growth over the previous year.

"Both the government and the tourism service providers should look at creating specific travel itinerary for Chinese tourists and get Chinese language speaking people to communicate with them. Buddhist circuits and Bollywood packages would be of interest for the Chinese tourists," said Nikhil Ganju, Country Manager, TripAdvisor India.

## Value content norms curb jewellery exports to China

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

Despite being a leader in gems and jewellery exports, India has a trade deficit in this segment with China. India has not been able to tap the growing jewellery market in China due to the Regional Value Content restrictions.

As of FY18, Indian gems and jewellery industry imported \$235 million worth goods to China. Of this, the largest chunk worth \$215 million was cut and polished diamonds. On the other hand, India imported silver bars, gold bars, rough coloured gem stones, rough pearls especially cultured pearls valued \$550 million, which led to a trade deficit of \$314 million.

India has not been able to export value-added products like gold jew-



ellery, silver jewellery or imitation jewellery due to the Regional Value Content restrictions. As part of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, India gets a 100 per cent Margin of Preference for cut and polished diamonds sent to China. However, there is a condition that the RVC should be 45 per cent. India procures the raw materials like rough diamonds, gold and silver from overseas producers, processes them and

exports to various markets. Hence RVC of 45 per cent cannot be applicable in case of cut and polished diamonds, said Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

Similarly, in case of gold jewellery and silver jewellery there is a Margin of Preference of 35 per cent, but an RVC of 45 per cent.

"Since CPD is a major commodity exported from India to China, the GJEP strongly recommends for negotiating with China for reducing stringent RVC 45 per cent condition to maximum 15 per cent. Though coloured gem stones, silver, gold and imitation jewellery are not much exported from India to China, negotiations can be done towards reducing RVC to 20 per cent in case of silver and imitation jewellery and 10 per cent in case of gold and coloured gem stones," said GJEP.

## Global, local cues to guide stocks

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

Indian market would open factoring in positive news on US-China trade talks progress, very weak industrial production data that sunk to almost seven-year low in August at minus 1.1 per cent. World Bank projecting GDP growth at 6 per cent in current fiscal against 6.9 per cent in FY18-19 and forthcoming domestic macro economic data related to inflation.

The US has reportedly reached a partial trade agreement with China that would shelve a planned increase in tariffs on goods imported from China, while Beijing would increase purchases of US agricultural products. However, global cues remain mixed with tensions brewing in the Middle East.

"Global risk sentiment has improved this week due to constructive US-China trade talks but investors are likely to remain skeptical due to stress in the domestic lending sector. Oil prices jumped nearly 2.5 per cent after reports said that an Iranian oil



tanker was struck by two missiles near Saudi Arabia," according to IFA Global Treasury Research. Post market hours on Friday industrial production data released by Central Statistics Office showed Industrial output slipped to -1.1 per cent month-on-month in August from 4.3 per cent in July.

The market would also start factoring in the outcome of assembly elections next week in Maharashtra and Haryana on October 21 with counting of votes scheduled on October 24.

Amid news of a partial trade deal, the rupee is likely to open stronger on Monday, IFA Global said. On the macro front, domestic consumer price index (CPI) data is due today that would have a bearing on interest rate

sensitive sectors.

Market sentiment is also likely to improve on account of foreign portfolio investors' selling coming down substantially in September-October 2019 period by Rs 2,500 crore only compared to more than Rs 28,000 crore selling in July-August 2019 period and they turned net buyers on Friday by Rs 749.74 crore.

The earnings season worries however would remain with results to be declared by Reliance Industries, ACC, Wipro, SBI Life, ICICI General Insurance, TVS Motor, Federal Bank, DHFL and Mindtree among others. Infosys and Dmart promoter Avenue Supermarkets positive earnings announcement may impact on the other stocks in the sector: Avenue Supermarkets' earnings declared on Saturday showed standalone Q2 revenue went up by 22.1 per cent at Rs 5,949 crore and standalone profit after tax went up by 47.7 per cent at Rs. 333 crore.

IRCTC will make its debut on the bourses on Monday. Its IPO was subscribed 112 times.

## Jute set to return from sunset zone

RITWIK MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA, OCT. 13

The golden fibre, or jute, is set to stage a comeback. With the increasing aversion to plastic bags and concerted governmental and private initiatives to lead to a "plastic free world", increased usage of jute products is expected. While many countries are looking to cut down the use of single-use plastic, India already has a sustainable substitute that cannot be ignored any more — jute.

India is the world's largest producer of jute, which is a natural and biodegradable fibre. As high as 60 per cent of the world's jute grows in India. However, jute production in the country has experienced an irregular trend since 2001-02. Key reasons for this are lack of capital, poor standard seeds and the shortage of water. Rapid urbanisation also has had an adverse impact on jute cultivation.

Over and above the efforts to tackle the plastic menace, analysts think that good agricultural production in India (almost 20 per cent higher than last year) is expected to further



boost demand for jute products in the medium term. And with increased focus on increased farmer income and assurance of a remunerative Minimum Support Price (MSP), demand for packaging products would also sustain.

Several leading firms have joined the government's efforts to tackle the plastic menace, trying to make their workplaces plastic free with sustainable alternatives. Efforts are being made to replace plastic bags with reusable bags such as jute.

The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan recently announced that the ministry would phase out plastic in packaging, and "move towards 100 per cent use of jute in packaging foodstuff." Mind you that India generates about 95 lakh tonne of single-use plastic waste, of which 6 lakh tonne goes into the sea, contaminating the water.

Meanwhile a group of passionate women from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have come together to combat the 'demon' called plastic. The all-women jute and allied fibre cooperative society called 'Prabhavana' is set to take its first step towards vanquishing the demon from the abode of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala. The cooperative society, arguably the first one in the country to have presence in multiple states for jute and allied fibre, besides being the only all-women society, is soon going to sign a pact with the Jute Corporation of India for supplying jute bags to replace the plastic used for serving 'prasadam' to devotees by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

Explaining why jute, for some time considered to be a sunset industry, is well set to stage a comeback, analysts said that jute is biodegradable and does not need a lot of farming space. The jute cultivation using crop rotation techniques improves the fertility of the soil for the next crop. A jute plant absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen more than a tree.