

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 15 OCTOBER 2019

WEATHER

Max: 31.6°C
Min: 22.4°C
RH: 71%
Rain: 0.1mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky. Rains are likely. Max/Min temp. 32/22°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Ashwayuja Bahula Vidiya till 5.44 am (Wednesday)
Star: Ashwini till 12.27 pm
Varjyam: From 8.06 am to 9.50 am and 10.48 pm to 12.31 am (Wednesday)
Durmuhurtam: 8.32 am to 9.18 am and 10.48 pm to 11.37 pm
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Safar 15, 1437 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5:07 am
Zohar: 12:12 pm
Asar: 4:17 pm
Maghrib: 6:00 pm
Isha: 7:07 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5:55 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:09 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 7:07 PM
MOONSET TODAY 7:10 AM

COUNTER POINT



Forget jobs... come to our election rally, earn ₹1,000 and a biryani packet!

WINGS LOSES FLYING PERMIT AFTER CRASH

Mumbai, Oct. 14: Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday suspended the flying licence of Wings Aviation following the fatal accident of a Cessna 172 aircraft at Vikarabad in Telangana last week and a subsequent probe which found many deficiencies in its operations. The two pilots of the academy — Amanpreet Kaur and Prakash Vishal — headed from Begumpet to Gobur in Karnataka, crashed in Sultanpur village of Vikarabad district amidst heavy rains. “Wings Aviation failed to remain a safe, efficient and reliable organisation as required under the regulations. Therefore, the approval granted to it as a flying training organisation stands suspended from October 14,” Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in its order. — PTI

Monsoon to exit state in 2 days

Hyderabad: The rainy season will end soon with the southwest monsoon withdrawing from some northern parts of the state on Monday. The monsoon is expected to withdraw from the state over the next two days and the southern part could expect isolated rains. A cyclonic persisting in the Bay of Bengal could bring rain to AP. The Indian Meteorological Department said conditions were turning favourable for the onset of the northeast monsoon by October 17.

Glitch forces BA flight to return

Mumbai: A British Airways Boeing 787 aircraft made an air turn back within hours of its getting airborne for London from here due to a “technical” issue, a source said. The flight has been grounded and the airline is providing stranded passengers with a rebooking on other flights or hotel accommodation in the city, a spokesperson said. This is the second incident of the British Airways Mumbai-London aircraft developing a technical glitch since Saturday. — PTI



Booker panel pits Atwood against Rushdie

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WORLD 10

TABLOID Dona bats for hubby Ganguly



KK may talk to RTC staff

State wants union leaders to call off stir to begin discussions

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

With the state government worried after the suicides of two Road Transport Corporation (RTC) staffers and its adverse fallout on the Huzurnagar by-election, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) general secretary and MP K. Keshava Rao will likely mediate between the government and RTC union leaders to resolve the ongoing strike.

Mr Keshava Rao is close to both Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu and the RTC joint action committee leaders. He had gone to Delhi on Monday but rushed back to Hyderabad in the evening; he will likely initiate a dialogue with the JAC.

The only sticking point is that he wants union leaders to call off the strike and start talks with the

KCR slammed over sweet ‘Megha’ deal

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The political establishment of Telangana went into a tizzy after DC broke the news of twin developments behind the RTC strike — news of induction of e-buses into the fleet and CM’s announcement that 20 per cent of buses in the RTC would be run by private organisations.

Following an article published in Deccan Chronicle Monday, headlined, ‘RTC

strike sings KCR — 40 new electric buses benefit buddy Megha Krishna Reddy’ has created a sensation amongst political circles, RTC unions and public. Responding to it, politicians strongly condemned the government’s decisions, calling them unethical and illegal, designed and bound only to benefit a private corporate at the cost of the RTC.

■ Page 5: ‘Bus-gate is a ₹2,100 crore scam by JAC’

government; the union leaders want discussions to begin before they call off

the strike. In a statement on Monday, Mr Keshava Rao

said there was no proposal in the manifesto to merge RTC into the government. He added that no public sector unit was proposed to be merged with the government; it was a policy matter in which the unions had no say. Keshava Rao asked the government to consider all the RTC union demands except merging the corporation into the government. He also stated that the CM categorically ruled out any privatisation of RTC. JAC convener Aswathama Reddy said it was ready to talk if Keshava Rao calls for talks, and welcomed his involvement. Though the CM has repeatedly ruled out talks with the unions, the party leadership has asked Keshava Rao to prepare the ground for direct talks between the unions and the government.

Ganguly is now BCCI’s captain

To stay at helm for 9 months; says time to reset cricket board’s image

R. MOHAN | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 14

Sourav Ganguly will not be the first Test cricketer to become the president of BCCI. The honour, curiously, belonged to the Maharajah of Vizianagaram, who played for India because he was from a princely state (Shivlal Yadav was interim president in 2014 during the cricket crisis of confidence following the IPL betting scandal). Ganguly will be the most accomplished cricketer ever to do what could be called the third most important job in India — the first being that of the Prime Minister and the second the captain of the Indian cricket team. BCCI presidents from the founding Englishman R.E. Grant-Govan to princes and industrialists were powerful people because they represented authority in India’s most popular game and were its most public face. Ganguly was always different. When he toured Australia in 1991-92, he stood out as a

rich kid who would use the horrendously expensive hotel phone lines while the rest of the team would line up in front of the coin box telephones in the lobby to call home. You could call him a princely cricketer who has now ascended to the most influential job of cricket administrator heading the BCCI.

Board presidents have wielded such power as to discipline players, set up probe committees and invest them with power to even ban players as it happened in the case of Bishan Bedi, who was stood down for one Test just because he gave an interview to BBC in 1974. As BCCI president A.C. Muthiah once set up a one-man probe panel that banned Azharuddin and Ajay Sharma from the game. BCCI chief have been powerful enough to dictate to world cricket on how the game is to be run because India brings about 70 per cent of the revenues.

■ Page 13: Indian cricket set for Prince’s rule



Former cricket captain Sourav Ganguly arrives at the BCCI headquarters at Wankhede stadium to file nomination for the elections in Mumbai on Monday. — PTI

WE WILL speak to everyone first as we take a decision but my biggest priority will be to look after first class cricketers. I had requested that to the CoA but they didn’t listen.

SOURAV GANGULY, president-elect, BCCI

4 hockey players killed in MP mishap

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 14

Four national hockey players were killed and three others injured when their car hit a tree on Monday at Raisalpur, in Hosangabad district, Madhya Pradesh. They were heading to a semifinal match of the Major Dhyani Chand Memorial All India Hockey Tournament at Hosangabad after celebrating the birthday of a teammate.

THE DRIVER lost control while trying to avoid a head-on-collision with a car coming from the opposite side, and hit a roadside tree.

TWO WERE selected for the Indian junior hockey team, and the other two were called to the net for selection.

The driver lost control while trying to avoid a

head-on-collision with a car coming from the opposite side, and hit a roadside tree, police said.

The deceased, aged 18 to 22, were: Shahnwaz Hussain, Adarsh Hardua, Ashish Lal, and Aniket Varun. Ashish and Aniket were selected for the Indian junior hockey team, and the other two were called to the net for selection.

The three injured were Sahil Choure, Akshyaya Awasthi and Shan Gladwin.

All were enrolled in the

Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy, which they represented in the tournament. All hailed from Madhya Pradesh.

Ashish’s two sisters are also national hockey players and their mother is a sports teacher in a private school in Jabalpur.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath expressed shock and grief. “Officials have been directed to extend help to the families of the deceased, and ensure proper medical treatment of the injured,” he said.

Post-paid mobiles ring in Kashmir

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 14

Several mobile phones rang out simultaneously across Kashmir for the first time on Monday since August 5, bringing some relief to residents, isolated and longing to reach out to their loved ones outside the Valley and inside too since the Centre revoked J&K’s special status.

As announced by the authorities earlier, only post-paid mobile service on all networks was restored on Monday noon, evoking a mixed reaction.

For now only voice calls and SMSes work. Prepaid mobile phones and other internet services, including WhatsApp, remain deactivated.

About 40 lakh post-paid mobile phones have become operational, officials said. “All post-paid mobile phones, irrespective of the telecom service provider and covering all the 10 districts of the Valley, stand restored and functional now,” officials said. However, according to statistics made available by various service providers, the Valley has around 20 lakh post-paid and over 60 lakh pre-paid mobile phones.

“We’ve been denied this basic facility for more

WITH THE restoration of mobile phone service, J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik said young boys and girls will reconnect with each other.

than two months. They have now restored the post-paid mobile phone services which is too little and too late,” said Zubair Ahmed, a Srinagar resident. But for others it was no less than Eid, a time to reconnect with family and friends, and get back to much needed business after being cut off from the world outside their homes for 72 days.

Basharat Ahmad, a resident of the old city, lost no time in calling his friends and relatives within Kashmir and outside to just hear their voices after the long gap. In just an hour, he made 30 calls. For Nightat Shah, it was Eid all over again. “This day is no less than Eid for us,” she said. Her brother, Masroor, used the mobile phone to wish “Eid Mubarak” to his wife Sumaira in Dehradun. Eid was on August 12 this year, exactly a week after the communication blackout.

■ Page 7: People’s lives are important: Governor

KASHMIRIS FEAR TALKING WITH NON-KASHMIRIS

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Kashmiri’s pain is palpable but they are unwilling to talk about it as their children are in jails and the Army is outside their homes. They are sceptical about interacting with non-Kashmiris as their trauma and fear is beyond the latter’s understanding. This is what a human rights group learnt, during a visit from October 7 to 10, to Baramullah, Pulwama, Shopian, Budgam and Srinagar.

Malik Moatasim Khan, national secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, from Hyderabad, saw fear and anger in their eyes. This was his first visit to the Valley to get a first-hand look. He said, “Our non-political group wanted to know how people are, and found they are not happy at all. They are in a sad state. Their men and children are in jails, communication is hampered and they have Army men standing outside their homes. They are not willing to talk to non-Kashmiris as they do not know what is being told about them. It took a lot of convincing to make them speak.”

Curfew has been lifted but the shopkeepers open from 6 am to 9 am only. Just a few medical stores are open all day. Children at home do not come out. They are neither going to school nor coming out to play.

There is no leader including the village sarpanch, who has been taken away. The group obtained the FIR to check why the sarpanch was arrested and it stated: “You have the potential to convince people that abrogation of Article 370 was wrong and for that reason you have been arrested.”

Women whose men and children are not at home are traumatised and so lock themselves in during the day.

■ Page 2: Internal transport stopped





KCR's meeting

Minister G. Jagadish Reddy says KCR will address a public meeting at Huzurnagar on Oct. 17 as part of the byelection campaign



3.5 lakh people took Metro Rail on Monday which is a new record

— N.V.S. Reddy MD, Hyderabad Metro Rail

BRIEF

SCR set to run 6 special trains

Hyderabad: A Guinness World Record distinction is being sought for the longest series of lectures on the legendary poet Allama Iqbal. The series titled 'Iqbal Shinasi' (Understanding Iqbal) commenced in October 1997 and have been held every week in the Conference Hall of Masjid-e-Alia at Gunfoundry in Hyderabad. The thousandth lecture was held at Urdu Hall in Himayatnagar on October 12 and 13 as part of two-day celebration organised to mark the occasion. Muneer Iqbal, the grandson of poet Allama Iqbal and son of Justice Iqbal expressed his gratitude and lauded the efforts of Hyderabadis for organizing the lectures. The weekly lectures will continue to be held regularly at conference hall, Masjid e Alia at Gunfoundry.

Gov inaugurates 2-day workshop

Hyderabad: Telangana governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Monday inaugurated a two-day workshop on solar technologies at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology. The event, which was organised by the Andhra Chamber of Commerce, is aimed towards end-users in commercial and industrial establishments, policy makers and service providers.

SPDC grievances forum today

Hyderabad: In an attempt to address consumer grievances, the Southern Power Distribution Company announced that it plans to hold Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum at the 33/11 KV Golconda Sub-Station on Golconda Fort Road. The body's top officials will be present at the location between 11 to 5 pm. Meanwhile, the TSSPDCL announced that there would be no power supply at the Hockey Ground, Masab Tank, Universal Bakery, Andhra Bank, Shanthi Nagar, Castel Hills, NMDC and Vijaya Nagar Colony between 10 am and 1 pm.

OGH UPGRADES LAB FOR LATE NIGHT DIAGNOSIS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT 14

Taking help from the Helping Hand Foundation, Osmania General Hospital not only upgraded its emergency laboratory, but also added two new waiting rooms for patient attenders.

The new laboratory, which is at Quli Qutub Shah block on the ground floor where 25,000 samples can be checked every month, will have staff round the clock so that the challenge of late night diagnosis in OGH can be addressed.

Moreover, two waiting areas for attendants have been created to decongest the wards and also provide space for them to rest. The attendants, in the past, would sleep on the floor in the ward, corridor and the doorways at night.

Apart from this iron benches, fans and lights have also been placed so that those who come inside the hospital premises at night are able to find shelter. With more than 800 out-patient every day, the people opting for treatment is always at an all-time high.

■ The new laboratory is at Quli Qutub Shah block on the ground floor where 25,000 samples can be checked every month

KCR's words enable encroachers

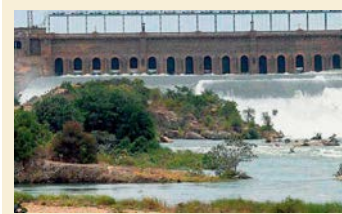
Political leaders along with officials in successive governments have violated several norms

MADHY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The government's proposal to scrap Government Order 111, which creates a 10-km pollution-free zone around the Osmansagar and Himayatsagar, has resulted in rampant encroachment of the channels that bring water to the two reservoirs.

Though successive governments have systematically damaged the reservoirs' infrastructure, the present dispensation has decided to bring the axe down on GO 111 claiming it was hindering development in the area. Cutting across party lines, almost every politician, industrialist and businessman owns establishments in violation of GO 111.

Due to the damage to the inlet channels caused by the encroachments, the



Water shortage		
Reservoir levels		
Reservoir	Capacity	Current
Osmansagar	3.9 tmc ft	0.25 tmc ft
Himayatsagar	2.96 tmc ft	0.39 tmc ft

two reservoirs, created a century ago to prevent floods and provide drinking water to the city, did not receive any water though the state received heavy rainfall this season. Officials of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board claimed that they had cleared the feeder channels between March and May. The lakes did not get water as the rainfall was deficient, they said.

Establishing the importance of the lake, a high

level committee headed by S.P. Shorey stated, in 1994: "Any future water supply scheme to Hyderabad involves in high investment besides considerable operation and maintenance expenses. Hence there is absolute need to safeguard the existing sources like Himayatsagar, Osmansagar, Manjeera and Singur reservoirs."

The GO that was issued on March 8, 1996, tasked the Water Board with prohibiting polluting industries, major hotels, resi-

dential colonies or other establishments that generate pollution in the catchment of the lakes up to 10 km from the full tank level. Successive officials have taken that responsibility lightly.

Violating GO 111 norms, more than 50 borewells within the bund and 1,000 trenches were found within the 10-km radius in the catchment areas of the reservoirs. Trenching below the bund level will prevent rain water from entering the reservoirs.

The authorised block-

ages have been working to supply water to the establishments owned by the rich and powerful. Unauthorised establishments like farmhouses, a cricket playground, stone quarries, real estate ventures and others have come up in the prohibited zone.

The result of all this abuse of the lake's protected zones has been that the residents in the vicinity are getting highly contaminated water for their daily needs including drinking.

According to sources in Water Board, political leaders along with officials in successive governments have violated several norms.

Due to trenching and drawing water through illegal borewells, the city has been losing at least 25 million gallons per day

from both the reservoirs, which would otherwise have served about 2.5 lakh people in the city.

With the water level not rising in the two lakes, at a time when almost all other reservoirs are full, there are fears that the city would face a similar situation as in 1987, when residents living in the vicinity of the two reservoirs were forced to vacate their houses due to the water crisis.

Asked about the problem, HMWS&SW general manager M. Sujatha, who oversees the two reservoirs, said that deficit rainfall in the catchment areas like Vikarabad was the reason for Himayatsagar and Osmansagar being empty. She said that the catchment area should receive at least 80 mm of rainfall a day to fill the reservoirs.

Dewatered lakes will cause water shortage

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The government's attempt to dewater city lakes could affect replenishment of aquifers and leave the city short of groundwater in the summer. The lakes are being dewatered for Mission Kakatiya.

Experts like Dr B.V. Subba Rao said lakes are the best for continuous replenishment of the aquifers. Since water was not allowed into the lakes, the city could face a difficult summer.

"The government and its civic bodies have been bleeding the city dry by dewatering the lakes. The city cannot collect more rainwater that has run off from the roads," Dr Rao told Deccan Chronicle.

He added that the city was facing a problem of severe inundation problem because the nalas that feed into the lakes have been blocked.

The lakes are being starved at a time when a report from the Niti Aayog, a government think tank, has noted that Hyderabad is among the cities that would run out of groundwater by 2020. The current rate of exploitation in the Hyderabad district is over 300 per cent. An official from the Telangana State Ground Water Directorate said that the average rate of exploitation in Hyderabad district was 341 per cent. In the worst-affected Shaikpet, the rate of withdrawal is 692 per cent.

The work at Kapra and RK Puram lakes started in March and was to be completed within six months. In reality, only the desilting has been taking place. The bund has been half built at both lakes.

Despite the excess rain

and prolonged monsoon, the lakes do not have water as all the inlets have been sealed. The inlets were opened only two days ago to allow the water that was inundating upstream colonies, but that is not enough to fill the lakes. Work at the Kapra lake has also been stalled as a builder, Mr Bal Reddy, has approached court and obtained a stay order. This is leading to anxiety amongst the residents and nearby colonies as they allege that the lake will be encroached.

Another problem that plagues groundwater is that of contamination.

As per the findings of a study published in the journal of Human and Ecological Risk Assessment, the people from Telangana state are vulnerable to dental and skeletal fluorosis due to the intake of high fluoride content in drinking water.

"There are a couple of conditions while considering rainwater harvesting. Firstly, rainwater should not go into it directly, secondly filtered water should go into the ground otherwise it will contaminate the groundwater. After that there should not be any kind of chemicals mixed into the water, but since the water is lying in filth on the roads, even the water underground would be polluted," said Dr Rao.

This study had revealed that 31 per cent in the pre-monsoon and 80 per cent of the post-monsoon groundwater sampling showed 1.5 to 4 mg per litre of fluoride content in the state.

A considerable amount of fluoride enters the human body through drinking water and excess fluoride can be toxic for health.

Danger Ahead



While motorists are already careful about potholes in the road, they will now need to be careful about cave in as the recent heavy rains saw quite a few roads cave in. Even the road at Akbarbagh in Malakpet too had a cave in

— P. SURENDRA

High demand for insulin in Kashmir

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The human rights group from the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind that went to Kashmir has returned with a list of medicines to be supplied in the Valley as people who do not have the money to purchase medicines.

The demand for insulin injections which are required for diabetics is very high. Those suffering from kidney ailments are also unable to purchase the medicines. The requirement is more in the rural areas where most people are not moving out of their homes. With children also

■ People suffering from kidney ailments are unable to purchase the medicines.

■ The urgent need for medicine worsens when one further move to the rural areas

stranded at home, the group will provide indoor games so that they can be kept engaged. Children will not be sent to school till the parents are convinced that they are safe. With security forces standing in front of them, most parents say that they will not send children to school till they are around.

INTERNAL TRANSPORT HAS STOPPED, DIALOGUE NEEDED

FROM PAGE 1

A common feeling of hurt, betrayal and trauma resides in both the rich and the poor in Kashmir. They silently protest and are not willing to talk about the government's weakening of Article 370.

Worse, the internal transport system has stopped. People do not have money for use as daily wagers have had no work. This has led to not purchasing medicines, providing emergency care or attending to other needs. Khan said,

"Five families said that when there was a death in the family the neighbours came forward for final rites, and relatives who were far away could not be contacted. This inability to communicate a death is adding to their trauma. There are no newspapers or media channels working, through which this can be communicated."

The group found that to engage the Kashmiris, human rights violations and illegal detentions must stop. Only initiating dialogue will help.

REASONS | SOUGHT

Any incident would make it difficult to save lives: AAG

Why demolish 7-yr-old building, asks HC

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Telangana High Court on Monday asked the state government why it was proposing to demolish buildings at the Secretariat that were constructed less than a decade ago, when a technical committee appointed to test the structures did not recommend their demolition.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy was hearing a plea filed Prof. P.L. Vishweswara Rao, vice president of the Telangana Jana Samiti, challenging the government's decision to demolish the existing Secretariat at Saifabad and building a new complex there.

The bench asked the state government why it wanted the demolish the North H Block and South H Block, having a plinth area of around 40,000

HC raps govt over lack of RTI portal

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the state government and the office of the Telangana State Information Commission

square feet, which were built in 2012 as per the affidavit submitted by the government before the High Court.

It asked that instead of demolishing all the 10 blocks, why did the government not consider constructing new buildings just by demolishing the 131-year-old G Block and those built five decades ago.

Mr Chikkudu Prabhakar, counsel for the petitioner, submitted that the government decision was a sheer

(TSIC) to file their stand on a PIL that sought a direction to them to upload 17 items of data of all public authorities on the RTI website.

The PIL said the data was required under the Right to Information Act,

waste of public money and the government should not be allowed to do this.

Citing Supreme Court judgments to control wastage of public funds, Mr Prabhakar said the government decision was illegal, unreasonable, unfair, irrational, perverse, whimsical and made a mockery of Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

Additional Advocate General J. Ramachandra Rao said the buildings had become unviable and had

many safety problems. He referred to a report of the Director-General, Fire Services, in support of his claim.

He also submitted the report of the technical committee which went into the issue.

The bench noted that the technical committee had been appointed only after the Cabinet had taken the decision to construct new buildings.

It asked the AAG why the government was using this report when it

nowhere said the current building should be demolished. It only spoke of fire risks involved in some blocks and suggested establishment of a free passage to enter freely in case of fire and setting up of water sprinklers etc.

The AAG said that if any untoward incidents occurs at the existing place, there would be no chance of saving the lives of VIPs and employees working there. The bench posted the case to Tuesday.

Fraudster defrauds Suchirindia Infra

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

A fraudster, who cheated Suchirindia Infratech of ₹45,800 under the guise of providing fancy Airtel mobile numbers, was arrested by Cyber Crimes police on Monday.

The Marketing Intelligence Team of Cyber Crimes, Hyderabad, received a complaint from Janaki Ram Mohan, an employee of Suchirindia, stating that their company CEO had received a message from an unknown number, wherein the caller offered fancy and unique mobile numbers 9899999999, 9123456789, 9999999999 and 9999999999 at very less prices.

Falling for the trick, the complainant contacted the number given by the fraudster, who introduced himself as Gopal, CEO of Airtel. Believing him, the complainant deposited ₹45,800 into the bank account of the accused.

Later, when the caller avoided taking his calls, the complainant realised that he had been cheated. He approached the Cyber Crimes police and lodged a complaint.

Explaining the modus operandi, Additional DCP, Cyber Crimes, K.C.S. Raghunath Vir said, "The accused obtained several SIM cards and opened bank accounts to cheat victims. He would gather information about MLAs, MPs and corporates through the internet. He used to lure them by sending messages to their mobile numbers on pretext of selling fancy numbers at lesser prices".

Whenever anyone showed interest and contacted him, he would introduce himself as CEO of Airtel. He even created fake identity cards, photos and True Caller identity to gain the confidence of victims. The transactions happened through fake bank accounts with the name of Airtel India.

HC: DON'T METE OUT THIRD DEGREE TORTURE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

After seeing injuries on two accused persons, the Telangana High Court on Monday directed the Director General of Police to sensitise the police to not rely on forcibly acquired confessions by meting out third-degree torture but on evidence-based investigations.

A division bench of Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy, said this while dealing with a habeas corpus (produce the person in court) plea filed by two women seeking production of their husbands.

The women alleged that the police took their husbands into custody in the first week of September at Shamshabad and they were remanded before a lower court only after they filed the petitions before the High Court. The accused were produced before the court with several injuries on their bodies, which were reportedly caused during police interrogation.

The police submitted that more than 38 FIRs were registered against the duo, brothers Syed Sohail, 19, and Syed Mohammed, 24, from Chandryanagutta and that they were habitual offenders. About the injuries, the police submitted that contrary versions — once saying the siblings had beaten each other up to cause the injuries while in remand.

After hearing the police version, the court raised doubts on the quality of the investigation done by the police and questioned how the offenders were getting acquitted in several cases. The bench observed that the injuries on Sohail and Mohammed were fresh and reprimanded the police from showing highhandedness.

It observed the need to sensitise the police and the lower courts from considering confessional statements recorded during police custody.

The court suggested that the DGP sensitise the force to perform quality investigation based on evidence to ensure that the criminals do not go scot-free when they indulge in multiple cases, and not just get confessions from the suspects using third-degree methods during interrogation.

■ HC observed the need to sensitise the police and the lower courts from considering confessional statements recorded during police custody.

■ The court closed the habeas corpus petitions.





KCR pats winner

KCR congratulates Indian-American economist Abhijit Banerjee for winning the 2019 Nobel Prize for economics



TRS government is playing a double game on building 2BHK houses

— N. Uttam Kumar Reddy
TPCC chief

POWER SHUTDOWN

Banjara Hills Roads No. 1, 7, 8 up to Care Hospital area, 10, 11, line opposite HPL, area behind Md Azharuddin's house; Sriramnagar Colony, area beside Renuka Chowdary's house, Pizza Hut building area; Hotel Taj Banjara area, Sarvi Hotel area, Ghafar Colony, Gouri Shanker Colony, Udaynagar, Sai Enclave, area behind Penton office, area around house of Konda Vishveshwar Rao, Bondalagadda area, Deccan Chronicle MD house area, Amrutha Value Apartments

IN BRIEF

Two elephants electrocuted

Nellore: Two wild elephants were electrocuted when they came in contact with electrical fencing arranged at a farm to protect crops at Tummalapalli in Irla mandal of Chittoor district. The incident took place about 10 days back but came to light only when some locals informed forest officials. According to forest officials, the farm belongs to one Subhramanyam and Viswanatham of the village. They had buried the elephants in their farm to avoid a police case and possible imprisonment. Some locals noticed this and tipped off forest officials. Forest range officer V. Madhava Rao and his team traced the location where the elephants were buried and pulled them out on Monday. They said that they would conduct a post-mortem examination of the carcasses and take the accused into custody.

CENTRE TO BUILD REGIONAL RING ROAD

Hyderabad, Oct. 14: The Union government has agreed to build Regional Ring Road around Hyderabad, said roads and buildings minister V. Prasanth Reddy on Monday. The minister met Union minister for roads Nitin Gadkari during his Delhi tour and discussed the construction of the regional ring road around the city. Mr Reddy said that the proposed road would cost around ₹3,000 crore and the Union minister assured that he would hold a meeting to discuss the project.

HC FIRM ON ACTION AGAINST IMS SCAMSTERS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14 The Telangana High Court dismissed a plea seeking to stop disciplinary proceedings against the accused in the Insurance Medical Services (IMS) scam in the procurement and supplying of medicines and surgical kits to dispensaries and Employee's State Insurance (ESI) hospitals across the state. The court was dealing with an appeal filed by H.R. Aradhana Devi, pharmacist grade-II in the IMS Directorate, who had challenged the single judge's orders who had rejected her petition to stay GO 152 issued by the labour employment, training and factories department, which initiated disciplinary action against her. The proceedings were initiated based on the report of the Director General (Vigilance & Enforcement), who had conducted an inquiry. The probe had unearthed glaring irregularities in procuring medicines. Prima facie, the report of the Vigilance & Enforcement pointed to the role of the petitioner. Upholding the single judge's order, a division bench was not inclined to allow her petition to stay the disciplinary proceedings against her.

Harrowing experience



Massive traffic jam at Uppal on Monday after a DCM truck hit a bike.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

No sanitation even for GHMC brass Civic staff not sweeping even his colony, says a top GHMC official

MADHY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Forget citizen complaints, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is not even addressing grievances of top officials such as chief engineers, additional engineers and law makers. Despite a number of grievances over sanitation on the MYGHMC app as well as in person, the authorities are closing complaints without attending to them. A GHMC official, demanding anonymity,

said the sanitation staff had not been sweeping his own colony, in "a prime location housing the chief justice, zonal commissioners and top politicians". A resident of Banjara Hills' road number 10 said that the sweeping staff ignored numerous complaints including ten that he had submitted during the year on the MYGHMC App. Vexed with the sanitation wing, he was ensuring weekly garbage pick-up by using influence with lower-rung officials in the engineering wing.

MS SHRUTHI Ojha, GHMC additional commissioner for sanitation, resides in the very same area yet the official apathy continues. Complaints where law-makers reside were also ignored by civic authorities.

"I registered complaints on MYGHMC App as a common citizen, and I got the same response as a common citizen," he

lamented. Ms Shruthi Ojha, GHMC additional commissioner for sanitation, resides in the very same area yet the official apathy continues. Complaints where law-makers reside were also ignored by civic authorities. Residents have encroached upon a footpath in Banjara Hills Road No 12, MLA Colony. Some have even constructed ramps for their four-wheelers on the footpath area.

Mr Abhinav Reddy of MLA Colony said it was

pathetic that well-educated and prominent people have encroached on the footpath.

"It is a nightmare for elderly persons and children who have to walk on the road, and also avoid speeding vehicles. Most of the footpaths are also encroached," he said. Though numerous complaints were registered, nothing was done and the complaint closed.

Khairatabad zonal commissioner Musharraf Faruqi remained unavailable for comment.

Nagole to LB Nagar stretch in bad shape

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Travelling on the Nagole-LB Nagar stretch of road that is maintained by the Hyderabad Road Development Corporation Limited (HRDCL) is a nightmarish experience for commuters. The authorities after repairing the roads have dumped gravel which has aggravated the problem. But there is no quick relief in sight, with authorities claiming the road cannot be repaired in the near future due to the financial crunch. Though the HRDCL has taken up road repairs worth ₹400 crore on arterial roads, the incessant rains undid all the work.

Commuters said the stretch between Nagole junction and LB Nagar has been damaged very badly. Vehicles have to crawl at 6 kmph as the road is in such a bad shape. Mr P. Madhu, a restaurant owner, said he regularly travels on the stretch on his way to work. He said that there were potholes all along the stretch from his restaurant to his residence. The Nagole-LB Nagar stretch gives a back-breaking experience during the day when it is dry and a nightmare when it rains. Echoing his concern, Mr Pavithran, a local resident, said that due to Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) placing

barricades on the stretch, the road had become extremely narrow and very difficult to drive. He said that the officials rather than repairing the roads had e just dumped gravel there which deteriorated the conditions. HRDCL authorities claimed that because of the severe fund crunch that they were suffering, the roads under their maintenance had been handed over to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. The civic body official said that similar concern was raised by GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar and repairs on the stretch would be taken up on priority once the tenders were finalised.

HONOUR FOR FILM MADE BY MANUU

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

A science documentary film made by the students of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) titled, 'Promise of Polydimethylsiloxane' on polymer has been selected for the International Science Film Festival (ISFF) of India, which is going to be organized in Kolkata next month.

According to Rizwan Ahmad, director, Instructional Media Centre (IMC), this is the third consecutive time when IMC productions have been recognised and selected for the prestigious international film festivals.

Notice to schools for opening ahead of hols

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

District education officials issued notices to schools that reopened on Monday despite the government order extending the Dasara holidays till October 19. Contingent of officials started visiting various schools to check whether they were running any classes despite the government order.

Wherever they found schools functioning, officials warned the authorities that recognition of the school would be cancelled, following which the schools sent off the children to their homes after calling their parents.

Officials said they were lenient with the schools that functioned on Monday. "As it was the first day, we just warned them. From tomorrow onwards, we will take strict action," an official said. Owing to the extension of holidays, the schedule of Summative Assessment-I has been revised. According to the academic calendar, the exams were to start from October 21.

However, as it would be difficult for students to sit for exams on the reopening day itself, exams scheduled on October 21 and 22 have been postponed to October 29 and 30. The schedule for rest of

CONTINGENTS OF officials started visiting various schools to check whether they were running any classes despite the government order.

WHEREVER THEY found schools functioning, officials warned the authorities that recognition of the school would be cancelled.

the exams would remain the same, said a statement released by the Commissioner of School Education.

GIANT LEAP Ocean Information Services hold Federation of Indian Geosciences Associations meet

INCOIS showcases three major breakthroughs

ADITYA CHUNDURU DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has made three major breakthroughs, all of which will be greatly helpful to coastal communities, INCOIS Director Satish Shenoi announced at the Triennial Congress of the Federation of Indian Geosciences Associations organised at the National Geophysical Research Institute here on Monday. Detailing the recent launch of GEMINI (Gagan-Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information), he pointed out that the soap-box-sized device helps fishermen get updates on weather as well as location of fishing zones and so on. The device, deployed inside the boats, receives

information directly from the satellite. Referring to Cyclone Ockhi that hit India's west coast in November 2017, Shenoi told the gathering that until then, fishermen could only get updates on their phones as long as they had cellular service. INCOIS then worked with ISRO and the Airports Authority of India to use the GPS-aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) system for development of GEMINI. Information broadcast via a vacant slot (null message slot) in the communication architecture can be received by fishermen on the GEMINI set. The INCOIS Director told Deccan Chronicle, "We have performed all the necessary field trials and it is working really well. The instrument will cost around ₹8,000 to ₹9,000. The Department of

REFERRING TO Cyclone Ockhi that hit India's west coast in November 2017, Shenoi said that fishermen could only get updates on their phones as long as they had cellular service.

Fisheries is exploring the idea of formulating a government scheme, so that these machines could be made available to fishermen." A related breakthrough of INCOIS is its newly-found ability to monitor chlorophyll content on the sea surface, which is an indication of phytoplankton (microbial marine plant life consumed by fish). Shenoi said, "We will thus be able to accurately predict the location of potential fishing zones (PFZ). We collect satellite data and analyse currents and other parameters. Information provided also includes current speed, wind speed and bathyme-

Sensing Centre, we have a clear idea of the topography along the coastal lines. Now, we can predict how much of the coast will be damaged due to a wave and the inundation that follows. This data would be extremely helpful for evacuation efforts," Shenoi said. Giving details, he explained that INCOIS would collect data of a particular wave event and interpolate it against the 300-odd data models it had with it. "Earlier, we did not have the computing power to handle such processing. Now, we can process an event in real-time," the INCOIS Director disclosed. This means, in the event of a seismic disturbance, INCOIS can process incoming data immediately and predict where a possible tsunami might occur.

HOW THE ORGANISATION WAS SET UP IN HYDERABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

While INCOIS is an organisation that primarily deals with oceanic research, it is headquartered in Hyderabad, a city that is hundreds of kilometres away from the sea coast on either side. When asked about it, INCOIS Director Satish Shenoi told Deccan Chronicle that the location was owing to dependence on data from National Remote Sensing Centre, which is based in Hyderabad. "We would take data from NRSC in the form of physical tapes. Back then, we did not have the means to transmit large amounts of data quickly.

THOUGH THE city was hundreds of kilometres away from the sea coast on either side, INCOIS was set up in Hyderabad to minimise the distance between itself and NRSC to enable quicker transfer of data, the institute director said. Thus, INCOIS was set up in Hyderabad to minimise the distance between itself and NRSC, to enable quicker transfer of data," he said. "Now, we have our own data centre in the city where we collect and store data," Shenoi added.



Pawan support
Pawan Kalyan announces Jana Sena support for state bandh on Oct. 19 called by RTC joint action committee

RTC JAC asks Govt to resolve workers' stir

Presents memorandum to Soundararajan

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

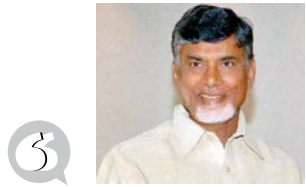
DEADLOCK CONTINUES

- **REDDY ALLEGED** that employees were committing suicides because of the government's attitude.
- **CM HAD** promised to look into the issues faced by RTC employees during his election campaign at Nizamabad, but he has not kept his word, he said.
- **IT IS** the anti-democratic actions of the state government that have made opposition parties support the striking RTC employees, he contended.

Nizamabad, but he has not kept his word. He pointed out that ministers E. Dayakar Rao, T. Srinivas Yadav and P. Ajay Kumar had never participated in the Telangana movement but were now criticising the agitating RTC employees. "The comments of these ministers on RTC strike are provocative, which is forcing employees to take extreme steps," the JAC convenor remarked. He denied that political parties had encouraged them to go on strike. It is the anti-democratic actions of the state government that have made opposition parties support the striking RTC employees, he contended.

clippings as evidence of the attacks. The Governor informed us that she would take up the matter with Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao," Ashvatthama Reddy maintained.

He alleged that employees were committing suicides because of the government's attitude. The CM had promised to look into the issues being faced by RTC employees during his election campaign at



I appeal to RTC not to attempt suicide, work out your problems

— N. Chandrababu Naidu
TD chief

BRIEF

Auto rams into bus, two killed

Hyderabad: Two persons died and 17 others received injuries when an overloaded autorickshaw heading towards Sangareddy rammmed into an RTC bus on Monday evening. The police found that the bus was driven by a temporary driver and the autorickshaw was carrying more passengers than permitted. According to a Sangareddy (Rural) police official, 18 persons belonging to Choutkur had gone to Gollapally to attend the final rites of a relative who died on Sunday. While returning, the persons had boarded an autorickshaw.

BJP leaders meet conductor's family

Hyderabad: A team of BJP leaders went to the house of TSRTC bus conductor B. Surender Goud who committed suicide on Sunday because his housing loan EMI had bounced. Speaking to mediapersons, BJP leader A.P. Jithender Reddy called TRS Raja Sabha MP K. Keshava Rao's letter calling RTC unions for talks a gimmick. "I want to ask Keshava Rao who is addressing in his letter the employees or CM who has left the people to die," he asked.

CMO FILES PLAINT OVER FAKE AUDIO CLIP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Chief Minister's Office on Monday said it has lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad Police Commissioner to investigate a fake audio clip purportedly containing a conversation between an individual and a staffer at the CMO.

In a press release, the CMO said the fake audio clip has been doing rounds on social media platforms. It has also been used as a news clip by some television channels while a section of the print media too has reported it.

The fake news is related to someone calling up the helpline of Telangana CM's office and staff there expressing opinions. However, it is a fake audio that claims it is of the CM office staff. The CMO registered a complaint with the City Police Commissioner seeking that circulation of the fake news be stopped and action taken against the culprits.

Police have booked a case and investigation is underway.

Women conductors emotional plea to CM

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

"Though a father is angry at times, he does not harm his children. We hope that is how Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will be with us," remarked women conductors of TSRTC at one of the condolence meetings organised at respective depots throughout the state on Monday for 'Martyr' Srinivas Reddy.

The conductors contend that they are fighting for the greater good. "KCR should

realise that we are also the people of Telangana who fought day and night for the statehood," they remarked. Though several of them are going through an emotional roller coaster, many of them have so far stood strong and are continuing to support the strike. Several drivers belonging to cantonment, picket, and Hyderabad depots attended the condolence meeting held at the Jubilee Bus Stand for the RTC driver who succumbed to his burns. One of the drivers asked, "If we lose

our jobs in this middle and old age, who is going to recruit us?" Another driver, who also preferred anonymity, said, "We have loans to repay. Our house owners too will throw us on the road if we fail to pay the rent."

Employees maintain that their fight is for providing better services and seeking proper working conditions. No new recruitment of employees has taken place and the same old buses are being operated, though they need to be replaced at least for the welfare of public.

Conductor's bid to end life

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

An RTC conductor, Mr G. Sandeep, 42, attempted suicide on Monday by slashing his forearm with a blade during a dharna by the striking staff at HCU depot where he is posted.

The other strikers noticed Mr Sandeep and immediately rushed him to a hospital at Kondapur for treatment. His condition is stated to be stable. The suicide attempt comes a day after two RTC staffers, D. Srinivas Reddy and B. Surender Goud, took their own lives.

Gachibowli inspector Srinivas said that at around 2 pm, when the RTC employees were

stageing a protest in front of the HCU depot, Mr Sandeep took out a blade from his pockets and cut his left forearm multiples times. A case has been registered for attempting the suicide at Gachibowli police station, said the inspector. A video circulated on social media shows Sandeep purporting to say: "I did not die during my suicide attempt. If I die, the government has to take responsibility."

COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST CM

Karimnagar, Oct. 14: BJP leader and former Choppadandi legislator Bodiga Shoba and party leaders lodged a complaint against Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and three ministers at the One Town police station here, alleging that they were responsible for the death of RTC employees on Sunday. Ms Shoba named ministers Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Puvvada Ajay Kumar and Gangula Kamalakar in the complaint along with Mr Rao. Ms Shoba alleged that instead of taking measures to resolve the issues, they were making irresponsible statements.

Hunt on to nab rapist father

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Shabad police are on the hunt of a man, who went absconding from his house in Munugur village allegedly raping his 14-year-old daughter on Saturday night.

Following a complaint from the girl's mother, the police registered a case against her father and are searching for him.

The 45-year-old accused, a labourer has been living along with his wife and 14-year-old daughter at Munugur village in Shabad mandal under Cyberabad police commissionerate limits.

On Saturday night, he

THE POLICE has registered a case against the accused father on the charges of rape and also under relevant sections of the Pocco Act

allegedly raped his daughter, a Class VIII student, when her mother was away on work.

When the girl's mother returned, she saw her daughter crying and enquired to only find about the horrifying act of her husband, who went absconding after the offence. The

woman immediately alerted the Shabad police and lodged a complaint with them.

The police have registered a case against the accused on charges of rape and also under relevant sections of the Pocco Act and have taken up the investigation. The girl was further sent for medical examination at a government hospital.

Shabad inspector G Narsalah said: "The victim's mother lodged the complaint alleging rape of her daughter by the husband. Subsequently, a case was registered on Sunday night. The accused is currently on the run and a team of police is on the job to nab him."

SAD DEMISE Dr. MALLIKARJUN RAO Left for heavenly abode on 12-10-2019 in Vancouver, Canada. Inserted by: Mona (Wife), Malavika (Daughter), Brothers-in-law, Sisters-in-law (B/1920/D00113)	SAD DEMISE Vemuri Radhakrishna Murthy Date of demise: 13-10-2019 Inserted by: Dwarkanath Vemuri Ramaa Dorbala Seema Vedula	1st ANNIVERSARY I will dwell in the House of the Lord. Psalms 23:6 Mr. YENDLURI GEORGE WILLINGTON DOB: 23-03-1942 DOD: 15-10-2019 We miss you a lot and remember you every passing day. Without you our hearts forever. Yours ever loving. Wife: Y. Shantha Kumari, Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law and Grand Children. Mobile: 9849478503 (S/1920/D01041)
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. Phil 1:21 Mrs. M. MARY DEVASAHAYAM W/o Late Mr. M. Devasahayam (Retd. Head Mistress, St. George's Boys Grammar School, Abids) DOB: 18-07-1933 DOD: 15-10-2018 Fondly Remembered by: Dr. M. Nancy Serena (Daughter), Joanna Christine (Grand Daughter) (B/1920/D00115)	BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE "those who are righteous will be long remembered." Psalm 112:6 T.Y. PRABHAKAR RAO Dy. Manager (Personnel Dept.) BHEL DOB: 15-10-1942 DOD: 18-11-2017 We miss you Papa Inserted by: Wife: T. KATHLENA PRABHAKAR Son: T. AVINASH & FAMILY Daughter: M. SUNEETA PRIYA & FAMILY	2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY JAYESH R. MEHTA DOB: 04.06.1969 DOD: 15.10.2017 Inserted by: MUKESH & Co. Father: Rammikl H. Mehta (Late) Mother: Aruna R. Mehta Brother: Nainesh R. Mehta Sister-in-law: Chaula N. Mehta Sister: Damini Mehta & Jeet N. Mehta, Pinali N. Mehta Davai Mehta and Mehta Family 9849115354, 9849312060

IN LOVING MEMORY OF L. ANTHONY (Irdianathan) Retired South Central Railway Employee DOB: 23-12-1941 DOD: 13-10-2019 Funeral Mass at St. Anthony's Old Chapel, Modis Compound, Mettuguda (Lane beside Saboo Hyundai Showroom) Timings: 11.00 a.m. Date: 15-10-2019. Followed by Burial at Mettuguda Cemetery. Mourning by: Family, Friends, Near & Dear Ones Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; They find rest as they lie in death. Isaiah 57:23. Ph #7032689153, 7981716744. (A/1920/D00063)	1st ANNIVERSARY My soul finds rest in God alone Psalms 62:1 Mr. Y.G. WILLINGTON DOB: 23-03-1942 DOD: 15-10-2018 Not a day goes by without you in our thoughts We Miss You A Lot Mrs. & Mr. Y. V. Vijaya Kumar and Family Mobile: 9849478503 (S/1920/D01039)	BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE PRIYA INDRU MANGHANI D/o Late Shankardas Mangani DOB: 15-10-1948 DOD: 17-05-2015 Happy Birthday in Heaven Indru Bhojmal Manghani (Husband), Dinesh Indru (Son), Rita Dinesh (Daughter-in-law) & Maghanni Sons & Family (S/1920/D01044)
FOREVER LOVED AND DEEPLY MISSED Dr. BULA MIRIAM PRIYADARSHINI W/o K.S. Moses Inserted by: Grand Sons: Joshua (9032175104) Ian (9908312256) (S/1920/D01038)	IN LOVING MEMORY OF L. ANTHONY (Irdianathan) DOB: 23-12-1941 DOD: 13-10-2019 Mourning by: Family, Friends, Grandchildren Near and Dear Ones Phone: 7032689153, 7981716744 (A/1920/D00065)	1st Death Anniversary I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER - Psalm 23:6 IN LOVING MEMORY OF Smt A. ELIZABETH RLY. School Retd Teacher DOB: 17-09-1942 DOD: 15-10-2018 "Though you left us a year ago, Your memories remain fresh in our hearts" Inserted by: Shri K. Nageshwara Rao (Husband), Children & Grand Children.

Kidnapped 2-yr-old girl rescued

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

TIMELINE OF THE ABDUCTION

The Secunderabad railway police on Monday reunited a two-and-a-half-year-old girl with her parents just hours after she was abducted from the station.

D. Swarnalatha was abducted by an unidentified person when she and her family were sleeping on the foot overbridge on Platform 10 at the Secunderabad station past midnight on Monday. Her father D. Suresh, along with his two children, D. Prabhas, five, and Swarnalatha, came to the station to board a train to Nellore, his native place, on Sunday evening. His wife had died two months ago. A police officer said Mr Suresh was inebriated at the time of the abduction.

Though there were five trains to Nellore between 5 pm and 11 pm, the father didn't board any of them.

12.51 am: Suspect seen climbing to foot overbridge of Platform 10 VIP gate.

1 am: Suspect walks on foot overbridge with a child.

1.02: Suspect seen on foot overbridge on Platform 1.

1.03: Suspect leaves platform through exit gate 5, the cargo parcel exit.

4 pm: Secunderabad railway police reunites girl with parents.

The official said he did not have money to buy a ticket and may have been scared of getting caught.

The family went to sleep on the foot overbridge near the lift at Platform 10. When he woke up, Swarnalatha was missing. He searched the station premises and then



The culprit

"The suspect was seen roaming the station premises holding the child on his shoulders," he said. The search then shifted to the 15 CCTV cameras of the Market police. The kidnapper was spotted going towards an Irani hotel opposite the station. CCTV cameras of the Gopalapuram police showed that he went towards Monda market. The Market police was alerted, and they began a search for the girl. At about the same time, onlookers noticed a girl who was unattended and was crying at Bandimet and called the police through Dial 100. A patrol team of the Market police reached the spot, took custody of the child and admitted her to the shelter. Mr Reddy said the police took Mr Suresh to the child shelter where the family was reunited. The police is now looking for the man who launched a manhunt on the suspect.

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY GEORGE PHILLIPS DOB: April 4, 1947 Those who love don't go away. They walk beside us everyday, unseen unheard But always near; Still loved still missed and very dear. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. (Psalm 112:5) They find rest as they lie in death. Isaiah 57:23. Inserted by: Wife Stella Phillips and Family Members (A/1920/D00062)	1st ANNIVERSARY The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance Psalms 112:6 Mr. Y.G. WILLINGTON DOB: 23-03-1942 DOD: 15-10-2018 We still remember your values and comfort words towards everyone We Miss You. Daughter: Y.V. Vijaya Kumari Grand Son: Dinakar Williams Grand Daughter: Anne (S/1920/D01040)	2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY DEEPAK SHAH DOB: 08/12/1951 - DOD: 15/10/2017 You guide us 'Through our worries and Help us 'Through each day. Always by our side you never went away. From: FAMILY MEMBERS & Staff Members of DEEPAK PACKERS & MOVERS, Hyderabad.	REMEMBRANCE CHILAM SREERAM BHOPAL (Hyderabad Civil Service-IAS) 25-12-1920 TO 15-10-2013 Samsathan Sirinapalli. Daughter: P. Anuradha Reddy
IN LOVING MEMORY OF L. ANTHONY (Irdianathan) Retired South Central Railway Employee DOB: 23-12-1941 DOD: 13-10-2019 Funeral Mass at St. Anthony's Old Chapel, Modis Compound, Mettuguda (Lane beside Saboo Hyundai Showroom) Timings: 11.00 a.m. Date: 15-10-2019. Followed by Burial at Mettuguda Cemetery. Mourning by: Family, Friends, Near & Dear Ones Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; They find rest as they lie in death. Isaiah 57:23. Ph #7032689153, 7981716744. (A/1920/D00064)	13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY IN FOND AND EVER LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER G. VIJAYALAKSHMI D.O.D: 15-10-2006 Freedom Fighter "You were our strength, inspiration and pride, though you have left us, your memories are still fresh in our hearts." DAUGHTERS: Dr. Indira Sen, Dr. K. Kusuma, Late. Dr. Bharati, Dr. Rama Lakshmi, Dr. Meera Sons-in-Law, Grand Children & Great Grand Children	6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY Mr. AJEET SAXENA DOD: 15-10-2013 You've brought immense joy in our lives. We will always cherish every moment we've spent together. Fond Remembrance: Family Members Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Ph: 040-23748262	IN LOVING MEMORY Mr. PAVAN KUMAR DOB: 31-03-1980 DOD: 15-10-2014 In Ever Loving Memory Of Our Brother M. Karteek & Family Ph: 8297663354



Destination Shamirpet



Tourism minister V. Srinivas Goud says Shamirpet lake can be an international tourist spot with government and private partnership



Government has curbed malpractice in PDS with the help of technology

— Akun Sabharwal Civil supplies commissioner

CPI WITHDRAWS SUPPORT TO TRS IN BYELECTION

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

The Telangana state unit of the Communist Party of India has withdrawn support to the TRS for the Huzurnagar byelection in the backdrop of the RTC staff strike.

CPI state secretary Chada Venkata Reddy in a statement said that in the changed political circumstances the party had taken a decision to support the ruling party.

However, the party did not support who it was going to support in the Huzurnagar byelection that is a week away, on October 21.

He said the state government had provoked the workers by dismissing 48,000 of them from their jobs without holding discussions with the RTC unions.

BJP: KCR USING MEGHA FUNDS FOR BYPOLL

AVINASH PUJARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 13

The state BJP is deputing senior leaders to the Huzurnagar bypoll campaign to support and supervise the local cadre and promote Prime Minister Narendra Modi's abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and banning triple talaq as well as attack the TRS government over the ongoing TSRTC strike.

BJP leader Perala Shekhar Rao alleged that the TRS was using funds of business tycoon P.V. Krishna Reddy and Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL), known to be close to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and who was raided by the income-tax department.

Mr Shekhar Rao said, "The people don't trust KCR as he has failed to justify himself as Chief Minister. KCR gave all big projects to Megha Krishna Reddy and is now using his money in the Huzurnagar byelection."

He wondered how people would vote for TRS when its chief was fetching money from the common man's pocket and benefiting his business-man friends.

Asked what issues the BJP was raising against the TRS, Mr Shekhar Rao replied, "There is no need of raising the issue as people are already watching KCR's attitude. He is ignoring RTC employees, the state economy is in crisis and government schemes are not reaching the poor due to short of funds."

Top leaders flock to Huzurnagar for campaign

RTC stir is Cong bypoll weapon

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Telangana Congress leaders are using the RTC staff strike as their main weapon in the campaign for the Huzurnagar byelection.

He alleged that a part of the RTC's assets in Warangal had been given to a TRS MP. He said Mr Rao should learn from AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan

CONGRESS MPS A. Revanth Reddy and Komatireddy Venkata Reddy alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao was eyeing the RTC's valuable properties across the state.

Reddy, who had moved to benefit the APSRTC. Mr Venkata Reddy condemned the allegations of the TRS that the Opposition parties were running a propaganda campaign

against the RTC. He condemned the comments of TNGOs union leaders questioning the leaders of the RTC strike for its timing. Party MP A. Revanth Reddy alleged that Mr Rao was trying to "loot" the RTC's properties. He said that the Chief Minister had told the RTC staff that they would lose their jobs if they stayed away from work for two days. Mr Rao himself was not going to the Secretariat for years, he pointed out.

Puvvada Ajay Kumar that if the RTC strike was not resolved they would lay siege his residence. He asked Mr Ajay Kumar to discuss the RTC's demands with Mr Rao. AICC secretary and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao demanded that Mr Rao resolve the strike immediately. He said that even after the suicide of two RTC workers, the government had not taken steps to end the strike. He said that it was shameful on the part of ministers to allege that RTC workers had sold out to the Opposition parties.

HUZURNAGAR BYPOLL

KCR leadership will see TRS sweep: Saidi

SRIRAM KARRI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, known for his acumen in picking virtually unknown political leaders and turning them into strong prospects, selected a young foreign-born face to contest in Huzurnagar in the December Assembly elections — Saiidi Reddy. The young leader in his early forties, a Canadian citizen who forsook his flourishing businesses to return to his home district of Suryapet, Mr Saiidi Reddy took on a mighty opponent, Telangana State Congress president and incumbent MLA N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, who was also projected as the Chief Ministerial candidate had the People's Front won.

Despite losing the polls narrowly, Mr Saiidi Reddy stayed in the constituency, mingling with the people and trying to solve their problems, with no election in sight for a period of five years. But he got another chance when Mr Uttam Kumar Reddy had to vacate Huzurnagar to retain his Lok Sabha seat, and that necessitated a byelection.

What marks his meteoric rise in the TRS is his dedicated work in reaching out and connecting with the people, trying to understand local problems and being a sincere person in the choppy waters of politics.

On his election trail, along with district minister in-charge, G. Jagadish Reddy, and Nalgonda Parliamentary constituency in-charge Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Mr Saiidi Reddy spoke to Deccan Chronicle about his prospects, promises, challenges and hopes for the crucial byelection.

How do you sense the mood in the constituency? What does the byelection, coming within a year, mean to the peo-



THERE IS no scope for the TD or the BJP here, but they are tacitly supporting the Congress because they know we will win by a huge margin.

SAIDI REDDY TRS candidate

ple and what do they want?

People want development, and, because they have not seen any development during the repeated tenures of Uttam Kumar Reddy, they want change. The people are giving me a great and very positive response. The talk around here is give Saiidi a chance; he is young, devoted, son of the soil.

Everybody talks of development as an abstract. What does it mean concretely in your area — say the top three issues?

Three top issues would be skills and jobs for youth, water and welfare schemes. We have a huge waterfront, spanning the Musi river and the Krishna river. We will ensure that every field and farmer gets water. Drinking water will come to every household because of KCR garu's leadership. I will work to set up a world-class skill development centre. The love of people for our party continues because of our welfare schemes.

Are you concerned that issues like the RTC strike could derail your campaign — people are angry with the government, the party and the Chief Minister — and use this byelection to send a strong message?

Firstly, this is a byelection where local factors are alone being considered by the people. The anti-incumbency against Uttam Kumar Reddy has peaked. Last time, he won narrowly saying he could become the Chief Minister. Now, people want a change, development. They want a ruling party member to represent them.

Secondly, on the RTC strike, people know that everything that our leader KCR does is for the benefit of the people. He will save the RTC, make it stronger and fulfil all promises, leading to such happiness amongst people that he will lead us to a win in the next elections also.

How will a multi-cornered election, where the BJP and the TD are also contesting, impact your chances?

Indians would be fascinated to know that such is the political appeal and strength of KCR garu, that to fight the TRS, even the Congress and the BJP have come together. There is no scope for the TD or the BJP here, but they are tacitly supporting the Congress because they know we will win by a huge margin.

KCR said the last time had he given you the ticket earlier, you might have won. Is it true that people voted for Mr Uttam Kumar Reddy in the Lok Sabha polls to give you another chance?

I was working for the people even after losing, when no byelection was in sight. The Lok Sabha elections are over. My work will show and people will talk through their vote on October 21.

FROM PAGE 1

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is planning to privatise the TSRTC by awarding tenders on the sly to 'Megha' Venkata Krishna Reddy," said Congress working president and Malkajgiri MP A. Revanth Reddy. Mr Revanth Reddy further alleged, "The Chief Minister wants to take the subsidy money of ₹2,100 crore which would accrue because of the purchase of 2,100 buses from the company, Electra. He wants to give away buses running in profitable routes to Megha Krishna Reddy's company and run RTC buses in routes running in losses."

Reacting to the issue, Mr Banti Sanjay Kumar, MP, Karimnagar, said, "The Chief Minister

wants to hand over all RTC and government properties to a corporate. Procurement of e-buses is part of the plan to completely privatise the RTC. The BJP would fight against KCR's plan of handing over the RTC to private companies and make over 50,000 employees suffer. We will not allow that to happen at any cost."

"We demand a white paper from the TRS government on the decision taken in regards to the RTC issue. The public has faith in the government. The apprehensions of the RTC employees about the plans to privatise their corporation has been exposed beyond doubt with the news published in DC on Monday," said Mr L. Ramana, president, Telangana TD. Prof. M. Kodandaram,

president, Telangana Jana Samiti, said that the government does not want the RTC to get subsidy on e-buses and conspired to allocate buses through Megha Krishna Reddy. "The news published in DC proves that the allegations of RTC employees. The plans of the government were not to strengthen the RTC but to help private companies," Prof. Kodandaram said.

When contacted to comment about the issue, a senior leader of the TRS, holding a high position currently, on condition of anonymity, said that "they do not know the happenings in the government on the issue," adding, "we would get roasted if our leadership learnt we spoke in this issue. 'Men in power' know what is better than us in any case."

CPI, BJP BACK JOURNALISTS' PROTEST SEEKING ENTRY INTO BRKR BHAVAN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 14

Journalist unions staged a dharna at the Hyderabad collectorate in Abids, demanding withdrawal of the bar on the entry of mediapersons into BRKR Bhavan, the temporary secretariat.

Joining the protest, CPI secretary K. Narayana said called it suppression of the freedom of the

press. BJP chief spokesperson K. Krishna Saagar Rao extended support to the stir and said, "journalists' voice cannot be suppressed by Razakar Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao." BJP leader N.V.S.S. Prabhakar said the Chief Minister was playing with fire by killing the freedom of expression of journalists and neglecting TRSTC employees.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030, Telangana State, India

Walk-in-Interview for temporary post of Junior Research Fellow as detailed below: JRF under DST-SSTP Project (one) Date of walk-in-interview : 22.10.2019

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FORM C NOTIFICATION (Under Section-11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given) (See Rule 6/12) GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT. Table with columns: Sl. No., Survey No., Type of Land, Area, Name & Address of person interested, Boundaries, Trees, Structures.





Laureate's delight

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen says he is very very happy and delighted over Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee jointly winning the Nobel in Economics

Award is a surprise, says Abhijit

The Nobel laureate says he went back to sleep after hearing news about Nobel Prize

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, OCT. 14

Mumbai-born economist Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee can not believe he has won the Nobel Prize. He was so surprised with the Nobel Committee's announcement of his name among the list of three winners including his wife Esther Dufló on Monday that he first went to enjoy a sleep for over half an hour.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor is also the second Bengali after Prof Amartya Sen to win Nobel in economics.

According to him, he never imagined of getting Nobel Prize in economics. If at all he was to get it, it would have taken a decade because he feels there were more talented and senior scholars than him who were yet to be awarded.

Speaking to a Bengali TV channel from the US he said, "When I first heard the news, my first reaction was a thought that they may ask me to go to some places on certain dates."

Born to a family of economists, Prof Banerjee, who studied at South Point High School and then graduated from the Presidency College, elaborated, "So I felt Oh, I have to change so many tickets. My second reaction was to sleep a bit because many calls would start coming soon. So after getting the news on phone, I quickly went to sleep which lasted for around 40 minutes before all the calls started coming."

He quipped, "After that I did not get any chance however. I am yet to have a word with my mother. Some friends called me up though. But the moment I am thinking to call up my mother, another call is coming."

On the Nobel Prize to him for "experimental approach to alleviating global poverty" Prof Banerjee, however, made a candid confession on his selection.

He added, "I never imagined I would get it. I had rather thought that if I were to get it, it would have happened ten years later after many more highly talented people who are yet to get it. They are not only senior to me but also more successful than me. So in that sense it is indeed an utter surprise to me." Sharing his research work Prof Banerjee recalled, "I have been conducting the research since 1995."

He observed, "Esther joined me in late 1990s. For my research work I personally travelled to Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Indonesia, India and China to collect resource materials. I also undertook research in West Bengal many times. West Bengal's history pulls me because it comes to my mind when I think about the questions people ask often."

Prof Banerjee underlined, "Before starting a research work some time is needed to spend for unstructured thoughts on the subjects. In the process I have found that lot of resources come up from my childhood memories of growing up in West Bengal."



Nirmala Banerjee, mother of Abhijit Banerjee, at her residence in Kolkata on Monday.

RAHUL: BANERJEE HELPED CONG ON 'NYAY' SCHEME

New Delhi, Oct. 14: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday congratulated Indian-origin economist and academic Abhijit Banerjee, besides Esther Dufló and Michael Kramer, for receiving the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, while party leader Rahul Gandhi said Banerjee helped the Congress conceptualise its "Nyay" scheme.

Congratulating Banerjee, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said he had helped the party conceptualise its "Nyay" scheme to help remonetise the economy.

"Congratulations to Abhijit Banerjee on winning the Nobel Prize in Economics. Abhijit helped conceptualise Nyay that had the power to destroy poverty and boost the Indian economy. Instead we now have Modinomics, that's destroying the economy and boosting poverty," he said on Twitter.

ARMY OFFICERS TO DISCUSS DRONE THREATS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

The top army commanders are discussing the emerging threats from drones, increasing retirement age of soldiers and any need for reorganisation of Army in Jammu & Kashmir after the state was bifurcated. The Army Commanders' conference is being held in the national capital from October 14 to 19.

The conference, an apex level biannual event, is held in April and October every year. The conference facilitates conceptual level deliberations culminating in important policy decisions.

"The conference will discuss re-organisation of Army in Jammu and Kashmir as after October 31 it will be divided into two Union territories," said sources. Currently, Ladakh comes under the Untied headquarters.

"The commanders will be brainstorming on how Army adjusts its command in the new set-up," said sources.

The Army commanders will discuss the new emerging threat from drones, especially after these were used to attack two major oil plants in Saudi Arabia last month destroying nearly 50 per cent of the country's global supply of crude.

The agenda of the conference also includes discussing Human Resource related issues including increasing the retirement age of the soldiers, especially non-combatants.

Currently, soldiers retire at 36-37 years of age after 19 years of service. The conference will discuss whether the retirement age could be enhanced by a few more years to better utilise the services of soldiers.

The modernisation of army, Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) and use of artificial intelligence are other topics to be taken up for discussion.

TERRORISTS KILL TRUCK DRIVER IN J&K

Srinagar, Oct. 14: Two terrorists, including a suspected Pakistani national, shot dead the driver of a Rajasthan truck and assaulted an orchard owner in Shopian district on Monday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Sharief Khan, they said, adding that the terrorists carried out the attack in Shirmal village in desperation as fruit transportation has picked up in the Valley. —PTI



Congratulations to Abhijit Banerjee on being conferred the Economics Nobel

— Narendra Modi Prime Minister

PAK MAY BE ISOLATED IN FATF MEET

Paris, Oct. 14: Pakistan is on the verge of strong action by the international terror financing watchdog FATF and the country may be put in the 'Dark Grey' list, the last warning to improve.

Officials attending the ongoing plenary of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) here said as per indications, Pakistan will be isolated by all members for not doing enough. Pakistan is on the verge of strong action by FATF, given its inadequate performance, whereby it managed to pass in only six of 27 items, an official privy to the development said.

The FATF will finalise its decision on Pakistan on October 18.

According to FATF rules there is one essential stage between 'Grey' and 'Black' lists, referred to as 'Dark Grey'. 'Dark Grey' means issuance of a strong warning, so that the country concerned gets one last chance to improve, another official said.

TOXIC FUMES HARM LOCALS IN SALEM

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC SALEM, OCT. 14

At least ten persons including eight women have been admitted as in-patients at the Mohan Kumaramangalam government hospital in Salem late on Sunday night after they complained of symptoms like giddiness, nausea, eye irritation and difficulty in breathing in the wake of suspected noxious smoke emanating from a chemical plant in Mettur near here.

Police said on Monday that the affected persons were rushed by an ambulance to the Salem hospital last night, even as several others were treated as outpatients and discharged.

In recent weeks, people from nearby villages of Mettur, Irrattai Puliyamaram and Panangadu, complaining of 'noxious fumes' allegedly emanating from a unit making hydrogen peroxide in the plant, had complained to the Salem district authorities to impress upon the company to stop production until the issue was sorted out. For some time, the unit was shut down but commenced production again on Sunday, sources said.

HAL WORKERS STRIKE WORK NATIONWIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, OCT. 14

Employees of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) launched an indefinite strike in units across the country on Monday, but the management of the state-owned aerospace and defence company described the strike as illegal.

The employees unions of the city-headquartered HAL served notice at all locations of the defence PSU to go on an indefinite strike from October 14 on settlement of wage revision, effective from January 1, 2017.

In a statement released to the media, HAL said "Conciliatory proceedings are on and against the advice of labour authorities who want the unions to arrive at an amicable solution without resorting to agitational means, they have gone on strike," adding that these unions have demonstrated total disregard for the organisation classified as a defence establishment under public utility service.

The statement pointed out that the offer was reasonable, fair and in conformity with the wage agreements finalised by other Defence PSUs.

Indian economy on a shaky ground: Abhijit

Kolkata, Oct. 14: Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, who on Monday won the 2019 Nobel for Economics, said Indian economy is on a shaky ground.

The data currently available do not hold any assurance for the country's economic revival anytime soon, he stated.

"Indian economy is on a shaky ground. After witnessing the present (growth) data, just can't be sure about it (revival of economy in near future)."

"In the last five-six years, at least we could witness some growth, but now that assurance is also gone," Banerjee told a news channel from the US.

The 58-year-old, who bagged the coveted prize jointly with wife Esther Dufló and economist Michael Kremer for his "experimental approach to alleviating global poverty", said he never thought he would get a Nobel so early in his career.

"We have been working on the subject for the last 20 years. We tried offering solutions towards alleviation of poverty," Banerjee said.

Meanwhile, as Kolkata celebrates city boy Abhijit Banerjee's Nobel glory, his classmate and school teacher remember the MIT professor to be introvert and unassuming in school, who showed sparks of brilliance from a tender age.

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, OCT. 14

Nobel Laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee is coming to India this week. He will release a book in New Delhi before visiting his hometown: Kolkata,

Banerjee's classmate and school teacher remember the MIT professor to be introvert and unassuming in school, who showed sparks of brilliance from a tender age.

Banerjee's maths teacher recalled him as an "introvert, unassuming boy"

school, who showed sparks of brilliance from a tender age.

Sharmila Dey, Banerjee's batchmate at South Point School, said she feels extremely proud to have shared the same class room in South Point during 1971-78.

"We were always impressed by the manner in which he used to solve problems in the mathematics class. Beyond academics, he took great interest in sports, especially football," she said.

Banerjee's maths teacher Dipali Sengupta recalled how the "introvert, unassuming boy" in Class 8 finished work in a trice. "He showed sparks of brilliance even at that tender age," she said.

Asked if she was in touch with the Nobel laureate after his school days, the elderly lady replied in the negative. "I hope he still remembers his maths teacher in school," Sengupta added with a smile. —PTI

Banerjee in India this week to release his book

his mother Nirmala Banerjee informed on Monday after the announcement of his success. She said, "I am yet to speak to him. I spoke to him last night. He did not mention anything about

it. (Once we talk) I will tell him: Oh you should have told me about this. I saw the other Nobel Prizes were out. But I did not expect it. So what can I say?"

Ms Banerjee elaborated, "He earlier wrote a book

in which he tried to get economics away from the theoretical part but using theory to understand the world as it is, the way it works, the way poverty is, the way people handle poverty, what should be the policy. His other book

is going to be released this week in Delhi. I do not know its name as yet." Praising her daughter-in-law she noted, "She is a very smart woman and she is very young. It is remarkable for her too."

Supervisor-student, now husband-wife

New Delhi, Oct. 14: Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee who has shared a Nobel prize in economics with his wife Esther Dufló, was also her PhD supervisor at US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Banerjee, who is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the MIT, supervised Dufló's PhD with Joshua Angrist in 1990.

The PhD dissertation focused on effects of a natural experiment from data of an Indonesian school-expansion programme of the 1970s to provide the first conclusive evidence that in a developing country, more education resulted in higher wages.

French-American Dufló, is also the youngest person and second woman to



Esther Dufló (left) and Abhijit Banerjee speak during a news conference at MIT in Cambridge on Monday. — AP

be awarded the Nobel prize in economics. The couple have shared the Nobel prize with Harvard University professor Michael Kremer for "introducing new approach to obtaining

reliable answers about the best ways to fight global poverty".

Dufló and Banerjee have published dozens of research papers, together and with other co-authors.

They have also co-written another book before titled *Poor Economics* which documented their decades of experience in conducting randomised control trials to alleviate poverty.

Dufló and Banerjee are the sixth and seventh people to win the award while serving as MIT faculty members, following Paul Samuelson (1970), Franco Modigliani (1985), Robert Solow (1987), Peter Diamond (2010), and Bengt Holmstrom (2016).

Banerjee was earlier married to Arundhati Tuli

Banerjee, a lecturer of literature at MIT.

A JNU and Presidency College alumni, Banerjee is a past president of the Bureau for the Research in the Economic Analysis of Development, a Research Associate of the NBER, a CEPR research fellow, International Research Fellow of the Kiel Institute, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometric Society, and has been a Guggenheim Fellow and an Alfred P Sloan Fellow and a winner of the Infosys prize.

Dufló is the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at the MIT.

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AIR FORCE ACADEMY, HYDERABAD-43 TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited to run Clobber Shop, Milk Parlour, Soft Drink Shop for one year at AIR FORCE ACADEMY, DUNDIGAL, HYDERABAD-43. Tender forms are available from 16 Oct 19 to 26 Oct 19 between 0900h to 1200h from SI office. AFA on payment of Rs. 300/- each. Last date for submission is 26 Oct 19 by 1300 hrs. For details contact: 040-23307430/33 Ex: 7224, 7235. Sd/- (K. Srinivasa Rao) Wg. Offr OIC SI Fund (CA- 3043)

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TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF CARS ON MONTHLY BASIS

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Toll treasure

Union minister Nitin Gadkari says India's toll revenue is likely to rise to ₹1 lakh crore annually in the next five years



Farmers burning stubble in fields will be deprived of government facilities

— Nitish Kumar
Bihar Chief Minister

BRIEF

12 die in cylinder explosion in Mau

Mau (UP): At least 12 people died and six others were injured when a cylinder exploded in a two-storey house in Walidpur area here on Monday, officials said. The house collapsed following the explosion. Some nearby houses were also damaged in the incident. Food was being cooked in the house when the explosion took place. Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said debris is being removed from the spot of the blast. JCB and gas cutters have been pressed into action to remove the debris.

CBI books 7 for child porn

New Delhi: The CBI has booked seven persons for allegedly being part of international WhatsApp groups in which child porn images were being shared. The case was registered after a preliminary inquiry on the basis of an a note verbale (diplomatic communication) received from Embassy of Germany in the International Police Cooperation Cell of the CBI on January 31, 2019. Germany had informed about Sasche Treppke, who was sentenced to five years in prison in that country for involvement in sexual abuse of children and distributing child pornography. It emerged during the investigation that he was part of 29 WhatsApp groups where child porn was being shared.

Relief for cops who got life term

New Delhi: Five police personnel, undergoing life sentence for offences committed during militancy in Punjab, will be released from jails after the Centre approved a proposal of the state government in this effect, officials said. The decision came a fortnight after the Union home ministry decided to release eight Sikh prisoners, lodged in different jails in the country for committing crimes during the militancy in Punjab. "The government of India has accepted the request of the government of Punjab for grant of special remission and release of five Punjab Police personnel undergoing sentence in different jails in Punjab for offences committed during militancy period in Punjab," a home ministry official said.



Pranjal Patil

PRANJAL MAKES HISTORY AS IAS OFFICER

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct. 14: "Never be defeated, Never give up," said Pranjal Patil, the country's first visually challenged woman IAS officer, as she assumed charge as the Sub Collector of Thiruvananthapuram here on Monday. "We should never be defeated and we should never give up because with our efforts all of us will get that one breakthrough which we want," the 30-year old Kerala cadre officer told mediapersons here. Patil, who hails from Ulhasnagar in Maharashtra, had lost her vision when she was just six years old. She cracked the UPSC examination in 2016 and secured 773rd rank and improved her ranking to 124 the next year. Patil was appointed Ernakulam assistant collector during her training period.



Preparations under way at Ram ki Paidi for Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Monday.

Sunni Wakf Board: Why are we only questioned?

Dhavan says no questions were put to the Hindu side

PHMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

The Sunni Wakf Board on Monday asked why they alone were being asked questions in the course of their submission to the Supreme Court's constitution bench, while such inquiry was missing when arguments on behalf of the idol of Ram Lalla were being advanced.

Sunni Wakf Board said this to the five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi as there were a number of questions from the bench and senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan laboured to explain to the court that all through, ever since 1886 till 1989, Hindus had a "very limited" right to offer prayers at Ram Chabutra and Sita-Ki-Rasoi. And it was only in 1989 that a claim to the title of the disputed site was made by the Hindu side. "One thing I like the most about the hearings is that not one question was put to the other side (Hindu side). All the questions were directed at us (Muslim side)," Mr

■ Prohibitory orders under section 144 have been clamped in Ayodhya as the Supreme Court's revised deadline for wrapping up the proceedings in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case approaches.

■ The prohibitory orders will continue till December 10. Section 144 prohibits assembly of four or more people and empowers the police to book people for rioting.

Dhavan said he tried to respond to each of the questions that were largely coming from Justice S.A. Bobde, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice S. Abdul Nazeer. Responding to a question from the bench as he was making submission on the prescriptive rights of the Hindus to offer prayers at Ram Chabutra and Sita-Ki-Rasoi, Mr Dhavan suddenly said, "All questions are directed at us, never to them (Hindu side)... Have they ever been asked for their prescriptive rights?" As Mr Dhavan said this, senior counsel representing the Hindus raised an objection. The five-judge constitution bench is hearing a

batch of cross petitions challenging the 2010 Allahabad high court judgement on the title suit. The high court had divided the disputed site in three parts — giving two to idol of Ram Lalla and Nirmohi Akhara and one part to Muslims. Hammering the point that Hindus only had the right to offer worship at Ram Chabutra and, till 1987, they never claimed the title of the disputed site, Sunni Wakf Board told the court that the first Hindu claim to the disputed site was rejected way back in 1886 by the then commissioner's court which granted them a "very limited right" to offer prayers at Ram

Chabutra. Telling the Constitution bench that all through Hindus have been seeking the right to offer prayers — which they were performing at Ram Chabutra — and it was only in 1989, when Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas projected to construct a new temple devoted to Lord Rama, that a suit was filed on behalf of idol of Ram Lalla, staking claim to the title of the dispute site.

Monday was the 38th day of the hearing that commenced on August 6, after attempts to find an amicable solution to the dispute through mediation did not produce any result. Advancing arguments on their claim to the title of the disputed site, which Sunni Wakf Board said was in their continued possession since 1528 when Babri Mosque was constructed, senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan relied on the documents showing that they were getting grants from the state, both during Mughal period and later by the British administration, for the upkeep of the mosque.

DM SUSPENDED FOR COW SHELTER NEGLIGENCE

Lucknow, Oct. 14: The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday suspended the Maharajganj district magistrate and five other officials for fudging figures and "negligence" at a state-run cattle shelter, a senior official said.

Announcing the suspension — a rare move against an IAS officer — at a hurriedly called press conference, chief secretary R.K. Tiwari said there were "continuous complaints of negligence" in the upkeep of stray cows in Madhvaliya cow shelter in Nichlaur tehsil of Maharajganj district. "The government constituted a committee under the chairmanship of additional commissioner (Administrative), Gorakhpur Division. The committee found several anomalies in the number of cattle during probe," the UP chief secretary said. "Official documents showed the number of cattle as 2,500, but during physical verification only 954 cattle were found. Besides, it was also found that the officials had given 328 acres out of total 500 acres of land of the cow shelter to farmers, firms and other individuals in an illegal manner," he added. It was found that in the name of fodder and maintenance of cattle, the number of cattle was deliberately increased on papers to misuse government funds, he said. — PTI

NSCN (I-M), NNPGs differ over separate flag demand

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, OCT. 14

After failing to get any positive assurance on separate flag and constitution for Nagaland during the talks with the interlocutor of Naga talks R N Ravi, the NSCN (I-M) on Monday provoked Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) accusing them of acting as stumbling block in clinching a favourable deal.

In what is said to be a calculated move, the NSCN (I-M) in a statement accused that NNPGs leaders, holding talks with government of India, are talking in different voices. Referring the statement of NNPGs leader Alezo Venuh to a television channel, the NSCN (I-M) said that he, on the issue of Naga constitution, stated — "unless Nagaland is declared as a nation, how can you have a constitution?" Arguing that NNPGs was working against the interest of Naga people, the NSCN (I-M) claimed that NNPGs convener Kitovi rubbished the existence of Naga constitution when he said the Naga constitution could be drafted after signing the agreement for Naga solution. The NSCN (I-M) said, "However, to the media, NNPG leaders stated that flag and constitution were integral part of the negotiations. Thus, this group presented itself as a confused bunch of people, disconnecting themselves from Naga political history as a nation." NSCN (I-M) leader Th. Muivah who had a meeting with the interlocutor Ravi on Thursday in New Delhi remained inconclusive with NSCN (I-M) insisting on their demands for separate Naga national flag and constitution.

Pak violates ceasefire; Army jawan killed in Pak firing

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 14

Pakistan border guards resorted to unprovoked firing from small arms to target Indian forward posts and civilian areas along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Monday. However, there were no immediate reports of casualties, officials said in Jammu.

They said that the Pakistan Rangers fired from small arms to target the Border Outposts (BoPs) and villages in Chadwal belt of Hiranagar sector of Kathua. The Border Security Forces manning these BoPs responded to the ceasefire violation from across the border "strongly and befittingly", using the same calibre weapons, the officials said. They added that the exchange of fire continued for some time. On Sunday, an Army jawan was killed in Pakistani troops firing on the Indian posts in Uri sector of the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla district. The Army had said that the Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire understanding by resorting to unprovoked firing on Indian posts in Uri sector and that the Indian Army gave a befitting reply to Pakistani firing.



A woman talking to her relatives in Srinagar on Monday as mobile phone services on post-paid connections were restored in Kashmir.

In a similar clash on October 11, an Army jawan was injured when Pakistani troops resorted to 'unprovoked' firing and shelling along the LoC in Rajouri district. He died in a military hospital in Udhampur the same evening. Pakistan had a day earlier (October 10) said that one of its Army soldiers was killed in the Indian firing along the de facto border. Army officials said that on October 3, the Pakistan Army had targeted the Indian forward positions and civilian areas along the LoC and the IB in Poonch and Kathua districts and also resorted to heavy weaponry firing and mortar shelling in LoC's Shahpur and Goriya areas. Meanwhile, the police on Monday said that 'guides' working for militants were arrested by the security forces along with arms and ammunition in Valley's central district of Ganderbal at the weekend. They said that the security forces on a tip off while searching woods in Naranag area of Ganderbal arrested the duo and also recovered two AK rifles with four magazines and four grenades. The duo belonged to frontier district of Rajouri and was working for a group of five militants who had sneaked into Kashmir Valley from across the LoC last month, the police sources said. The Trunkhal area up Naranag had witnessed the longest encounter of the year last month in which two suspected militants were killed.

PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE IMPORTANT: J&K GOVERNOR

From Page 1

Mushtaq Ahmed, editor of a local weekly, said that restoration of post-paid mobile service "will not make a big difference."

"We, the media persons, have suffered enormously in the absence of mobile and internet service. So have tourists, traders, students and medical fraternity. They should have restored the broadband service. At least, media persons should get it without further delay," he said.

However, Governor Satya Pal Malik once again justified the communication blackout ordered in J&K a night before the state was stripped of its special status under Article 370 and split into two UTs, saying the safety of Kashmiris was more important than mobile service. He reiterated that mobile phone services were being used by militants for their activities and mobilisation.

"People used to make noise that there is no telephone. We stopped telephone services because terrorists were using them for their activities, mobilisation and indoctrination," Mr Malik said while speaking at an official function in frontier district of Kathua. He added, "For us, the life of a Kashmiri is important and not telephone. People were living without telephones earlier also."

'Kashmir not a religious issue'

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT. 14

A group of Sufi clerics from Ajmer which was on a three-day visit of the Valley said on Monday that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has nothing to do with any religion as "Islam is the synonym of peace".

It also said that Kashmir is an integral part of India where Pakistan is hell bent to create trouble. "J&K is an integral part of our motherland India. If any part of it suffers, the pain is felt by entire motherland," said Syed Naseruddin Chishty, founder and chairman of Janashin Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) of Ajmer Dargah.

Chishty who was heading a 15-member delegation of the AISSC while speaking to reporters here accused Pakistan of abetting violence and terrorism in the Valley. "Please, don't let the bile spewed from across the borders shatter the dreams of development and prosperity of J&K. Don't let yourself fall prey to the cancerous disease of terrorism, which is being projected in the garb of jihad from across the border," he urged the people of J&K.

Replying to questions, Chishty and other members of the delegation admitted to the difficult situation J&K is passing through for decades but asserted, "Under the sky, every problem has a solution."

■ The Sufi delegation members were at the weekend heckled by people during a visit to Hazratbal shrine and then forced them to beat a retreat to Srinagar's famed shrine.

Chishty said, "All grievances can be solved through dialogue and respect for each other keeping in mind the development and prosperity of the area concerned and of the inhabitants therein, but subject, I repeat, subject, to the national interest of our motherland."

The members of the delegation who faced some tough questions from the mediapersons claimed that their primary object of visiting Srinagar was to assess and evaluate the problems of "our brothers and sisters here". Chishty said, "We would like to act as a bridge between the people of Kashmir and prosperity. Sufis have no political ambitions".

The delegation members were at the weekend heckled by people during a visit to Hazratbal shrine and then forced them to beat a retreat to Srinagar's famed shrine. Following the incident, the delegation deferred their visit to the mausoleum of Kashmir's Sufi saint Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom on the foothills of Hari Parbat or Koh-e-Maraan here.

OLD IS GOLD POTS OF DIFFERENT SIZES AMONG WHOPPING 900 ARTIFACTS UNEARTHED IN TAMIL NADU

Hundreds of artefacts unearthed at Keeladi

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 14

Pots of different sizes, ceramic shells with inscriptions and a semi-precious stone (carnelian) engraved in the shape of a pig and inscribed potsherds were among over 900 artefacts unearthed during the fifth phase excavation in Keeladi village in Sivagangai district. The fifth phase, lasting four months, was completed on Sunday. A major finding was the continuation of brick structures. The TN archaeology department has sought permission from the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology

(CABA) for the sixth phase excavation in cluster villages — Manalur, Konthagai and Agaram — of Keeladi. The civilisation that existed in Keeladi might have spread to Manalur and Agaram villages. An ancient burial site might also exist at Konthagai. Archaeologists researching Keeladi excavations say the artefacts and graffiti symbols seem pretty similar to the signs seen in the Indus Civilisation excavations. They also say that the Tamils of the Sangam period were literate, as early as 6th century BCE. Artefacts found at the site, about 12 km from



The fifth phase of excavation in Keeladi village in Sivagangai district was completed on Sunday.

Madurai, push back the date of Tamil-Brahmi another century i.e. 6th century BCE. These results clearly ascertained that they attained literacy

or learned the art of writing as early as 6th century BCE. The report released by the Tamil Nadu Archeological Department

on Sept. 19, explained the significance of the finding and said the recovery of 1,001 graffiti sherds from Keeladi excavation recalled the preliminary writing expressions of the Iron Age people. The script that survived between the disappearance of Indus script and the emergence of Brahmi script is called as graffiti marks by the scholars. These graffiti marks are the ones evolved or transformed from Indus script and served as a precursor for the emergence of the Brahmi script. During the fifth phase which had commenced on June 13, archaeologists dug up 51 trenches in a

shorter span of time compared to the activity in the fourth phase. Intermittent rain and thousands of visitors, who had flocked to the excavation site on the banks of Vaigai river, had interrupted the digging activity. The state archaeology department had sought and obtained an extension of 13 days for the fifth season. Over 1.25 lakh people had visited the site and the number of daily visitors rose steeply after the state government released a detailed report on the fourth phase. Owing to unprecedented crowds, the archaeology department had to restrict visitors' time.

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth

DECCAN Chronicle

15 OCTOBER 2019

KCR must retract on RTC strike, start talks

Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao has always taken pride in having led the agitation for a separate Telangana in a peaceful and non-violent way, saying he was inspired to do so by the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150th birth anniversary was observed just two weeks ago.

Three days later, the 51,000-plus staff of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) launched a total strike, bringing massive disruption to the state before Dasara. It crippled transport, wrecking people's travel plans. Taking a strong line, Mr Rao's government decided to sack over 48,000 TSRTC employees, calling the strike unethical and illegal, and its timing intended to arm-twist and blackmail the government.

We supported the government's decisions, including the seemingly heartless move to sack employees en masse. We were convinced trade unions should not resort to strike over employee benefit issues at a time when the economy is slowing down, and jobs hard to find. We supported the government as we were convinced it was motivated with a desire to reduce the government's role in the economy, to streamline the corporation's effectiveness and market sustainability, and to improve the quality of services.

The only justification for sacking over 48,000 RTC employees would be if it was done for the larger good of Telangana's citizens, not to create personal windfall profits for Megha Krishna Reddy, or anyone else

However, after the scandalous exposure exclusively by this newspaper that the TRS government had done so with an agenda to benefit a personal businessman friend, Megha Krishna Reddy, whose electric bus company would get a large chunk of the RTC. Olectra Greentech has already supplied 40 buses, and pocketed a Central government subsidy of ₹40 crore, and will get another ₹40 crore-odd from the state government, implying that the move wasn't done with the greater common good in mind. Governments must privatise all state assets, especially those it's not capable of running. If done fairly, transparently in an open auction, this would fetch the state and

people the highest sums in return from private entities for their sale. But when the move is to hand over strategic assets, and a disguised monopoly, to a corporate cohort, it is sheer cronyism. At best, it's a dubious deal, and must be stopped.

The only justification for sacking over 48,000 RTC employees would be if it was done for the larger good of Telangana's citizens, not to create personal windfall profits for Megha Krishna Reddy, or anyone else, for no reason other than a close relationship with the powers that be.

The Centre must study the entire deal and have it probed by an independent agency, perhaps the CBI. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan must look into the matter and advise the state government to retract. The spurt of suicides by employees who lost their jobs, depriving their families of support, is too tragic for any government to hold on to a high horse. The chief minister needs to retract with humility, talk to the employees and offer an amnesty to all employees to join back, ending the strike. Of anything else, Gandhiji would surely not approve.

Cleaner air: All must pitch in

Despite being stopped by the Centre from attending the C40 World Mayors Summit in Copenhagen, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal addressed it via videoconferencing. Lauding teenage icon Greta Thunberg for her advocacy, Mr Kejriwal also spoke about his own government's moves to curb air pollution, including the twice-experimented "odd-even" car rationing scheme. This scheme, set to return in November, was tried out in Mexico City (1989), Beijing (2008), Paris (2014), Sao Paulo, Bogota and Jakarta. This and the shutting of thermal power plants led to Delhi's pollution reducing by 25 per cent in three years, he said.

The number of good air days in Delhi has indeed been rising, from 106 in 2016 to 159 in 2018, Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar admitted recently. The courts deserve a share of the credit. The Supreme Court banned 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles last year, the step first mooted by the NGT, bolstering the Delhi government's move to deregister 40 lakh "overage" vehicles.

But dismantling the culture of owning wheels will require more resolve and stringency. Disappointingly, if a bit predictably (though bus travel was made free for them), Delhi's women are still exempted from the odd-even scheme. While it's a fact the city doesn't have good point-to-point bus links, except on some routes, many women don't use alternative public transport. They need to discourage their families from buying the Bharat Stage-IV vehicles manufacturers are being asked to phase out. The neighbouring states must also pitch in, training farmers to dispose of their crop stubble by means other than burning. The fruits of this effort will save all our lives.



Are these early shoots of a 'reforms' revival?



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Amid the doom and gloom of the world economy, there are encouraging signs that the Indian government is now taking tangible steps to reverse the worst aspects of the slowdown in India.

This is a huge step away from the "Nelson's eye" which was being turned to the crisis earlier. Encouraging individual ministers to become visible while laying out their strategy to deal with the slowdown is in.

Top bureaucrat-politician R.K. Singh, power and renewable energy minister, is reported to have taken a tough stand and advised state power ministers to restructure their distribution networks, restrict their operations to junk the wholesale supply of power and hand over the job of distributing electricity to private players.

The minister's advice came on the back of a 2018 report ponderously titled "The Seventh Integrated Rating of State Power Distribution Utilities", which documents the meagre improvements since 2016. The median coverage ratio (revenues to expenses) is just 0.91, as opposed to 0.88 in 2016. The median level of technical and commercial distribution loss has reduced marginally to 20 per cent from 21.8 per cent in 2016. The target by 2019 was 15 per cent.

Reforming the laggard distribution segment has been a struggle since 1995 when the State of Orissa took the lead and franchised it out to private players. Since then, three separate waves of reforms were rolled out, which focused on "restructuring" or "ever-greening" utility debt from accumulated losses in exchange for achieving milestones for future improvements in operational metrics. None have succeeded.

The most recent was under Modi 1.0. The primary outcome of the UDAY scheme has been that ₹1.68 trillion of utility debt was refinanced as state government bonds, at a lower coupon rate, giving some relief in debt servicing. But it has increased state government debt servicing and worsened their debt to state domestic product ratio.

State-level electricity regulators are unable to withstand populist pressure from state governments. Consider Delhi, where the Arvind Kejriwal government is poised to win the Assembly elections next year, on the back of freebies like limited but free electricity and water. Freebies result in steeply higher prices for better-off consumers, industries and commercial entities. This generates the cross-subsidy which, usually, is less than the cost of freebies. This populist strategy reduces the competitiveness of manufacturing and services in India.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is also settling into her crucial role of getting the Union government finances onto a sustainable path. Policy roll-backs have started reversing inefficient tax overreach measures. More such are expected, leading up to the Budget on February 1 next year for FY 2021.

There has been much argumentation within the commentary whether the slowdown is cyclical, and hence can be sat out, or structural, thereby needing basic factor market — land, labour and financial — reforms.

While this debate is interesting, it is of limited practical value. It springs from the minimalist mindset that only that which is most critical should be reformed. If Prime Minister Narendra Modi's target of a \$5 trillion economy

is to be taken at face value, we need a maximalist mindset which fires on all fronts — private demand, private investment and supply and vastly improved government oversight and regulation.

A slowdown to around five per cent growth through FY 2021 will have negative consequences on our ability to reach a poverty level of nine per cent by 2022; reverse our growing negative trade balance or increase jobs.

At the heart of all three objectives is the need to enhance productivity in employment-intensive agriculture and medium and small-scale manufacturing. Increasing productivity, crop diversity and value chain linked earnings can double aggregate farm incomes. Out-migration of one half of the 500 million working age population from dependence on subsistence farming to a paid work in manufacturing and services is the other option. SMEs account for 40 per cent of exports. Productivity improvements plus letting the INR depreciate to market levels can make their products and services competitive in external markets.

A market-based exchange rate policy has three advantages. It enhances the competitiveness of exports (much needed); protects domestic manufacturing by increasing the cost of imported products; and curbs reckless foreign borrowing and unmitigated capital outflow, both of which are surging today.

Ms Sitharaman has courageously reduced the income-tax for new companies to 15 per cent without any exemptions and deductions. In the short term, it will increase profitability, help in de-leveraging

and boosting the stock market. Over time it shall induce additional investment if the fine print also reflects the minister's intentions.

A companion demand side measure is still awaited. Reducing the exorbitant 30 per cent tax rate for incomes between ₹2 million to ₹5 million to 20 per cent; from the existing 30 per cent to 10 per cent between ₹1 million and ₹2 million; from 20 per cent between ₹0.5 million and ₹1 million to five per cent, with incomes below ₹0.5 million free of income tax (all without exemptions). The resultant demand surge will boost aggregate tax revenue much beyond the notional non-dynamic income tax loss.

Avoiding the existing artifice of deductions on specified savings or income from specified sources (postal savings) and donations to charity or as lumpsums are regressive. They are a fudge to provide legal cover for effectively evading tax by those who have extra legal sources of income.

Why give a tax break on the EMIs paid for a loan to buy a house? Just compensate public sector banks and NBFs directly to lower the effective interest rate on such loans, if stoking the employment potential of the realty market is an objective. Alternatively, at least limit the benefit to once in a lifetime for the borrower so that speculative purchase is reduced.

Finally, the Niti Aayog has constituted an empowered committee to pave the way for bidding out private partnerships to upgrade 50 railway stations to global standards and license 150 private passenger trains, and there is talk of "privatising" BPCL, an oil refiner.

Taken by themselves, none of these initiatives are likely to set the Yamuna on fire. But viewed as a signal of a "Gulliver" government awakening from its self-imposed "reforms" hubris, it could bode well for the recovery of the Indian economy over the next two years.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

LETTERS GHMC CHIEF CALLOUS

Lack of interest shown by GHMC to respond to Deccan Chronicle's column 'Speak Out' can be attributed to either of two things — callous attitude of authorities, or paucity of funds. If latter is the reason, it is hoped that minister of MA&UD K.T. Rama Rao takes citizens' complaints seriously and releases funds immediately. Else, it is deplorable if GHMC chief is not responding to people's complaints because of callousness. It is the duty of the GHMC to give first priority to common people.

S. Nageswara Rao DD Colony

MODI-XI MEET

The meeting of two largest-populated and fast-growing nations' leaders — Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping — appears to have paved the way for new dimensions in trade and investment. At a juncture, when India abrogated Article 370 in Kashmir and China was indirectly supporting Pakistan, Mr Modi's masterstroke in taming the dragon is highly appreciable and commendable.

Kshipra Sri Mahalakshmi Secunderabad

CM MUST TALK

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao says RTC employees on strike are blindly following the words of the union leaders to stay away from their responsibilities (KCR says no talks, wants bus services restored by Oct. 21). He said union leaders acted with irresponsibility and have endangered the jobs of thousands of employees. If he cannot concede to the demand of merging the TSRTC with the government, he must convince the agitators why it cannot be done.

Medavarapu Mohan Rao Hyderabad

DAILY PROTEIN

Nutritionist Dr Janaki Srinath said even vegetarians can get their daily proteins from paneer, legumes and whole grains (Gyms pushing supplements, DC, Oct. 13). Plant proteins may take longer for the body to digest and use, whereas animal products are the highest quality protein sources. Most plant products lack some essential amino acids. For example, grains are low in lysine while beans and nuts are low in methionine.

Molugu V. Sreenivasulu Secunderabad

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Zarrar Khuhro

As Trump talks peace over Turkey, Kurds bear the brunt

Like a broken clock, Donald Trump too can be right twice a day. In one of his tweetstorms on the Turkey-Syria situation, hidden among claims of his "great and unmatched wisdom" and obscured by rants in full capslock, were kernels of truth. Calling out America's propensity to initiate "stupid, endless wars" that cost "trillions" of dollars, he made an admission that a normal President never would have, that the US went to war under a "false & now disproven premise, WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. There were NONE!" Clearly, out of the mouth of (orange-maned) babes there do occasionally come words of truth. Now one can argue that the entire episode is aimed at distracting from his continued domestic troubles, but even in this Trump is unique, as he is likely the first US President to try and shift the focus

by withdrawing from a conflict, as opposed to the time-honoured tradition of starting a new war in order to bask in the impenetrable glow of exploding daisy-cutters.

Coupled with his bulldozer-like determination to keep his election promises (no matter how odious) and propensity to tell it like it is, it is safe to say that America, and the world, have not quite seen his like before.

"Who will ever trust America again?" cry politicians and analysts who have perhaps never actually understood the nature of America's foreign policy and have never heard of the South Vietnamese Army, various rebel groups and militias and others that the US has funded, used and then discarded.

As far as the Kurds go, well, they are ideally positioned to be used and abused given that they are a population of 40 million people, inhabiting territories within the

borders of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. Depending on which day of the week one of these countries is considered an "enemy" by the US, the local Kurds — who are all united in the hope of eventually having their own nation-state — can be funded and armed. And that's how it's been for the better part of the past century, and this chronicle of betrayal has been well-documented by Jon Schwarz in the Intercept.

The Kurds in Syria may have had no choice but to risk this unreliable port given the storm that was raging, but it is beyond laughable that America is unaware of its legacy of perfidy. To be fair, they probably do understand this, but hypocrisy is a central part of any foreign policy — the oil to its engine. That's why Turkey can be threatened with sanctions by the US while Saudi Arabia, engaged in a far bloodier war in Yemen, gets troops and arms sales.

Of course Saudi Arabia and the UAE have also added their voices to the choir, though they may get drowned out by the sounds of bombs exploding and the screams of dying children.

All of this is only shocking if you somehow feel that morality and righteousness play a part in international relations beyond virtue-signalling. When you strip down the rhetoric, all that remain are interests — cold, hard and utterly amoral.

So when it comes to Pakistan, should we expect anything different? No. We will remain silent on Yemen while carefully avoiding entanglement. We will support Turkey in its offensive while ignoring the Kurds. We will talk about Islamophobia while pretending we never heard of the Uighurs.

For Erdogan, the calculation is clear: a de facto Kurdish state on his borders simply cannot be toler-

ated, as it may provide a springboard for PKK attacks in Turkey and also provide a base for regional powers. More, it fits perfectly with Erdogan's image as a born-again Ottoman sultan and regional strongman.

And, let's not forget, it also provides Ankara something to bargain away in any future deal or dispensation.

Regionally, the operation provides an opportunity for Russia to further embed itself in the Middle Eastern theatre, and — given another hint that the US will not likely go to war with Iran on its behalf — may make Saudi Arabia more inclined to come to a settlement, a cold peace if you will, with Iran. And here, to my infinite and cautious surprise, it seems Pakistan may actually play a role. Will wonders never cease?

By arrangement with Daun



A person who uses a wireless Internet connection without permission

A person who spends a great deal of time either surfing the Web or fussing with their home page

From Wuhan to Chennai: Xi's long journey



Abhijit Bhattacharyya

The two leaders... had a conversation for almost 90 minutes, followed by delegation-level talks. A total six hours of a one-to-one meeting was held between the two leaders (Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping) during the summit — India's foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale said on Saturday. It must have been a meeting of head, heart and mind by the leaders of the two Asian giants. However, as the entire event was termed "informal", it would be difficult to learn as to what exactly could have transpired owing to its being a deeply private affair, except for what was announced through official channels. The spokesman of the external affairs ministry said: "A new

mechanism will be established to discuss trade, investment and services at an elevated level." This is a clear acknowledgement that the existing or old mechanism, if any, wasn't up to the mark. Hence, on "trade, investment and services", a lot needs to be done, as a lot remained undone. That's easier said than done in an arena where the Communist Party-controlled People's Republic of China's inflexible penchant for monopoly, from polity to commerce, territory to telecommunications, military to market-capturing, are too manifest to be missed. This is a mindset that tends to forcibly impose its own make-believe reality, thinking and action, and ignores the other party's point of view. This is actually due to the most enduring syndrome of China's history; con-

centration and centralisation of polity, being operationalised from the capital by the monarchy till 1911. Thereafter, with the advent of the Communists too, the same style and content of centralisation and control of the power structure under ideological guise, with the catchy slogan "all are equals", continued, starting in 1919. That tradition now completes 100 years. Hence, to be fair to the Chinese, one has to try to fairly understand their collective psyche to analyse their actions at the bilateral high table. The Chinese search for their opponent's chink in the armour is good.

Thus, when the Indian foreign secretary clarified: "The Kashmir issue was not raised and not discussed" — and that "our position is anyway very clear, that this is an internal matter of India", it gives mixed signals: both positive and negative. It's positive because the Chinese dare not raise Kashmir in a Sino-Indian bilateral encounter, however "informal" the meet, sitting in India, lest their long-term commerce, economics, finance, market and banking interests (in India) get a jolt.

From the Chinese point of view, it's a win-win situation. Not raising the 'K' word doesn't affect them in any way because they are already deeply entrenched in India's J&K territory; in the east (Aksai Chin) and the west (Gilgit-Baltistan).

From the Chinese point of view, nevertheless, it's a win-win situation. Not raising the "K" word doesn't affect them in any way because they are already deeply entrenched in India's J&K territory; in the east (Aksai Chin) and the west (Gilgit-Baltistan), through which runs their Kashgarh-Gwadar road to the Arabian Sea and CPEC for long. In any case, China already outflanks India in J&K.

In fact, Beijing had already made its stand clear in no uncertain terms, even before the "informal" October 11-12 summit. When Pakistan's PM Imran Khan visited Beijing to meet Mr Xi, the latter openly declared that he was closely "monitoring" the J&K situation, and

would always protect Pakistan's "core" interests, just two days before his Chennai visit. Thus, while the non-raising of J&K gave New Delhi some sense of satisfaction owing to its being an "internal matter", thereby giving a sigh of relief to its official delegation; yet, not firmly protesting in clear terms at the table too could be seen as bona fide, but an unavoidable endorsement of India to China's aggressive and extraterritorial intent and action, which indisputably poses a nagging security threat and constitutes a blatant infringement of the sovereignty of India. India surely wants calm and caution. In the process, however, China stands vindicated on J&K.

An irony borne of the traditional failure of Indian diplomacy on J&K through several decades, even after the 1971 victory. What's the exact status, if any, of J&K? Unilateral? Bilateral? Internal affairs of India? Trilateral (with physical presence of China)? International issue? Which keeps cropping up in the UN General Assembly, and now, in 2019, the Security Council as well.

Yes, J&K, legally, politically, technically, constitutionally,

belongs to India and will continue to be an inseparable and inalienable part of it.

Again, not too long ago (in the beginning of the 21st century), when both the civilian and military leadership actively toyed with the idea of withdrawing garrisons from Siachen, which is a part of J&K, the Indians gave an indelible impression of their traditional weakness in maintaining territorial integrity as they, more often than not, forget that the sovereignty of the state begins from the border. Hence, any violation by a foreign force or avoidable ceding thereof stares stark at the face of leaders as failure of the sovereign state to maintain its sovereignty.

And that's exactly where a razor-sharp China quickly grasped the situation and grabbed the opportunity to consistently embarrass India at the high table and ceaselessly harass its troops in hot terrain for decades. India faced the Chinese onslaught 57 years ago, on October 10, 1962, when a platoon of the 9 Punjab regiment was massacred by the Chinese PLA in Thagla ridge on Namka Chu, in front of a high ground presence of then 4 Corps com-

mander Lt. Gen. B.M. Kaul. Today's China is again taking cover under the "convergence" of economics and avoiding territorial dispute and violation talks, calling it a "divergence" which could be settled later. Will mutual trade take care of unilateral territorial infringements?

The last points on terror and "engaging more on the defence side" by Mr Xi are well calculated and calibrated Chinese thoughts. Xinjiang is a "terror hub" for China, where India's help could be useful. Cross-border terror attacks on India, however, have long-term Chinese support to Pakistan. To try to minimise the potential disruption of CPEC, should India go physical around PoK! For Beijing, the Balakot example is too real a threat to be ignored. Therefore, stopping the Xinjiang terror is an OBOR/BRI compulsion, and containing the Indian military from crossing the India-Pakistan border is, from the high table, a diplomatic stratagem of China.

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



Sadguru Rameshji

Perfect 10 for happiness

Do you want to enjoy and be happy in life? If so, then you better stop doing wrong things and become aware of these 10 ways to suffer in life:

1. Mixing with negative people: It's a guaranteed way to fail in life. Whatever you like to do, negative people will say it won't work you will also adopt a negative approach.

2. Not knowing what you want: Most people are unaware as to what they want in life. If you ask them some will say they want money, some will say they want status and others may say they want jewellery, a big house, a car, etc. but most of these people are not happy even after they get what they want. The reason being that they themselves did not know they wanted.

3. You doubt your success: When you doubt your own success, then you are bound to fail, because your doubts will signal the cosmic forces that you are not very serious.

4. You always look to take revenge: There are many people in this world who hurt you, belittle you, misbehave with you and after getting hurt due to their actions you always look for an opportunity to take revenge. The fact of life is that even before you can take revenge and settle your accounts with these people, they find newer opportunities to hurt you again. However much you try, you can never settle your accounts with these people.

5. You think and imagine negative: Thinking and

imagining negative is like asking cosmic forces to create negative events in life such as accidents, losses, strained relationships, diseases, etc which make you suffer.

6. You live in the past: You do not easily forget your past and not only keep remembering it but even compare your past with the present. This makes you miss the joy of the present.

7. You have no control over how you speak: Even though you may be good, caring, helpful and you always speak the truth yet you have no control over your tone.

8. You do not accept things easily: There is no rule that every time you will get things as you want or things will happen the way you want them to happen or people behave with you as you

behave with them. Not accepting this fact, you struggle.

9. Your mind gets easily poisoned: When anybody talks ill about you or your near and dear ones, your mind gets easily poisoned.

10. You possess an "I am right" attitude: Irrespective of whether you are right or wrong, you try to impose your decision, viewpoint and perception on others.

Sadguru Rameshji is a modern age spiritual guru and the force behind Poorna Ananda, a Hyderabad-based centre for spiritual evolution and joyful living. He can be contacted at www.poornaananda.org



Somali President shot dead

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

LONDON, OCT. 15.

The Somali President Abdirashid Ali Shermarke (57) was assassinated today while on an inspection tour of Northern Somalia a diplomatic source here said. Formerly a member of the Somali National

Liberation Movement Mr. Shermarke was Prime Minister between 1960 and 1964 and has been President of the East African country since June 1967.—AFP. REUTER adds: According to Moga dishu Radio reports monitored here President Shermarke was shot dead by a man wearing police uniform in the town of Las Anod in Northern Somalia. A man is now being held by police, the Radio added.





INDIAN RAILWAYS REDUCING DISTANCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Building Better Connectivity
Between Smaller Towns & Important Cities



Inauguration of SEWA SERVICE TRAINS

WHAT MAKES SEWA SERVICE TRAINS SPECIAL?

Run on the concept that better utilizes the rolling stock or spare rakes | On paths to achieve last mile connectivity | Based on Hub and Spoke Model

HOW IMPORTANT ARE THESE?

Facilitate passengers to reach the hub of major stations | Provide rail connectivity between smaller towns and important cities | Ensure congestion free road and faster ease of movement for public | Diversion of short distance traffic from road to Railways

DAILY SERVICES

DELHI ↔ SHAMLI	MURKONGSELEK ↔ DIBRUGARH	COIMBATORE ↔ PALANI
BHUBANESWAR ↔ NAYAGARH TOWN	KOTA ↔ JHALAWAR CITY	

6 DAYS A WEEK

VADNAGAR ↔ MAHESANA	ASARVA ↔ HIMMATNAGAR	KARUR ↔ SALEM
YESVANTPUR ↔ TUMKUR	COIMBATORE ↔ POLLACHI	

Flagging Off

by

Dr. Harsh Vardhan Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India	Piyush Goyal Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Government of India	Dharmendra Pradhan Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Government of India
<i>Gracious Presence</i> SURESH C. ANGADI Minister of State of Railways, Government of India		

On 15th October 2019 at 2:00 PM | New Delhi Railway Station via video conference

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Make or break deal

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says there's a way forward for Brexit that could secure interests

Jingping warns anti-China forces

Beijing, Oct. 14: President Xi Jinping has warned that any attempts to split China would result in "bodies smashed and bones ground to powder", amid four months of anti-Beijing unrest in Hong Kong.



Anyone who attempts to split any region from China will perish, with their bodies smashed and bones ground to powder.

— XI JINPING, Chinese President

President Xi issued the dire message during a weekend visit to Nepal, according to a foreign ministry statement released on Sunday.

"Anyone who attempts to split any region from China will perish, with their bodies smashed and bones ground to powder," President Xi said, according to the ministry.

"Any external forces that support the splitting of China can only be regarded as delusional by the Chinese people," he said.

While the Chinese leader did not mention any region by name, his comments came as riot police and pro-democracy protesters clashed again in Hong Kong on Sunday and amid tensions with self-ruled Taiwan.

Rallies erupted in multiple neighbourhoods of the financial hub, with some protesters blocking roads, sabotaging train tracks, and trashing pro-China businesses.

China has accused "external forces" of fuelling unrest in the semi-autonomous city, a former British colony that enjoys rights unheard of in the mainland, such as freedom of speech.

The protests were sparked by opposition to a now-scraped proposal to allow extraditions to

mainland China, but have since morphed into a larger movement for democracy and police accountability.

There have been concerns that China could send in troops to put an end to the unrest, but Beijing has so far said it believes Hong Kong's police force is capable of handling the protests.

Few analysts believe Beijing would risk international condemnation by repeating its 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, when it deployed tanks and troops to quash the uprising, leaving more than 1,000 dead.

The Beijing President has also hardened its stance with democratic Taipei since President Tsai Ing-wen was elected in 2016, as her government refuses to acknowledge that Taiwan is part of "one China".

Taiwan has ruled itself since the end of a civil war in 1949, but China has vowed to seize it — by force if necessary. — AFP



Turkish-backed Syrian fighters evacuate a wounded comrade near the border town of Ras al-Ain on as Turkey and its allies continued their assault on Kurdish-held border towns in northeastern Syria. — AFP

Syrian army moves towards Turkish forces post US pullout

Kurdish forces strike historic deal to help fend off Turkey invasion

Akcaale, Turkey Oct. 14: Syrian government troops moved into a series of towns and villages in northern Syria on Monday, setting up a potential clash with Turkish-led forces in the area, as US troops prepared to pull out.

The Syrian army's deployment near the Turkish border came hours after Syrian Kurdish forces previously allied with the US said they had reached a deal with President Bashar Assad's government to help fend off Turkey's invasion, now in its sixth day.

The announcement of a deal between Syria's Kurds and its government is a major shift in alliances that came after President Donald Trump ordered all US troops withdrawn from the northern border area amid the rapidly spreading chaos.

The shift sets up a potential clash between Turkey and Syria and raises the specter of a resurgent

EU condemns Turkey's offensive, no arms ban yet

Luxembourg, Oct. 14: EU member states united on Monday to condemn Turkey's offensive in Syria but stopped short of imposing an arms embargo, while opening the way to sanctions over Ankara's controversial drilling off Cyprus.

"The EU condemns Turkey's military action which seriously undermines the stability and the security of the whole region," the bloc said in a joint statement at a meeting of foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

The bloc noted the decision made by some mem-

bers — including France and Germany — to halt weapons exports to Turkey but did not impose an EU-wide embargo.

Instead the ministers agreed that EU member countries should pay close regard to their existing

common policy on arms exports, which includes a provision that they should not be approved where there they may "contribute to regional instability".

Separately, the ministers gave the go-ahead to creating the legal framework for sanctions over Turkey's exploratory drilling for oil and gas off the coast of Cyprus.

"In light of Turkey's continued illegal drilling activities in the eastern Mediterranean, the Council reaffirms its full solidarity with Cyprus," the EU Council said.

KURDS MAY BE FREEING ISIS PRISONERS: US

Washington, Oct. 14: US President Donald Trump on Monday stated that the Kurdish forces could be releasing imprisoned Islamic State terrorists to make Washington remain involved in northeastern Syria.

"Europe had a chance to get their ISIS prisoners but didn't want the cost. Let the USA pay," he said. Kurds may be releasing some to get us involved. Easily recaptured by Turkey or European Nations from where any came, but they should move quickly. Big sanctions on Turkey coming! Do people really think we should go to war with NATO Member Turkey? Never-ending wars will end!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

Mr Eastman, who had always maintained his innocence and mounted several appeals, was freed in 2014 after his conviction was quashed. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Supreme Court ordered the jurisdiction's government to pay him just over Aus\$7 million. Mr Eastman had sought at least Aus\$18 million in compensation. The 74-year-old told the court that not only had he lost the opportunity to have a family and pursue his career, his mother and

Islamic State group as the US relinquishes any remaining influence in northern Syria to Assad

and his chief backer, Russia. Syrian troops arrived on Monday in the northern

province of Raqqa aboard buses and pickup trucks with mounted heavy machine guns. — AP

The aftermath of typhoon Hagibis



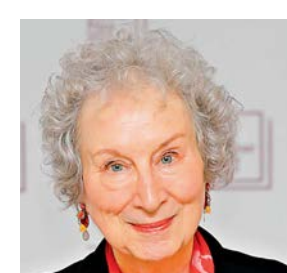
Rescue crews searched for those missing from a typhoon that left as many as 48 people dead and caused serious damage in central and northern Japan. Typhoon Hagibis unleashed torrents of rain and strong winds on Saturday, leaving thousands of homes on Japan's main island flooded, damaged or without power. — AP

REWARD | TIME Margaret is bookmakers' favourite to win the coveted fiction trophy again

Booker panel pits Atwood against Rushdie

London, Oct. 14: Booker Prize winner Margaret Atwood is bookmakers' favourite to win the coveted fiction trophy for a second time. Britain's storied Booker Prize will pit literary giants Margaret Atwood and Salman Rushdie against four emerging stars when it unveils the winner on Monday on its 50th anniversary award.

The title of best work of English-language fiction published in the United Kingdom and Ireland has launched careers and courted controversy since its creation in 1969. Past laureates have ranged from celebrated writers such as Ian McEwan and Julian Barnes to Kazuo Ishiguro and Roddy Doyle.



Margaret Atwood



Salman Rushdie

Paul Beatty became the first American winner when the Booker bowed to pressure and began including authors from outside the British commonwealth, Ireland and

Guo. Atwood's sixth Booker nomination comes for *The Testaments*, a best-selling sequel to her 1985 dystopian classic *The Handmaid's Tale*. *The Guardian* said the book, which picks up the tale of three women 15 years on, presents "Atwood at her best". "It's a question of things escaping from a book to the real world and the author has zero control," the 79-year-old said upon its release last month.

My government will work with international partners to solve the pressing global challenges.

— Queen Elizabeth II

BRIEF

Pak security for British royals

Islamabad: Pakistan police have ensured comprehensive security arrangements for visit of Prince William and his wife Kate Middleton. A Police spokesman on Monday said that Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar, along with other senior officials, reviewed the security arrangements made for their visit to the Federal Capital. The British Royal couple, Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Prince William and Kate Middleton arrived in Islamabad Monday on a five-day visit to Pakistan. The visit is a first since 2006.

Nepal, China to measure Everest

Kathmandu: Nepal and China have agreed to jointly re-measure the height of Mount Everest, amidst reports that the world's highest peak may have shrunk after the massive earthquake that shook Nepal in 2015. Many geologists have argued that the magnitude 7.6 earthquake that jolted Nepal in April 2015 may have shrunk the mountain by about three centimetres, while the current officially recognised height of Mount Everest is 8,848 metres. In 2017, India also proposed to help Nepal in re-measuring the height of Mount Everest.

Iran releases images of Sabiti

Tehran: Iran released pictures showing two gaping holes in the hull of an oil tanker it alleges was attacked off Saudi Arabia. Tehran says the Iranian-flagged Sabiti tanker was hit by two separate explosions off the Red Sea port of Jeddah. It is the first Iranian ship to have been targeted since a spate of attacks on vessels in the Gulf that the US blamed on Tehran. The images released by the tanker's owner show two holes above the waterline on the ship's starboard side.

SPAIN JAILS 9 CATALAN SEPARATISTS

Madrid, Oct. 14: Spain's Supreme Court on Monday sentenced nine Catalan separatist leaders to prison terms of between nine and 13 years for sedition for their role in a failed 2017 independence bid. The long-awaited verdicts were less than those demanded by the prosecution which had sought up to 25 years behind bars for former Catalan Vice President Oriol Junqueras on grounds of rebellion. Spain has been bracing for weeks for the court's ruling, with tension mounting steadily and police sending reinforcements to Catalonia where separatists have pledged a mass response of civil disobedience. Former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, who fled to Belgium to avoid prosecution, denounced the sentences as an outrage. "100 years in all. An outrage. Now more than ever, by your side and those of your families. It is time to react as never before," he tweeted. The 12 defendants, most of them members of the former Catalan government, were put on trial in February for their role in the banned October 1, 2017 referendum and the short-lived independence declaration that followed it. "The Supreme Court condemns Oriol Junqueras to 13 years of prison on grounds of sedition and the misuse of public funds," the judges wrote in their ruling. In a letter to his supporters, Junqueras said the story was far from over. — AFP

PAKISTAN MUST PROSECUTE LeT TERRORISTS: US

Washington, Oct. 14: Pakistan must prevent terrorist groups from operating on its soil and prosecute top Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives along with its leader Hafiz Saeed, the US has said ahead of the Financial Action Task Force's crucial decision on whether to blacklist the country. Alice Wells, head of US state department's South and Central Asian bureau, welcomed the arrest of the four top leaders of Lashkar-e-Taiba /Jamaat-ud-Dawah in Pakistan. Pakistan's law enforcement agencies on Thursday arrested the "top four leaders" of the banned LeT/JuD on charges of terrorism financing. The top four arrested terrorists have been identified as Professor Zafar Iqbal, Yahya Aziz, Muhammad Ashraf and Abdul Salam. "As PM Imran Khan has said, Pakistan, for its own future, must prevent militant groups from operating on its soil," Wells tweeted. "We welcome news that Pakistan arrested 4 #LeT leaders. The victims of LeT's vicious attacks deserve to see these individuals prosecuted now, along with LeT leader Hafiz Saeed," she said. Her remarks came as the FATF is set to give its decision on the country's 'grey list' status. — PTI

DAVID EASTMAN, Australian economist wrongfully spent nearly two decades in prison for the assassination of a high-ranking police officer

THE ACT Supreme Court ordered the jurisdiction's government to pay him just over seven million in Australian dollars.

THE economist who had always maintained his innocence and mounted several appeals, was freed in 2014 after his conviction was quashed



RBI hikes PMC withdrawal limit to ₹40K

E-commerce to touch \$32 bn GMV this year



Overleaf

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	38,214.47 +0.23
Nifty 50	11,341.15 +0.32
S&P 500	2,968.99 -0.04
Dollar (₹)	71.23 +0.30
Pound Sterling (₹)	89.24 -0.49
Euro (₹)	78.51 +0.32
Gold (10gm) (₹)	38,885.145 +0.37
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	59.20 -2.16
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.670 -0.057
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.734 +0.000

* As of 9:30 pm IST

HDFC trims home loan rates by 10 bps

HDFC slashed its benchmark lending rate by 10 basis points, which will bring down interest rate for existing and new borrowers with effect from October 15. HDFC said it has reduced retail prime lending rate (RPLR) on housing loans, on which its adjustable rate home loans (ARHL) are benchmarked, by 10 basis points.

China's auto sales sink 6.3% in September



China's auto sales sank 6.3 per cent in September from a year earlier and purchases of electric cars tumbled 34.2 per cent at a time when the industry is spending heavily to meet government sales quotas for the technology, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, an industry group, said. The global industry's biggest market is on track to contract for second year.

Securitisation volume soars 48% in H1

Shadow banks' continuing difficulties in accessing finance have led to a massive 48 per cent jump in securitisation volume in the first half of the fiscal year to Rs 1 lakh crore, from both established and new originators opting for securitisation. A Crisil report said there were 100 originators of securitisation in the market against 70 in the year-ago period.

Yes Bank sells 6.56% Fortis stake for ₹645 cr

Yes Bank offloaded 6.56 per cent stake in hospital chain Fortis Healthcare for a little over Rs 645 crore through an open market transaction. After the sale, the private lender now holds just 1,850 shares in the hospital chain. According to the bulk deal data on the BSE, the shares were offloaded at an average price of Rs 130.27. Eastspring Investments was one of the buyers.

French firm to up stake to 37.4% by spending ₹5,700 cr Total to buy Adani Gas stake via open offer

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, OCT. 14

Total SA, the leading French energy company, chipped in Rs 5,700 crore to pick up a 37.4 per cent stake in Adani Gas Ltd, while UK's BP said it wants to see what is on offer before deciding to bid. The government is looking at selling its 53.29 per cent stake in BPCL to a strategic investor. BPCL has a market capitalisation of Rs 1.05 lakh crore and its acquisition together with the mandatory

Unlikely to bid for BPCL

New Delhi, Oct. 14: Total and Reliance Industries are unlikely to bid for acquiring BPCL, while UK's BP said it wants to see what is on offer before deciding to bid. The government is looking at selling its 53.29 per cent stake in BPCL to a strategic investor. BPCL has a market capitalisation of Rs 1.05 lakh crore and its acquisition together with the mandatory

open offer to minority shareholders would cost upwards of Rs 82,000 crore. On a visit here to attend an industry conference, Total Chairman and CEO Patrick Pouyanne said the company was interested in investing in downstream petrochemicals and retailing market in India but was "not interested in Indian refineries." —PTI

million tonne LNG import terminal at Dhamra in Odisha and will potentially hold a 25 to 50 per cent interest in Gujarat government's Mundra import facility. This JV would also supply 3 million tonne per annum of LNG to India and Bangladesh. And now, Adani Gas, wherein Total and Adani would hold 37.4 per cent stake each, on its part, is targeting to set up 1,500 CNG stations to retail gas to automobiles and piped cooking gas to 6 million households. It will also set up 1,500 petrol pumps over 10 years. "Total's investment in Adani Gas reinforces India's natural gas and demand potential. The partnership will derive significant synergies between Adani's capabilities of developing world-class assets and Total's global best practices as well as leveraging business synergies across LNG, Fuel Retail and City Gas distribution," said Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group. Patrick Pouyanne, CEO, Total SA, said: "Energy needs in India are immense. The natural gas market in India will have strong growth and is an attractive outlet." —Reuters

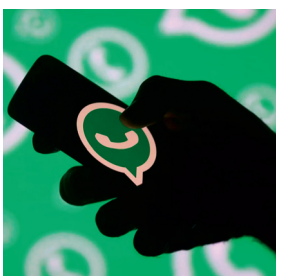
Retail inflation close to RBI target

MANOJ KUMAR NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

India's retail inflation rose close to the central bank's medium-term target of 4 per cent in September for the first time in 14 months, but analysts still predict a sharp economic slowdown will prompt a sixth consecutive interest rate cut in December. Annual retail inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index, rose to 3.99 per cent last month, driven by higher food prices, up sharply compared with 3.21 per cent in the previous month and higher than the 3.70 per cent forecast in a Reuters poll of analysts. Retail food prices, which make up nearly half of India's inflation basket, increased 5.11 per cent in September from a year earlier, compared with 2.99 per cent in August. The RBI said it expected inflation to stay below its medium-term target through to the early months of the 2020-21 fiscal year, while lowering its economic growth forecast to 6.1 per cent for the current year ending March 2020. —Reuters

'Right to privacy not for those who abuse platform'

New Delhi, Oct. 14: IT and Law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Monday expressed concerns over fake news circulations and rumour mongering on social media and said those who abuse internet platform cannot seek plea of privacy. The minister said he has maintained his stand since last one year that origin of messages on Whatsapp should be known to help track people who promote disturbance in the society by promoting fake news and rumours. "Does a terrorist have a right to privacy? Does a person who promotes mayhem have right to privacy? These are the questions with which we are dealing. Irony is that, those who abuse this beautiful platform to ferment terrorism, to radicalise, to provoke mayhem seek the plea of privacy," Prasad said while speaking at a cyber security conference organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). Citing the Supreme Court's observation, the minister said a terrorist cannot take the plea of privacy. Talking about misuse of social media, Prasad said, "Whatsapp is very fine



instrument but if a particular mischief maker abuses Whatsapp, he circulates fake news designed to create mayhem, rumour mongering, (that) lead to killing, what should be done? We don't need rocket science. On the same day, on the same issue and in same area, millions of fake rumours are circulated but the origin must be known," Prasad said. The IT ministry has asked WhatsApp to develop a mechanism to trace origin of messages when the app is found to be abused by terrorists and extremists. WhatsApp has said that it supports encryption and is focused on making changes to its product to deal with virality like forward limits that it had set on its messages. The platform is yet to heed to the demand of Indian government. —PTI

IRCTC makes a blockbuster debut

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCT. 14

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has made a stellar debut on the bourses and more than doubled the wealth of investors, as the government-run entity listed at Rs 644 on the BSE as against the issue price of Rs 320. The stock closed the first day of trading with a steep gain of 127.69 per cent at Rs 728.60 on the BSE and at Rs 727.75 on the NSE. Intra-day it hit a high of Rs 743.80. The IRCTC 645-crore initial public offering of IRCTC had received huge investor response, with overall demand at 112 times the shares on offer between September 30 and October 3. The shares of Rs 10 face value were offered to the public at Rs 320 a share. The market capitalisation of IRCTC at the close of first day's trading stood at Rs 11,657.60

crore. Speaking at the listing ceremony on the BSE, Mahendra Pratap Mall, Chairman and Managing Director, IRCTC, said, "We have more than doubled the wealth of investors. This showcases the trust of our customers and stakeholders on the brand called IRCTC and the services it provides. The investor demand exceeded shares on offer by 112 times, making us the most sought after state-run firm." "With the company's diversification plans for future and growing services across categories, IRCTC aims to stand out as a full-service hospitality and tourism brand of India," Mall added. Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research said, "This is a very unique business model in India that is listed and also very robust numbers in its business segment for the last three years. So for long-term it's a definite hold."

Over ₹81,000-cr loans given: FM

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCT. 14

The government on Monday said loans worth over Rs 81,000 crore were disbursed during the nine-day outreach programme, or loan mela, organised by public sector banks from October 1. It also said another outreach programme would be conducted for four days, starting October 21. The programmes are part of government's move to address liquidity issues that impact consumption. Briefing the press, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who met public sector bank heads on Monday, said she discussed a host of issues like re-assuring depositors of Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank, expediting dues of SMEs and bank mergers. Sitharaman declared that all public sector banks are flushed with money and are ready to lend to all sectors, including medium and small-scale enterprises (MSEs). In order to ensure liquidity



Nirmala Sitharaman

for small businesses, Sitharaman said banks have been asked to provide bill discounting facility to the MSME sector against payments due from the large corporates. "According to returns filed by the large corporates to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, as much as Rs 40,000 crore is due to the MSME sector. All efforts would be made to ensure that MSMEs get their dues ahead of Diwali by October 27," she said. "Credit across all sectors was given by banks, say agriculture and auto sectors, and the total amount of money given by banks stood at Rs 81,781 crore in nine days," she added.

HUL net spurts 21%, but volume drags

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 14

Benign raw material costs and new effective tax rates helped FMCG major Hindustan Unilever post strong net profit growth in the September quarter. However, volume growth, a key indicator of consumer demand, dipped to single digits. HUL on Monday reported a 21.18 per cent rise in standalone net profit to Rs 1,848 crore for the quarter ended on September 30, 2019 against Rs 1,525 crore reported for the corresponding quarter last year. The corporate tax cut supported profit growth. Margin expansion was also driven by improved mix and benign commodity price movement in large segments, found Edelweiss Securities. Standalone sales during

the quarter stood at Rs 9,708 crore against Rs 9,138 crore for the same period a year ago, growing 6.2 per cent. Domestic consumer growth was 7 per cent with underlying volume growth at 5 per cent against 10 per cent in Q2FY19. Rural growth, which was at 0.5x of urban growth, kept the volume growth low. Home care sustained another quarter of robust performance with consistent top line delivery in fabric wash. Within beauty and personal care, personal products showed a healthy show. Foods and refreshment saw broad-based growth across categories. Beverages delivered a good in quarter performance. "The near-term outlook

for demand, especially in rural India remains challenging, said Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director, HUL. HUL remains well-positioned to unlock the structural FMCG India opportunity while navigating the short-term challenges, he added. The company said that its board has declared an interim dividend of Rs 11 per equity share of face value Re 1 each. The company also announced the appointment of Willem Uijen as Executive Director, Supply Chain and a member of the HUL board with effect from January 1, 2020. Uijen succeeds Pradeep Banerjee who is retiring after a career of four decades.

Home care sustained another quarter of robust growth with consistent top line delivery in fabric wash

Buyers cut orders for Malaysian oil

RAJENDRA JADHAV MUMBAI, OCT. 14

Indian refiners have stopped buying Malaysian palm oil for shipment in November and December fearing New Delhi could raise import taxes or enforce other measures to curb imports from the Southeast Asian nation, five traders told Reuters on Monday. Lower purchases by India, the biggest buyer of Malaysian palm oil so far in 2019, could lead to higher inventories and put pressure on Malaysian palm oil prices. It could also help rival Indonesia increase its shipments to India. India is considering restricting imports of some products from Malaysia including palm oil after Kuala Lumpur criticised New Delhi for its actions in Kashmir. India's government has not made any public remarks about Malaysian palm oil. The Commerce Ministry did not immediately respond to a request

for comment on Monday. "We need clarity before doing business with Malaysia," said a Mumbai-based dealer. His trading firm was about to buy 5,000 tonnes palm oil on Friday from Malaysia for November shipment but decided not to proceed after reading about potential disruptions. If the government did not provide clarity in coming days, the trader said he would buy from Indonesia. Malaysian palm oil futures slumped for a second straight day on Monday due to concerns about the possible Indian import restrictions and weakness in related edible oils. "Traders are confused on both sides. They don't know how to plan their shipments," said Sandeep Bajaria, Chief Executive of Sunvin Group, a Mumbai-based vegetable oil importer. "On the cautious side, buyers are preferring Indonesian shipments," he said. —Reuters

Malaysia to study impact

Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 14: Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said his government will monitor the trade situation with India, which is reported to be considering trade curbs on the Southeast Asian nation over his criticism of actions in Kashmir, news wire Bernama reported. Malaysia had said it did not receive "anything official" from India. Mahathir said on Sunday his government will "study the impact of the action taken by India", the government-owned Bernama said. "They are exporting goods to Malaysia too. It's not just one-way trade, it's two-way trade," Mahathir said. India is the world's biggest edible oil importer and is the biggest buyer of Malaysian palm oil. —Reuters

India Inc steps up spend on education, healthcare

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 14

More and more Indian corporates have started contributing towards philanthropy, clocking an increase of almost 90 per cent in contributions made in 2019 at Rs 4,391 crore against Rs 2,310 crore in 2018, according to a report. The number of people who contributed upwards of Rs 10 crore per year towards philanthropic activities went up in 2019 to 72 from 38 in 2018, said the report by Edelgive Foundation and Hurun Report India. Shiv Nadar (Rs 826 crore), Azim Premji (Rs 453 crore) and Mukesh Ambani (Rs 402 crore) topped the India philanthropy list 2019 of top 100 Indian corporate



Shiv Nadar

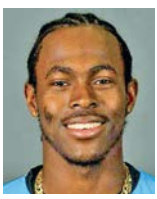


Azim Premji

contributor prepared by Edelgive Hurun in terms of their donation amount. Mumbai with 31 individuals among the top 100 Indian philanthropists topped the list, followed by New Delhi with 16 individuals and Bengaluru with 11 individuals, the report said.

Vidya Shah, CEO, Edelgive Foundation, said, "We now need to ensure that this 'giving' is resulting in a positive change in social indicators and being optimally utilised towards programmatic and organisational growth of our NGOs on ground."

Education and healthcare remained the most popular philanthropic cause among the top corporate Indian philanthropists. "With 35.6 per cent of contributions, education remains the most favoured philanthropic cause followed by healthcare (6.6 per cent) and arts, culture & heritage (6.3 per cent)," the report said. "Corporate India is banking and investing on education much more than any other cause. The focus of philanthropy in the country is shifting from donating to empowering. It is indeed a long term play, but would surely lead to lasting change in the years to come," said Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and Chief Researcher, Hurun Report India.



Archer aim

England pacer Jofra Archer says ECB must make the most of the thrilling World Cup triumph in July to encourage youngsters to take up the sport



He has still got the skill. But it is down to him to decide.

— Shane Watson says it's up to the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni to take a call on his retirement

SHORT TAKES

ICC tweaks super over rule

Dubai: The International Cricket Council on Monday tweaked the super over rule for all its major events following the uproar over the outcome of the men's World Cup final in July when England were declared winners against New Zealand on boundary count. New Zealand and England had headed into the super over after scores in the World Cup final were tied at 241. Once the super over also ended in a tie with both teams making 15, the winner was decided on account of superior boundary count. Following that nerve-wracking final, the ICC faced the wrath of fans and former players over the controversial rule. Now it has finally made changes to the rule and in case a situation arises where both teams are tied even after the super over in a final or semifinal, the super over will be repeated until there is a clear winner. "Following on from a recommendation from the ICC Cricket Committee, the Chief Executives' Committee agreed that use of the Super Over as a way to decide results at ICC events will be retained. Both the Cricket Committee and CEC agreed it was an exciting and engaging conclusion to the game and will remain in place covering all games at both ODI and T20I World Cups," the ICC said after its board meeting here. — PTI

Kings XI decide to retain Ashwin

New Delhi: Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness Wadia on Monday said the franchise decided not to trade Ravichandran Ashwin with the Delhi Capitals following a "rethink" by the Board. It has been learnt that the newly-appointed head coach Anil Kumble was also keen to retain Ashwin, who captained the side in the previous two editions. "The (KXIP) Board had a rethink and it realised that Ashwin is an integral part of the team. There were discussions with Delhi Capitals but those discussions never came to fruition. The way he plays his cricket and his performances speak for him," Wadia said. Under Ashwin's leadership, KXIP showed a lot of promise in the first half of the past two seasons before losing momentum in the second half. They finished seventh in 2018 and sixth in 2019. The off-spinner, who only plays one format for India, has been in fine form in the ongoing Test series against South Africa. KXIP reached the semifinals in the inaugural IPL edition in 2008 before making the play-offs just once in 2014 when they finished runners-up. Now with the legendary Kumble on board, the franchise is aiming to end its title drought. The former India captain has been handed a three-year contract. Anil is really a breath of fresh air." — PTI



Sourav Ganguly (from left), N. Srinivasan, Niranjana Shah and Rajiv Shukla at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai on Monday. — PTI

Indian cricket set for Prince's rule

■ Ganguly to take over as chief of BCCI



Former batsman and cricket administrator Brijesh Patel (center) arrives at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) office to file his nomination for the elections in Mumbai on Monday. — AFP

R. MOHAN I DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 14

With India generating 70 per cent of the revenues in international cricket, newly elected BCCI president Sourav Ganguly will soon be sitting on the seat of real power after the poll results are made formal at the BCCI AGM on October 23. An independent-minded cricketer who became one of the country's best captains because he refused to see India as north, south, east, west or central, Ganguly has the task of restoring cricket administration to its rightfully elected administrators. In his first comments as President-elect, he has said very positively that his priority would be the state of the domestic game. As captain, he derived his power to lead the Indian team out of the original betting scandal by the backing of Jagmohan Dalmiya, the businessman president of BCCI. He did a fantastic job of restoring fortunes with his bold approach and in sticking to what was best for Team India and backing his players

to the hilt in selection meetings. Ganguly would not compromise to the extent of joining the BJP just to get this plum post of president. He comes in as an administrator on his own right after performing as CAB president. The secretary Jay Shah, who is Amit Shah's son, and Treasurer, who is another BJP politician's son and brother of former BCCI president Anurag Thakur, would make up the team that will take back the reins of admin and run cricket from here. If they are as straight-forward as Ganguly and follow the best principles and practices of honorary administrators, they will make a great team.

DADA'S ARMY

Secretary JAY SHAH is Amit Shah's son. Treasurer Arun Dhupal is another BJP politician's son and brother of former BCCI president Anurag Thakur.

GANGULY AND JAYESH GEORGE will have to demit office as chiefs of Cricket Association of Bengal and Kerala respectively after they take charge at BCCI.

<< Secretary Jay Shah



It's time to set right BCCI's image, says president-elect

Mumbai, Oct. 14: Setting right the image of the Indian cricket Board and looking after the financial health of first class cricketers are immediate priorities of President-elect Sourav Ganguly, who is set to take over the reins of the BCCI at a crucial time. In Ganguly, the BCCI will have its first President since Anurag Thakur was forced out in January 2017 following the appointment of the Committee of Administrator (CoA), which ran the show for 33 months. The former India captain would be at helm for a mere nine months but he said it's a great opportunity to do "something good". He is then only candidate to have filed nomination for the post of President. "It's a great feeling (getting top post) as I have played for the country and captained the country. And I am taking over at a time when BCCI has not been in greatest of position for the last three years. Its image has got hampered (tarnished) quite a lot," Ganguly said. "It's a great opportunity for me to do something good," said the former India captain, who will have to demit office in July, due to compulsory cooling off period. "In the next few months, we can put everything in place and bring back normalcy in Indian cricket again. My colleagues — the eight people — who are members of the Apex Council, we will all work together to regain the old glory of BCCI," said the veteran 113 Tests and 311 ODIs.

I am taking over at a time when BCCI has not been in greatest of position for the last three years. Its image has got hampered (tarnished) quite a lot. — SOURAV GANGULY

He is then only candidate to have filed nomination for the post of President. "It's a great feeling (getting top post) as I have played for the country and captained the country. And I am taking over at a time when BCCI has not been in greatest of position for the last three years. Its image has got hampered (tarnished) quite a lot," Ganguly said. "It's a great opportunity for me to do something good," said the former India captain, who will have to demit office in July, due to compulsory cooling off period. "In the next few months, we can put everything in place and bring back normalcy in Indian cricket again. My colleagues — the eight people — who are members of the Apex Council, we will all work together to regain the old glory of BCCI," said the veteran 113 Tests and 311 ODIs.

He reportedly met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday and when asked if he will have to campaign for the BJP in West Bengal, he replied in a negative.

"No, no nothing of that sort. Nobody told me anything. No politician was in touch with me and that's what it is," Ganguly denied any political interference.

Conflict of Interest is big concern

BCCI president-elect Sourav Ganguly on Monday said "conflict of Interest" is one of the biggest issues facing Indian cricket since the contentious clause is discouraging the best of the cricketers from getting into the game's administration. Ganguly himself faced the heat after allegations of conflict of interest were levelled against him for his dual role as the president of Cricket Association of Bengal and mentor of IPL franchise Delhi Capitals.

While he has left Delhi Capitals mentorship already, he will relinquish his post as CAB president on October 23 after officially taking charge as BCCI chief. "Conflict of Interest is an issue. And I am not sure whether we will get the services of the best cricketers in the system, because they will have other options to avail," Ganguly said.

Ganguly made it clear that the present rule of 'one person one post' will prevent most of the former greats to get into cricket administration as they also need to earn their livelihood. — PTI

Spinners help Mithali & Co. complete a 3-0 whitewash

Vadodara, Oct. 14: Spinners helped India pull off a thrilling six-run win over South Africa in a low-scoring third women's ODI and complete a 3-0 series whitewash here on Monday. India were able to defend a modest 146 by bowling out South Africa for 140 in 48 overs. Spinners Ekta Bisht (3/32 in 10 overs), Deepti Sharma (2/24 in 10) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/22 in 10) were the architects of the win that reaffirmed India's supremacy over South Africa, who also lost the preceding six-game T20 series. It seemed South Africa would get their first win of the series when they bundled out India in 45.5 overs but another disap-



Mithali Raj completed 100th win as Team India captain. She is only the second captain to have 100 wins in women's cricket.

pointing batting performance denied them the opportunity. India made a disastrous start after winning the toss, losing openers Priya Punia and Jemimah

Rodrigues in the second over. With the hosts reeling at 55 for five, T20 skipper Harmanpreet Singh steadied the innings with a 76-ball 38 with the other valuable contribution coming from Shikha Pandey (35 off 40). Most of the batters, including captain Mithali Raj (11 off 46), failed to shift gears after getting settled, resulting in India posting a below-par total. In the end, even that proved to be enough against South Africa who were on course for a comfortable win at 103 for five in the 30th over. However, India fought back through their spinners and even part timers Harmanpreet and Rodrigues did their bit. Rodrigues took the final wicket. — PTI

ICC Test rankings: Kohli closes in on Smith

Dubai, Oct. 14: Virat Kohli reached within one point of top-ranked Steve Smith in the Test batsmen rankings after the India skipper scored an unbeaten 254 in the second Test against South Africa to help his team seal the series 2-0. Opener Mayank Agarwal also rose in the rankings, breaking into the top 20. His innings of 108 in the second Test against South Africa helped him progress eight places to reach the

17th position. Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, at fourth and ninth places respectively, are the other two Indian batsmen in the top 10. R Ashwin also jumped three spots to number seven while Bumrah continued to remain third in the bowlers' rankings. Among the all-rounders, Ravindra Jadeja is at number two behind West Indies skipper Jason Holder while Ashwin occupies the fifth place. — PTI



BATSMEN (TOP 5)		
Rank	Player	Pts
1	Steve Smith (Aus)	937
2	Virat Kohli (Ind)	936
3	K Williamson (NZ)	878
4	C Pujara (Ind)	817
5	Henry Nicholls (NZ)	749

BOWLERS (TOP 5)		
Rank	Player	Pts
1	Pat Cummins (Aus)	908
2	K Rabada (SA)	835
3	J Bumrah (Ind)	818
4	J Holder (WI)	814
5	J Anderson (Eng)	798

■ VIRAT KOHLI reached within one point of top-ranked Steve Smith in the Test batsmen rankings.



Off track

Former England footballer Paul Gascoigne planted a “sloppy”, drunken kiss on a fellow train passenger, a court heard on Monday as he went on trial charged with sexual assault



We are now very close to qualifying for the finals, and ultimately that's what counts.

— Virgil van Dijk, Dutch captain after their 2-1 win over Belarus in the Euro qualifier

SHORT TAKES

Chennaiyin crush Real Kashmir

Chennai: ISL team Chennaiyin FC cruised to a 4-0 victory over I-League side Real Kashmir FC in their final pre-season friendly here on Monday. Romanian winger Dragos Firtulescu scored a goal in each half, with two other foreign signings Andre Schembri and Rafael Crivellaro also getting on the scoresheet. Dhanpal Ganesh started alongside Afghan midfielder Masih Saighani in midfield, with Thoi Singh and Dragos on the wings, as Brazilian Rafael supported Schembri. CFC began brightly and took the lead just after the opening ten minutes from a delightful Dragos free-kick. The Romanian, felled just outside the box on the left flank, stepped up himself and curled it into the top corner out of the RKFC keeper's reach. Chennaiyin added a second in as many minutes, this time Dragos turning provider. CFC begins their ISL-6 campaign against FC Goa in Goa on October 23. — PTI

Shubhankar logs first Top-10 of year

Rome: Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma rounded off the week with a three-under 68 for a total of nine-under 275 to finish tied seventh at the Italian Open here. Shubhankar, with 21 birdies and an eagle, on Sunday topped the chart for strokes gained from approaches but he also gave away a lot of bogeys, as many as a dozen and a double bogey, too. It was Shubhankar's first top-10 finish outside India since Hong Kong. His only top-10 this year has been tied second on the Indian PGTI Tour in February. Yet his tied seventh finish was his best since the tied sixth in Hong Kong more than 11 months ago. It also saw him move from 113th to 80th on the Race to Dubai standings and now needs a final push to get into top-50 for a start in the DP World Tour Championships next month. India's other player in the field, S.S.P. Chawrasia, who fought well to make the cut, shot his second 68 this week to finish at one-over and tied-57th. Gaganjeet Bhullar missed the cut. — PTI

ISL SET TO BE COUNTRY'S TOP TIER LEAGUE

New Delhi: Indian Super League will replace the I-League as the top-tier competition in the country after the stakeholders agreed to a proposal of the Asian Football Confederation, ending the long-drawn and contentious restructuring process. In a meeting at the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, the I-League and ISL clubs agreed on a roadmap presented by the AFC on domestic football structure reforms in India. As per the roadmap, the ISL will be the top league in the country from this season itself while I-League will continue as second tier league. The ISL, which begins in Kochi on October 20, will not have promotion and relegation till 2023-24 by which time the League would have completed 10 seasons. From the 2024-25 season onwards, performance-based promotion and relegation will be implemented and there will not be two parallel leagues. The ISL champions would now be entitled to a play-off place in the AFC Champions League, the top-tier club competition in Asia, while I-League champions would compete in the second tier AFC Cup “as a special compensation to India”. — PTI

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Poland, Russia reach Euro 2020

Paris, Oct. 14: Poland and Russia secured their places at Euro 2020 on Sunday with victories over North Macedonia and Cyprus respectively, while Germany and the Netherlands boosted their hopes of reaching the finals.

Russia eased to a 5-0 thrashing of 10-man Cyprus, with Poland joining them, Belgium and Italy in qualifying this week by seeing off North Macedonia 2-0.

Stanislav Cherchesov's Russia, who reached the World Cup quarterfinals on home soil last year, only had to avoid defeat in Nicosia to follow Belgium in qualifying from Group I.

Valencia winger Denis Cheryshev fired in a ninth-minute opener for the visitors, before Magomed Ozdoev, who scored a fabulous long-range strike on Thursday against Scotland, made it two midway through the first half.

Any thoughts of a Cyprus comeback were ended in just the 28th minute when Kostas Laifis was dismissed for a nasty lunge on Russian full-back Sergei Petrov.

Striker Artem Dzyuba scored his third goal in two games in the 79th minute, before Aleksandr Golovin and Cheryshev's second completed the rout late on.

Russia will attempt to overtake Belgium, who beat Kazakhstan 2-0 earlier on Sunday, at the summit when they host the world's number one side on November 16.

The European Championship finals, which start on June 12 next year, are being held at 12 different venues across the continent, including Saint Petersburg in Russia.

Poland went into their game against North Macedonia knowing victory would punch their ticket for the Euros.

They were forced to be patient by the visitors, who could qualify through the playoffs after winning their Nations League group if they fail to do so automatically.

But Przemyslaw Frankowski prodded home less than 60 seconds after coming on as a substitute in the 74th minute, before Akardiusz Milik made the points safe.

Poland remain three points clear of Austria, who won 1-0 in Slovenia, at the top of Group G, with North Macedonia and Slovenia five points further adrift.

DUTCH SEE OFF BELARUS

Ronald Koeman's Netherlands remained at the top of Group C ahead of Germany on head-to-head record with a nervy 2-1 win over Belarus in Minsk.

The Dutch lead third-placed Northern Ireland by three points after beating Michael O'Neill's side 3-1 on Thursday.

Georginio Wijnaldum headed the away team in front in the 32nd minute, shortly after Denis Laptev had spurned a golden chance to give Belarus a shock lead.

Germany eased to a 3-0 victory in Estonia despite seeing Emre Can sent off in the 14th minute.

Ilkay Gundogan, who along with Can before kickoff “unliked” a controversial Instagram post by Turkey forward Cenk Tosun, scored twice, with Timo Werner also finding the net. Joachim Loew's side host Northern Ireland in their final game, which could decide second place. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Belarus (Dragun 54)	1	Slovenia	0
Netherlands (Wijnaldum 32, 41)	2	Austria 1 (Posch 21)	0
Estonia	0	Poland (Frankowski 74, Milik 80)	2
Germany (Gundogan 51, 57, Werner 71)	3	North Macedonia	0
Hungary (Korhut 10)	1	Kazakhstan	0
Azerbaijan	0	Belgium (Batshuayi 21, Meunier 53)	2
Wales (Bale 45+3)	1	Cyprus	0
Croatia (Vlasic 9)	1	Russia (Cheryshev 9, 90+2, Ozdoev 23, Dzyuba 79, Golovin 89)	5
		Scotland (McGinn 12, 27, 45+1, Shankland 65, Findlay 67, Armstrong 87)	6
		San Marino	0



Members of Poland team celebrate their win over Macedonia in their Euro 2020 qualifier match in Poland on Sunday. — AFP

India eye full points against Bangla

Kolkata, Oct. 14: Buoyed by their gallant goalless draw against Asian champions Qatar, India would be looking to register their first win in the Fifa World Cup qualifiers when they take on Bangladesh in a Group E second round match at the Saltlake Stadium, here on Tuesday.

India put a gritty performance against an attacking Qatar, to hold the reigning Asian champions to a goalless draw and earn their first point of the qualifiers after suffering a heartbreaking loss in the opening match against Oman. With the city set to host the senior national men's team after a gap of nine years, the euphoria around the match has been immense with a mad rush for tickets as the Saltlake Stadium is set to witness a packed house, giving the Igor Stimac-coached side a perfect stage to grab three points and keep their World Cup hopes alive.

The absence of defender, Sandesh Jhingjan due to an ACL tear on his left knee is a big blow to the hosts. But the return of talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri after missing the last game will lift the team's spirit. In his last appearance, Chhetri scored

● The return of talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri after missing the last game will lift the team's spirit.

his 72nd international goal, the second most among active players, as India put up a dominating first-half display only to go down 1-2 after conceding late goals in their World Cup qualifier against Oman in Guwahati. Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu took the charge in Chhetri's absence and thwarted a barrage of attacks from Qatar, making 11 saves in a heroic display to snatch a point from the 2022 World Cup hosts.

While defence, tactical formation and discipline were the highlights of their match against Qatar, the focus against Bangladesh, who are ranked 83 places below India, would be on the strikers. Chhetri will remain the go-to man in the attacking zone, but the onus will also be on the likes of Balwant Singh and Manvir Singh to make an impact. Bangladesh head to the match after two consecutive defeats. They lost narrowly to Afghanistan and in their last match before losing 0-2 to Qatar. — PTI



Bangladesh coach Jamie Day (from left) and captain Jamal Bhuyan with Indian coach Igor Stimac and captain Sunil Chhetri in Kolkata on Monday.

THERE IS NO DEPENDENCY ON ME: CHHETRI

Kolkata, Oct. 14: Expectations are always high from India's record goalscorer Sunil Chhetri but ahead of the team's World Cup qualifier against Bangladesh, the skipper said others players in the side are very much capable of outperforming him. Having sat out of their historic goalless draw against Qatar, Chhetri will return to take charge of the team against Bangladesh but he played down his presence in the side. “It was never about me, it will be never about me. It's

always about India versus Bangladesh. I'm just one of the 23 players. I definitely have been lucky to have a little bit more experience and that's about it. There's no dependency on me from my team mates. We are one and we are going to play like one,” Chhetri said on the eve of their Group E fixture. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu put up a heroic show in Chhetri's absence against Asian champions Qatar to come out with a historic goalless draw in their last World Cup qualifier. The 35-year-old said the

secret to their success is India coach Igor Stimac's squad selection which is purely based on performance in the training. “It was because of my absence that the team played good against Qatar, the players keep reminding me,” he said in a lighter vein. “This is one of the very good changes that we have in our team right now. The importance of who's going to play is so less and the important thing is the team that is going to play under him (Stimac). He has come with no prejudice,” he said. — PTI

DENMARK | OPEN



P. V. Sindhu

Sindhu & Co. seek reversal of fortunes

Odense, Oct. 14: World Champion P. V. Sindhu will look to shake off her indifferent form and regain touch when she competes at the \$775,000 Denmark Open from Tuesday.

After claiming the World title in August, Sindhu endured surprise first and second round exits at the China Open and Korea Open last month, respectively.

World number six Sindhu, who has not won a title in the BWF World Tour this season, will take on Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the first round of the World Tour Super 750 tournament.

Sindhu enjoys a 5-0 head-to-head record against the world number 16.

World No.8 Saina Nehwal, on the other hand, has been going through a tough phase with fitness issues hindering her progress since claiming the Indonesia Masters in January.

The London Olympic bronze medalist, who was diagnosed with agastroenteritis problem in March, made first-round exits at China and Korea and she aim to get deep into the draw.

A finalist at the last edition, Saina, seeded 8th, is up against World No. 12 from Japan Sayaka Takahashi, who had defeated the Indian the last time they meet at the Thailand Open in August.

Former champion Kidambi Srikanth, who had skipped the events in China and Korea due to a knee issue, too will be eager to make a positive start but he will have to get past Denmark's Anders Antonsen in the opening round.

While Srikanth had beaten Antonsen at the 2017 World Championships, the Danish shuttler has come a long way since then, having reached the finals of the World Championships

● World number six Sindhu, who has not won a title in the BWF World Tour this season, will take on Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the first round of the World Tour Super 750 tournament.

at Switzerland. Currently ranked fourth, Antonsen has won the Indonesia Masters, Barcelona Spain Masters, European Games and made it to the finals at Indonesia Open Super 1000 this year.

World Championships bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth will be up against the legendary Lin Dan, who had entered the finals at Thailand Masters in January and won the Malaysia Open in April but have looked off-colour since then.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap has been in decent form this year. He reached the semi-finals at India Open before making it to the last four at Korea Open. The 33-year-old will open against Thailand's Sittthikom Thammasin.

Returning to action after recovering from dengue will be H.S. Prannoy, who faces an uphill task against eighth seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in the opening match.

Among other Indians in action, Thailand Open winners Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will square off against Korea's Kim Gi Jung and Lee Yong Dae in the men's doubles first round. Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy will face top seeds Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara of Japan in women's doubles. — PTI

PRIYANSHU, JUHI-VENKAT WIN TITLES IN BAHRAIN

Isa Town (Bahrain), Oct. 14: Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat overcame top-seed Jason Anthony Ho-Shue from Canada in the final to claim the men's singles title at the Bahrain International Series here.

The 17-year-old Indian rallied from a game deficit to outwit Jason 16-21, 21-7, 21-12 in the summit clash on Sunday.

Priyanshu had earlier defeated the second-seed Ade Resky Dwicahyo in the pre-quarterfinals.

The youngster joins Sameer Verma, Sourabh Verma, Sai Praneeth, Shubhankar Dey and Guru Sai Dutt in the list of Indians who have won the Bahrain International series.

The top-seeded Indian mixed double pair of Juhi Dewangan and Venkat Gaurav Prasad also fin-

● Priyanshu rallied from a game deficit to outwit Jason 16-21, 21-7, 21-12 in the summit clash.

ished at the top as they defeated Thailand's Pannawat Theerapanitnun and Kanyanat Sudchoeichom 21-18, 21-16 in 34 minutes to bag the gold medal.

In women's singles, Ira Sharma finished second best after losing 14-21, 22-24 to Sri Fatmawati of Indonesia in the final.

Second seeded Indian men's doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Saurabh Sharma also went down fighting 21-19, 16-21, 22-24 to Thailand pair of Prad Tangsripapeehan and Apichasit Teerawiwat to settle for the runners-up position here. — PTI