

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 17 OCTOBER 2019

WEATHER

Max: 25.6°C
Min: 21.6°C
RH: 84%
Rain: 0.6mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 30/22°C

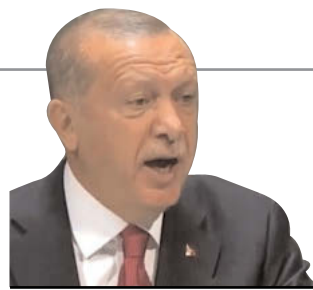
ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Ashwayuja Bahula
Tadiya till 6.47 am
Star: Kritika till 3.48 pm
Varjyam: nil
Durmuhurtam: 10.05 am to 10.51 am, 2.43 pm to 3.30 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Safar 17, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.50 am
Zohar: 12.11 pm
Asar: 4.07 pm
Maghrib: 5.51 pm
Isha: 7.06 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.53 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 8.82 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.30 PM
MOONSET TODAY 4.16 PM

COUNTER POINT



He is promising 'Voter Ratna' award for every voter!



WORLD | 10
Erdogan rules out ceasefire



SPORTS | 13
Jaiswal youngest to hit double ton in List-A

TABLOID
Mahesh Babu-Allu Arjun all set for a clash



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Ayodhya hearing concludes, finally

PRAMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

After marathon arguments over 40 days, the Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on a batch of cross-appeals filed by the Bhagwan Shri Ram Virajman, Nirmohi Akhara, Sunni Waqf Board and others against 2010 Allahabad High court judgment trifurcating the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya.

The High Court judgment had given two parts to Hindus — for the idol of Ram Lalla and for Nirmohi Akhara, a Hindu sect — and one to Muslims. However, it was allocated such that the area under the dome of the now-demolished Babri Mosque went to the Hindu side.

After senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan concluded his arguments, Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said: "Hearing concluded. Judgment reserved. Parties to file written submissions on moulding of relief in three days."

The bench also comprised Justices S.A. Bobde, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and Abdul Nazeer. They have 32 days to write and

■ The bench has 32 days to write and pronounce their judgment.

■ The deadline is November 17, the day CJI Gogoi retires.

■ Parties to file written submissions on moulding of relief in three days.

pronounce their judgment. The deadline is November 17, the day CJI Gogoi retires.

At the outset, Gogoi made it clear the hearing had to conclude on Wednesday.

"Enough is enough," Gogoi said, adding that the hearing would conclude at 5 pm when they rose for the day. It ended 50 minutes earlier after Dhavan concluded his arguments reciting a couplet from the poet Iqbal.

At one stage, Gogoi exclaimed, "I can go out, if it is going..." when a number of lawyers urged the bench to give them an opportunity to address the court on the issue.

■ Turn to Page 7

NRI TECHIE IN US KILLS 4 KIN, SURRENDERS

San Francisco, Oct. 16: A Indian-origin IT professional walked into a Northern California police station, told the cops that he had a dead body in his car and confessed to having killed three others at his apartment, over 350 kilometres away.

All four victims in the grisly incident are related to the suspect, Shankar Nagappa Hangud, 53, Roseville police Captain Joshua Simon said on Tuesday. Two of the victims are minors. It appeared that he had killed his victims over a period of time.

Hangud, driving a red Mazda-6, arrived at the police station in the city of Mount Shasta shortly after noon and told officers that he had killed people at his apartment in Placer County city of Roseville, police said. He was placed under custody and will face four charges of murder.

Hangud was a data specialist and had worked for several companies in the Sacramento area, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Hangud told the police the address where to find the bodies of his three other victims.

■ Turn to Page 10

Late night meet raises hope of RTC stir ending

Strikers, govt stay firm; pressure grows for resolution

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

The RTC staff strike entered the 13th day on Thursday, but there was a sliver of hope late on Wednesday night that the issue could move towards resolution. It was not to be, but the door has not been shut.

Throughout the day, there was no movement in response to the High Court's call to the government and the RTC workers to end the strike. The RTC Joint Action Committee said that it was waiting for an invitation from the government. Nothing was forthcoming till the evening.

Then came the news that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao was holding a review meeting, and the expectation was that he would constitute a committee of three ministers to resolve the strike.

There was a certain basis for the expectation. Mr Rao is scheduled to address a meeting at Huzurnagar on Thursday evening for the October 21 byelection and it was

GUV LIKELY TO INTERVENE TO RESOLVE MATTERS AMICABLY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan may not only intervene in the ongoing RTC strike but may also look into allegations by opposition parties that the TRS government is planning to lease out RTC properties to private persons.

The Governor went to Delhi on Tuesday, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, and returned

to Hyderabad the same night. After she returned, a BJP delegation, led by state chief K. Laxman, asked her to intervene in the strike.

The Governor's meeting with the BJP soon after her return has assumed significance in the light of reports that she submitted a report on the RTC strike to Modi and Shah in Delhi and apprised them of the situation.

■ Full coverage: Page 2

expected that he would go with an announcement in hand.

Besides, the High Court has asked for a report from the government on October 18 regarding the strike.

Past 10.30 pm came the official word that the meeting was about panchayat raj affairs.

Sources close to the Chief Minister's Office,

however, said the meeting was held to discuss the RTC strike, but Mr Rao deferred to certain views expressed by officials.

Mr Rao is said to have asked the officials to come for discussions on Thursday.

Sources said the government had asked three senior IPS officers — Dr R.S. Praveen Kumar of the residential schools soci-

ety, civil supplies commissioner Akun Sabharwal and inspector-general Stephen Ravindra — to be available in the city. They had been shortlisted to be appointed as vice-chairman and MD.

Earlier in the day, RTC JAC convener Ashwathama Reddy declared that the workers would continue their strike as there was no invitation from the government for negotiations.

On the other side, transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar and officials held a video conference, and instructed the RTC and transport department authorities to resume all services from October 19.

About the meeting, the Chief Minister's Office in a late night statement said that Mr Puvvada Ajay Kumar, Mr Gatika Ajay Kumar, a mandal praja parishad president from Warangal, and other members of the Panchayat Raj tribunal, met Mr Rao at Pragati Bhavan and discussed the successful completion of the 30 days action plan for villages.



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Order order!

Dr. K. Laxman criticises government for ignoring High Court directions on resolving the RTC staff strike



RTC unions made a mistake by striking work and lost people's support

— G. Jagadish Reddy
Energy minister

BRIEF

HC NOTICE TO RTC, GOVT OVER WORKERS' PAY

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday directed the state government and the RTC management to respond to a petition filed by the Telangana Jathiya Mazdoor Union seeking directions to the corporation to pay September salaries to around 49,190 workers who were on strike.

Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili, after hearing the plea of the union, directed the counsels for the RTC and state government to get instructions on this issue by Monday.

Mr Chikkudu Prabhakar, counsel for the union, submitted that the RTC has not paid the salaries for September to 49,190 workers, although they worked for the entire month. He also submitted that the Dassera festival advance was also not paid to the employees.

Further, he submitted that the Supreme Court gave several judgments stating that the court can direct the state or any management of the corporations to deposit the salaries of the employees, if they were not paid on time. He sought such directions from the court.

The counsel for the RTC informed the court that the staff which looks after the salary matters were also on strike, hence they could not pay the salaries.

Responding to the RTC counsel's submissions, Mr Prabhakar said that if the corporation was ready to pay the salaries, the union will send 100 employees for that work.

Refusing to issue immediate directions to the RTC to pay salaries, the court said that it has to hear the contentions of the other side too. The case has been adjourned to Monday.

Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili, after hearing the plea of the union to pay September salaries to around 49,190 workers, directed the counsels for the RTC and state government to get instructions on this issue by Monday.

SECURITY HIKED FOR KCR MEET AT HUZURNAGAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Sensing possible trouble at Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's public meeting at Huzurnagar on Thursday evening, held against the backdrop of the RTC staff strike, the police is putting in place elaborate security arrangements to ensure that the event goes off without any disruption.

The RTC Joint Action Committee and Opposition parties, including the CPI, CPM and Telangana Jana Samiti, held a meeting in the city and reviewed the situation in the wake of the High Court's instruction to initiate talks with the government.

RTC JAC convener Ashwathama Reddy said that as there was no invitation from the state government or the RTC management, they have decided to intensify their stir. It was learnt that during the meeting, some leaders suggested that they go to Mr Rao's public meeting and raise their demands in the presence of the people. It is reported that some student union leaders have already reached Huzurnagar and may try to raise the issue of the RTC stir at the meeting.

Keeping these developments in view, the police has decided to mobilise forces from the neighbouring districts of Suryapet, apart from the city, to tighten security and prevent trouble. The Suryapet district police administration has been asked to set up check posts on the main routes leading to Huzurnagar to identify protesters and prevent them from reaching the meeting spot.



Representatives of student unions at Osmania University protest by removing their shirts at the Arts College campus in Hyderabad in support of the ongoing agitation by the RTC employees on Wednesday.

It's like a return of TS struggle

The only difference is that the TRS is now at the receiving end as Oppn, NGOs support RTC strike

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

It is almost as if the days of the statehood agitation are back. The RTC strike is becoming the magnet for diverse trade unions and associations and has also brought all opposition parties together.

There is one major difference. The TRS that led the agitation is now at the receiving end.

During the separate Telangana state movement, all opposition parties, unions of government employees, workers and teachers came together on one platform to put pressure on the Centre to grant statehood to the region.

In the wake of the RTC strike, opposition parties and government employees, workers and teachers association have aligned themselves together against the TRS government. The RTC Joint Action Committee is not quite the TJAC of Prof. M. Kodandaram, but is getting support from various quarters like All India Road Transport Coordination Committee and from student unions, apart from political parties.

The state government tried to extend the Dasara holidays, hoping that the students would stay at home and the RTC unions would not get their support. But student organisations are conducting protests in support of the RTC strike on various campuses.

In the pre-2014 era, all government employees, workers and teachers, including the RTC, went on a 42-day strike — the Sakala Janula Samme. If the RTC strike is not resolved soon, there is a fear that it could turn into another prolonged general strike. At that time, the TRS had encouraged employees unions to go on strike as a pressure tactic against the Centre. As the ruling party of the state, it is now under pressure.

During the statehood agitation, several students, unemployed youth and others had committed suicide. Now, two persons have ended their lives and three others have attempted suicide, sparking calls for RTC employees to calm down and not take the extreme step.

To force the Centre's hand, the TRS had called for a bandh on several occasions. Now in power, it is facing a bandh call on October 19 given by the JAC. This is being supported by all non-TRS entities.

The RTC Joint Action Committee is not quite the TJAC of Prof. M. Kodandaram, but is getting support from various quarters like the All India Road Transport Coordination Committee and student unions and political parties.

10 protesters tonsure heads

T.S.S. SIDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

As many as 100 employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), laid siege to the RTC crossroads junction, on Wednesday in support of their strike which entered the 12th day on Wednesday.

As many as 10 employees sat down on the roads and had their heads tonsured in a bid to ensure that the state government notices their protest.

"They tonsured their heads as a sign of disappointment with the government. We have put forth a charter of 26 demands to the government, which includes the merger of the corporation with the state government," said Mr Maddela Dasharath, a member of the TSRTC union.

It might be recalled that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had termed the strike as illegal and ruled out any talks with the employees. He also announced that over 48,000 employees had 'dismissed themselves' by not joining duty before the expiry of the deadline.

The protests were not just limited to RTC crossroads, they also erupted in a similar vein at Osmania University, when, on Wednesday, students carried out two dharnas to support the striking drivers.

While one procession saw a mock funeral of the Chief Minister, the other,



Protesters tonsure their heads and raise slogans in support of agitating RTC workers at VST Crossroads in Hyderabad on Wednesday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

a group of 20 students, stripped and went semi-nude in front of the Arts College.

Students who had organised the half-nude protest, were managed by the AISE, whose state president K. Srinivas said: "We are showing our full support to the striking workers. The government's decision to remove them from the rolls is completely arbitrary."

Similarly, a few students had taken out a funeral procession in the campus. "We had taken out a funeral procession from

Kaveri C Hostel to the Arts College. There were over 200 students who were a part of it. We have done this in support of the striking TSRTC employees," said Mr D. Naresh, state president, Dalit Minorities Students' Association.

He added that the government chose to replace the striking employees' jobs with temporary drivers and conductors who weren't well-versed with driving a bus. "If the government chose to give the jobs to other people, they should have given them

training. Not employed people who has no training at all," he said.

However, these protests were marred by the presence of the police from the Osmania University police station. According to officials of the station, the protests were thwarted from moving any further.

"We asked the students to move back to their rooms after they came to the Arts College. We have not pressed any charges or taken anyone into custody," said an official from the station.

Guv to intervene to end stalemate

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan may not only intervene in the ongoing RTC strike but may also look into allegations by opposition parties that the TRS government is planning to lease out RTC properties to private persons.

The Governor went to Delhi on Tuesday, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, and returned to Hyderabad the same night. After she returned, a BJP delegation led by state chief K. Laxman asked her to intervene in the strike.

The Governor's meeting with the BJP soon after her return has assumed significance in the light of reports that she submitted a report on the RTC strike to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah in Delhi and apprised them of the current situation in Telangana state.

her to intervene and direct government to halt the process of leasing RTC lands to private parties."

The RTC has about 1,500 acres of prime property across the state, at a conservatively estimated value of ₹80,000 crore. He said the state government was attempting to lease 10 acres at RTC crossroads for 33 years, and it has handed four acres in Warangal worth Rs 76 crore to ruling party leaders.

He told the Governor that RTC employees are on strike for 12 days but the government has made no effort to address their issues.

BJP meets Guv on return from Delhi

AVINASH PUJARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

A BJP delegation led by TS party president Dr K. Laxman met Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, and handed over a memorandum asking her intervene in the TSRTC employees strike. Dr Soundararajan had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president and home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday.

The memorandum pointed out that the government had no made no effort to end the strike which was going on for 12 days.

The BJP delegation that met the Governor included party MLC N. Ramchander Rao, spokesperson N.V. Subhash, party's TS Mahila Morcha president Akula Vijaya and state vice-president S. Malla Reddy.

The memorandum pointed out that the government had no made no effort to end the strike which was going on for 12 days.

The staff has not been paid salaries, they said. The BJP delegation included party MLC N. Ramchander Rao, spokesperson N.V. Subhash, party's TS Mahila Morcha president Akula Vijaya and state vice-president S. Malla Reddy.

It alleged that the government planned to hand over prime RTC property spread over 1,500 acres and worth ₹80,000 crore, to

private individuals. RTC properties in Warangal, Armoor and Karimnagar had been given on lease to TRS politicians, BJP leaders stated.

A large number of BJP workers staged a dharna at the Uppal RTC depot. Former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar said the RTC staff which had participated in the statehood agitation were again on the roads to fight for their rights.

Eight arrested for bid to burn effigy

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Three RTC employees and five leaders of Telangana Jana Samiti, who attempted to burn an effigy of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao at Dilukhnagar bus depot, were taken into preventive custody by Malakpet police on Wednesday.

Malakpet inspector K.V. Subba Rao said that around 1.30 pm on Wednesday, a group of persons arrived at Dilukhnagar bus depot

carrying an effigy of the CM and tried to burn it in support of the ongoing strike by the RTC employees.

The detained persons have been identified as TJS leaders P. Raman Singh, G. Susheel Kumar, P. Vinay Kumar, E. Sai Kiran and K. Dasu besides RTC driver P. Vasudev, conductor L. Ravinder Reddy and SK Jani Pasha, a driver of Dilukhnagar depot. They were released later in the day, said the inspector.

WORKERS WANT STIR TO END BEFORE DIWALI

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, OCT. 16

With the High Court entering the fray, RTC workers hope that the strike will end by Diwali on October 28. RTC JAC leader G. Madhava Rao in Khammam said, "We are ready for talks if the government comes forward. Our demands are genuine and we are asking KCR to fulfil it."

RTC staff inquired with their leaders in Hyderabad whether or not the government had made any offer for talks. A driver, Mr N. Appa Rao, said, "We went on strike because we have news of the privatisation of RTC in a phased manner. We want to protect our corporation."

RTC workers stripped down to their waists and went around begging. They later staged a rasta roko at Mayuri Centre. CPI deputy secretary K. Sambasiva Rao said the party withdrew its support to the TRS in the Huzurnagar by-election due to the RTC strike.

"KCR's hegemonic attitude towards the RTC strike forced us to change our stand," he said.



TSRTC workers protest at JBS bus stop on the 11th day of the strike in Hyderabad on Wednesday. — S. SURENDER REDDY



Project Warangal

Principal secretary Arvind Kumar inspects Bhadrakali 1-2-km bund beautification at Warangal, expected to be a tourist attraction



Mahmood Ali saying KCR is secular is misleading and shows BJP nexus

— Mohammed Ali Shabbir
Congress leader

POWER | SHUTDOWN

There will be no power in the following areas

10 am to 1 pm: Hockey Ground, Masab Tank, Universal Bakery, Andhra Bank, area behind JNTU campus, Shanthinagar, Castle Hills, NMDC, Vijayanagar Colony.
2 pm to 5 pm: NSF Colony, Suryanagar, Bal Reddy Nagar, Virasath Colony, Owaisi Colony, Akbarpura, Minar Colony, Al Kareem Colony.

Official laxity, fund crisis leave Charminar project in the lurch

Work on parking complexes, special lighting yet to begin

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Too many chefs may spoil the broth, but what if no chef actually gets to cook? That is the situation at the Charminar Pedestrianisation Project (CPP) which has been dragging along for a decade now. It has three officials at the top and none of them has been empowered to do anything. GHMC Khairatabad zonal commissioner, Musharrarf Faruqi, is the project director but the responsibility is shared between Charminar zonal commissioner, B. Srinivas Reddy, and GHMC director, planning, K. Srinivas Rao. No one reports to anyone among the three, and jun-

ior officers do not report to the trio. None of them has the power to allocate funds from their kitty. The project does not have designated engineers from the projects wing but, surprisingly, engineers from the maintenance wing were deputed to take care of day-to-day activities. And therefore the project crawls. Nothing has been done for about a year. The only activity has been to fix hydraulic bollards near the Charminar to prevent vehicles from entering the pedestrianisation zone. Work on key components like facade development, construction of the Salar Jung bridge to shift the hawkers, special lighting to attract tourists, among others, are still pending.

DRAGGING FOR DECADE

■ **THE PROJECT** has three officials at the top and none of them has been empowered to do anything. No one reports to anyone among the three.

■ **NONE OF** them has the power to allocate funds from their kitty. The project does not have designated engineers from the projects wing.

■ **THE PROJECT** crawls. Nothing has been done for about a year. The only activity has been to fix hydraulic bollards near the Charminar to prevent vehicles from entering the pedestrianisation zone.

This apart, neither the electricity department nor the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has responded to the requirements of the CPP. Despite repeated proposals from the GHMC, neither body has respond-

ed to shift utilities like electricity cables, drinking water and sewerage lines away from the CPP area. As no one is empowered to do anything, there is a reluctance to take responsibility. Authorities said the project lacked budgetary allocation. None of the three top officials can finalise tenders to hand out work to the agencies. The upshot of all this that commuters are facing severe inconvenience due to traffic congestion and lack of parking spaces and others. Asked about the situation, an official said the budgetary allocation would be made in the next financial year.

BioAsia to be held in February 2020

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

The 17th edition of BioAsia will be organised in the city from February 17-19, 2020 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC). IT minister K.T. Rama Rao unveiled the logo and website on Wednesday.

At the launch, the minister said "BioAsia has emerged as a global brand, witnessing participation of the who's who of the global life sciences and healthcare sector. BioAsia has been instrumental in Hyderabad's journey to becoming the life sciences capital of the country. We are committed to magnifying the scale of the event to greater heights."

GOLD SEIZED AT AIRPORT

Hyderabad: An air passenger who arrived at the RGI Airport from Jeddah with gold was held by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence sleuths on Wednesday.

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Defence unit to get Balapur Wakf land

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

The Telangana Wakf Board has agreed in principle not to challenge the land acquisition award to be passed pertaining to the land in Balapur known as Qutub Shahi Maqbara Roushan ud Dowla, which is required for the Defence Research and Development Authority (DRDL). A meeting was held at the Wakf Board officials with the officials responsible for land acquisition. The Ranga Reddy deputy collector and land acquisition authority informed the Wakf Board chairman, Mohd. Saleem, that the DRDL had shown interest to acquire land in Survey No. 51/3, in Balapur and had approached the district administration with a request to initiate land acquisition under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. On a query by the Wakf Board authorities, revenue officials claimed that the acquisition of the land is unavoidable. Mr Saleem said that in Survey No. 51/3, six acres and 18 guntas of land in Balapur are a gazette-notified Wakf property where two tombs are situated. He said if the acquisition of the said land is unavoidable, then the board will accord its consent. "We would like to request the defence authorities not to disturb the tombs and pro-

■ **THE WAKF** Board chairman said that in Survey No. 51/3, six acres and 18 guntas of land in Balapur are gazette-notified Wakf property, where two tombs are situated. He said if the acquisition of the said land is unavoidable, then the board will accord its consent.

tect them even after acquisition and provide passage for the general public so that people can offer fateha for the souls," Mr Saleem said. He informed the revenue officials that in Maheshwaram, about 428 acres of land belongs of the Wakf Board and is attached to the Muslim Maternity Hospital. Another parcel of land to the extent of 400 acres in Kungara Kalan is also Wakf land and attached to the Dargah Shah Raju Khattal Hussaini. Mr Saleem said, "We are taking all steps to protect these Wakf properties and the board has addressed letters to the district collector, Ranga Reddy, to protect these lands from encroachment and cancel the pattas and Occupation Rights Certificates, if any, issued in favour of individuals." Deputy tahsildar, Mr B. Anand Singh, and surveyor, land acquisition wing, Mr Mohd Khurshed Ahmed, participated in the discussion.

'Bio-brick': A big breakthrough

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Researchers from IIT Hyderabad and KIIT Bhubaneswar have developed a way to make bricks using agricultural waste. They have dubbed their innovation the 'bio-brick.' The research was undertaken by Priyabrata Rautray, a PhD scholar in IIT-H's design department, and Avik Roy, an assistant professor from KIIT School of Architecture. They have presented their work at the International Conference of Engineering Design held in the Netherlands. A release from IIT-H explains how the bricks are made. Dry waste such as paddy straws, wheat straws, sugarcane bagasse and cotton plant are chosen carefully. This creates a homogeneous mixture. The bagasse is first chopped, a lime-based slurry is prepared and the chopped waste is added to it for mixing. This creates a homogeneous mixture. This mixture is poured into moulds and rammed with a wooden block to make a compact brick. These moulds and then the bricks are left to dry for nearly 20 days. The bricks take a month's time to attain their working strength by air-drying. The research team received a special recognition trophy

■ **EXPLAINING HOW** it is made, IIT-H said, dry waste such as paddy straws, wheat straws, sugarcane bagasse and cotton plant are chosen carefully. The bagasse is first chopped, a lime-based slurry is prepared and the chopped waste is added to it for mixing. This creates a homogeneous mixture.

for 'sustainable housing' at the Rural Innovators Start-Up Conclave 2019 organised recently by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad. In the release, Dr Rautray said 22 per cent of the country's total annual CO2 emissions came from the construction sector. "Clay bricks, for instance, use up a lot of fertile topsoil. Manufacturing them also causes significant emissions of carbon dioxide," he said. The second advantage of the innovation is the use of agriculture waste. According to the researchers, of the 500 million tonnes of such waste produced in the country every year, 84 to 141 million tonnes are burnt, resulting in severe air pollution harming the environment.

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Cop canvasses

Cyberabad top cop V.C. Sajjanar creates awareness on impact of social media, online frauds, cyber crimes in villages

Sheer neglect



Pedestrians face inconvenience as the footpath on Tank Bund is not maintained by the civic authorities. The place is also a hot spot for tourists. — R. PAVAN

Another infant dumped in plastic bag recovered

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

A baby girl with her umbilical cord still intact was found near a garbage dump near the Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences in Panjagutta on Wednesday. The baby was wrapped in a plastic bag and abandoned. It was a shocking sight for those crossing the place at about 8 am to notice the baby wailing in the garbage. One of them took the baby to the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences since it is closeby. Fortunately, the newborn baby did not have any injuries. Panjagutta inspector D.

She was taken to the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences. Fortunately, the newborn baby did not have any injuries.

Nagaraju said, "The baby is being tended to at Nims. We will take the help of Child Line and hand her over to Shishu Vihar." Late in the evening, it was learnt that the baby was moved to Shishu Vihar. Asked about the issue, Mr Achyutha Rao from Balala Hakkula Sangham, a child rights organisation, said this was the third case of a

baby being abandoned in Hyderabad this month. "A least 13 babies have been abandoned this year alone," he said. Mr Rao said the state government needed to bring in a 'cradle scheme' which would allow parents to safely give up their infants and not abandon them in dangerous places such as garbage bins. "A child has the right to survive," he said. "Many a time, cases such as these are not investigated. They are closed without the police ever finding the person who abandoned the baby. We want investigations," Mr Rao added.

TD leaders are concerned about mental condition of Naidu
— V. Vijaya Sai Reddy
YSRC MP

IN BRIEF

One dies while boarding train

Hyderabad: A passenger who attempted to board a moving train at the Nampally station slipped and fell between the train and the platform, and died of his injuries. Godavari Express which runs from Nampally to Vijayawada was leaving the platform at around 5.20 pm. When the train started moving, a man attempted to board the train. He slipped and fell between the train and the platform, and his legs and a portion of the abdomen got crushed under the wheels.

Man arrested for rape, murder

Hyderabad: The Kulsumpur police on Wednesday arrested a city resident for the rape and murder of a homeless 68-year-old woman. The incident took place near the Puranapul bridge. West Zone incharge DCP B. Sumathi said that on October 11, the accused, Thirmali Mahesh, 26, a painter, had raped the woman who lived near a temple and earned a living by begging. The victim, who was in severe pain, died after the rape, and Mahesh fled the scene. A case was registered based on information received from the public and a hunt was launched for the accused. Based on CCTV camera footage, Mahesh was arrested near a coal factory, Ms Sumathi said. The accused was booked under IPC Sections 376 (1) and 302 for rape and murder and produced before a court for judicial remand.

Power staff hold out strike threat

Hyderabad: Members of the Telangana electricity trade unions staged a dharna at Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TSSPDCL) compound in Hyderabad. As per Telangana Electricity Trade Unions Front (TETUF) chairman N. Padma Reddy, the unions discussed their demands with Transco joint managing director Srinivasa Rao but did not receive any assurance. The TETUF has a list of 71 demands for the state government. TETUF convener E. Sridhar said, "21 electricity trade unions will hold a massive dharna at Hanamkonda in Warangal on October 23 to press for our demands. If they are not accepted, all 48000 electricity employees in the state will go on strike just as the RTC employees have done."

Cop posted at CM's farmhouse ends life

Police claim Venkateshwarlu was addicted to alcohol

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

A head constable of the Telangana State Special Police (TSSP) posted at Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Nara Rao's farmhouse at Erravelli of Siddipet district shot himself using a service weapon while on duty on Wednesday.

The victim, A. Venkateshwarlu, 38, was rushed to Gajwel Hospital, where the doctors declared him brought dead. He belonged to the 12th Battalion of the TSSP. Venkateshwarlu, badge number HC 1136, a native of Valigonda in Yadadri Bhongir district, had joined service in 2003. Police claimed he was addicted to alcohol and underwent a de-addiction programme at a hospital and had returned to work on September 29. On October 1, he absented himself from work,

sources said. On October 14, he along with his family members went to the Battalion office and requested that he be given a posting. Subsequently, he was deployed at the farmhouse in Erravelli. On October 15, he reported at the farmhouse and joined duty in the evening. He was posted at the south gate of the farmhouse. At around 10.30 am on Wednesday, Venkateshwarlu went inside the restroom and shot himself through the temple with the 9 mm carbine. His colleagues rushed him to the Gajwel government hospital, where the doctors declared him brought dead.

There were several questions over the police version, the main one being now someone who had disappeared from work so recently had been given such a sensitive position. Questions were also raised why someone struggling with alcohol abuse was placed at the CM's farmhouse. Besides, his service record makes it clear that he had been having disciplinary issues just a couple of years after he joined service. Siddipet police commissioner Joel Davis said that when the incident took place, the head constable was on duty. "As Venkateshwarlu was having an alcohol addiction, he was sent home for some rest and reported to the duties after attending the de-addiction programme," he said. The commissioner said that Venkateshwarlu was once removed from service between June 16, 2005, and December 3, 2006, for abusing and harassing a woman. He had faced punishments several times for being absent from duty. He said that Venkateshwarlu had faced three PPIs (postponement of increments). "After joining duty, he was absent for a couple of days. On his wife's request, the reserve inspector allowed him to rejoin on humanitarian grounds on October 15," Mr Davis said. The head constable used his service weapon to shoot himself and had fired one round. "A case has been registered at Markook police station for the investigation and the reasons for his death are to be ascertained," Mr Davis said. Asked if Venkateshwarlu was drunk when the incident took place, the commissioner said: "Only after the post-mortem examination can it be found if he was under the influence of alcohol. It is too early to comment on it." The head constable is survived by his wife A Shobha, who sells vegetables at her village, and two children aged 13 and 12, both of whom are school going.

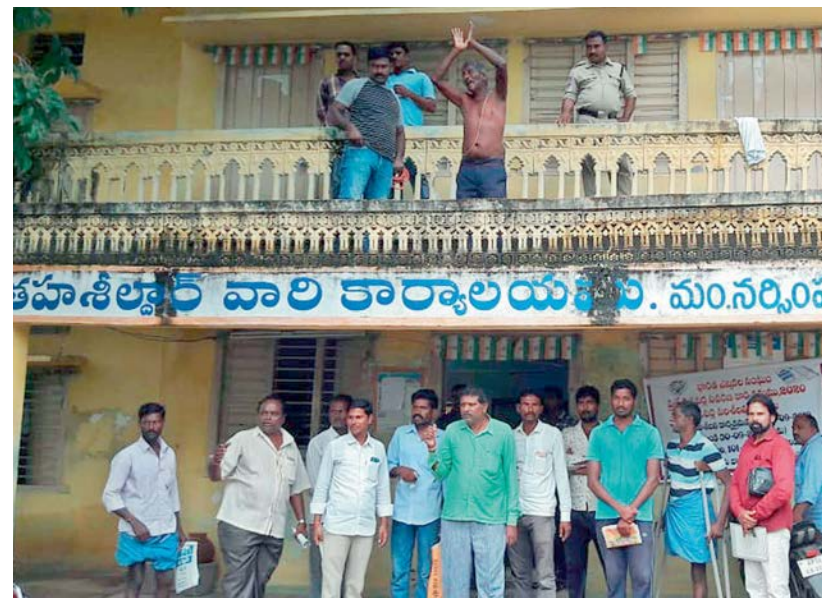
62 YR-OLD MAN GETS 20 YR JAIL FOR ABUSING MINOR

HYDERABAD: A 62-year-old man from Shah Ali Banda who was arrested in a case of sexual assault of a four and a half years old girl was convicted by the Child-Friendly Court on Wednesday. The court directed the accused to undergo 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and pay ₹1,000 towards the penalty. In her complaint, the mother of the victim said that the accused, Munigala Surendar, had lured her daughter on the pretext of giving toffees and took her to his house, where he sexually assaulted her.

VILLAGERS SEEK ACTION AGAINST DOC

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, OCT. 16

A doctor at the primary health centre in Chelapur of Jayashankar Bhupalpally district is facing the heat of the higher officials after a voice recording of her phone conversation with a villager went viral on social media. The doctor, Padma Rani, was heard abusing a person over the phone. According to Jangili Srikanth, the person at the receiving end of the abuse, he brought his grandmother who was stung by a scorpion to the hospital on October 10. As the hospital locked, he called the number written at the entrance. He was shocked as the person on the other side started abusing him for questioning why there is no one in the hospital.



Farmer Biksham protesting at the MRO office in Mahbubabad district.

Lost land, farmer tries to end life in Mahbubabad

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, OCT. 16

A farmer attempted suicide inside the mandal revenue office (MRO) at Narsimhulapet in Mahbubabad district on Wednesday. The farmer who had lost his land due to a mistake in the land records' updation process threatened to commit suicide and climbed the first floor of the building. The farmer attempted to take the extreme step over alleged injustice from revenue officials who registered his 11 acres of land in some-

one else's name in the digital records of the revenue department. Buddha Biksham, a resident of Padamati Gudem village, says he owns 11.33 acres of land on survey number 1103, which he has been farming for several years. He found out recently that his land was registered in another person's name. He made repeated visits to the revenue offices and appealed to the officers to rectify the mistake and record his land under his name. He claimed that the officials did not help him despite multiple

SBI CASHIER KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

A cashier working with SBI, a former Indian Air Force employee, who was heading home on a bike was killed when a speeding RTC bus being driven by a temporary driver rammed into his bike near No. 6 junction in Amberpet on Wednesday. Amberpet sub-inspector, Ravinder, said that the victim, G h a n s h y a m Salunke, 45, was a resident of Chengicherla. He had worked as a mechanic with the IAF and joined the SBI after his retirement. At around 5.30 pm, when Ghanshyam was going home on his bike, a speeding RTC bus (AP28 Z 0822) rammed into his bike. He fell down and the bus ran over him. He died on the spot. A case has been registered and a search is on to nab the driver.

GHANSHYAM SALUNKE, 45, was a resident of Chengicherla. He earlier worked as a mechanic with the IAF.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. Psalms 112:6

DARA CHARLES
Inspector of Police (Retd.)
Former APP Basketball Coach,
Former Sports Officer City Police,
Hyderabad.

Inserted by: Wife: Hamsaveni Charles
Grand Children: Ria Jessica, Reema Rachel, Jordan Charles, Aaron Charles, B. Paul Prashanth & Sheela

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late Singi Reddy Pandu Ranga Reddy Garu
DOB: 20-4-1952 DOD: 17-10-2016
Bowenpally

In every step of our life we had your guidance and blessings and let it continue forever and ever...

Inserted by:
S. Ranthir Reddy, T.V. Reddy, T. Alphonse Reddy
St. Peters Grammar School
Jaynagar Colony, New Bowenpally, Sec-6ad.

OBITUARY

BELLI SATYAMMA
W/o. Late B. Kistiah Yadav
DOB: 01-07-1947 DOD: 16-10-2019
Our Mother Smt. Belli Satyamma
slept in the Lord on 16.10.2019.
Funeral will be held today 17-10-19 at
Devunukunta Graveyard, Vijaynagar
Colony, Hyd. at 12:00 pm

Inserted by: Belli Family Members
Ph: 9059056777

Blessed are those who die in the Lord. Rev 14:13

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

M. JOSEPHINE (Mary)
Memorial Service on 17-10-2019 at 6 p.m.
Jesus Prayer Fellowship, Site 3, NRR
Puram, Borabanda, Hyderabad-500018.
Ph: 9247833761, 8247270268, 9949594937.

Inserted by:
Mrs & Mr. M. Anthony & Maheshwari
Mrs & Mr. M. Vijay & Shalini
Mrs & Mr. P. Karun & Rupa
Mrs & Mr. K. Isaac & Shalaja &
Great Grand Children.

(S/1920/D001057)

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. PS: 23:6

Late Rev. Dr. M.B. DEVADAS
M.A., B.Ed., AMIE, D.D.
D.O.B: 06-09-1943 D.O.D: 17-10-2015

Inserted by: Family Members
Ph.No.: 9951007821

I am the resurrection and life, the one who believes in me will live, even though they die. John 11:25

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

JOHN SUDERSHAN
DOB: 01-04-1958 DOD: 17-10-2016

Inserted by: Family Members
8866319583, 6309544346

(B/200/D00111)

In Loving Memory of

Late Singi Reddy Pandu Ranga Reddy Garu
DOB: 20-4-1952 DOD: 17-10-2016
Bowenpally

Your principles guide us everyday
your life continues to light our path.

Inserted by: Singi Reddy Jagadheswari (wife)
Son: S. Ranthir Reddy
Daughter-in-law: S. Uma Maheshwari
Grand Daughters: S. Moditha Reddy, S. Mayukha Reddy

11th DAY CEREMONY

Late DARPALLI NARSIMHA
(Pahlwan Narsimha) Expired on 07.10.2019

Venue: 17th Oct. 2019 at 12 Noon
Primo Gardens, Danapur, L.B. Nagar.

"MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN PEACE"

From: **Darpalli Family**
Ph: 9000102255, 9959360778

38th ANNIVERSARY (AS PER THITHI)

L.N.L.B. CHIRANJEEVI
DOB: 13-08-1947 DOD: 17-10-1981
You will always remain in our hearts and thoughts forever.

Wife: NAGAMANI,
Son: L.C. PRADEEP (USA) &
FAMILY MEMBERS
M/s L.B. BUILDERS, Ph: 27807115

(S/1920/D01060)

In Loving Memory of
Our founder who still inspires us.

Late Singi Reddy Pandu Ranga Reddy Garu
DOB: 20-4-1952 DOD: 17-10-2016
Bowenpally

Always Heading Towards Your Ideals.

Inserted by: Mr. S. Ranthir Reddy, Director
SPR JUNIOR COLLEGE
Pavanahar colony, New Bowenpally, Secunderabad.

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. Psalms 112:6

Late Mrs. JESSIE PAVAN GOSU (Biju)
D.O.B: 15-06-1965
Slept in the Lord: 17-10-2015
"One glorious day, when all suffering is extinguished, we shall walk again."

Inserted by:
Loving Husband: Kevin James Gosu
Daughter: Sharon Naomik Anikita
Son-in-Law: Manohar Lalith Kumar

(S/1920/D01049)

UTHAVANA

PARVATI BEN KHATRI
Uthavana on 18-Oct-2019 Friday
between 4.00 to 5.00 pm at Sindhu
Bhavan, P.G. Road, Secunderabad.
Inserted by: Chandrakant & Kavita
Khatri, Kalpana Bheeda, Ranjan Rao,
Dhanvanti Chhatbar, Jayshree Khatri,
Bhavana Rout. Mob: 9885658104

(CA-3044)

In Loving Memory of
Our founder who still inspires us.

Late Singi Reddy Pandu Ranga Reddy Garu
DOB: 20-4-1952 DOD: 17-10-2016
Bowenpally

Your vision and leadership
will continue to motivate us forever.

Inserted by: Mr. S. Ranthir Reddy, Director
ROCKSPRE PUBLIC SCHOOL (CBSE)
Pavanahar colony, New Bowenpally, Secunderabad

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

D.B. KRUPAIAH
S/o Late D. Benjamin
DOB: 6th August 1936
DOD: 16th October 2019

Funeral will be held at Bhoguda Cemetery at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday 17-10-2019.

Inserted by: Family Members
House Add: 4-17-2/39, Ramnagar
Colony, Alwal, Sec-6ad.
Ph: 9491062113, 9848192745

(S/1920/D01058)

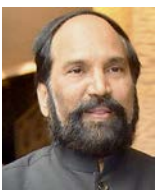
CAUTION NOTICE

The general Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Dr. Vilayath Ali S/o Dr. Syed Shoukat Ali, aged about 37 years, Occ: Business, R/o H.No.17-1-134, Rein Bazar, Hyderabad, Telangana State, have filed a Suit being O.S.No.477 of 2018 against (1) Mr. M. Jayavarth S/o Late M. Mallappa, (2) M.M. Construction Company, Rep., by its Managing Partner Mr. Khaja Iftikharuddin S/o Late. Khaja Moimuddin, & (3) K. Kistiah S/o Late Danaiah, all are R/o Hyderabad, before the Hon'ble XI Addl. Chief Judge, City Civil Court, at Hyderabad, for Specific performance, of Agreement of Sale, Dated: 8-11-2016, in respect of the residential property bearing open plot, admeasuring 1473 sqyards, in Sy. No.49/P, Ward No.17, Block No.1, Situated at Madannapet, Hyderabad, Telangana State, and also filed an I.A.No.820 of 2018 in O.S.No.477 of 2018, for interim injunction and the Hon'ble XI Addl. Chief Judge, City Civil Court, at Hyderabad, was pleased to allow the said petition on 3/10/2018, by restraining the M.M. Construction Company, Rep., by its Managing Partner Mr. Khaja Iftikharuddin S/o Late. Khaja Moimuddin & others, from alienating or transferring the above said Property to the third parties in any manner.

The general public are hereby warned or cautioned not to deal any illegal transactions with the above unauthorized person or persons in respect of the above said referred property. If any person or persons entered into any transactions with the above unauthorized persons illegally, they will be sole responsible for all costs & consequences, incidental arising therefrom, for which my client will not be responsible.

"Hence this Caution Notice".

SYED KAREEMULLAH, ADVOCATE
Off: 22-1-682/1, Noor Khan Bazar Chaman,
Opp: Darul Yathama, Hyd, T.S. Cell: 9399964789



Bandh call

Uttam Kumar Reddy directs party cadre to support bandh call for October 19 given by RTC Joint Action Committee



HC says TS panel didn't seek Sectt demolition

Says committee lacked clarity on why new building is needed

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

The High Court observed that the technical committee report supporting the construction of the new Secretariat lacked clarity in explaining why it was needed. The court found fault with the committee not recommending alterations to the existing buildings.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Annireddy Abhishek Reddy, while dealing with PILs against the proposed demolition of the Secretariat, observed that the report was vaguely worded without mentioning specific contentions and recommendations to go for a new complex.

The bench pointed out that the report did not specifically throw light on what was lacking in the buildings and the specific

reasons for the fire accidents which occurred in a few blocks. The court noted that the report did not mention the names of blocks where the fire accidents had occurred.

"It seems that the technical committee has not used its mind and I am sorry to say this," Chief Justice Chauhan commented.

Defending the government decision, additional advocate-general J. Ramachandra Rao submitted that there was no separate parking for each block. A total of 10 lakh square feet of built-up area is required to house the offices of the Secretariat, he said.

He said that eight out of 10 blocks were facing plumbing and electrical wiring issues. Three blocks had suffered fire accidents in the last four years. He said ministers and bureaucrats needed a 500-seater conference hall to conduct meetings with

the collectors, joint collectors, superintendents of police and other staff, Mr Rao said.

To this, the bench noted that the existing Secretariat had more than 9.16 lakh square feet of built-up area, which is not very different from the 10 lakh square feet that the government wanted.

"I am surprised that when the deficiencies that were addressed without touching the structures, why has the technical committee suggested construction of a new complex," Justice Chauhan observed.

Congress leader A. Revanth Reddy's counsel, Tera Rajnikanth Reddy, submitted that there was a contradiction in the decision to demolish the existing building.

"Neither the report given by the technical committee nor the Cabinet resolution mentioned demolition of the existing buildings. They

only recommended modification. How did the officials unilaterally take the decision to demolish the Secretariat and construct a new one," Mr Rajnikanth Reddy asked.

"Demolitions for these silly reasons would be a sheer waste of tax-payers' money because the cost of construction of the new Secretariat is ₹1,000 crore," Mr Rajnikanth Reddy said.

The bench directed counsels for each of the petitioners to establish if at all there were violations of statutory and constitutional provisions by the government while taking the policy decision to bring down the old complex.

"We (judges) are not engineers, architects. We cannot question the wisdom of the technical committee report," Justice Chauhan said. The cases were adjourned to October 21 for arguments by the remaining petitioners.

Mad rush for wine shop applications on last day

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU I DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

In a record, the state government has earned ₹750 crore as fee from the sale of application forms for liquor shop licences. The money is non-refundable, meaning applicants do not get the money back if they are not allotted a liquor shop.

Two years ago, the figure stood at ₹412 crore. There was a rush at excise counters across the state on Wednesday, the last day, for submitting the application forms.

Though the deadline ended at 4 pm, officials were accepting application forms till late in the night as the applicants were still waiting in long queues.

The state has 2,216 wine shops. Till Monday, the government had received 10,842 applications. Another 9,788 were received on Tuesday. Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy excise divisions received a large number of applications.

On Wednesday, it is estimated that more than 20,000 applications were received. Liquor merchants from AP, where the government is taking over the business, also applied for wine shops in Telangana state. Some applied directly and others through their relatives and friends settled in the state.

Revenue special chief secretary Somesh Kumar said the earnings from application fees would top ₹800 crore when the final figures are in. He said the liquor shops will be allotted on October 18 across the state. The state government announced its new liquor policy for two years commencing from November 1, 2019 to October 30, 2021. The new licences will have to commence their business with effect from November 1.

Govt acts against liquor syndicates

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Some liquor contractors are forming syndicates to grab wine shops by threatening other applicants to exit the race and leave the field clear for them.

Some others are trying another tack: They are telling the applicants that they will sell liquor at lower rates and drive them out of business.

After this came to the notice of officials, the state government has warned liquor syndicates of severe action including sending them to jail for two years. To this effect, excise commissioner and revenue special chief sec-

retary Somesh Kumar issued guidelines to control the liquor syndicates.

Mr Kumar said, "It has come to notice that a few applicants are threatening other interested parties from applying for wine shop licences on various counts to discourage them and to form cartels causing loss of revenue to the state. They are likely to resort to sell the liquor at lower rates which is against the public interest causing loss to other retailers as a unfair trade practice."

Mr Kumar said those do contravene the laws are liable for prosecution under Section 36 (b) and 41 of the Telangana Excise Act.

BRIEF

Accused dies in bike mishap

Nizamabad: One of the accused in the case of seizure of a large quantity of a chemical used to adulterate toddy died in suspicious circumstances in Hyderabad on Monday. Srinivas Goud, one of the accused in the seizure of 1,250 kg of chloral hydrate on September 26 at Madhavanagar, Nizamabad, died in a road accident in Hyderabad, officials said.

HC relief for Ravi Prakash

Hyderabad: In a relief to TV9 former CEO V. Ravi Prakash, the High Court stayed further proceedings in the FIR registered against him by the Banjara Hills police over alleged withdrawal of ₹18.31 crore from Associate Broadcasting Company Limited (ABCL). The order was given by Justice Gandikota Sri Devi in a quash plea of Prakash.

Water cut hits surgeries at Nims

Hyderabad: Fifty per cent of operations were not conducted at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences as the water supply to the hospital was affected by the two-day shutdown ordered by the Metro Water Board. There was chaos at the hospital in the morning when patients learned that their scheduled surgeries had been postponed.

Showdown over slowdown



Left parties stage rashtra roko against the government's failure to curb the economic slowdown, on Wednesday. — Deepak Deshpande

ANDHRA PRADESH

AP government mulls gag on criticism

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 16

The AP government wants to empower departmental secretaries so that they can take legal action on defamatory news spread with malafide interest against it in print, electronic and social media.

As per a leaked document that was presented by transport minister Perni Venkatramiah to the state Cabinet on Wednesday and accessed by this newspaper, the government has invoked a GO issued in 2007 to the special commissioner, Information and Public Relations department, to empower the secretaries.

Mr Venkatramiah has presented the document before the Cabinet for approval. However, it's not known if the proposal was accepted or not.

Officials would be empowered to file cases against defamatory content in print, electronic and social media.

"Certain print, electronic and social media are deliberately trying to tarnish the image of the government and its officials by spreading false news with malafide interest. In order to arrest this trend and to see that true and correct information reaches the people, the government, vide GO MS No. 936 GA (Poll-B) dated February 20, 2007 has empowered special commissioner I&PR to file cases under appropriate sections of the law.

Now, it is felt that the departmental secretaries, with thorough knowledge of the affairs about the department and having wherewithal to judge

whether the news is true or false, after conducting thorough inquiry, should be empowered to file appropriate cases against defamatory content appearing in print, electronic and social media," said the memorandum submitted by the minister to the Cabinet.

The proposal is to empower all departmental secretaries to file appropriate court cases through public prosecutors against the defamatory news item published/appeared/posted/published in print, electronic and social media.

The Cabinet was requested to issue orders to all departmental secretaries to react to any adverse false information published/telecast/posted on government schemes, programmes. The secretaries concerned of the

departments may be delegated full powers to take legal action within 24 hours against the organisation for the new item being published or telecast or posted.

The minister, in the document, justified the move saying that the adverse news items will bring down the morale of the implementing agency, department, officer, which ultimately would lead to sub optimal performance of the department and can hamper the progress of the state.

The departmental secretaries with thorough knowledge of the affairs of the concerned department and equipped with wherewithal to conduct proper enquiry are better placed to check the veracity of the news item and to take appropriate legal recourse, if needed after conducting due inquiry.

OLX booked in 10 fraud cases in Vizag

KIRAN REDDY ALTHURI I DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 16

The Vizag cyber crime police has made OLX as an accused in more than 10 cases of fraud that took place using the platform.

The cases were booked under IPC Sections 420 (cheating) and 419 (cheating by impersonation) and Section 66 C and 66 D of the IT Act.

Police said there was an increase in the number of fraud cases using the OLX platform which allows people to buy and sell goods.

Most cases are about the purchase of vehicles displayed on the site. Vizag police has registered about 40 such cases so far this year with two more months to go, against 28 in all of last year. People have lost a minimum of ₹50,000 and a maximum of ₹4 lakh. In an exceptional case, a person lost ₹18 lakh to a fraudster who claimed to be an army

officer.

In 35 recent cases, people lost a total of ₹25 lakhs. In the exceptional case, the fraudster cheated the victim, saying that he was an army officer. Cyber crime police have earlier warned OLX and thus alert pop-ups and others were installed to make users aware of fraudsters.

In some cases, the fraudsters are cashing in on the gullibility of the victims. A person credited more than thrice the amount to a fraudster's account to purchase a car and expected that he would return the rest of the amount while delivering the vehicle.

Cyber crime inspector V. Gobinath said, "Fraudsters are displaying car pictures that are registered in Visakhapatnam and thus victims are contacting them to get a vehicle at a low price. We have made OLX accused in more than 10 cases and will soon serve them notice."

IIIT-H study enlists Vij as quake-prone

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 16

A latest study reveals that Vijayawada is one of the 50 major earthquake-prone zone cities in the country. The International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIITH), along with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has developed an Earthquake Disaster Risk Index (EDRI) for 50 cities and one district.

In this pilot study, the cities were selected based on population density, housing threat factor and cities identified by the Government of India.

The study stated that Vijayawada is in the limits of a seismic zone-III prone area which is only at a height of 39 feet above sea level. The report was prepared by researchers of the Earthquake Engineering Research Centre of IIIT Hyderabad,

under the guidance of the head of the department, Pradeep Ramanacharla, after a study of about 3 years.

While the study concentrated on population density and housing threat factor, it also pointed out that the digging and use of a huge number of bore wells is one of the major factors that make the city earthquake-prone. Nearly 22 areas in the city are identified as earthquake prone.

The researchers spoke of 13 high, 30 middle and 7 low-risk cities. They stated that Vijayawada, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Siliguri, Darjeeling and Chandigarh are in earthquake-prone zones.

Earlier, the government had issued guidelines through AP disaster management and conducted workshops for builders, but it has to begin implementation to overcome the problem, say experts.

Career Chronicle

ANNAMACHARYA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCES: TIRUPATI (AUTONOMOUS)
 Estd: 2007
 Venkatapuram(V), Karakambadi (P), Renigunta(M), Tirupati- 517 520.
 (Accredited by NAAC in 'A' Grade, Bangalore & a few courses Accredited by NBA, New Delhi)
 Website: www.aits-tpt.edu.in e-mail: aits@tpt@gmail.com

FACULTY RECRUITMENT
 Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the faculty positions in **Civil, Mech., CSE, ECE, EEE, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English & MBA**
PROFESSORS & ASSOC. PROFESSORS: M.Tech with 1st class & Ph.D. with requisite teaching experience.
ASST. PROFESSORS: B.Tech & M.Tech 1st class for Engineering Disciplines. Ph.D / PG with 1st class for other disciplines.
SALARY: As per AICTE / UGC norms.
 Applications on plain paper along with a passport size photograph and copies of certificates of qualifications & experience should reach the Principal on or before **26.10.2019 (Soft copy can also be sent to e-mail)**. Eligible candidates will be called for interview to be held in Nov. 2019.
Date: 15.10.2019 Sd/- PRINCIPAL

Career Opportunity
 A leading Co-operative Bank is looking for following personnel

Manager-Credit Supervision (Hyderabad)

For details of eligibility criteria, please visit our career portal on the Bank's website www.cosmosbank.com

Eligible candidates may apply upto **22/10/2019**

THE COSMOS CO-OP. BANK LTD.
 (Multistate Scheduled Bank)
 Enriching Life!

NALLA MALLA REDDY ENGINEERING COLLEGE
 MBA ACCREDITED - NAAC 'A' GRADE
 WANTS FACULTY WITH QUALITY AND COMMITMENT
 GOOD AT LANGUAGE, SUBJECT AND DELIVERY

PROFESSORS	CIVIL CSE	Ph.Ds with relevant experience
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS	ECE MECHANICAL	Ph.Ds with 7 years experience
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS	CSE, ECE MECHANICAL	1 st Class M.Tech, with experience B.Tech same branch

SALARIES - NEGOTIABLE
WALK IN 19th, 20th OCTOBER 2019 SATURDAY, SUNDAY
DIVYANAGAR, Near Narapally at 16th KM from Hyderabad on Warangal Highway, 040-29705020/29706020, info@nmrec.edu.in

Aurora's Legal Sciences Academy
 Chandrayangutta, Hyderabad-500005

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

Principal	Master of Law with PhD, having a min 55% of marks and 15 years of teaching experience in Law College.
Professor	Master of Law with PhD, having a min 55% of marks and 10 years of teaching experience in Law College.
Associate Professor	Master of Law with PhD, having a min 55% of marks and 8 years of teaching experience in Law College.
Assistant Professor	Master of Law with PhD, having a min 55% of marks, teaching experience in Law College will be preferable.

Salary: As per UGC pay scales **Date of Joining:** Immediately
 Interested candidates may attend the interview on **20-10-2019** at **Aurora Consortium, St.No.12, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad-20** between **10:00 am & 01:00 pm** along with one set photocopy of certificates and detailed Biodata.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
 NEAR RK PURAM, FLY OVER, SECUNDERABAD
 Tele : 040 - 27796757/27794729, WEBSITE : www.aprskpuram.edu.in

REQUIRES VICE PRINCIPAL FOR APS RK PURAM, SECUNDERABAD UP TO CLASS XII, CBSE

QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE: As per CBSE Bye Laws, Master Degree with B. Ed, PGT in recognized school for 3 years in the last 10 years, total teaching experience not less than 9 years and Computer Literate.
AGE: Below 55 years (For Ex-Servicemen maximum age will be 57 years (on the date of receipt of the application).
SELECTION: Through panel interview only. Candidates short listed, based on the qualification, experience and other criteria as may be, will be called for interview.
PAY & ALLOWANCES: As per AWES Norms.
APPLICATION: Interested and eligible candidates may apply on plain paper along with Bio-data, affixed with latest passport photograph, mentioning the year/school/appointment wise experience, to be supported with experience certificates/testimonials, e-mail ID, mobile number and postal address in a sealed envelope and send by Registered / Speed Post. Incomplete applications are liable to be rejected.
LAST DATE: 15 November 2019 TA/DA: Not admissible
 Note: The school Management reserves all rights of selection/rejection

MUFFAKHAM JAH COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
 "Mount Pleasant" 8-2-249 to 267, Road No Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500 034
 E-mail: sues.hyderabad@gmail.com | Tel: 040-23280301 & 305

RECRUITMENT OF "PRINCIPAL" FOR MJCET

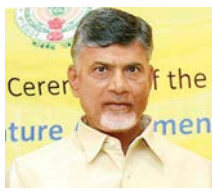
Applications are invited for the appointment of the Principal, MJCET from eligible candidates, fulfilling the following criteria:
Qualification: As per AICTE Norms (Ph.D in Engineering).
Age: Above 50 years but below 62 years.
Pay: Commensurate with the qualification & experience
 For further details refer www.mjcollege.ac.in. Candidates may submit their Bio-Data along with copies of all relevant documents to the undersigned on or before **28.10.2019**. The interview date will be informed by post / e-mail. No T.A. will be paid.
Date: 17.10.2019 Hony. Secretary

Career Chronicle
 only on **Thursday**
 Featuring the best opportunities



Big spender

Congress leader Marri Shashidhar Reddy complains to CEO Rajat Kumar on TRS' spending on KCR's Huzurnagar meeting today



AP did not give security to journalist Satyanarayana which led to his murder

— N. Chandrababu Naidu
Telugu Desam president

TEN HELD FOR BURGLARIES IN RACHAKONDA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Eight persons from two gangs, who were involved in 23 burglaries across the Rachakonda commissionerate were arrested by the police on Wednesday. The police recovered property worth about ₹25 lakh from them and remanded them to judicial custody.

According to the police, the accused persons — I. Suresh, J. Santhosh Naik, K. Ramesh, N. Sachin, P. Arun Kumar, and S. Srinu, all city residents — were wanted in 17 burglaries in Rachakonda since January this year.

Suresh and Santhosh, earlier arrested involved in similar cases, formed a gang with the other accused to burgle houses.

They were wanted by the police of Meerpet, Vanasthalipuram, Hayathnagar, Chaitanyapuri, Saroornagar and Saidabad.

The accused were arrested by special teams, which recovered 12 tolas of gold, 4 kgs silver, and electronic items and two bikes, used by the accused, from them and produced them before the court for judicial remand, said the police.

In another instance, the Malkajigiri central crime station arrested two persons, Brahmodu Rajaiiah, 36, and T. Mohana Krishna, 36, for involvement in five burglaries at Medipally, Uppal, LB Nagar, and RC Puram.

The Malkajigiri central crime station officials recovered 42.6 tolas of gold, silver articles weighing 37 tolas, an iPad and a camera, together worth ₹16.35 lakh, and produced them before a court.

PHILANDERER ATTACKS HUSBAND

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

In a bid to escape from his lover's house after being caught naked by the woman's husband, a merchant from the city beat the husband and threatened him with dire consequences.

According to Malkajigiri police, the incident took place on October 15, in the house of a Mahesh (name changed). Mahesh, a private employee, was living in the house along with his wife and two children.

For quite some time, Mahesh's wife, a bank employee, was in contact with one Chiluka Vijay Kumar, 40, a businessman hailing from Habsiguda, who holds an account in the bank where the woman was working.

At around 1 am on October 15, when Mahesh went home from work, he found Vijay naked in his bedroom.

When Mahesh questioned Vijay, the latter beat the former with a stick, threatened him with dire consequences if he made the incident public and ran away from the scene.

Based on Mahesh's complaint, a case was registered for trespassing and assault against Vijay.

The Malkajigiri police officials said that Vijay was arrested on Wednesday.

TRT, PET candidates protest

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Demanding the announcement of results, the candidates of Teacher's Recruitment Test (TRT) and Physical Education Teacher (PET) tried to lay siege to Pragati Bhavan on Wednesday. However, the police foiled

their attempt. The candidates demanded that the government accord posts by releasing its final selection list.

It might be recalled that these exams were held in the year 2017.

The Teacher's Recruitment Test and Physical Education Teacher candidates were

also looking forward to meet the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) chairman, Ghanta Chakrapani, and other concerned officials of the commission, but their efforts went in vain.

The candidates demanded that their posts be released immediately.



Thick fog over Hussain Sagar on Wednesday afternoon.

— R. Pavan

Mercury dips in city

Clouds formed due to northeast monsoon setting in

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

The city experienced overcast skies and a dip in the temperature on Wednesday. The Indian Meteorological Department said the mercury had fallen by 2°C since Monday.

The temperature was brought down by strong winds and clouds formed

as a result of the northeast monsoon setting in.

Warnings of heavy rain, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning have been issued by the department for October 17 and 18.

On Wednesday, fog was noted on the outskirts of the city all day long as the temperatures dipped to 21.6°C.

The maximum temperatures recorded were 31.6°C but that too is 1°C degree below normal temperature.

Officials of the weather department have stated that it is the transition period where the northeast monsoon is having an impact and, for that reason, several parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are

expected to witness rainfall.

The southwest monsoon has withdrawn and the wind currents are now blowing from the northeast side due to which there are disturbances.

The humidity levels were recorded at 92 per cent in the morning and during the day time it was 70 per cent.

Kalki ashrams across South raided by I-T

PATRI RAJASEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, OCT. 16

Income-Tax officials from Tamil Nadu have been conducting simultaneous raids on Kalki Bhagwan ashrams in AP, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu including at the main ashram located at Battalavallam in Varadayaipalem of Chittoor district on Wednesday.

According to sources in the ashram, the I-T teams came in 20 vehicles to Varadayaipalem around 6.30 am and divided into groups to carry out raids on various parts of the ashram, including

Several documents have been seized and the aspect of foreign donations to the ashram has been examined

Ekam, GC-2, Govardhanpuram and offices at campuses 1,2,3 and 4 besides Nemam in Tamil Nadu simultaneously. They have seized several documents and examined the foreign donations to the ashram.

The I-T teams have been questioning the CEO of the ashram, Lokesh Dasaji, at Battalavallam in Varadayaipalem mandal. It was learnt that the teams seized the

mobile phones of all those working inside.

The I-T teams also conducted raids on the offices and houses of Krishna Dasaji, founder of Ekam Spiritual Centre at Kalki Ashram in Chennai and Film Nagar in Hyderabad. The Trust representatives maintained that the checks are routine. Locals believe that the raids are being conducted because of complaints to the I-T wing over irregularities in using the funds donated by foreign devotees.

The raids shocked large number of followers of Kalki in AP and Tamil Nadu.

Schools send kids homework online

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

With schoolchildren getting an additional week of holidays due to the RTC strike, school managements are taking the smart road to ensure that they are kept occupied.

Schools are reaching out to their students via email and apps and handing over assignments and homework. For the primary section, from Classes III to V, there is an assignment sent for every day. The students are to submit the assignment, based on which marks will be allotted when the schools re-open.

Ms P. Sunita, co-ordinator, said, "For the primary classes like standards I and II, we have sent reading assignments. Since all parents are connected on social media groups, the school is sending it across to them. The home work reminders are sent to parents every day and this time we have scaled it to a higher level of week-long assignments."

For Classes VI to VIII, the schools have sent projects to the parents and asked them to assist the child in completing them.

The subjects covered for

The principals of CBSE schools, who had a meeting after the forced holidays were declared, decided to complete non-productive work like parent-teacher meetings during the week

these classes are mostly on their social science and science subjects.

Reading assignments, book reviews, soft skill development in terms of preparing for speeches, debates and other interaction schedules have also been provided so that the students can return to school prepared.

Schools which have apps have asked students from classes IX to XII to solve question papers. These papers have to be submitted on October 21. Parents are happy as children are occupied with assignments.

The principals of CBSE schools, who had a meeting after the forced holidays were declared, decided to complete non-productive work during the week. For this reason, the weekend has been booked for parent-teacher meetings and assessments for students who require additional help.

TAXI DRIVERS' INDEFINITE STRIKE FROM OCT. 19

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

The Telangana State Taxi and Drivers JAC on Wednesday issued a statement that it would go on an indefinite strike from October 19.

In a release, Shaik Salauddin, chairman of the organisation, said as many as 50,000 taxi drivers working for Uber, Ola and IT companies in the city would go on strike.

The drivers' demands include higher minimum fare for taxi rides (₹22/km), a cap on number of cabs attached to an aggregator, and the establishment of a welfare and administration board.

The organisation said the demands had earlier been presented to the state government, Uber, Ola and the IT companies. It also wants KYC approvals of customers to tackle assaults on drivers.

TENDER NOTICE

Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Golconda, Hyderabad, invites Tenders for providing Security and House Keeping Services. The Tender forms can be obtained on payment of Rs. 500/- from the Vidyalaya Office from 16.10.2019 to 31.10.2019 between 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on all working days.

Sd/- PRINCIPAL,
Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1,
Golconda, Hyderabad.
Phone: 040-23513701

CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS
(An autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) Inner Ring Road, Uppal, HYDERABAD - 500039. Tel: +91-40-2721 6009, Fax: +91-40-2721 6006

Open Day Celebrations
Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics is organising an Open Day on 24th October, 2019 from 10.00 am onwards for half day. We are also planning to organise a quiz competition for students from different schools and degree colleges of the twin cities. Nominations (4 students per school/college) are invited from schools/degree colleges on or before 21/10/2019 to <scdm@cdfd.org.in>.

Sd/- Director

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KURUKSHETRA
(Under the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India)
KURUKSHETRA-136119

Admission to Ph.D. Degree Programs: 2019-20 (Even Semester)
Advt. No. 31/2019

The applications are invited for admission in the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Programs on full time (Institute/ CSIR-UGC-NET-JRF/Project Fellowship) & part time in even semester of Academic Year 2019-20.

Number of Seats, application form, non-refundable application fee and other relevant details along with Ph.D. ordinance can be downloaded from the Institute website: www.nitkkr.ac.in.

The duly completed application forms must reach to the office of Registrar by November 15, 2019 before 05:00 PM. Incomplete applications or applications received after due date will be outrightly rejected and Ph.D. application fee in any case will not be refunded.

Please visit the Institute website regularly for any announcement or updates in this regard.

Date :- 14.10.2019

No. Gen-1/Advt./3866/5931 Registrar

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
No. SB/Store/2019-25 (328), Bhopal, Dated 10.10.2019

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE (SECOND)"

e-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G), M.P. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgp/app>:-

S.No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)
			Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	
1	Server	2	1,000/-	60,000
2	Multifunctional Device	4	1,000/-	4,000
3	UPS 20 KVA	1	1,000/-	6,000
4	GIS Workstation	3	1,000/-	30,000

- Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgp/app>.
- Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgp/app>
- Tender Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in	18/10/2019 upto 1700 hrs
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	21/10/2019 at 1200 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	28/10/2019 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	12/11/2019 up to 1700 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	13/11/2019 up to 1700 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	19/11/2019 at 1200 hrs.

Sd/- A.I.G. of Police
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel.No. 0755-2443654

G-17929

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Controller of Stores, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001 for and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S N	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of tender doc in (₹)	Due Date
01	09192285A	SLIDING DOOR ARRANGEMENT COMPLETE FOR BCNHL WAGON	124 Nos.	57600/-	00	13.11.19
02	07190117	PROTECTIVE TUBE (POLYACETAL) FOR AXLE BOX	18800 Nos.	118460/-	00	14.11.19
03	09192355	"L" TYPE COMPOSITION BRAKE BLOCK	85678 Nos.	4439300/-	00	18.11.19
04	14190014	INDUSTRIAL AND NATURAL SAFTY SKIN	19214 Kgs.	71600/-	00	18.11.19
05	07190087	SINGLE PIECE FRP LOUVRE SHUTTER	9186 Nos.	194640/-	00	31.12.19
06	07191146	SILENT BLOCK FOR ANCHOR LINK	14241 Nos.	125210/-	00	06.01.20

Note : Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm who desires to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted. Tender Notice No. 07/2019-2020 Dated: 16.10.2019. 3308/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

CORRIGENDUM (TENDER ID : 2019_AAI_27821_1)

Last date and time of submission of tender for the work of "Provision of Dual Redundant Link for FANS-1A (ADS-C & CPDLC) services at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai airports and Pre-FANS (DCL/D-VOLMET/D-ATIS) services at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru airports for five years" is hereby extended up to 29.10.2019 (1800 hrs. IST). For detailed information logon to CPP Portal: <https://etenders.gov.in/epprocure/app> or AAI website: <https://www.aai.aero/en/tender/e-tender>. Further clarifications / corrigendum/addendum, if any, will be notified only on CPP Portal.

N-61/2019-20

Government of India
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
CFFP(P) BLOCK-A
ECIL Post, Hyderabad - 500 062.

On behalf of President of India, Deputy General Manager, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad - 500 062, invites sealed tenders from the approved and eligible contractors, who have executed works of similar nature and magnitude for the following works -

S. No	Tender No and Name of work	Estimated Cost Rs	EMD Rs	Cost of tender Rs
1	NFC/CFFP(P)/House Keeping/2019: Cleaning of Shop floor area and collection, segregation, re-packing & Shifting of various types of waste materials as per annexure.	21,00,000	42,000	500

Tender sale period: 18.10.2019 to 28.10.2019
Due date for opening: 01.11.2019
The detailed tender notice and eligibility criteria can be seen in NFC website at www.nfc.gov.in.
DGM(CFFP(P), CFFP(A) & ED&A), NFC

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN: RAIPUR (C.G.)
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> (1st Call)

System tender No. 57080/NIT. No. 13/SAC/2019-20, Durg, Dated 11.10.2019

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 01.11.2019 at 17.30 Hour

Name of Work: CONSTRUCTION OF SUKRIKALA ANICUT CUM CAUSEWAY ON AMNER RIVER BLOCK DHAMDHA OF DISTRICT BEMETARA (DURG)

Probable Amount of Contract: Rs. 493.72 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 18.10.2019, at 17.31 Hours (I.S.T) onwards.

NOTE:- All eligible/interested Contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralised Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Tandula Water Resources Division,
Durg (C.G.)
For, Chief Engineer,
Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Raipur (C.G.)

G-74072/5

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai - 600 023

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
e-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES NO.E-20/2019

The following e-Tenders are published in the IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to <http://www.ireps.gov.in> to login->E-Tender->Goods & Services (New) and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Closing time for all tenders is 14:30 Hrs.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Item Description	Due Date
1.	10190120A	Shell Gadus S5 V 42 P Grease	25-Oct-19
2.	11190586A	VR/LA Type 120 AH Capacity Batteries in 6 volts	25-Oct-19
3.	12185061A	22 KVE(E) 3 Core x 185 Sqmm Strand XLPE Cable	31-Oct-19
4.	15190250	Cover for Q relay	31-Oct-19
5.	15190144	Carbon contact for Q relays	01-Nov-19
6.	10195041	Supply and Installation of Fire Extinguisher	04-Nov-19
7.	29193125	Cylinder, High pressure	04-Nov-19
8.	29193220	Cylinder, Low Pressure - Includes plugs	04-Nov-19
9.	44190275B	Coupler body with shank wear plate	04-Nov-19
10.	04191173A	Brake Cylinder	05-Nov-19
11.	13190896	Modified single entry	05-Nov-19
12.	15190156	Silver Contact	05-Nov-19
13.	29192861	Element Filter Engine Fibre Glass	05-Nov-19
14.	04191071A	SWKP Speed Sensor	08-Nov-19
15.	04190187C	Side Buffer Casing (Casting)	11-Nov-19
16.	10195026B	Supply of Fire Extinguisher with Anti-theft arrangement	11-Nov-19
17.	29192878	Crankshaft Assembly	11-Nov-19
18.	12190378	Solid Core Porcelain Bracket Insulator	18-Nov-19

Attention: Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs). The benefits provided to MSEs under Public Procurement Policy for goods and services are as per details provided in the link <http://www.ireps.gov.in>->ireps public documents-> southern railways.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Regd. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katweria Sarai, New Delhi-110016
Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana-122 001
Website : www.powergridindia.com, CIN : L40101DL1989G0038121

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CEREC (Conduct of Business) Regulations' 1999 and CEREC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for Petition-1: for 400KV (Quad) D/C line from NCC Generation Switchyard to Nellore Pooling Station and associated Bays under Transmission System for Connectivity for NCC Power projects Ltd (DOCO 22.03.2016) and Petition-2: For Extension of Kudankulam APP, Tirunelveli 400 kv (Quad) D/C line to Tuticorin pooling station along with associated bays at Tuticorin pooling station under Connectivity for Kudankulam 3 & 4 (2X1000 MW) with interstate transmission system in Southern Region. (DOCO-10.03.2018)

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are:(a) KPTEL (b) APTRANSCO (c) KSEB (d) TNEB (e) Electricity Dept. of Goa (f) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (g) APEDCL (h) APSPDCL (i) APCPDCL (j) APNPDCL (k) BESCOM (l) GESCOM (m) HESCOM (n) MESCOM (o) Chamundeswar Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd. (p) Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (q) TANGEDCO (r) TNTC (s) NCC power Project (t) NPCL.

3. Tariff details:

a) 2014-19 Block		Rs. In lakhs				
Petition No.	Asset-1	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Petition-1	Asset-1	-	58.52	2320.95	2415.71	2366.53
Petition-2	Asset-1	-	-	-	156.49	2708.22

b) 2019-24 Block		Rs. In lakhs				
Petition No.	Asset	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition-1	Asset-1	2184.26	2128.52	2073.83	2016.43	1995.60
Petition-2	Asset-1	2673.27	2649.13	2591.44	2534.05	2472.25

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandrablok Building, Janpath, New Delhi-110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : GURGAON Sd/-
Date : 11.10.2019 Sr. General Manager (Commercial)

"Give a Missed Call on Toll Free No. 18002003004 to Get MoP Apps"



Image matters

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath directed officials and police to run a three-month campaign to improve the image of the state



In SC, Dhavan tears up map showing Ram's birthplace

Rajiv Dhavan objected to the map taken from a 1985 book by Hans Baker

From Page 1

Declining their request, the CJJ said that at the very outset on August 6 the bench had made it clear that the parties had to adhere to the time schedule, leaving to them how they would share the time. His warning came as a number of lawyers persisted with their request. Senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan tore a map submitted by senior counsel Vikas Singh appearing for the All India Hindu Mahasabha. It was from the 1985 book *Ayodhya* by Hans Baker.

Dhavan said the map could not be relied upon as all case material was from 1950 to 1961, invoking the doctrine of 'Post Motim Utin' (barring the use of material beyond the case documents). "You do what you want," Gogoi said. No sooner had Dhavan torn the maps, there was commotion, angering the judges. "Decorum has been spoiled, decorum is not maintained. If proceedings continue in this manner, we would just get up and walk out," said the Chief Justice.

When bench assembled post-lunch, Justice Nazeer said the tearing of the map went viral on social media. It was clarified that it was with the consent of the CJJ, and Gogoi said that even this was done viral. The hearing also saw Dhavan chiding senior lawyer P.N.Mishra, appearing for a Hindu litigant, for his lack of knowledge of revenue laws during the Mughal period and described his arguments as "foolish".

Mishra countered that he had written books on the laws of that period, and that people got PhDs based on his work. "I pity those PhDs," Dhavan said. The overall hearing saw the idol of Ram Lalla asserting claim to the title of the disputed site, contending that in 1528 Babri Masjid was constructed by demolishing the existing Ram temple, and cited objects that had surfaced in the excavation ordered by the Allahabad High Court and undertaken by

A PROTRACTED LEGAL BATTLE

1528: Babri Masjid built by Mir Baqi, commander of Mughal emperor Babur.

1885: Mahant Raghubir Das files plea in Faizabad district court seeking permission to build a canopy outside the disputed structure. Court rejects the plea.

1949: Idols of Ram Lalla placed under central dome outside the structure.

1950: Gopal Simla Visharad files suit in Faizabad district court for rights to worship the idols of Ram Lalla.

1959: Nirmohi Akhara files suit seeking possession of the site.

1981: UP Sunni Central Waqf Board files suit for possession of the site.

Feb. 1, 1986: Court orders the government to open the site for Hindu worshippers.

Dec. 6, 1992: Babri Masjid demolished.

Apr. 3, 1993: 'Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act' passed for acquiring land by Centre in the disputed area.

Various writ petitions, including one by Ismail Faruqi, filed in Allahabad HC

Oct. 24, 1994: SC says in Ismail Faruqi case mosque was not integral to Islam.

Apr. 2002: HC begins hearing on determining who owns the disputed site.

the ASI. It was contended that this pointed to the existence of a huge structure supported by pillars and described as a temple.

Besides this, the proponents of the Ram temple have relied on oral evidence and accounts of European and Chinese travelers who visited Ayodhya over the centuries. They also cited the gazetteer of the East India Company in support of their claim.

Lawyers appearing for the idol of Ram Lalla asserted that Ram Janmasthan itself was a Swayambhu — a manifestation of God on the lines of Kedarnath and



Mahant Dharam Das of the Nirvani Akhara (R) with Jamaat Ulama-e-Hind president Molana Suhaib Qasmi at Supreme Court premises on Wednesday. — PTI

Mar. 13, 2003: SC says, in the Aslam alias Bhure case, no religious activity of any nature be allowed at the acquired land.

Sep. 30, 2010: HC, in a 2:1 majority, rules three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

May 9, 2011: SC stays HC verdict on Ayodhya land dispute.

Mar. 21, 2017: CJI J.S. Khehar

suggests out-of-court settlement.

Jan. 4, 2019: SC says an appropriate bench constituted by it will pass an order on January 10 for fixing the date of hearing in the title case.

Jan. 25: SC reconstitutes 5-member Constitution Bench to hear the case. **Feb. 26:** SC favours mediation, fixes Mar. 5 for order on whether to refer matter to court-appointed mediator.

Aug. 2: SC decides to conduct day-to-day hearing from Aug. 6 as mediation fails.

Oct. 4: SC says it will wrap up hearing on Oct. 17, judgment by Nov 17.

Oct. 16: SC concludes hearing; reserves order.



1992. The Sunni Waqf Board pointed to the grants they received from Babur and later from the British administration in India. As Dhavan concluded his arguments citing Iqbal's couplet, Justice Nazeer noted that senior counsel K. Parasaran commenced his arguments reciting *Janani Janma-bhoomi-scha Suwargadapi Gariyasi*. VHP international president Vishnu Sadashiv Kokje hoped for a "favourable" verdict in the Ayodhya title suit case, hours after the supreme court reserved its order on the protracted litigation.

Muslim religious scholars and leaders said that the Supreme Court's decision whatever it may be, should be accepted by both sides of the dispute. Maulana Mehboob Daryadi, general secretary of All India Ulema Council, said, "We are happy that hearing is over, we want the court to take a final call on the basis of evidence, not on the basis of religious sentiments. From the very beginning we have been saying that we will accept whatever the court's decision will be, but people on the opposite side should also accept the court's decision," he said.

Apple buyer from Punjab killed in J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 16

In a gory act, gunmen on Wednesday shot dead from point blank range a migrant labourer from Chhattisgarh in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Pulwama district.

The police blamed the incident on separatist militants and said that the victim 29-year-old Sethi Kumar Sagar, a brick kiln worker and a resident of Bansula Champa area of Chhattisgarh, was walking with another civilian believed to be his cousin when two gunmen targeted him in Pulwama's Nihama area near Kakpora railway station.

J&K's director general of police, Dilbagh Singh, while conforming it said that a manhunt has been launched for the assailants.

In the evening, gunmen opened fire on two non-Kashmiri apple buyers in neighbouring Shopian district's Tranz area.

One of them identified as Charanjit Singh was brought dead to

Pulwama's district hospital whereas the other Sanjiv Kumar is fighting for life, the police and hospital source said.

The sources said that the duo belonging to Ferozpur district of Punjab were targeted by suspected militants while apple boxes bought by them were being loaded in a truck in the village. The gunmen also torched the truck, the sources added.

On Monday night, suspected militants had shot dead a truck driver from Rajasthan identified as Sharief Khan in Sindhoo-Shirmal village of Shopian. The gunmen had also torched his truck loaded with apples which were to be transported out of the Valley.

Earlier during the day on Wednesday, three militants associated with outlawed Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfits were killed in a fire fight with security forces in Anantnag district. One Army soldier was injured during the clash, the officials said.

PM tells Oppn: Doob Maro

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, OCT. 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued his tirade against the Opposition parties saying that those who are questioning the relevance of Article 370 to Maharashtra should be ashamed of themselves.

The PM also predicted that the Congress and NCP would win 10 seats each in the Vidhan Sabha polls.

Addressing an election rally in Akola on Wednesday, Modi said, "How can they say that Article 370 has nothing to do with Maharashtra? They should be ashamed of such thoughts. Don't they have any shame? *Doob maro* (drown them). The people of Jammu and Kashmir belong to India only and the entire country is with them.

"In this land of Shivaji Maharaj, questions are

being asked for political gains about the relevance of Article 370 in the state polls. However, there isn't a single district in the state whose soldiers have not sacrificed their lives for peace in Jammu and Kashmir. Then, how can they say that Article 370 has nothing to do with Maharashtra," Modi questioned. He said that they are proud of the children of Maharashtra who sacrificed everything for Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi slammed the Congress and NCP chief Sharad Pawar for accusing the ruling dispensation of "diverting attention from its failures by harping on the abrogation of Article 370". Pawar had said, "If you question them about farmers' suicides, unemployment, closure of industries, the BJP responds with Article 370."

BRIEF

Scribe attacked in Odisha

Gajapati: A young journalist was attacked by miscreants allegedly for reporting illegal liquor trade in Odisha's Gajapati district last night. The victim was identified as Hari Pradhan, a reporter working with a vernacular daily in Gajapati district. Pradhan was attacked by a group of miscreants at Chandragiri under Mohana police limits on Tuesday evening over media reportage on illegal manufacturing of liquor. He sustained injuries on his two legs and back neck.

ED arrests PC in Tihar Jail

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday arrested former Union finance minister P. Chidambaram in the Tihar Jail in connection with its probe in the INX Media money laundering case, officials said. The arrest has been made under the provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, they said. The central agency will now move court to seek his fresh custody, they said. The ED had filed a criminal case under the PMLA in 2017 to probe this deal of alleged irregularities in the grant of FIPB approval to INX Media group.

ARMY TO DIGITISE ITS RECORDS

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

Indian Army has started digitisation of the service and personal records of its officers. Army has launched a new software "Officers Automated Structured Information System" (Oasis) which has started digitising the records of the Army officers. The new software is hosted on Army's intranet and can be accessed by the Army officers to check their details.

"Before the roll out of the Oasis the records were manually preserved by Manpower Planning Directorate and the whole process of collecting the records, checking the records and keeping a track was very cumbersome. With the new system things are expected to become smooth," said sources.

A similar system is already functioning for the Army jawans.

RIFT WIDENS IN RJD, FACTION FEUD PEAKS

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, OCT. 16

The rift within the RJD widened on Wednesday with one of the factions hinting at quitting the party and floating a separate political front ahead of 2020 Assembly polls.

The development is likely to cause trouble for Tejashwi Yadav who has been trying to keep the party intact after his father and RJD chief Lalu Yadav was sent to jail in connection with fodder scam case.

Talking to this newspaper a senior RJD leader and five-time MLA from Gaighat, Maheshwar Yadav, said that the party leadership lacks experience and has lost its popularity among the masses.

He also claimed that a larger group in the party is in favour of floating a separate political front and support Nitish Kumar's party JD(U).

"Due to the current leadership, we suffered a humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha polls. A maximum number of RJD leaders, almost 80 per cent want to contest Assembly polls in alliance with Nitish Kumar's JD(U). We will disclose our strategy after the by-election results," RJD MLA Maheshwar Yadav said.

Probe ordered into death of detention centre inmate

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, OCT. 16

The Assam government on Wednesday ordered a magisterial probe into the death of an inmate in foreigners detention centre in central Assam's Tezpur district. The incident came to light after the son of deceased refused to accept the body of his father till he is declared as an Indian national.

Deputy commissioner M.P. Singh said that the probe into the death of 65-year-old Dulal Paul at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, where he was admitted to from Tezpur Prison, would be conducted by Additional DC Parag Kakoti.

According to records of the detention centre, Dulal Paul was declared a Bangladeshi by a Foreigners' Tribunal in 2017 and was languishing at the Tezpur jail-cum-Detention Centre since

Dulal's family had sold their land to pay for legal expenses after he was declared a foreigner was sent to the detention centre.

then. Superintendent of Tezpur foreigners detention centre Mrinmay Dawka said that Paul was being treated for diabetes and psychiatric ailments and was examined by doctors of the Tezpur Medical College and Hospital on October 11 and brought back to the detention centre the same day.

However, his condition deteriorated once again the next day and was shifted to Tezpur Medical College and Hospital, which referred him to Guwahati Medical College, and Hospital where he died on October 13. His body is still at the GMCH morgue as his only

son Ashish Paul, a motor mechanic, has refused to take the body. Sonitpur district officials led by ADC Kulen Sharma and Additional SP Numal Mahanta visited the residence of Ashish Paul urging him to receive the body which he declined to take, said district officials.

The Bengali Federation of Assam has also submitted a memorandum to the authorities demanding an investigation into the death. "I will take my father's body home only when he is declared an Indian. My father was sent to the detention centre in 2017 after he was branded a Bangladeshi. Now that he is dead, why is the government forcing us to accept his body? My father died as a Bangladeshi despite being an Indian and owning land here since the 60s. Let them send his body to Bangladesh," he said.

Similarly, the Sunni Waqf Board relied on oral and documentary evidence in support of its claim to the title. They interpreted the archaeological findings at the disputed site as that of an idgah. Furthermore, the Babri Mosque stood at the disputed site ever since its construction in 1528 by Emperor Babur's commander Mir Baqi, till it was razed on December 6,

Badrinath temples. They also referred to Hindu law that once a temple, always a temple, notwithstanding whether at some point it was destroyed and a mosque built over it.

Lawyers appearing for the idol of Ram Lalla asserted that Ram Janmasthan itself was a Swayambhu — a manifestation of God on the lines of Kedarnath and

Bhutanese nabbed with Royal Bengal tiger pelt



Officials with the West Bengal forest department hold the 14-foot-long pelt of a Bengal tiger next to a bucket with 110 pieces of tiger bone, after the items were recovered from two Bhutanese nationals who were arrested on suspicion of smuggling them from India to Bhutan, in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal on Wednesday. The two Bhutanese include an ex-serviceman of the Royal Bhutan Army. — AFP

EYE OPENER No hospital staff bothered to hand over the body to the family

Ants eat eyes of dead man in hospital

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 16

A ghastly sight of ants savouring eyes of a dead man witnessed in a government hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district has sparked furore leading Chief Minister Kamal Nath to order a probe into the incident.

The horrific image of ants creeping on the face and eyes of the deceased,

identified as Balchand Lodhi (45), has gone viral triggering indignation in the state.

The incident took place in the district hospital at Shivpuri.

Five hospital workers, including a doctor and three nurses, were suspended for dereliction of duty leading to the shocking incident, a spokesman of state government said on Wednesday.

According to official reports, the deceased

The incident took place in the district hospital at Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh.

Balchand, a tuberculosis patient, was admitted to hospital on Tuesday morning and succumbed to disease five hours later.

The body, however, lay on the bed for five hours. Later, patients in the hospital ward informed widow of the deceased about the death of her

husband.

She, however, was shocked when she found ants crawling on the eyes of the body after she removed the cloth from its face. She then started removing the ants from the eyes of the body, an eyewitness accounts said.

"It is gruesome sight that will haunt me for the rest of my life. No hospital staff had bothered to hand over the body to kin of the deceased or remove the body from the ward," a

patient admitted in the hospital ward said.

The Chief Minister on Wednesday took serious note of the incident, saying, "It is highly insensitive that the ants were creeping on the dead patient at a district hospital in Shivpuri. Such incidents are a shame for humanity and cannot be tolerated. I have ordered an enquiry and strong action will be taken against the erring staff of hospital".

MP MINISTER PROMISES ROADS AS SMOOTH AS HEMA'S CHEEKS

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, OCT. 16

A minister in Kamal Nath government on Wednesday stirred a political row when he quoted the famous one-liner delivered in the 1990s by former Bihar chief minister while promising to build good roads in MP as smooth as cheeks of Hema Malini.

blunt criticism of lack of maintenance of roads in Madhya Pradesh leading to potholes, took a vow before reporters here that his government would build quality roads as smooth as "cheeks of Hema Malini".

"The roads in Bhopal appear like cheeks of Kailash Vijayvargiya (BJP national general secretary). We will give them a look of cheeks of Hema Malini," the minister quipped.

Many are stubborn in pursuit of the path they have chosen, few in pursuit of the goal

The thoughtful soul to solitude retires

DECCAN Chronicle

17 OCTOBER 2019

Deaths in PMC crisis warning to RBI, govt

The death of two depositors of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank — Fattomal Punjabi and Sanjay Gulati — within 24 hours of each other due to stress and the protests outside the BJP office on October 10 bring to the fore the drawbacks of allowing banks to shut shop. The closure of banks was not alien to Indians in the old days. This is the reason why most Indians, by and large, felt it was better to park their savings in gold or real estate rather than deposit it in the banks.

However, the nationalisation of most of the banks by the Indira Gandhi government in 1969 changed the scenario. The banks thereupon never shut, giving confidence to ordinary people to park their money in savings accounts or fixed deposits. Whenever a bank got close to insolvency, the Reserve Bank and the Centre acted in unison to get stronger banks to acquire the weaklings. The present government is found to be wanting in its resolve to quickly put the PMC issue to rest to end the anxiety among depositors.

The closure of banks was not alien to Indians in the old days. This is the reason why most Indians, by and large, felt it was better to park their savings in gold or real estate rather than deposit it in the banks.

While Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has cited the Election Commission's model code of conduct, which is in force ahead of the Assembly elections, as a reason for his inability to quickly resolve the PMC crisis, the government's policy decisions, including the aborted Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill, appears to suggest that it wants to gradually deprive bank customers of the protection they have been enjoying. Any policy decision — whether brought in through a Bill like FRDI or by policy indifference to crashing banks — would invite the people's wrath and erode their trust in institutions.

The government should go beyond the immediate need of bailing out PMC Bank depositors by addressing the issues that led to the ₹4,355-crore fraud at the Mumbai-based lender. The fact that the bank had lent 77 per cent of its loan book to one real estate developer — Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL), by creating 21,000 fake borrowers — shows the failure of audit and regulatory mechanisms. Due to its close links with HDIL promoters, PMC Bank continued to lend money to the realtor despite its project being delayed and facing liquidity issues since 2013. Though the company claimed in 2015 it was on the recovery path, the demonetisation in 2016 seems to have broken its back. According to industry watchers, there are several real estate firms facing liquidity issues, with ₹4.47 lakh crore in stalled projects. Unless the government and the RBI address these issues, the demonetisation and slowdown-hit real estate firms could lead to an Indian version of the sub-prime crisis.

Savarkar 'Ratna': Comic relief?

Elections require comic relief. This has arrived in the BJP manifesto in Maharashtra, which has promised to confer the Bharat Ratna to its ideological father, Vinayak Damodar "Veer" Savarkar, and three others: Jyotiba Phule, a dalit icon; Savitribai Phule, an OBC social reformer, gender activist and educationist; and Tukaram Bhaurao "Annabhau" Sathé, the father of dalit literature. One wonders if promising the Bharat Ratna violates the Election Commission's model code, especially if it's just a disguised caste-based appeal. If a potential Bharat Ratna is announced, then could not the BJP also have offered a potential solution to the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank crisis that led to the tragic deaths of three retail depositors? (The BJP merely bought itself time by saying the model code prevents it from doing so.)

Some of us might applaud this announcement of the intention to bestow the Bharat Ratna on Veer Savarkar, best known outside of the Hindutva crowd for historic achievements like getting arrested and being accused of conspiring in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi; for being president of the Hindu Mahasabha when it openly opposed the "Quit India" movement; and for writing six mercy petitions to the British after they threw him into the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Indeed, the Atal Behari Vajpayee government tried to give him the Bharat Ratna in 2000, but it was rejected by then President K.R. Narayanan. Some might applaud this move not because they like what Savarkar stood for, but as they think the Bharat Ratna is unnecessary and over-politicised, and has only debased in value over the years due to indiscriminate bestowal. Honouring Savarkar will only hasten that process.

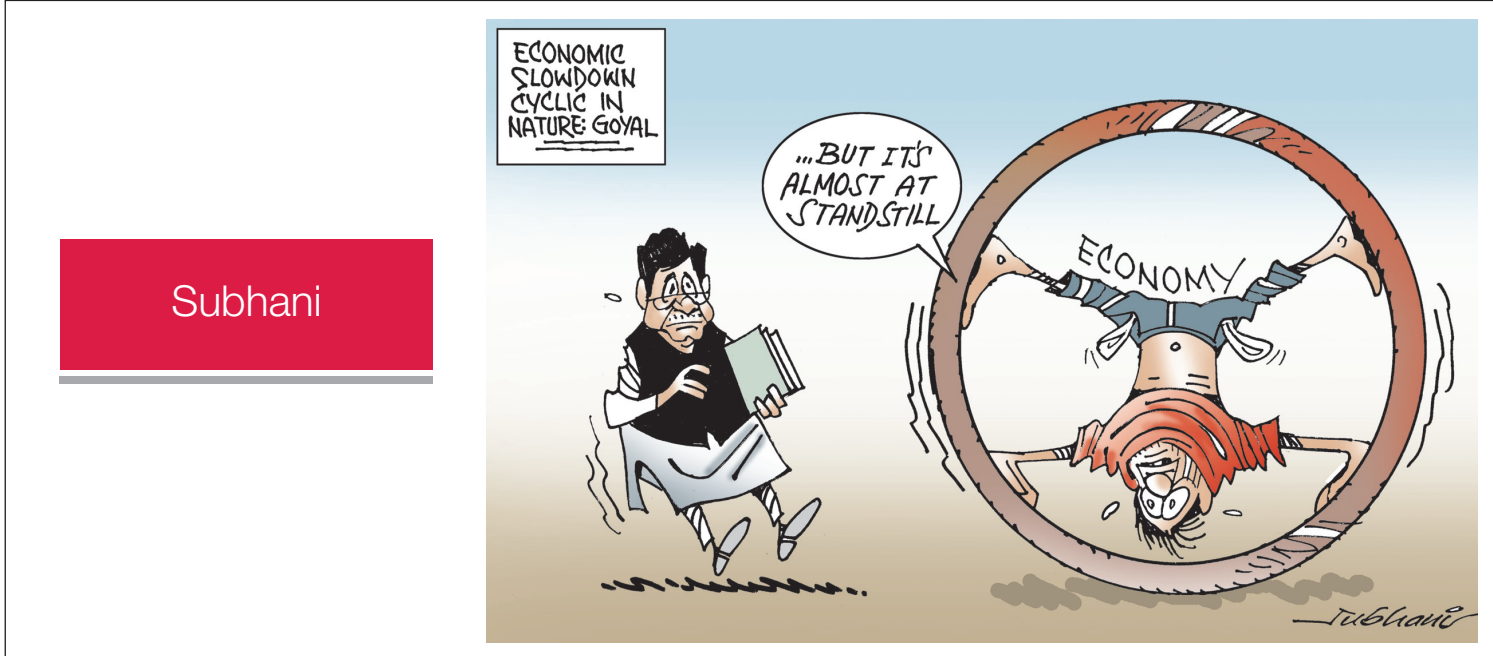
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Subhani

Telangana's RTC crisis is everyone's problem



Konda Vishweshwar Reddy

Public transport is a basic civic need. It is as vital as food, water and health. The world over, governments are focusing on providing efficient, cost-effective and climate-friendly transport to its citizens. In many developed countries, where most services are hived off to the private sector, they still retain control of public transport. In most European countries, public transport is largely government run. Many people who ride in cars today would have, at one time, come from their village to Hyderabad in an RTC bus and made their fortune — including probably our Chief Minister.

The RTC crisis has been created by the government, and particularly by the Chief Minister himself. He can go to any extent to accomplish his objectives, be it the move to shift the secretariat, demolish heritage buildings, build projects which are never going to make economic sense and withdraw benefits to deprived sections. It's a government by one man for one family. So far, he got away with several of his whimsical decisions, but this issue involves lives and livelihoods. We must push for a resolution.

Why do the RTC workers feel cheated and justified in striking? The issues that led to the situation are quite obvious. (1) The most significant fact is that the CM promised to make RTC employees equal to government employees during the Telangana agitation and as an election promise. (2) As a major participant in the struggle for a separate Telangana, they felt a sense of ownership on

the state and when the state's Andhra neighbour merged the APSRTC with the state government, their pain intensified. (3) Taxing RTC on the one hand and denying funds on the other hand, leading to the deterioration of the RTC infrastructure. This also gives credence to the theory that the crisis was created by the government just to pave the way for privatisation and hand over the RTC to cronies. RTC workers and unions saw this coming and have been crying hoarse. However, many in the public saw this as a typical union demand for less accountability and more pay. In this case, they are grossly wrong. The workers, who toiled all their working lives for the RTC, had a legitimate demand to protect their jobs by being absorbed into government service, which should have been a natural corollary, as was accorded to their colleagues in the APSRTC and other RTCs. I am not saying that the RTC has to be absorbed into the government. I am merely saying it is not an unreasonable demand, and the correct way forward would be initiating dialogue, followed by reforms to make RTC a profitable company. The RTC's management was never allowed to function efficiently and resolve the internal crisis. On top of it, the government with its policies burdened it with free passes, which should have been reimbursed annually. The current crisis is not due to employees, but it has completely to do with the government and its style of functioning.

Now the crisis has taken a serious turn — a human tragedy, with drivers, conductors and

workers resorting to self-immolation. With one stroke, the government dismissed 50,000 hardworking employees who have worked decades in public service. They are driven to death because of the insecurity caused by removing them overnight. This never happened in any state in India. We should not forget that RTC workers were at the forefront of our Telangana movement, and they feel that the CM is enjoying his power due to their sacrifices. Now they are prepared to sacrifice their lives to protect their jobs. They need everyone's support.

What is the way out for the RTC? With hope that good sense prevails, before any more workers commit suicide, I am suggesting two steps which will address the issue in the larger and long-term interests of Telangana. For this to succeed, I also request the RTC workers to abide by the process and not be blindsided by ego. All stakeholders should exercise restraint to find a viable solution.

An expert committee should be constituted by the government and included in it should be independent experts, economists and representatives of RTC workers. The terms of reference for this committee should be to suggest a workable solution to address all the legitimate and genuine demands of workers within a three-month period. In addition, that committee might suggest specific steps to make the RTC profitable over the next five years. The committee should have a stipulated dead-

line to submit a detailed report within two months.

Until then, the pre-October 5 situation should be restored. The government should issue orders to that effect, which means taking back the dismissal of 50,000 workers. Both the RTC workers and the government should not be egoistical in embracing this new situation. This should be a precondition for setting up the committee. The government and RTC workers should commit that the committee findings will be binding and final.

In order to make this process successful, all political parties including the Opposition should publicly announce that they will abide by the committee's findings. I sincerely appeal to the CM to agree to this process, or something similar. I am not insisting that this is the only way, but without a proper process the RTC crisis is going to hurt everyone. More workers will be likely to commit or attempt suicide. This will tarnish the image of Telangana and its economic status. It will have long-term consequences on governance. Knowing the CM's mindset, any idea emanating from outside is not good enough for him. My humble request to him is to come out with his own idea, even paraphrasing this one is fine, but please initiate a dialogue. One thing is for sure, CMs come and go, governments come and go, but RTC workers and our buses will stay with the people, taking them around in good times and bad times. That service can't be provided by any CM, but can be done only by RTC workers. Let the RTC workers do their job.

Finally, I appeal to the CM to save lives and save the RTC in the larger interests of the state of Telangana. Dialogue is a crucial part of democracy.

The writer is a senior Congress leader in Telangana and a former Lok Sabha MP

LETTERS

A HUNGER CRISIS

Suicide can never be a panacea for solving human problems (*Lonely, abandoned elderly prone to suicide*, DC, Oct. 16). Suicide is a desperate step taken when someone sees no road ahead. We must have some programmes to educate the public about taking care of the elderly people to prevent suicide.

Harish Chandra Arisalya
Secunderabad

HASTY DECISIONS

Have our labour laws lost teeth that a government can dismiss 48,000 RTC employees just because they are protesting? I hope the officialdom will stop the politicians from taking such hasty decisions. Otherwise it will be a repeat of 1984, when NTR reduced the retirement age of employees to pursue his personal agenda. The state suffered a huge financial burden.

M.V.K. Viswanadha Sarma
Kothagudem

TSRTC employees have been on strike for almost two weeks, demanding the merger of the corporation with the government sector. As the government is the maintaining the fiscal control, it cannot concede to the demands. At this juncture, senior leaders of the ruling and the opposition parties should intervene into the matter for ending the crisis through a dialogue.

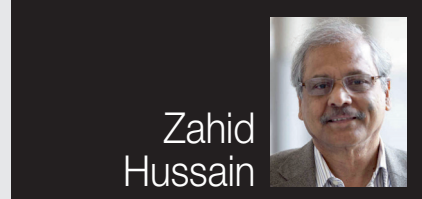
Dr Manthena Damodara Chary
Hyderabad

DON'T BLAME US

I hope the editorial article on Abijeet Banerjee (*A problem solver whom India should listen to*, DC, Oct. 16), opens the eyes of our ministers. At least, the government should stop blaming the common man in order to defend its own blunders like the finance minister's statement that the cause for the downfall of economy is the usage of Ola and Uber services by the people. The coverage on data regulation by Rohan Seth is also inspiring. The government should seek inspiration from eminent economists of the country, rather than giving irrational statements.

Shazia Razaq
Hyderabad

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



Zahid Hussain

America needs to get serious about peace in Afghanistan

They had come close to a deal last month but a tweet from US President Donald Trump abruptly halted the process. A reported meeting between the Afghan Taliban leadership and the chief US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad in Islamabad earlier this month has, however, raised hopes of the resumption of peace talks. Both sides appeared willing to pick up where they left off.

Yet it will not be easy to remove the stumbling blocks on the way to reviving the stalled process. President Trump's tweet calling off the talks was not just on a whim; it reflected the strong reservation of his administration against the content of the proposed agreement that was seen as more favourable to the Taliban.

A major objection was that there was no assurance from the Taliban to adhere to a permanent ceasefire. Then there was also no firm commitment from the insurgents to open direct talks with the Kabul government. So any resumption of negotiations is predicated on the

Taliban's softening their position on those two issues.

Meanwhile, some other recent developments in Afghanistan may also cast a shadow over any move to renew the peace process. There has been a marked escalation in violence in Afghanistan over a number of weeks following the breakdown of talks. With no cessation in the Taliban offensive, there has been an escalation in air strikes by American forces, which has increased civilian casualties.

Although the result of the presidential election in Afghanistan is still awaited, it is not likely to produce political stability in the country. The threat of violence had led to a very low turnout of voters. The two main candidates — Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah — have both claimed victory.

Whatever the result, it is likely to be controversial and may intensify political polarisation in the country, making the prospect of a political solution to the Afghan crisis more complex. Both the presidential candidates are sceptical of the US directly talking to the Taliban.

Unsurprisingly, they have welcomed the breakdown of the US-Taliban negotiations. Irrespective of whoever is elected, there is not going to be any change in the stance that the Taliban should directly talk to the Kabul government. And there is no indication that the insurgents will talk to the Kabul administration before any deal is reached with the US.

The presence in Islamabad of Khalilzad during the Taliban visit was no coincidence. Prime Minister Imran Khan had assured American officials during his meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session that he would help the resumption of the Afghan peace process.

That may also be the reason for the US administration to not object to Pakistan's giving state protocol to the insurgent group. The strong reaction from President Ashraf Ghani to the Taliban visit was, however, predictable. The reception given to the insurgent group raised many eyebrows.

Even the agenda at the Foreign Office meeting in Islamabad rein-

forced the impression that the Taliban were being treated as a de facto government. The Americans didn't seem to have any problem with that. It marked a complete turnaround from Washington's past policy of threatening Pakistan over its links with the Taliban. Despite its abrupt action, the Trump administration still seems keen to reach a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Although there has not been any official acknowledgement of the meeting between the US envoy and Mullah Baradar, the head of the Taliban delegation, the resumption of contacts between the two sides has helped break the ice. But there is still no word on the recommencement of peace talks. Surely Islamabad still exercises influence over the Taliban leadership, many of whose members have their families living in Pakistan. But it is questionable whether it can get the Taliban to agree to a ceasefire and talk to Kabul.

Nevertheless, the Islamabad meeting has produced some positive results. While improving the

possibility of the resumption of peace talks, it has forced the US and the Taliban to consider significant confidence-building measures including a reduction in violence and the exchange of prisoners.

Notwithstanding some positive signals, there are still some roadblocks to navigate before any substantive talks between the US and the Taliban can resume. The reduction in violence and the exchange of prisoners can help build confidence and pave the way for moving forward. The most important thing is to include the Kabul government in any future talks. The onus is on the Taliban.

Pakistan has played a constructive role in facilitating meetings between the US and the Taliban. For Afghan peace, it is important for other regional and surrounding countries to play their role too. The Trump administration too must show more seriousness in talking peace. Calling off a process via a tweet is not what is expected from a responsible country.

By arrangement with Deakin

A negative effect that a drinker has on a non-drinker

A temporary form of insomnia that occurs as a result of short-term factors present in a person's life

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 17 OCTOBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

To solve India's problems, first admit they exist!



Sharmistha Mukherjee

Recently, the people of this country were subjected to a bizarre comment made by law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who argued that as three Bollywood movies had done financially well on their opening day, all was well with the Indian economy. As Mr Prasad got trolled on the social media over such an insensitive remark, he beat a hasty retreat and withdrew the comment.

The ministers in this government seem to be in fierce competition among themselves for making outlandish comments in order to hide the failures of the Narendra Modi government, especially on the economic front. The response of the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the crisis in the

automobile sector, that has seen a double-digit fall in sales for both four-wheelers and two-wheelers as well as commercial vehicles, which resulted in the loss of lakhs of jobs, was another peculiar explanation. She related it to the changing mindset of "millennials", who according to her now prefer to use Ola or Uber cabs, instead of buying cars and paying EMIs for them. This explanation leaves out the vast area outside the metropolitan cities and big towns where services like Ola and Uber are not available, but still consists a large market for private vehicles. This also does not account for the decline in bus and truck sales.

Similarly, while making a statement on the GDP calculations at a meeting, commerce minister Piyush Goyal made a double faux pass when he said that Albert Einstein discov-

ered gravity (confusing between Issac Newton and Einstein), and that maths did not help Einstein discover gravity! So Mr Goyal advised his listeners not to get into the maths about GDP calculations, and by implication, not to worry about the falling GDP that was the lowest — just five per cent — in the first quarter of FY20, the slowest growth in the past six years. These ministers might be applauded for their valiant but unsuccessful efforts to defend the failures of their government to the point of absurdity; but if these statements reflect the understanding of economics of these ministers, especially when the two of them happen to be the finance minister and commerce minister of the country, it is indeed a matter of great concern for all Indians.

While one must refrain from predicting doomsday, the fact is that almost every day there is some indication that India is facing an economic slowdown. In its latest South Asia Economic Focus report, the World Bank has slashed India's GDP growth forecast from 7.5 per cent to six per cent. Just a couple of days before this report came out,

The ministers in this government seem to be in fierce competition among themselves for making outlandish comments in order to hide the failures of the Narendra Modi government, especially on the economic front

Moody's Investors Service lowered its 2019-20 growth forecast for India from 6.2 per cent to 5.8 per cent, stating that the economy was facing a pronounced slowdown. The growth in eight core industries declined to 2.1 per cent this July compared to 7.3 per cent during the same period last year. Unemployment remains the government's biggest challenge, remaining at a 45-year high. In this context, unless followed by concrete steps backed with solid economic vision to address the crisis, all the attempts by senior ministers to convince people with skewed explanations that "everything is all right" will remain a mere exercise in futility.

In order to address a problem

and find a solution, it is absolutely necessary to first acknowledge that the problem exists. The biggest problem with the Narendra Modi government is its utter refusal to acknowledge that a problem exists. In its quest for the illusive "achche din", it seems to have started believing in its own rhetoric. Instead of recognising the legitimate concerns of citizens and the Opposition leaders, the government and the ruling party are totally dismissive about these concerns. The ostrich mentality of the government, refusing to acknowledge these problems, is coupled with its distrust of experts who refuse to always toe the line, deviating from the code of "yes, minister"! The resignation of Arvind Panagariya, the economist handpicked by Prime Minister Modi to head Niti Aayog, the resignation of chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian, the exit of Reserve Bank of India governors Raghuram Rajan and Urjit Patel, and the recent resignation of Viral Acharya, the RBI's deputy governor, raise questions about this government's ability to work with professionals who have a mind of their own.

Raghuram Rajan's views regarding the government's economic policies are well-known. Urjit Patel's exit fuelled speculation that the RBI's autonomy was being eroded by the government. Arvind Subramanian had called demonetisation a "massive, draconian, monetary shock" in the book that he wrote after his resignation.

Coming to an entirely different issue, as home minister (and BJP president) Amit Shah and senior ruling party leaders keep on thundering about conducting an NRC exercise throughout India, the central question in the entire Assam NRC remains unanswered. What will happen to those people who are finally left out after all the existing legal procedures are exhausted, including appeals to the higher courts. Bangladesh has always denied illegal immigration from its soil. In a statement, external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar categorically said that the NRC was an internal matter of India. In the eventuality of a few lakhs of people being rendered stateless, what roadmap does the government have to deal with these people? Bangladesh

is not going to accept them. Can the government detain lakhs of people, that may include children, indefinitely in detention camps? That will not merely be a major violation of human rights, but truly inhuman. Through this process, if a body of stateless people without any rights is created, its impact in terms of both a potential security risk as well as humanitarian values might prove to be costly for India in the long run. But the government does not seem to have an answer to these questions.

The Modi government's approach towards policymaking seems to be geared towards receiving instant applause rather than thoroughly thinking things through. "Act first, think later" appears to be the government's motto. Without clarity, vision and answers to probable negative impact of policy decisions, the Modi government may well convince itself about "achche din", but the people of India will continue to suffer due to its reckless decisions.

The writer is an AICC national spokesperson and president of the Delhi Mahila Congress

Turkey was forced to act in Syria due to allies' mistakes, terror hits



Adnan Altay Altinörs

Turkey is currently fighting a number of terrorist organisations that present risk and threat to its national security. Our resolve to fight against these terrorist organisations is firm. It is with this understanding that we have given our full support to all international efforts to combat terrorism since day one.

Turkey is under the threat of terrorism originating from Syria and targeting its borders. Over the last two years, PYD/YPG, the Syrian offshoot of the PKK terrorist organisation, has perpetrated more than 300 terrorist attacks targeting Turkey or Syrians within Syria. Over 100 of these cases targeted Turkey from the east of river Euphrates. There is credible evidence that Deash terrorists detained by PYD/YPG were released in exchange of infiltrating into Turkey or northwest Syria in order to conduct terrorist acts.

Evidence also shows PYD/YPG's human rights violations such as recruiting child soldiers, intimidating dissidents, demographic engineering and forced conscription in areas under its control.

Our expectations and sensitivities regarding the PYD/YPG threat were repeatedly brought to the attention of all our allies, especially the United States. Our talks with the US on the establishment of

a safe zone with a view to addressing our legitimate security concerns and sustaining the fight against Deash have remained inconclusive. Despite a preliminary understanding reached between the two countries early last August towards jointly establishing a safe zone, the PYD/YPG fortifications were not destroyed, even new elements were built. PYD/YPG did not withdraw from the planned safe zone. Their heavy weapons have not been taken. Instead, they continued to receive delivery of weapons. The joint Turkish-US land patrols and reconnaissance flights only served to verify non-compliance on the ground. The planned joint bases were never set up.

Through all contacts, Turkey emphasised that, if necessary, it would not hesitate to use its right to self-defence stemming from international law. Turkey was compelled to take action in order to correct the grave mistakes of allied and partner countries in Syria.

Against this backdrop, the Turkish armed forces launched "Operation Peace Spring" on October 9, 2019. The objectives of Operation Peace Spring are clear: (i) To eliminate a long-standing terror threat against Turkey's national security, (ii) to enforce Syria's territorial integrity and unity, (iii) to liberate the local population

Turkey will not hesitate to use its right to self-defence stemming from international law. Turkey was compelled to take action in order to correct the grave mistakes of allied and partner countries in Syria.

PYD/YPG's oppression, and (iv) to lay the ground for the safe and voluntary return of displaced Syrians.

The operation is being carried out on the basis of international law, in accordance with our right to self-defence as outlined in Article 51 of the UN Charter and the relevant Security Council resolutions, and in full respect of Syria's territorial integrity and unity.

Currently, the town centres of Ras al-Ayn and Tel Abyad, and adjacent settlements amounting to 1,220 sq km of territory were cleared out of terrorists. Having advanced deeper into the operation zone during the conduct of the offensive, the land units have assumed control of the M4 highway. The Turkish Red Crescent has arrived in Syria's recently liberated district of Tal Abyad to deliver humanitarian aid to needy people.

In the meantime, the PYD/YPG showed its true colors by firing up to 700 mortars and rockets indiscriminately to the bordering Turkish provinces. Both our citizens and Syrians taking refuge on Turkish soil were affected. As of October 14, civilian casualties have mounted to almost 200, including 20 confirmed cases of death. Turkey intends to contin-

ue the operation until all terrorists have been wiped out of the region, our border security has been ensured, and local Syrians have been liberated from the tyranny of PYD/YPG as well as the Deash threat.

As was the case with the previous operations, "Euphrates Shield" and "Olive Branch", only terrorist elements and their hide-outs, shelters, emplacements, weapons, vehicles and equipment are being targeted. All necessary measures are taken to prevent any harm to civilians and any damage to civilian infrastructure. Channels of military deconfliction remain open and functional.

Turkey is taking utmost care to ensure that the operation is conducted in full compliance with international law. Allegations that the operation would lead to a new humanitarian crisis and mass migration flow are fabricated in order to discredit Turkey's counter-terrorism efforts.

The operation also aims to support the international efforts to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of displaced Syrians to their homes of origin or other places of their choice in Syria, in line with international law and in coordination with relevant UN agencies. It is intended also to facilitate the return of Syrians who had been displaced due to acts of the PYD/YPG amounting to crimes against humanity, including ethnic cleansing.

Certain countries and circles, which explicitly or implicitly support the separatist agenda of the PYD/YPG terrorist organisation, are making baseless accusations against Turkey on this matter. This is a manifestation of their frustration for the disruption of their plans to

divide Syria. Turkey has no plans whatsoever to modify the demographic structure in the operation area.

The allegation that Operation Peace Spring would damage efforts to reach a political solution in Syria is far from reality. Turkey is one of the few countries that exerted maximum and genuine efforts to establish the Constitutional Committee, in close cooperation with other Astana guarantors and the UN.

Turkey is an active member of the Global Coalition Against Daesh and is co-chairing the Counter Daesh Coalition Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters. The most recent meeting was held in Ankara on May 7, 2019. Turkey fought against Deash in Syria more than any other country and paid the heaviest price. Turkey was the only country engaging in chest-to-chest combat against Deash terrorists in Syria.

The future of detained Deash terrorists is of paramount importance for Turkey. The issue of foreign terrorist fighters can be effectively dealt with only by collective action by the international community. The only sustainable solution is repatriation of all foreign terrorist fighters by their countries of origin. Turkey stands ready to work together with the countries of origin and international organisations for the rehabilitation of spouses and children who have not been involved in crimes committed by foreign terrorist fighters affiliated with Deash.

The writer is the consul general of Turkey in Hyderabad

A time to introspect, rethink for vets who joined politics



Bhopinder Singh

There is a certain historical, positional and logical gravitation that the "uninformed" fraternity has towards the ostensibly "nationalistic", rightist and traditionalist political parties. These parties usually posture more interventionist, majoritarian, unilateral and assertive stands on security matters, and emphasise on exclusivist distinctions of self-determination. Beyond endorsing reactionary instincts, these parties invariably posit the threat of a veritable "enemy" in order to gain political traction — herein the natural disposition of the "soldier" (and by that extension, the veterans), who are predicated on defending the sovereign flag, and are drawn towards such political platforms. Therefore, the Grand Old Party or the Republicans in the United States, Tories or Conservatives in the United Kingdom, Likud in Israel, etc, are the preferred political parties for the veteran who votes in their favour, as opposed to other national parties. Even in the mature democracies of Western Europe, the rise of the right-wing and populist parties is obvious with the increasing societal backlash emanating from the perceived loss of identity, immigration concerns, globalisation, etc that lend themselves towards Euroscepticism and anti-immigration stances. France's Marine Le Pen and her far-right National Front (NF), which identifies itself as a "democratic movement of patriots", has seen a coalescing of veterans towards it as the subject of security in the Fifth Republic assumes serious concerns.

Ironicly, politics in the 21st century has seen the invariable retreat of the modernist, centrist and secularist parties, who were attacked as being too "soft" on security matters by these "nationalistic" parties. In India too, the sight of veterans as the "newsroom warriors" on prime time television shows added a dash of uber-muscularity to the political pitch, as they now defended the political flags in their regimental regalia. The "Indian soldier" soon became the default prop and leitmotif for contextualising logical and even unrelated topics, and the imagery of the apolitical institution of the Indian armed forces was willfully afforded a distinct political slant. However, centering the soldier and its institutional concern in the public domain does not necessarily translate into any meaningful, preferential or correctional step for the armed forces, as the usurpation of the soldier's imagery has a political utility of ring-fencing a political move. Lindsey Cormack in her book, *Congress and US Veterans: From the GI Bill to the VA Crisis*, recognises that the Republican Party has more support of the veterans, but that is despite the fact it is actually the Democrats who have done more for enhancing veterans' benefits. She notes presciently: "Republicans tend to talk more about veterans in constituent communications, but they are less apt to author legislation in the area". Already, with the unending wars in the Middle Eastern swathes and the longest war in the Af-Pak region (over 18 years), US veterans are tiring and the latest Pew Research finds that 64 per cent of veterans surveyed feel that the Iraq War "was not worth fighting". As contrary to the convenient and selfish warmongering done by the civilian politicians, it was the legendary US Gen. Douglas MacArthur who said: "The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it

is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war".

The green shoots of a similar reflection seem to have dawned silently via the electoral results in another perilous part of the world — Israel. The longest serving Prime Minister in Israeli history, Benjamin Netanyahu, had successfully invoked and exploited his military service in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and his heroics therein, to paint a picture of himself as the sole saviour of the besieged nation. His extreme spiel had necessitated the hatred of the "other" and all his other Zionist political rivals were routinely caricatured as weak-willed and Leftist who couldn't be entrusted with Israel's safety. The toxicity of his latest campaign had hit unprecedented lows in the already fragile societal structure bursting at its seams, with Mr Netanyahu further polarising the "divide". It took another fellow Zionist military man and war-hero to postulate another political alternative within the fractured region and come up tops. The relative moderation, nuance and restraint of the former three-star general and chief of the IDF, Benjamin Gantz, as the head of the leading group (Blue and White) in the Israeli elections is noteworthy for the sort of reconciliatory language, inclusive approach and rectitude, that he offered vis-a-vis the belligerence and bravura of Mr Netanyahu. The emergence of an alternative political narrative for a gallant military general was evolutionary and unmistakable.

A similar portent was seen in US politics where the much-feted Marine Corps general with the famous moniker "Mad Dog", and with an unmatched cut of lethality, Jim Mattis, was appointed as secretary of defence under Donald Trump. No sooner had Mr Trump made the decision to appoint the legendary general to bolster his own political muscularity, did the irreconcilable differences between the combat-bloodied general and the blustering civilian politician came to the fore. Mr Mattis had maintained to "treat allies with respect" — he had urged restraint on Iran and from withdrawing troops in Syria — all borne of actual battle-rattle — yet he followed the infamous exit door that had earlier accounted for Gen. John Kelly, Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, Maj. Gen. Ricky Waddell, Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, etc. Even today the Republicans presumably bank the majority of the veteran votes, yet the unending cycle of violence, bloodshed and societal division is forcing the veteran community to sift the wheat from the chaff, and introspect within. The haunting lament of the straight-speaking Marine Corp warrior was obvious in Mr Mattis' introspective write-up where he reflected on his brush with Mr Trump's politics, "We all know that we're better than our current politics. Tribalism must not be allowed to destroy our experiment". The soldier, above all, is a constitutional entity that ought to personify the profound morality of our Constitution — irrespective of his or her individual political preferences, the soldier cannot allow the apolitical moorings of the institution to be surrendered, abused or short-changed for temporary political gratification.

The writer is a retired lieutenant-general and a former lieutenant-governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN CHRONICLE

Rs 15cr U.S. loan for private sector projects

NEW DELHI, Oct. 16. INDIA and the United States today signed an agreement extending a 20-million-dollar (Rs. 15 crores) US loan to finance import of machinery for private sector industrial projects.

The loan will also be utilised for expansion of modernisation of existing private sector plants, import of initial spare parts and to finance engineering and other consultancy services.

The loan is expected to be helpful in the speedy implementation of new projects and also in assisting existing plants to expand output which has begun to recover after the 1965-66 recession.

Strive to discover the self beyond



Francis Gonsalves

A young woman was distressed by the behaviour of her sixteen-year-old son. Whenever they went out together, her son would walk ahead of her. "Are you ashamed of me?" she asked him. The lad replied, "Oh no, mom! It's just that you look so young that I'm afraid my friends will think I've got a new girlfriend." Her distress disappeared in a wink!

Not infrequently, our sense of "self" is shaped neither by what we know of ourselves nor by what we'd ideally yearn to be; but by

what others think of us. Thus, it could happen that we feel extremely elated when someone praises us, and depressingly deflated when unpraised for something small. Extreme cases of the latter could lead to suicide — destroying the "self" totally.

The "public self" or "external me" is all-important for many, today. This is often seen in our current craze of clicking "selfies". The American Psychiatric Association has confirmed that taking selfies is a mental disorder, termed the condition "selfitis". If you're taking three selfies a day, you're probably suffering from selfitis.

First, look around. Diffuse the inordinate attention on yourself. There's so much of beauty around you: butterflies, flowers, fruits, dewdrops, sunsets and rivers. Do not capture these in your cell-



phones, but let them hold you captive for a while. Then, be grateful.

Second, gaze within. Discover the true "self" — called the "atman" or "soul" — that deepest, truest, loveliest part of "me" which is "who" I really am despite all that anyone and everyone says of me, good or bad. This "me" I know not as an object, but as a subject. To know things is to be learned.

Third, as I go deeper into my truest "self" I'll be drawn towards silence, solace and surrender. That is my root and my wellspring, my origin and my destiny, my spirit nesting and resting in God's Spirit. Saint Augustine describes this as "intimior intimo meo": deeper than my own depths!

Francis Gonsalves is a professor of theology. He can be contacted at fragons@gmail.com



Royal Tour

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge spent the third day of their royal tour in Pakistan, visiting Hindu Kush mountain range in Chitral

Turkey defiant on Syria

Erdogan unfazed by international pressure to curb its military offensive

Vladimir Putin invites Turkey Prez to Russia

Moscow, Oct. 16: Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the conflict in Syria in a phone call with Recep Tayyip Erdogan and invited the Turkish leader to soon visit Russia, the Kremlin said.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses his ruling party legislators at the Parliament, in Ankara on Wednesday.

It said the two leaders emphasised "the need to prevent confrontations between units of the Turkish army and Syrian armed forces".

The call was initiated by Turkey, the Kremlin said. Putin raised concerns in the call about "terrorists attempting to break

free and infiltrate neighbouring countries" amid Ankara's offensive against Kurdish-held areas of northern Syria. — AFP



SYRIA is friendly with the Kurds. The Kurds are very well protected. Plus, they know how to fight.

DONALD TRUMP, US President

operation has widespread support in Turkey where decades of bloody insurgency by Kurdish militants has killed tens of thousands of people. But Western powers are spooked that the operation is endangering the battle against the Islamic State group, which was led on the ground by Kurdish forces.

He reiterated that Trump will pursue "punishing economic sanctions" until a resolution is reached.

But Erdogan remained unfazed by the pressure, telling reporters: "They tell us to declare a ceasefire. We can never declare a ceasefire." The

that the camps were not "currently" under threat from the operation, but Europe has taken an increasingly tough line with Turkey.

Britain and Spain became the latest powers to suspend military exports to Turkey on Tuesday, Canada made a similar move.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have mounted a desperate defence to the east of Ras al-Ain, using tunnels, berms and trenches.

An AFP correspondent said clashes around the town were ongoing on Wednesday despite Ankara's repeated claims it had captured the area.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Kurdish fighters had launched "a large counter-attack against Turkish forces and their Syrian proxies near Ras al-Ain" on Tuesday and reported "fierce combat" in the west of the town as well as in Tal Abyad.

Since launching their assault on October 9, Turkish-backed forces have secured more than 100 kilometres of border, but Ras al-Ain — Siri Kani in Kurdish — has held out. — AFP

Turkey executing civilians, thinks UN

Geneva, Oct. 16: The UN warned on Tuesday that reported summary executions of civilians in northeastern Syria carried out by pro-Turkish fighters could amount to a "war crime" and that Ankara could be "deemed responsible".

The Turkish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces said over the weekend that at least nine civilians were "executed" as part of Turkey's incursion into northeastern Syria, which began nearly a week ago. A 35-year-old Hevrin Khalaf, the secretary-general of the Future Syria Party, who according to the forces was taken out of her car and killed by Turkish-allied Syrian fighters.

The UN rights office said its staff had viewed two separate pieces of video footage "showing what appears to be summary executions carried out by fighters belonging to the Ahrar al-Sharqiya armed group, which is

Turkey could be deemed responsible as a state for violations committed by their affiliated armed groups, as long as Turkey exercises effective control over these groups

affiliated with Turkey, on 12 October."

Spokesman Rupert Colville said the footage, which has been widely shared on social media, appeared "to show the fighters filming themselves capturing and executing three Kurdish captives" on the main highway. He said the UN was working to verify the footage and confirm the details of the events, but stressed that under international law, "summary executions are serious violations, and may amount to a war crime." — AFP

Brexit may be further delayed

London, Oct. 16: British Brexit Minister Stephen Barclay said the government would comply with assurances given to a Scottish court that Prime Minister Boris Johnson would write a letter to the EU requesting a Brexit delay if a deal is not reached by Oct. 19.



Boris Johnson

Britain and the EU are locked in negotiations to try and seal a Brexit divorce deal this week, but talks have hit a standstill.

The British parliament passed a law last month which would require Johnson to request a three-month delay if parliament has not approved an exit agreement by the end of Saturday. Johnson said he will obey the law and not request a delay.

Earlier, the government's top legal officer in Scotland gave assurances that Johnson would fully comply with the so-called Benn Act and write the letter asking

for an extension and, if the EU offered one, he would accept it.

Asked repeatedly by Hilary Benn, whether Johnson would write the letter, Barclay avoided repeating those exact words but said the government would abide its pledge to the court. "I can confirm, as the prime minister has repeatedly set out, that firstly the government will comply with the law and secondly will comply with the undertakings given to the court in respect of the law," Barclay said. — Reuters

Nutritional disorders can be combated by the cultivation of lifestyles inspired by gratitude

— Pope Francis

PAK TO REMAIN IN GREY LIST

Islamabad, Oct. 16: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided, in principle, to keep Pakistan in its Grey List till February 2020, directing Islamabad to take extra measures for complete elimination of terror financing and money laundering, according to media reports on Wednesday.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

In a meeting in Paris on Tuesday, the FATF reviewed the measures that Pakistan has already taken to control money laundering and terror financing, stated Dawn News.

The Paris-based task force has urged Pakistan to take extra measures for complete elimination of terror financing, it quoted Aaj TV.

The FATF will take a final decision on Pakistan's position in February 2020. A formal announcement about the interim developments will be made on Friday, which is the last day of the FATF's ongoing session, the report said.

However, Pakistan's finance ministry spokesperson Omar Hameed Khan rejected the reports of the country remaining in the Grey List, saying "it is not true and nothing before October 18 can be confirmed".

The FATF has decided to give four months to Pakistan to help implement remaining recommendations of the task force. Earlier at the FATF meeting in Paris, Pakistan's Minister for Economic Affairs Hammad Azhar had explained his country's positive performance in 20 of the 27 parameters to check terror financing. China, Turkey and Malaysia "appreciated" the steps taken by them.

Motive behind techie's act not yet disclosed

From Page 1

Roseville officers checked his apartment near Sacramento and discovered the victims, NBC News reported.

"It appears that the victims were killed by this suspect over a few days' time span," Simon said. "We're still working to put that timeline together."

Hangud was the sole suspect in the killings and there appeared to be no ongoing threat, police said. Investigators are asking anyone between Roseville and Mt. Shasta if they have seen Hangud and an adult man of Indian descent in the suspect's car, the report said.

Police said they were not ready to disclose a motive for Hangud's alleged acts; however, tax records showed that Hangud faced a federal tax lien of \$178,603 from the Internal Revenue Service this year. Police believe Hangud "drove from Roseville and travelled to unknown places in Northern California, and ended up in Mount Shasta," Simon said.

His most recent employment was with a company called Social Interest Solutions, which provides IT services for state public assistance programmes. The company, located at 1 Capitol Mall and operated by Oakland-based Alluma, declined to comment, but public records showed his employment there ended in 2018.

Court records show that Hangud's only previous encounter with law enforcement was for speeding in Placer County in 2016. Before 2015, he worked in the technology sector in the Bay Area and had lived in Dallas, Texas; Maryland; and New Jersey, according to public documents.

Police said disclosure of the victims' identities was pending until next of kin are notified. "This incident has touched the lives of many in the area," Simon told reporters at a news conference on Tuesday, adding that such a killing had not occurred in the Placer County city of 1,30,000 people. "It's a very sad, sad situation," he



Shankar Nagappa Hangud

- Hangud was the sole suspect in the killings and there appeared to be no ongoing threat
- Police believe that the victims were killed by the suspects over a few days' time span
- The suspect himself drove to the police to confess to the crime

said. "The suspect himself drove to the Mount Shasta police department with one of the victims in his car and made a confession to them to start off the investigation," Simon said.

Mt. Shasta police chief Parish Cross said he and another officer went outside to the car to verify what Hangud had said was true.

"These are things that just don't happen everyday and when they do it is upsetting," said Cross.

"I've been in the business a long time, but this one here is a whole new level. We are still in shock," he said, according to a report on KDRV.com. — PTI

कार्यालय प्रमुख अभियंता जल संसाधन विभाग, भोपाल ईमेल- ceproc.enrcwr.d.bpl@nic.in फोन- 0755-2767635 फैक्स- 0755-2552406				
निविदा सूचना क्रमांक-697/2019-20/प्रमुख अभियंता/ई-टेंडरिंग/ भोपाल, दिनांक 10.10.2019				
निम्न कार्यो हेतु निविदा वेबसाइट https://www.mptenders.gov.in पर आमंत्रित की गई है।				
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निविदा में संशोधन की स्थिति में वेबसाइट पर ही संशोधन देखा जा सकेगा। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।				
सं क्र.	निविदा क्र.	कार्य	जिला	लागत (लाख)
1.	2019 WRD_56988	टर्न की पद्धति पर- आबलिगा मध्यम सिंचाई परियोजना के डूब क्षेत्र में आने वाले पिपलिया भोज पी.एम.जी.एस. ब्याच, सडक एवं 5 नग पिपलिया का निर्माण कार्य, विस्तृत स्कोप ऑफ वर्क के अनुसार परंतु उस तक सीमित नहीं।	खण्डवा	77.01
2.	2019 WRD_56990	चरला बैराज के एग्रीन के विस्तारिकरण का कार्य।	बडवानी	56.89
3.	2019 WRD_56992	मोहराज जलाशय की दायाँ बेट एवं बायीं बेट नहर मय समस्त स्ट्रक्चरों का शोध निर्माण कार्य।	छिन्दवाड़ा	380.91
4.	2019 WRD_56994	बाग सागर समान कालोनी रीवा के अन्नार्गत 100 नग "एच" टाइप आवासीय भवनों के सुधार एवं मरम्मत का कार्य।	रीवा	117.54
5.	2019 WRD_56996	वर्ष 2019-20 हेतु बागसागर कालोनी के आवासीय एवं कार्यालयीन भवनों के वार्षिक मरम्मत एवं रखरखाव का कार्य।	शहडोल	46.40
6.	2019 WRD_56997	टर्न की पद्धति पर- मझगाँव उदवहन सिंचाई योजना अन्नार्गत लिफ्ट 1 एवं लिफ्ट 2 हेतु नटिकल टर्बाइन पंप मय कंट्रोल पेनल, इ.ओ.टी. केन एवं यांत्रिकी संबंधी सामग्रियों के स्पार्क, निर्माण, प्रदाय स्थापना एवं टेस्टिंग कमीशनिंग का निर्माण कार्य, विस्तृत स्कोप ऑफ वर्क के अनुसार परंतु उस तक सीमित नहीं।	शहडोल	923.30
7.	2019 WRD_56998	चनोडा वृजुर्वा जलाशय योजना अन्नार्गत वेस्ट विवर का शोध निर्माण कार्य, स्थिर चैनल की खुदाई एवं नहर के 4 नग पक्के स्ट्रक्चरों सहित सीमेंट कांक्रीट के लाइनिंग का कार्य।	सागर	52.20
8.	2019 WRD_56999	राष्ट्रीय जल विज्ञान परियोजना के अन्नार्गत वैनाग का कछार में स्थापित RTDAS के पांच वर्ष हेतु AMC (Annual Maintenance contract) का कार्य।	भोपाल	64.31
9.	2019 WRD_57000	ल्यौरा टनल परियोजना सिमरौर के हेड रेग्युलेटर जलबगों size 2.400m x 5.500 m -4 nos (2 Emergency +2 Service) हेतु 20.00 मी.टन क्षमता के इलेक्ट्रोक्लीन आपरेटिंग नेप ड्रम हाइड्रट की डिजाइन, ड्राईंग, फेब्रिकेशन, सल्लाई, इरेक्शन, टेस्टिंग, कमीशनिंग का कार्य एवं टूरनल असेम्बली एवं रेलिंग डेकिंग के फेब्रिकेशन, सल्लाई तथा इरेक्शन का कार्य।	भोपाल/रीवा	50.80
10.	2019 WRD_57001	कनेरी टैक परियोजना के हेड रेग्युलेटर स्कोरिंग स्लूस जलबगों size 1.50m x 2.200 m -2 nos (1 Service + 1 Emergency) हेतु हाइड्रट असेम्बली के डिजाइन, ड्राईंग, फेब्रिकेशन, सल्लाई, एवं रेलिंग डेकिंग के फेब्रिकेशन, सल्लाई, इरेक्शन, टेस्टिंग एवं कमीशनिंग का कार्य।	भोपाल	25.13
11.	2019 WRD_57002	राष्ट्रीय जल विज्ञान परियोजना अन्नार्गत सर्वे इन्व्यूमेंट वॉटर वेलेसिटी एवं डिस्ट्रिब्यूटिव मेजरमेंट घंटा का कार्य।	भोपाल	33.74
12.	2019 WRD_57003	मोहनपुरा बांध एवं कार्वलिव हेतु सहायक बर्दीधारी कुशल सुरक्षा गार्ड प्रदाय करने का कार्य।	राजगढ़	64.94
13.	2019 WRD_57004	सुडालिया सिंचाई परियोजना के निर्माण हेतु वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय से पर्यावरण स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने का कार्य।	राजगढ़	33.47
14.	2019 WRD_57075	बाग सागर समान कालोनी रीवा के अन्नार्गत 60 नग "जी" टाइप आवासीय भवनों के सुधार एवं मरम्मत का कार्य।	रीवा	85.08
15.	2019 WRD_57094	आसन बैराज मध्यम परियोजना पुनर्वास के अन्नार्गत नया विद्युतीकरण का 100 के.व्ही. ए. डी.टी.आर., एल.टी. एक्स.एल.पी.ई.ए.बी. लाइंस, 11 के.व्ही. ए.ए.ए.सी. स्कं कंडक्टर लाइंस का कार्य।	ग्वालियर	58.57

G-17909/19 मुख्य अभियंता (प्रोवोकेशन)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Chief Construction Engineer (R&D) South Defence R&D Organisation Post Box No. 1569, Akbar Road Secunderabad- 500 003 Telephone Nos: 040-27751842, 040-27753662, Fax No. 040-27751405 and Email ID: ccernds.drdo@nic.in				
ISSUE OF E-TENDER				
Chief Construction Engineer (R&D) South, Defence R&D Organization Post Box No.1569, Akbar Road Secunderabad- 500 003, on behalf of president of India, invites e-tender in two cover system from reputed firms/contractors who have carried out the similar nature of works with the state/central govt. departments as per the prequalification criteria mentioned in the preface of the e-tender for the under mentioned work.				
S. No	Name of Work	EMD (in Rs)	Tender Cost (In Rs)	Estimated Cost of work (Rs in lakhs)
1.	PROVISION OF COMPOSITE CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ALLIED SERVICES NON-IT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA CENTER AT HYDERABAD.	Rs 1,28,00,000/- in the form of DD/Bankers cheque/FDR in favour of CCE (R&D)S, Secunderabad.	Rs 3000/- in the form of DD in favour of CCE (R&D)S, Secunderabad	11800.00
2.	Uploading of e-tender documents	Uploaded on 12.10.2019		
3.	e-Tender ID	2019_DRDO_510598_1		
4.	Last date and time for receipt of Tender documents	04.11.2019 upto 1500 Hrs		
5.	Tender opening schedule.			
(a)	PQ & Technical Bid (cover 1)	06.11.2019 at 1530 Hrs		
(b)	Price bid opening (cover 2)	Will be intimated after finalization of prequalification of firms		
6.	Period of completion	14 (Eighteen) Months		
7.	Tender documents can be seen/downloaded from CPP portal	www.eprocure.gov.in		
8.	For further details /clarifications regarding subject work please contact: Project Manager on Telephone No. 040-27751842/27758290			
9.	The tender is- being uploaded with no financial commitment and issuing authority reserve the right to change/vary any part thereof at any stage or cancel the tender process.			
10.	Any firm which has been banned for malpractices or poor performances or any other reason either by this organization or any other Govt. organization, need not bid as such bids are liable to be rejected as and when it comes to light.			
11.	This e-tender notice is also available on DRDO Website / CPP portal for quoting.			

davp 10301/11/0089/1920



new feature

Instagram users will now be able to better manage permissions for third-party apps

SHORT TAKES

VALUE POINT OPENS CENTRE IN BENGALURU

Bengaluru, Oct. 16: Value Point Systems on Wednesday announced the launch of a state-of-the-art Cyber Security Experience Centre (CSEC) powered by Cisco in Bengaluru.

The CSEC inaugurated by Sameer Garde, President, Cisco India & SAARC, will be showcasing Cisco solutions and allied managed services that enable Value Point customers to build and manage cyber security platforms specific to their business requirements, a joint statement said.

CSEC will further highlight simulated real-time scenarios specific to various verticals or customers, and also enable its customers to get both advanced and hands-on understanding of the entire gamut of Cisco's security solutions, it said.

— PTI



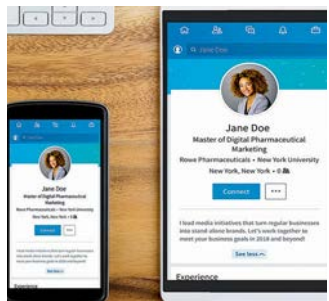
INTEL SET TO PAY \$5M TO SETTLE GENDER BIAS SUIT

San Francisco, Oct. 16: The Labor Department says it has reached a \$5 million settlement with chip maker Intel over allegations of pay discrimination against its female, African American and Hispanic employees.

As part of the agreement, Intel will pay \$3.5 million in back wages and interest. It is also allocating at least \$1.5 million in pay adjustments over the next five years for U.S. workers in engineering positions.

Intel said Tuesday that it is pleased to have resolved the matter and said it achieved global pay equality in January. Like other tech companies, Intel employs mostly white and Asian men, especially in technical positions such as engineering. According to its most recent diversity report, 27 per cent of its employees are women, 9 per cent are Hispanic and less than 5 per cent African American.

— AP



LINKEDIN ROLLS OUT EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

New Delhi, Oct. 16: Professional networking platform LinkedIn on Wednesday announced the global launch of 'LinkedIn Events' that enables members to create, share, and discover professional events.

With Events, the platform aims to foster offline community building and help members nurture deeper and high-quality professional relationships.

According to LinkedIn data, the chances of people accepting connection requests on LinkedIn increases two times if they have attended a face-to-face meeting.

"With this launch, our members now have a safe and trusted avenue to engage with their network online and offline. We see them using this product to host networking meet-ups, workshops, alumni meets, product launches, and other face-to-face gatherings," said Ajay Datta, Head of Product, India at LinkedIn.

LinkedIn Events also allows members to create 'Private Events', which enables them to have safe conversations in a closed-door, trusted environment, a company release said.

— PTI

Pixel 4 won't be coming to India

Motion Sense is enabled in all markets where Pixel 4 will be sold except Japan, said Google

WHY PROJECT SOLI IS KEEPING GOOGLE PIXEL 4 OUT OF INDIA

BACK IN 2015, GOOGLE FIRST SHOWCASED SOLI — A PROJECT DRIVEN BY GOOGLE'S ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND PROJECTS (ATAP) TEAM THAT WOULD USE A RADAR CHIP TO DETECT HAND MOVEMENTS AND GESTURES TO CARRY OUT THE RIGHT COMMANDS

● The Soli radar chip emits electromagnetic waves in a broad beam and when a human hand interacts with this, some of these waves are reflected back to the antenna. The ML-model quickly interprets the properties of the reflected signal to carry out the required command.

● Google Pixel 4 will use a radar-based Soli chip to introduce Motion Sense, a feature that provides similar touchless gesture-based controls. Soli also enables a Face Unlock feature on the Pixel 4.

● Currently, the Motion Sense feature is functional in the US, Canada, Singapore, Taiwan and most European countries for now.

● The Soli radar chip works on the 60 GHz spectrum frequency as it has the least interference for the kind of minute movements Google wants to track.

● However, the 60 GHz spectrum is not commercially usable in India.

● The 60 GHz band is also known as V-band or WiGig band (Wi-Fi at 60 GHz) using IEEE 802.11ad protocol.

● In a consultation paper, TRAI wrote that "most countries have already delicensed the 60 GHz band and this band has a good device ecosystem."

● The TRAI also recommends that the "...V-band (57-64 GHz) may be explored for allocation to the telecom service providers."

● With Motion Sense being Pixel 4's USP, it doesn't really make sense if the feature doesn't work in the country.

● Moreover, Google would have to get approval to enable the radar-based function in every country where it wants to sell the Pixel 4, according to The Verge.



said in a statement that the feature is enabled in all the markets where the Pixel 4 will be sold, "except in Japan where it's coming soon".

The statement did not say why the function will not be enabled at launch in Japan. Japan's *Kyodo news agency* reported that Motion Sense will not be available in the country "until next spring".

No such indication was given for the Indian market, fuelling frustration among Pixel fans in the country. Google would have to get approval to enable the radar-based function in every country where it wants to sell the Pixel 4, according to the technology website *The Verge*. "Have every Google 'made' device since Nexus one. But sadly this is the

year to move away from the @madebygoogle brand, guess why? @GoogleIndia does not want the Pixel 4 coming to India. Why Google, why?" tweeted developer Dhimil Gosalia.

Another user Chitra Poonima tweeted a weeping emoji, writing: "Pixel 4 not launching in India i was so eagerly waiting for it." But telecom analysts

said Google's decision was understandable given Indian consumers' overwhelming preference for lower-priced smartphones over premium brands.

"Neither Google nor Apple feature among the top five phone brands in India," Baburajan K, editor of *TelecomLead.com*, told AFP. "The Indian smartphone market is dominated by Chinese

players... with people generally buying phones for less than ₹15,000," he added — less than a third of the \$799 starting price for the Pixel 4 in the US. "Google already has a presence here through its Android operating system, so it doesn't make huge sense for them to make a big effort just to launch their phones here."

— AFP

Tech cos send data to investigators

Washington, Oct. 16: The leaders of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee said late on Tuesday that they had begun receiving data from Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple as part of their probe into the companies' potential breaches of antitrust law.

The probe is one of several at the federal, state and congressional level aimed at determining if the companies use their considerable clout in the online market illegally to hurt rivals or otherwise break competition law.

"We have received initial submissions from Alphabet, Amazon, Apple and Facebook as part of our investigation. While we do not yet have all of the information we requested, we expect that all four companies will provide the information in short order," the committee's leaders said in a joint statement.

"We look forward to their continued compliance with the committee's investigation," they said in the statement.

The statement was from Representatives Jerrold Nadler, chairman of the Judiciary Committee; Doug Collins, the top Republican on the committee; David Cicilline, chair of the antitrust subcommittee and Jim Sensenbrenner, the top Republican on the antitrust subcommittee.

"We will hold additional hearings, discussions and roundtables as our investigation continues," the statement said.

Facebook and Google declined to comment, while Amazon.com and

GOOGLE, REDDIT DEFEND LEGAL PROTECTIONS

Washington, Oct. 16: A 23-year-old law giving technology firms legal protection from lawsuits over user-generated content remains critical to the internet's future, Google and social media site Reddit said in testimony released on Tuesday.

Senior executives from Google, Reddit, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and legal experts are due to face questions on Wednesday in Congress about the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which critics say shields tech companies from dealing with threatening, violent, dangerous or bullying content.

Lawmakers from both parties have said Congress could make additional changes to the law to restrict companies' immunity. Last year, Congress made it easier for prosecutors and sex-trafficking victims to sue social media networks, advertisers and others that kept exploitative material on their platforms. At issue is Section 230 of the act, which generally provides immunity to online platforms for content posted by users, although firms can still be held liable for content that violates criminal or intellectual property law.

— Reuters

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

— Reuters

UNREAD EMAILS

AN AVERAGE PROFESSIONAL RECEIVES CLOSE TO 180 EMAILS EVERY DAY

40% of emails aren't even opened by a professional

For emails that are opened, the reply rate is just 16%

51% of emails people receive are group emails.

13% of the total emails that employees receive are forwarded to them.



● The data for this report was collated from almost 1,000 email accounts of employees from across companies. Hiver processed 3,00,000 email threads and 4.7 million emails.

TCS ION CENTRE TO MONITOR EXAM VENUES

Bengaluru, Oct. 16: TCS iON, a strategic unit of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), on Wednesday inaugurated its Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven command centre in Chennai that it said can monitor more than 6,000 of its examination venues across the country, in real-time.

By layering a digital monitoring platform on the newly developed physical infrastructure, TCS iON aims to provide a superior experience to exam administrators for the fair conduct of exams along with transparency of the exam operations, the company said.

The command centre is engineered to empower TCS iON and its customers to issue proactive automated directions for any observations that warrant immediate action, through instant alerts against anomalies like exam interruptions, unusual behaviour on server or candidate systems and the performance of devices being used for the exam process, it said.

Based at TCS' Sholinganallur facility, it is also equipped with a remote energy management solution, which monitors critical power parameters during assessments.

— PTI

CASHBACK SITES LEAK SENSITIVE USER DATA

● The data belongs to the two sister sites *Pouringpounds.com* and *Cashkaro.com* — both of which belong to Pouring Pounds.

● According to the report, data of as many as 3.5 million individuals seems to be affected. The users are mostly based in India and UK.

● The team found that the cashback and voucher websites *Cashkaro.com* and *Pouringpounds.com* have both made available key details about their active users. The data, which is being sold on the dark net, includes name, mobile number, email ID, login details, bank details linked with account, IP addresses, emails from the company to users, full access to the user account, according to Anurag Sen, Head of Research, Safety Detectives.



● A bad actor could easily open an account and find the associated cashback credit — available and ready to be transferred to any Paypal address easily. All you need to execute such a transaction would be the password which, again, we found available in plain text.

● The elastic server was publicly exposed without any password protection. Searching at a specific port, anyone could find it easily and take advantage of it maliciously. From what we can see, it was exposed since August 9, 2019.

ITALY SET TO INTRODUCE WEB TAX

Rome, Oct. 16: Italy approved a new tax on digital companies, including US tech giants, as part of its 2020 draft budget on Wednesday, a move that could draw threats of retaliation from Washington.

The levy, due to be introduced from next year, will oblige companies such as Facebook, Google and Amazon, to pay a 3 per cent levy on internet transactions, according to a text of the draft budget.

Washington has repeatedly said the levy unfairly targeted US firms. A senior US official said President Donald Trump was ready to threaten retaliation when he meets Italian President Sergio Mattarella in Washington on Wednesday.

The Italian scheme is expected to yield about 600 million euros (\$662 million) a year, sources told *Reuters* on Monday, as Rome tries to find alternative revenues that will allow it to avoid a scheduled increase in sales tax.

Italy and other EU members have long complained about the way web giants collect huge profits in their countries but pay only a few million euros in taxes each year. But the EU has so far failed to agree as a bloc on how to tax the firms.

France and the US reached a deal in August to end a standoff over a French tax on big internet companies, with France repaying companies the difference between the French tax and a planned mechanism being drawn up by the OECD.

— Reuters

EA SPORTS FIFA UNVEILS MATCH BALL FOR EVENT

New Delhi, Oct 16: Sportswear giant adidas and Electronic Arts launched the official match ball for the EA SPORTS FIFA 20 Global Series on 'The Road to the FIFA eWorld Cup'.

The digital ball features a bold red and black cross design on a white base, as well as the FUT Champions shield.

The official match ball will debut on pitch during a competitive event at the FUT Champions Cup Stage I in November. adidas is the official partner for the event.

The event is a season-long competition taking place in the EA SPORTS FIFA 20 Ultimate Team game mode. Players build a squad over the course of a season and qualify to compete in tournaments in order to earn EA SPORTS FIFA 20 Global Series Ranking Points and advance to future live events. Top performers throughout the season can subsequently earn a spot in the season-ending event, the FIFA eWorld Cup.

— PTI

EU orders action against Broadcom

The commission had asked Broadcom to stop alleged practices in June

Brussels, Oct. 16: The EU's powerful anti-trust authority on Wednesday ordered US chipmaker Broadcom to immediately halt uncompetitive sales practices, in an unprecedented salvo against US big tech.

The European Commission took the extremely rare move of ordering the interim changes from one of Silicon Valley's pioneer companies while the EU investigation is still under way, citing "irreparable" threats to competition. "Broadcom's behaviour is likely, in the absence of intervention, to create serious and irreversible harm to competition," the EU's Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement. "We have strong indications

● We have strong indications that Broadcom, the world's leading supplier of chipsets used for TV set-top boxes and modems, is engaging in anticompetitive practices

— Margrethe Vestager Competition Commissioner, EU



The commission said it had also heard Broadcom may be bundling products or deliberately undermining the "interoperability" between Broadcom products and other products.

Broadcom, the world's leading supplier of chipsets used for TV set-top boxes and modems, is engaging in anticompetitive practices," she said.

Broadcom in a brief statement said it intended to appeal the decision to the European Courts "and in the meantime comply with the commission's order." With the order, Vestager significantly stepped up her scrutiny of US tech giants, where

investigations usually drag on for years before companies are fined or ordered into compliance.

A landmark case against Microsoft played out for close to a decade while a case against Google on its shopping service took seven years to reach the penalty phase.

The ongoing investigation centres on Broadcom's highly popular TV and modem chipsets, devices that offer

television and internet access to customers at home or work.

The commission said it has obtained information that Broadcom may be requiring firms to buy only its components, or granting them rebates and other advantages if they buy in high volume.

The commission said it had also heard Broadcom may be bundling products or deliberately undermining the "interoperability"

between Broadcom products and other products.

The commission in June sent a "statement of objections" to Broadcom requiring it to swiftly stop such alleged practices and now the company has just 30 days to implement the changes. Meanwhile the anti-trust investigation against Broadcom will continue, with the company at risk of major fines that can technically go as high as ten percent of annual sales.

In 2009, Intel was fined one billion euros in a similar case. Other tech giants have also had to fork out to the European Union. Google has accumulated eight billion euros in fines, while Qualcomm was recently fined one billion euros.

— AFP

More women needed in workforce: IMF MD

Mercedes unveils new G-class SUV in India



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,598.99	+0.24
Nifty 50	11,464.00	+0.31
S&P 500	2,987.27	-0.28
Dollar (₹)	71.44	-0.15
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.43	+0.03
Euro (₹)	78.83	-0.04
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,030.120	+0.30
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	59.52	+1.33
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.656	-0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.752	-0.017

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Digital payments grew by 383%, says Razorpay

According to a study conducted by Razorpay, India saw over 300 per cent growth in digital transaction with UPI playing a huge role in the jump. The report also expects that 15 per cent of India's GDP will be flowing through digital payments by 2020. However, the rise will continue to rise as it expects 50 per cent of internet users in the country to start using digital payments by 2022.

Marriott looks to open 20 more hotels by 2020



Marriott International said it is looking to open around 20 more hotels in India by the end of 2020 as part of its expansion. The company currently has 120 hotels across India under 16 brands, including its latest addition, The Ritz-Carlton, Pune. "We will get closer to 140 hotels in India by end of 2020. Typically we open between 15 to 30 hotels every year," Marriott International, South Asia Senior Vice President Neeraj Govil told PTI.

BOB ED to handle functions of MD, CEO

Bank of Baroda said financial, administrative and other functions of its MD & CEO is to be looked after by respective executive directors till the appointment of new head. P. S. Jayakumar ceased to be the bank's MD & CEO with effect from Oct. 12. IOB's board of directors and the management committee, as the case may be, may entrust to look after financial and administrative powers, it said.

JSW Paints launched in Hyderabad

The \$14-billion JSW Group announced roll-out of its paints business in Hyderabad by offering 'any colour-one price' offer. JSW Paints, Joint Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer A S Sundaresan told reporters: "Our colour-one price ensures consumers great value, ushers price transparency and makes them free to choose colours for their homes."

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Average MF ticket size, exposure per borrower continue to go up

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, OCT. 16

Steady growth in average ticket size and exposure per borrower in micro finance has become a cause of worry for industry observers. In Q1FY20, both these were the drivers of micro credit growth, which otherwise witnessed a slower growth over last year.

Growth in micro finance

decelerated in 1QFY20 to 33 per cent against 45 per cent in FY2019. More worrying is that this growth was a result of impact of rise in average ticket size combined with increase in exposure per borrower owing to increased lending to existing borrowers or extension of credit by a new lender to an active borrower, finds Kotak Institutional Equities.

Average ticket size has

been going up in the past few quarters and in Q1FY20 it was up 12 per cent YoY to Rs 31,700. In Q1FY18, it stood at Rs 26,000. The rise in ticket size was the strongest in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu at 15 per cent YoY compared to the industry average of 12 per cent. The average ticket size in West Bengal was at Rs 41,900, which was 30 per cent higher than industry average.

Almost 45 per cent of portfolio had an average ticket size of Rs 60,000. Similarly, exposure per borrower was up 17 per cent to Rs 35,200 in Q1FY20. In Q1 FY18, it stood at Rs 24,000. The number of borrowers associated with more than four lenders has increased across most major states with this phenomenon being most prevalent in Tamil Nadu - 6 per cent of

borrowers against 2.2 per cent in FY19.

Further, growth in number of loan accounts was higher than growth in number of borrowers, indicating same customer holding more number of accounts. Compared to FY19, number of borrowers grew by 14 per cent in Q1 FY20 and number loan accounts went up by 20 per cent. Number of borrowers has gone up from 44 million in Q1FY18 to 54 million Q1FY20. Meanwhile, number of loan accounts stood moved up from 41 million in Q1FY18 to 60 million in Q1FY20.

Recently, RBI had increased lending limit per eligible borrower has been raised from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.25 lakh. Allaying worries about the trend, Manoj Nambiar, Chairperson, MFPI said that different micro credit agencies,

including universal banks, small finance banks, NBFC-MFIs and NBFCs have recently launched "Code of Responsible Lending". "This is meant to ensure best practices among all the entities, including maintaining the RBI lending limit per borrower. As many as 92 lenders who account for around 55 per cent of the total micro credit have adopted this code, he said.

Depositors' interest will be safeguarded: PMC administrator to RBI SC to place interim measures to protect PMC depositors on Friday

New Delhi/Mumbai, Oct. 16: As crisis-hit PMC bank depositors intensified their protests, the Supreme Court has agreed to hear on Friday an urgent plea seeking directions for interim measures to safeguard the money of customers blocked in the bank.

The plea on Wednesday for the apex court to step in amid 3 deaths linked to the crisis in the Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank came even as the bank's administrator met the RBI's top brass including Governor Shaktikanta Das and assured depositors that all efforts will be made to safeguard their interests.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed restrictions on the bank following the discovery of a Rs 4,355-crore scam. The limit on deposit withdrawals that has now been capped at Rs 40,000 over a six-month period has caused panic and distress among the depositors.

A Mumbai court, meanwhile, remanded two top HDIL officials and the PMC's ex-Chairman in judicial custody till Oct. 23 in connection with the scam.

Outside the court, several depositors protested demanding that their money be returned. There were also protests by the depositors outside the RBI in Delhi.

In Mumbai, J. B. Bhoria, who was placed as the bank's administrator last month by the RBI, released a press statement after his meeting with the RBI's top brass.

"It was assured that the

PSBs had 'worst phase' under Singh, Rajan: FM

YOSHITA SINGH
NEW YORK, OCT. 16

Public sector banks (PSBs) had the "worst phase" under the "combination" of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and ex-RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, and giving the ailing banks a "lifeline" was her primary duty now, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

The PSBs have been grappling with bad loans and the government has been taking measures to address the issue. In Aug., the government announced upfront capital infusion to the tune of Rs 70,000 crore into the PSBs. Besides, 10 public sector banks are being consolidated into four. Delivering a lecture at the Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, Sitharaman said, "While economists can take a view of what prevails today or prevailed years ago, but I will also want answers for the time when Rajan was in the governor's post speaking about the banks, for which today to give a life-

line is the primary duty of the Finance Minister. And the lifeline-kind of an emergency has not come overnight. I do respect Raghuram Rajan as a great scholar who chose to be in the RBI at a time when the economy was all buoyant," she said during the lecture organised by the Deepak and Neera Raj Centre on Indian Economic Policies, Columbia University.

Asked about the ex-RBI

Gross NPAs of Indian banks went up from ₹2.60L crs in June 2014 to ₹9.88L crs in June 2019



Nirmala Sitharaman

bank will make all efforts to safeguard the interests of depositors and other stakeholders," it said.

In a related development, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police called Surjit Singh

Arora, one of the former directors of the PMC bank, for questioning.

Responding to the question, Sitharaman further pointed out that if there is a feeling that there's been a centralised leadership now, "I'd like to say that very democratised leadership led to a whole lot of corruption. Very democratised leadership. The PM, after all is the first among equals in any cabinet".

— PTI

Bhattacharya calls for spl cadre for compliance & risk management

Mumbai, Oct. 16: A run dhati Bhattacharya, the past Chairman of State Bank, on Wednesday said there is a need to create a special cadre for compliance and risk management at every bank, given the issues lenders are facing and rued that "unfortunately" HR is the most neglected side of banking.

The comments come at a time when banks' lending practices have been repeatedly put to question in many alleged scams, an increased attention from the regulator and investigating agencies and very high quantum of dud loans.

"The time has come for us to create a special cadre for risk and compliance," Bhattacharya, who headed the nation's largest bank between 2013 and 2017, said at an event organised by sectoral lobby IBA.

She said dedicated training is now being imparted to create such officers and hence, finding the right candidates will not be difficult.

The veteran banker, under whose watch SBI merged all its five subsidiaries and also Bharatiya Mahila Bank in April 2017, also urged banks not to directly place a general banking person to these roles, and if they do they must be given sufficient time to settle down and understand the new job requirements that is a very critical function.

— PTI

Won't 'sacrifice interest' for US sanctions

CHRIS PRENTICE & RODRIGO CAMPOS
NEW YORK, OCT. 16

India wants to comply with global sanctions, including US sanctions on Venezuela and Russia, but also needs to maintain its own strength and strategic interests, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in an

interview on Tuesday.

The United States in January imposed the toughest sanctions yet on Venezuela's oil industry. The move has scared away some global customers, but with few alternative suppliers of heavy oil, Indians refiner Reliance Industries has been buying Venezuelan crude from Russian

major Rosneft. The company is set to resume direct oil loadings in the South American nation after a four-month pause. Sitharaman said the Indian government has expressed its view to the United States.

"In specific issues which are critical for India's strategic interests, we have

explained to the United States that India is a strategic partner for the United States of America and you want a strategic partner to be strong and not weakened," she said.

"We value the strong partnership with the USA, but we should equally be allowed to be a strong economy."

— PTI

Iconic 'Hamara Bajaj' is back with e-scooter Chetak

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 16

After nearly two decades, 'Hamara Bajaj' is back in the new avatar of electric scooter Chetak. Launched in the 1960s, Bajaj Chetak scooter had become a household name with its popular campaign 'Hamara Bajaj'.

Chetak was the brand that made it India's biggest two-wheeler company with a waiting period of nearly 10 years in the 1960s and 1970s with resale value greater than its purchase price.

Bajaj Auto, India's second largest motorcycles maker, has become the first mainstream Indian motorcycle brand to enter the electric space and

simultaneously return to the scooter segment with unveiling of its Bajaj Chetak electric scooter on Wednesday. Hero Motocorp and TVS Motor Company are in different stages of developing and launching such electric two-wheelers.

The all brand new Bajaj Chetak electric scooter will be commercially rolled out in January 2020 in Pune and then to Bangalore when the price will be revealed. After gauging the response, it would move into other cities. But the company indicated that it would not be more than Rs 1.5 lakh.

The company also plans to export the new Chetak to relevant European markets from next year itself.



(L to R) Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Rajiv Bajaj, MD, Bajaj Auto and Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Ayog unveil the all new Bajaj Chetak Electric Vehicle

"It is born and bred to go beyond the objective of earning some valuable foreign exchange exporting

our cost competitiveness towards a higher purpose of acquiring a fine reputation for our skills in the

most ferociously competitive international arenas," the company said in a statement.

"When we do something it's better to come first and there is virtually no point coming second or third. It's very important to be first to market," Rajiv Bajaj, Managing Director at Bajaj Auto told media at the launch in New Delhi. "Scooters and step-through are a very important segment and we have not made the electric Chetak to be in the volume space. We are trying to build meaningful niches with three wheelers, super bikes and electric scooters," he said.

The Pune-headquartered two-and-three-wheeler major Bajaj stopped manu-

facturing scooters in mid-2000s to focus on motorcycles and be bike specialist in the world.

The new Chetak will be available in two variants, offering a range of 85 km and 95 km per charge.

The Chetak is powered by a lithium-ion battery with NCA cells, while exact battery specifications have not been revealed so far. The battery is charged using a standard household 5-15 amp electrical outlet which will come at a nominal cost, the company said.

The Chetak offers two drive modes (eco and sport) and a reverse assist mode. There is also a regenerative braking system that converts braking

heat into kinetic energy thereby maximizing the range.

Designed on the lines of the original Chetak, the popular geared scooter of the 1960s and 70s, the battery-powered scooter has been designed and developed in-house by Bajaj Auto.

The electric Chetak is manufactured at the Chakan plant of Bajaj near Pune which is where it produces the KTM, Pulsar and Avenger range of motorcycles. The electric Chetak went into production in September.

The company believes there is immense potential for growth in the electric scooters and electric three-wheelers in the country.

Fuel demand slips to 2-yr low

New Delhi, Oct 16: India's fuel demand slipped to its lowest in over two years in September after a fall in diesel and industrial fuel consumption negated the rise in petrol and LPG consumption.

Consumption of petroleum products in September dropped to 16.01 million tonnes, its lowest since July 2017, from 16.06 million tonnes in the same month last year, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, saw demand drop by 3.2 per cent to 5.8 million tonnes, while naphtha sales were down by a quarter to 844,000 tonnes.

Bitumen, used in road construction, too saw consumption drop by 7.3 per cent to 343,000 tonnes. Fuel oil sales edged 3.8 per cent lower in September to 525,000 tonnes.

These downward trends negated the rise in cooking gas (LPG) and petrol demand. The sale of petrol rose 6.2 per cent to 2.37 million tonnes, but sale of jet fuel or ATF fell 1.6 per cent to 666,000 tonnes. LPG consumption surged 6 per cent to 2.18 million tonnes on the back of government's push for the use of cleaner fuel in household kitchens in rural areas in place of firewood to check pollution and safeguard the health of women.

Kerosene, which is fast being replaced by LPG and natural gas as a cooking medium, saw demand fall almost 38 per cent to

176,000 tonnes. Petroleum coke consumption was however 18 per cent higher at 1.73 million tonnes.

Meanwhile, Fitch Solutions revised downward its India oil demand forecast, reflecting a deteriorating macroeconomic backdrop and rising risks to growth. "We now forecast demand growth to average 3.8 per cent y-o-y over the three years to 2021, down from 4.6 per cent previously," it said, adding softening of Indian fuel demand adds to an increasingly bearish outlook for fuel demand globally. "We had previously flagged India as the outperformer, forecast to overtake China as the global engine for growth. While the view still holds in the longer term, the near-term prospects have weakened," it said.

More diversified demand growth will offer a level of resilience moving forward, but structurally lower demand growth in China and common Asian emerging markets' exposure to a weaker external environment will drag to the downside. "We have revised down our India oil demand forecast, reflecting a deteriorating macroeconomic backdrop and rising risks to growth. In part this reflects the downward revision to the country's GDP growth forecast," Fitch said. "Growth has disappointed expectations, dragged down by slowing private consumption, weakened investment and underperformance in the services sector," it added.

— PTI



In a grand event, Bajaj Electronics CEO Karan Bajaj along with Actress Siddhi Idnani and Aanya announced the winners of the lucky draw at the Forum Mall. Mr V. Naveen Kumar from Vengal Raonagar won ₹20 lakh



Apology

Australian cricketer Shane Watson has apologised to fans after his social media accounts were flooded with “illicit” photographs of semi-nude women and racist comments, seemingly the work of hackers

I am like everyone else: Dhoni

MSD says he can control negative emotions better than most others

New Delhi, Oct. 16: Display of emotions is not something that one associates with Mahendra Singh Dhoni but the enigmatic former India skipper says he feels as strongly as anyone else, just that he is good at controlling the negative ones a lot better than most.

He has been the eternal ‘Captain Cool’ of Indian cricket but the two-time world champion leader said he goes through the entire gamut of emotions at every triumph and debacle.

“I am like everyone else but I control my emotions better than some of the other individuals,” Dhoni, who made his first commercial appearance since India’s semi-final exit from the World Cup, said on Wednesday. Dhoni’s future has been a matter of speculation ever since India’s semi-final exit from the World Cup in July. The seasoned wicketkeeper-batsman is on a sabbatical right now. “I would say, I feel equally frustrated. I also feel angry at times, disappointed. But what is important is that none of these feelings are constructive,” Dhoni spoke about how he fights adversity.

For the 38-year-old, finding solutions rather than cribbing about the problems is what works for him.

“What needs to be done right now is more important than any of these emotions. What is the next thing I can plan? Who is the next individual, whom I can use? Once I get into it, I am controlling my emotions in a much better way,” he said.

Dhoni once again asserted that the process is more important than

the final result, a philosophy that he repeatedly stressed on during his captaincy tenure. “If it’s a Test match, you have two innings, you get slightly longer duration to plan out your next move. In T20s, everything happens very quickly, so demands are different.” “It might be an individual, who has committed a mistake or it might be the whole team. May be we didn’t execute the plan whatever the format may be.”

Dhoni knows a thing or two about winning big tournaments and he feels it’s more about the team goals than individual performances.

“What you want to achieve as a team is to win the tournament but that’s a long-term goal. Ultimately, what you do is to break it into smaller things,” Dhoni explained. He then recalled how during the 2007 ICC World T20 in South Africa, the team strategised the famous ‘Bowl Out’ against Pakistan. “There was something particular about that World Cup. The ‘Bowl Out’ was one of the things. I remember we would go for practice. Before every practice session, we would practice ‘Bowl Out’ before or after the warm-up. “We said it very clear, it is for fun but at the same time, whoever hits the wicket most number of times, we will use him if the situation arises.”

“It has got nothing to do with I am a bowler, this is my job. It’s like a performance thing and we will keep doing it everyday and whoever has the best hit-ratio are the ones who will be used,” said Dhoni during a promotional event of Mastercard.

Dhoni said team effort can never be discounted despite the many individual performers. “Ultimately, winning or losing comes to each and every individual who is part of the team. In team sport, everybody has a role and a responsibility. Throughout the T20 World Cup, the roles and responsibilities given to individuals was fulfilled to the best manner possible. That was the reason we won the tournament.

“It’s not always about few of the individuals performing a lot better than the whole lot. What you want is for everybody to contribute. That one wicket at that right moment, that outstanding catch,” he said.

— PTI



Ultimately, winning or losing comes to each and every individual who is part of the team. In team sport, everybody has a role and a responsibility. — MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI

IPL a rollercoaster ride, says Kumble

New Delhi, Oct. 16: Spin great Anil Kumble says one of the biggest learnings from his previous coaching stints, including the controversial one with the Indian team, is to “back off and help the players relax.”

Kumble resigned as India head coach after the 2017 Champions Trophy final due to an “untenable relationship” with skipper Virat Kohli though the team did well under his tutelage.

The 48-year-old is back to coaching again, this time as director of cricket operations at Kings XI Punjab. He also held mentorship roles at Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians.

“With RCB we did not win the title but we came close a couple of times. With Mumbai, we had wonderful success those three years I was there. It is nice to have the experience

you have had as a player, as a coach but IPL is a rollercoaster ride. You need to be patient and then back to the players you have. “Generally because of certain results you tend to start looking at other teams and that starts influencing your decision and that is the last thing you want.”

Earlier this week, Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness Wadia said that the franchise board had a rethink on R. Ashwin and it has decided to retain him. Ashwin captained the side in the previous two seasons but failed to take them to the play-offs. Kumble said it is not certain that Ashwin will captain the side again. “We have not decided that yet. Some decisions need to be made but we don’t need to decide at this moment. IPL is still five months away. There is an auction coming up, we will start to build a squad around that.”

— PTI

of crossing the line. It certainly helps (you as a coach),” Kumble said.

“It is all about a game of cricket at the end of it. If you simplify like that the job becomes a lot easier. The moment you start putting importance to result, wins, trophies then it puts more pressure on the players. So the learning is just to back off and help the players relax and when they are relaxed they tend to perform better.”

Kings XI Punjab have never won the IPL and Kumble has come on board to end the title drought. Kumble, who wants to add more experience to the Punjab squad, will soon start strategising for the IPL auction in December. “You learn from the previous experiences



Anil Kumble



It would be brilliant for cricket to become an Olympic sport and I know players would love it.

— Andre Russell

SHORT TAKES

Sachin welcomes Super Over tweak

New Delhi: He was the first to recommend it and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar on Wednesday welcomed the ICC’s decision to stop boundary count as a way of deciding knockout games in its global tournaments like the World Cup. The International Cricket Council on Monday changed the Super Over rule for all its major tournaments 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. After the board meetings in Dubai, the ICC decided that in semi-finals and finals of future global tournaments, if the teams score the same number of runs in their Super Overs, the process will be repeated until one side wins. “I felt this was important as it is a fair way to obtain a result when nothing else separates the 2 teams,” Tendulkar tweeted in favour of the move. England were adjudged winners of the July 14 final owing to more number of boundaries — 22 fours and two sixes to New Zealand’s 16 — after the regulation game and the ensuing Super Over ended in a tie. Two days later, Tendulkar endorsed a second Super Over to decide the winner instead of applying the boundary count rule. Many former players and fans criticised the rule after the nerve-wracking final, prompting the game’s governing body to rethink. Many former players and fans criticised the rule after the nerve-wracking final, prompting the game’s governing body to rethink. Tendulkar also congratulated his former teammate Sourav Ganguly, who is to be appointed as next BCCI president. — PTI

Aussie duo most expensive players

London: The Australian duo of Steve Smith and David Warner emerged as the most expensive players in the inaugural draft for The Hundred league, to be held in July. Smith and Warner reportedly carry a reserve price of 125,000 pounds alongside compatriot Mitchell Starc, West Indies batting legend Chris Gayle, Sri Lanka’s Lasith Malinga and South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, according to BBC Sports. Bangladesh’s Shakib Al Hasan, Pakistani pacer Mohammad Amir and New Zealand’s speedster Trent Boult were some of the other overseas players in the draft. The trio carry 100,00 pounds. The first auction will take place on Sunday. A total of 570 players will be in the men’s draft, including 239 overseas players. Eight teams will compete at the inaugural 100-ball competition, to be held from July 17 to August 16. Smith amassed 774 runs in the Ashes series while notching up a double ton and two centuries. Warner had a brilliant IPL tournament in the summer, scoring 481 runs in 12 matches. — PTI

Mumbai’s Jaiswal youngest to hit double ton in List-A

SUMIT SINGH | DC BENGALURU, OCT. 16



Yashasvi Jaiswal

Mumbai opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Wednesday became the youngest to score a double hundred in List-A cricket. The 17-year-old’s rollicking 203 off 154 balls helped Mumbai beat Jharkhand by 38 runs in the Vijay Hazare one-day tournament here. South African Alan Barrow who scored a double ton at the age of 20 years and 273 days held the record before. Jaiswal also joined the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Rohit Sharma, Virender Sehwag et al. in the elite club of Indians with double tons in List-A. Jaiswal and Aditya Tare

put on 200 runs for the opening wicket. After completing his hundred in 101 balls, Jaiswal stepped on the gas to reach 150 in the next 21 balls. It was a gritty knock as Jaiswal also played through the pain on his wrist. His knock com-

prised 17 fours and 12 sixes. Jaiswal, who idolises Sachin Tendulkar and Wasim Jaffer, has faced so many hardships in life before getting picked for the Mumbai senior team.

After moving from UP to Mumbai in order to pursue his passion, Jaiswal lived in a tent and was selling pani pooris to make ends meet.

“It made me mentally strong. The struggle is there even now. Back then, I enjoyed it much like I am doing now. I just play with a lot of heart and I just know one thing: ‘that is to play cricket,’” said Jaiswal. Jaiswal also acknowledged Jaffer’s help in recent improvements.

Will speak to selectors about Dhoni: Ganguly

Kolkata, Oct. 16: The BCCI president-elect Sourav Ganguly has made it clear that he would like to know the national selection committee’s plans with regards to Mahendra Singh Dhoni’s future and then give his opinion on the matter.

The 39-year-old Dhoni has been on a sabbatical post India’s World Cup exit and is unlikely to feature in three-match T20 series against Bangladesh, set to be picked on October 24.

While Dhoni has not announced his international retirement, the selectors have time and again made clear that they intend to move for-

ward keeping next year’s World T20 in mind.

“I will find out from the selectors when I meet them on October 24. We will find out what the selectors are thinking and then I will put forth my opinion,” the soon-to-be board supreme told reporters.

Ganguly also said that he would like to speak to Dhoni and know what he wants.

“We will have to see what Dhoni wants. I will also speak to him what he wants to do and what he does not want to do.” He said that since he was not in the picture, he had no clarity on Dhoni’s future. — PTI

A new dawn for BCCI under Dada



R. Mohan Line & Length

Sourav Ganguly will be at the helm of BCCI soon. If he does the job half as capably as he did in leading Indian cricket away from the great betting scandal of the last century, he would be accomplishing something for the game’s administration that has been besieged by corruption and court diktats that were sometimes illuminating but at most times confusing. Regardless of what the future may hold for the world’s richest cricket body, the return of elected representatives to administer is to be lauded as the only democratic way.

The former CAG, Vinod Rai, may have handled knotty issues well enough, but we didn’t need a retired government official running cricket like a bureaucratic conundrum. The BCCI had spoiled its own copy book by not responding in time to the explosive betting scandal in the IPL. Had the head honcho stepped aside instantly and run a probe — even if it was a sham one like Jagmohan Dalmiya did with the Justice Chandrachud inquiry — he would have been doing the game and himself a favour. Defiance of the Supreme Court led to this 33-month interregnum.

As captain, Ganguly was a unifier. He chose and backed players without lending a second thought to which of the five zones they came from. After the Azhar era of whimsically eccentric actions and Sachin Tendulkar’s self-doubts as captain, Indian cricket moved on to a decisive phase that was transformational to begin with and

improved to positive performance as in getting to the World Cup final of 2003. The number of grand performers who flourished under Ganguly’s encouragement, if not quite tutelage, made Team India a global force after more than one decade of vacuous performances.

Extraordinarily, Sourav was a ‘Dada’ figure to the young players. He would even advise them on their love life, not like an agony aunt but more like a seasoned senior who knew the ropes and had seen life as a rich kid on the block as the son of a businessman and then a celebrity cricketer. He was a person the likes of Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh and many others leant on as not only captain but also friend, philosopher and guide. And Sourav had the total backing of his coach John Wright and BCCI chief Dalmiya in doing whatever had to be done to keep Team India ticking.

Years later, Ganguly got pitched into the administration and had to step into Dalmiya’s shoes after the revolutionary administrator breathed his last. From all accounts, Ganguly was an able enough replacement at the CAB office in Eden Gardens, where he mixed with all those who came with just cricket on their mind. Being a good listener is half the job in cricket admin and the president-elect has been well prepared for it. Dalmiya always knew the devil is in the details and he prepared thoroughly to fox those he opposed in the BCCI. But then he had time on his side



Sourav Ganguly with N. Srinivasan.

as Dalmiya and Bindra worked for a decade and more before breaking through.

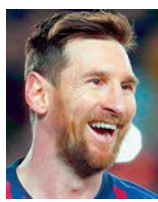
Time may not be Ganguly’s longest suit now as he may have to step down to satisfy the cooling off period rules. Of course, the top court might be inclined to reconsider the Lodha reforms, which in any case need to be overhauled before they apply to the new BCCI post-October 23 when the reins will be back with the office bearers among the elected representatives. If they choose to share power with the older generation of admin men like letting the old fox N.Srinivasan to represent BCCI at the ICC, it is their business. So long as Ganguly calls the shots in the BCCI, in tandem with his secretary and treasurer,

this may be a new dawn for the board.

Amid all the happenings of a 33-month drama, it is a wonder that Team India was not affected. The players kept themselves well insulated when the admin was taking a beating in the Supreme Court along with their expensive lawyers. A lot of credit for this must go to the skipper Virat Kohli and his management team that was able to keep the ball rolling as it were. The skipper’s latest exploits with the bat and his team’s winning streak are ample testimony to their ability to keep raising the bar. But Ganguly may have already hit the nail on the head when he speaks of the need to reverse the losing trend in ICC knockout games.

Apart from the ups and

downs of the white ball game, especially in its shortest format, there were two bad days in three years that spoiled Team India’s and the fans’ happiness. The first was in the Champions Trophy final of 2017 when the Pakistani batsmen ran away with it like an electric hare in front of the greyhounds. And the second was, of course, the world Cup semi-final against the Kiwis when the Indian chase was undone in a trice in testing conditions after a bit of rain and the intensity of the swing and seam of the New Zealand quicks with the rocking new white ball. Had only those two days panned differently! But then Ganguly may also regret the day he put the Aussies in at the World Cup final at the Wanderers in Jo’burg.



Golden Shoe

Barcelona captain Lionel Messi, who scored 36 goals, was awarded the Golden Shoe for emerging the top scorer in the European leagues, for third straight time



We couldn't capitalise on the chances we got, but it's a process. — Sunil Chhetri, Indian football captain after the draw with Bangladesh in World Cup qualifier

SHORT TAKES

Six held for racism by Bulgaria police

Sofia: Six Bulgarians have been detained over racist abuse at a Euro 2020 qualifier against England that sparked a storm of protest and led to the resignation of the country's football chief, police said Wednesday. Monkey chants and apparent Nazi salutes overshadowed England's 6-0 win in Sofia on Monday, with the match halted twice during the first half due to the abuse. "Six people have been detained and another three are being actively sought," Sofia police chief commissioner Georgy Hadzhiev told journalists. Hadzhiev added that so far 15 people have been singled out via CCTV at the Vasil Levski National Stadium. — AFP

Tennis camp at Hyd Riding Club

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Academia Sports Village, in continuation of its third anniversary celebrations, is conducting a three-day Diwali tennis clinic for players in the 5-19 years age-group on the synthetic courts at the Hyderabad Polo & Riding Club (HPRC) Sports Complex in Aziz Nagar on the city outskirts. To be held in two separate sessions — 7 to 10 am and 4 to 7 pm — the clinic will be conducted by qualified coaches from October 24 to 26. Trainees will also be entitled to 30 minutes of free horse-riding classes twice. The riding classes will be monitored by experts from HPRC, according to a press release. Online registrations can be done on www.sportsvillage.club. For further details, contact the organising secretary on phone number 9515125592.



T. Ashrita of Dilsukhnagar Public School poses with her medal after winning the girls' event under 14 recurve (50 metres) in the archery competition at the Sports For All championship in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

PATHI, MUJTABA TOP ARCHERS AT SCHOOLS MEET

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

Aryan Pathi of Delhi Public School, Abhinav Perikett of Little Flower School, Kasvi Agarwal of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Mujtaba Ali Mohammed of Kendriya Vidyalaya (No. 1) reigned supreme in the archery competition of Sports For All here at the Gachibowli Stadium on Wednesday. Aryan clinched the compound bow gold while Harsh Shekhar of Shree Hanuman Vyayamshala got the silver in boys U-17. Pratham Sirigiri of Brilliant Grammar School won bronze. In the U-14 compound event, Abhinav outclassed everybody to grab the title. Jaidev Umamaheshwar of Maharshi Vidya Mandir finished second while Madhav Penjarla of Slate The School had to be content with the third place. In the girls' U-14 compound event, Kasvi Agarwal of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan bagged gold, pipping Akshara Kodus of Sunflower Vedic School while Srashtha Reddy of Pallavi International School took the bronze medal.



Sweden's Mikael Lustig (left) vies for the ball with Spain's Mikel Oyarzabal during their Euro 2020 Group F qualification match at Friends Arena in Solna, Stockholm, Sweden, on Tuesday. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. — AP

SUPER SUB SAVES SPAIN

Winger scores in injury time to help La Roja qualify for Euro finals

Paris, Oct. 16: Rodrigo Moreno fired Spain into Euro 2020 with a last-gasp equaliser in Sweden while the Republic of Ireland's chances of reaching the finals are still in the balance after they fell 2-0 in Switzerland.

Spain became the sixth team to qualify for next summer's tournament thanks to Rodrigo, who came off the bench to score a dramatic injury-time leveller in a 1-1 draw in Stockholm, sparking wild celebrations on the touchline. Robert Moreno's side are top of Group F on 20 points after drawing their

BARCELONA COULD LOSE EL CLASICO

Madrid, Oct. 16: The Spanish football league said on Wednesday it had asked the country's football federation to move the next 'El Clasico' between Real Madrid and Barcelona to Madrid following violent protests by separatists in Catalonia.

"We have requested the competitions committee of the Spanish Football Federation to meet and change the location of El Clasico to Madrid because of exceptional circumstances beyond our control," the league (LFP) said in a statement.

According to Spanish media reports Catalan grassroots separatist groups and political parties are preparing a demonstration in Barcelona, the Catalan capital, at 1 pm (local time) on October 26. — AFP

last two matches. They are five ahead of Sweden and six above Romania, who missed the chance to take second spot when Norway's Alexander

Sorloth snatched a late 1-1 draw in Bucharest. In Group D, Haris Seferovic's early strike and Shane Duffy's late own goal kept

Switzerland's hopes of automatic qualification alive with a 2-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland. The win in Geneva

means the Swiss are just a point behind group leaders Ireland and Denmark with two matches remaining in their campaign.

Finland inched closer to qualifying for their first ever European Championships after Teemu Pukki took his qualifying tally to seven in eight matches with a double that helped Finland sweep aside Armenia 3-0 in Turku.

Fredrik Jensen gave the Finns a 31th minute lead. Norwich City striker Pukki then scored just after the hour and got his second two minutes from the end with a neat dinked finish. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Finland (F. Jensen 31, T. Pukki 61, 88)	3
Armenia (A. Gojak 35)	0
Sweden (M. Berg)	1
Spain (Rodrigo 90+2)	1
Greece (E. Pavlidis 30, A. Kovacevic 88 (OG))	2
Albania (A. Gojak 35)	1
Liechtenstein	0
Italy (F. Bernardeschi 2, A. Belotti 70, 90+2, A. Romagnoli 77, Il. Falcao 82)	5

DENMARK | OPEN

SAINA SUFFERS ANOTHER FIRST ROUND LOSS

Odense (Denmark), Oct. 16: Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal's struggles continued with a first round loss against Japan's Sayaka Takahashi in the Denmark Open here on Wednesday.

The World No.8 Saina lost 15-21, 21-23 in the women's singles match that lasted 37 minutes to crash out of the \$775,000 tournament. The 29-year-old was the runner-up last year.

Saina has been going through a tough phase with fitness issues since January. She had also made first-round exits at the China and Korea Open earlier this year.

Sameer Verma, however, crossed the first hurdle in the men's singles when he beat Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan 21-11, 21-11 to advance to the second round.

The mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N. Sikki Reddy entered the second round with a 21-16, 21-11 win over Marvin Seidel and Linda Efler.

In another mixed doubles first round match, Satwiksairaj Ranki and Ashwini Ponnappa did not take the court and conceded a walk over to the second seeded Chinese pair of Wang Yi Lyu and Huang Dong Ping. — PTI

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Snehit, Pranitha, Jashan, Gouri, Jatin champions

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD OCT. 16

Jatin Dev of SPSHS won the Cadet Boys title, while Jashan Sai-MLR clinched the Sub junior boys crown at the 6th Telangana State Stag Inter District and State Table Tennis Championship at Mahaveer Group of Science and Technology in Bandlaguda, Hyderabad.

Jatin silenced Arush in six games scoring a 6-11, 5-11, 11-8, 13-11, 11-4, 11-8 win. Jashan Sai defeated Trishul Mehra to clinch the Sub Junior boys title 11-3, 4-11, 11-3, 11-7, 11-9.

Kesavan Kannan beat Pranav Nallari to take the Junior boys title with a 7-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-7, 8-11, 11-4, 11-4 score.

Mohd Ali silenced SFR Snehit to win the Youth boys title while Snehit took the Men's title defeating Aman Balgu 11-6, 11-7, 6-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-6.

Shriya scored an easy 11-9, 11-4, 11-8, 11-8 victory over P. Palani in the Cadet Girls final. J. Gouri beat Pooja

Khajandar to win the Sub Junior girls title 5-11, 7-11, 14-12, 13-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-8. N. Bhaavitha won the Junior girls final by beating Keerthana 11-3, 15-17, 11-9, 11-8, 11-13, 9-11, 11-5.

B. Raga Niveditha turned the tables on Naina Jaiswal to win the Youth girls final 6-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 12-10 while G. Pranitha defeated Varuni Jaiswal to take the Women's title with a 11-7, 11-4, 14-12, 7-11, 8-11, 8-11, 11-7 score.

THE RESULTS

■ Cadet Boys Singles Final: Jatin Dev-SPHS Arush-APG 6-11, 5-11, 11-8, 13-11, 11-4, 11-8. ■ Semifinals: Arush-APG bt Dhruv Sagar-GSM 12-10, 11-7, 11-9; Jatin Dev-SPHS bt Shaurya Raj Saxena-AVSC 11-2, 5-11, 11-1, 11-6. ■ Cadet Girls Singles Final: Shriya-AWA bt P.Jalani-VP 9-11, 11-8, 11-8. ■ Semifinals: J. Gouri-MLR bt Pooja Khajandar-AWA 5-11, 7-11, 14-12, 13-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-8. ■ Junior Boys Single Final: Kesavan Kannan-MLR Pranav

Nallari-AWA 7-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-7, 8-11, 11-4, 11-4. ■ Semifinals: Kesavan Kannan-MLR bt S.S.K Karthik-AWA 7-11, 10-12, 11-7, 16-14, 11-7, 11-8; Pranav Nallari-AWA bt Jashan Sai-MLR 11-8, 3-11, 12-10, 12-10, 5-11, 11-9. ■ Junior Girls Singles Final: N.Bhaavitha-GSM bt Keerthana-HVS 11-3, 15-17, 11-9, 11-8, 11-13, 9-11, 11-5. ■ Semifinals: N.Bhaavitha-GSM bt Y.Nikhitha-YMCAXTTA 4-11, 11-5, 11-8, 6-11, 11-9, 11-3; Keerthana-HVS bt Pooja Khajandar-AWA 11-4, 11-5, 4-11, 6-11, 11-4, 11-3. ■ Youth Boys Singles Final: Mohd Ali-LBS bt SFR Snehit-GTTA 11-9, 5-11, 11-8, 11-3, 11-9. ■ Semifinals: Mohd Ali-LBS bt Sainath Reddy-MLR 11-7, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8, 11-3; SFR Snehit-GTTA bt Saroj Siril-AWA 12-10, 15-13, 11-7, 11-8.

■ Youth Girls Singles Final: B.Raaga Niveditha-GTTA bt Naina Jaiswal-LBS 6-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 12-10. ■ Semifinals: B.Raaga Niveditha-GTTA bt G.Pranitha-HVS 7-11, 11-6, 11-4, 12-10, 6-11, 11-9; Naina Jaiswal-LBS bt Varuni Jaiswal-GSM 11-7, 9-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-6, 4-11, 11-8.

■ Men's Singles Final: SFR Snehit-GTTA bt Aman Balgu-CRSCB 11-6, 11-7, 6-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-6. ■ Semifinals: Varuni Jaiswal-GSM bt Aman UR Rahman-AVSC 11-5, 11-6, 6-11, 15-13, 11-5; S. F. R. Snehit-GTTA bt Saroj Siril-AWA 11-4, 11-1, 8-11, 11-5, 11-8. ■ Women's Singles Final: G.Pranitha-HVS bt Varuni Jaiswal-GSM 11-7, 11-4, 14-12, 7-11, 8-11, 8-11, 11-7. ■ Semifinals: Varuni Jaiswal-GSM bt M.Monica-GSM 11-9, 11-9, 13-11, 11-7; G.Pranitha-HVS bt Naina Jaiswal-LBS 11-7, 11-13, 11-9, 6-11, 12-10, 11-7.



Winners from various categories at the 6th Telangana State Stag Inter District and State Table Tennis Championship pose with their trophies and certificates at Mahaveer Group of Science and Technology, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad.

INDIAN COLTS BEAT AUSTRALIA, MAKE TITLE CLASH

Johor Bahru (Malaysia), Oct. 16: The Indian junior men's hockey team thrashed Australia 5-1 to qualify for the final of the 9th Sultan of Johor Cup here on Wednesday. India's clinical performance at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium saw goals from Shilhanand Lakra (26', 29'), Dilpreet Singh (44'), Gursahibjit

Singh (48') and Mandeep Mor (50'). India had first sight of goal in the opening minute because of an Australian mistake. A misjudgement off an aerial ball meant Gursahibjit was clear on goal in the circle. India will face Great Britain in their final round robin league-stage match on Friday. — PTI

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