

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 2 NOVEMBER 2019

## WEATHER

**Max:** 30.5°C  
**Min:** 22.8°C  
**RH:** 87%  
**Rain:** 3.8 mm

**Forecast:** Partly cloudy sky. Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 33/28°C

## ASTROGUIDE

**Vikari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Kartika Shudda Shasthi till 1.33 am (early hours of Sunday)  
**Star:** Poorvashada till 11.04 pm  
**Variyam:** 7.59 am to 9.40 am  
**Durmuhurtam:** 6.18 am to 7.49 am  
**Rahukalam:** 9 am to 10.30 am  
**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
**Rabbi-ul-Awwal** 4, 1441 AH  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 5.14 am  
**Zohar:** 12.10 pm  
**Asar:** 4.09 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.51 pm  
**Isha:** 6.59 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY** 5.44 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 6.15 AM  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW** 11.06 AM  
**MOONSET TODAY** 10.28 PM

## Tension grips Karimnagar

**Karimnagar:** The last rites of RTC driver Nangunuri Babu (52), who died of a cardiac arrest, were held at Arepalli village of Karimnagar district on Friday amid high tension and stray incidents of violence. The Joint Action Committee of TSRTC had given a call for Chalo Karimnagar over the death of the driver. Employees of 10 bus depots of old Karimnagar district attended a dharna at the place where the body was kept till the afternoon.

■ **Report on Page 2**

## Unemployment rate hits 8.5%

**Hyderabad:** Unemployment rate in October rose to 8.5 per cent — the highest since August 2016 — and up from 7.2 per cent in September, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) on Friday, reflecting the impact of a slowdown in the economy. The increase in unemployment rate mirrors the fall in industrial growth and consumption in the country.

■ **Report on Page 11**

## COUNTER POINT



One more 50:50 formula... our party will rule half the state, their party the rest!

## FAILED | MISSION

# Blame game on as plastic piles up

**MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC**  
**HYDERABAD, NOV. 1**

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has been ignoring the extended producer responsibility (EPR) for all plastic producers, importers and brand owners, which has resulted in increase of wet trash by 20 per cent every year. Surprisingly, the GHMC has not prepared bylaws so far as mandated by the Central government's plastic waste management rules (PWMR), unveiled in 2016.

The GHMC has been passing the buck to the state pollution control board (SPCB), saying the SPCB was the nodal agency to issue notices and bring brand owners in to a framework.

Official sources in GHMC told *Deccan Chronicle* that besides the ITC and Godrej



## WORLD | 9

### Lawmaker accuses Trump of abuse

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## SPORTS | 13

### Rohit Sharma suffers injury scare

## TABLOID

### Sweetless November



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# CJ warns babus for filing false affidavits in court

**VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC**  
**HYDERABAD, NOV. 1**

The Telangana High Court on Friday gave a going over to Sunil Sharma, in-charge managing director of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), for submitting an affidavit with vague, piece-meal, false and contradictory statements on the subject of the amounts due to the corporation from the state government and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

Sharma was present before the court to give

■ **TSRTC IN-CHARGE MD**  
Sunil Sharma was present before the court to give and explain facts and numbers relating to the RTC finance.

and explain facts and numbers relating to the RTC finance. The division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy, while dealing with a public interest litigation (PIL) related to the RTC strike, wondered about the authenticity and veracity of the affidavit, observing that the “affidavit seems to have

been prepared with the purpose of making it vague enough to hide the truth, by resorting to half-truths.”

Sharma had placed an affidavit before the court related to dues to the RTC from the government and the GHMC, as directed by the Court, saying the state government had paid a reimbursement amount of ₹644 crore towards student bus passes for 2018-19. The government had paid the corporation more than it was owed, Mr Sharma submitted.

■ **Bid to cover-up truth with half truths:** Page 2



Bangladeshi cricketers wear masks to protect them from air-pollution, during a practice session at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

# Schools closed as Delhi turns into ‘gas chamber’

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI, NOV. 1**

The Delhi government on Friday decided to shut all schools till November 5 after a Supreme Court mandated panel declared a public health emergency in the Delhi-NCR region in the wake of rising levels of pollution.

As the air pollution reached alarming levels, hospitals reported a surge in the number of patients suffering from respiratory and breathing complications, with doctors advising residents, especially children and the elderly, to stay

indoors as much as possible. “Patients are coming with complaints of watery eyes, cough, breathing difficulty, allergy, exacerbation of asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases,” AIIMS director Randeep Guleria said, adding that children and those above the age of 60 are the worst affected.

Besides affecting the lungs, high levels of pollutants in the atmosphere cause inflammation in blood vessels and may lead to hardening of arteries, which can act as a trigger for stroke or heart attack in persons

already at risk of the disease, Dr Guleria explained.

In a tweet, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that Delhi has turned into a “gas chamber” due to smoke arising out of crop burning in Punjab and Haryana.

He said that the Manohar Lal Khattar government and Captain Amrinder Singh government were forcing their farmers to indulge in stubble burning causing spike in pollution in the national capital.

■ **Stubble burning biggest bane for capital:** Page 8

# Kashmir situation is not sustainable, says Merkel

## India, Germany agree on combating terror, UN reforms

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC**  
**NEW DELHI, NOV. 1**

In a single remark that completely overshadowed her visit to India and in what has come as a huge embarrassment for India, visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel was quoted by reports as telling the German media accompanying her on Indian soil that the situation in Kashmir was “not sustainable and not good” and that “this has to change for sure.”

The remarks could well have shocked the Indian government, which did not immediately react to it. The remarks after she had co-chaired the Indo-German fifth biennial Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) in the morning along with PM Modi.

After the remarks, Chancellor Merkel was



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Friday. — AFP

scheduled to have restricted talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a dinner hosted by the Indian government. Sources, however, said the Kashmir issue did not figure during the IGC discussions on Friday morning.

“As the situation at this moment (in Kashmir) is not sustainable and not good, this has to change for sure,” Ms Merkel was quoted by reports as having told the German media.

According to some reports, she also apparently planned to raise the Kashmir developments with Prime Minister Modi during the restricted talks, but there was no official information on what had transpired.

Sources meanwhile expressed confidence that the long-standing German position that Kashmir issue was a bilateral one that had to be discussed between India and Pakistan remained unchanged. They say that the German Chancellor may well have had to comment on Kashmir, keeping in view her home constituency and the European position on human rights. “Germany has been supporting India on the Kashmir issue on international fora,” sources pointed out.

■ **India, Germany ink pacts on start-ups, yoga:** Page 8

# Sena to dump BJP for CM post

**SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC**  
**MUMBAI, NOV. 1**

Even as Shiv Sena on Friday issued a veiled threat to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that it could form the next Maharashtra government on its own, the latter is confident that Devendra Fadnavis will take oath as chief minister before November 7.

Senior BJP leader and state finance minister, Sudhir Mungantiwar, told this newspaper on Friday that the allies would form

the next government together.

“Our talks with the Shiv Sena are on. The final decision on the government formation will be reached soon, and the ministers will be sworn in on November 6 or 7,” Mr Mungantiwar said.

The Shiv Sena, on the other hand, has hardened its stand on the implementation of the 50-50 power-sharing formula, which includes the CM's post for 2.5 years, that it claims the BJP had agreed to adopt.

Mr Mungantiwar, howev-

er, maintained that Mr Fadnavis would be back as chief minister. “We are confident that will convince our alliance partner. We have done that in the past and we will do so this time as well,” he said.

Asked about the possibility of President's Rule being imposed in Maharashtra if no government is formed before November 7, the minister replied, “There is no question of President's Rule.”

■ **Sena wants government in 50:50 formula:** Page 7

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THE SECRET OF YOUNGER LOOKING SKIN





## Reaching out

IT secretary Jayesh Ranjan flags off Digital Yatra at Mulugu district, to create awareness on computers among state school students



As part of vigilance awareness, SCR will hold a bicycle rally, walkathon today

— Gajanan Malliya  
General Manager, SCR

## IN BRIEF

### Lingampalli-Vij train to run faster

**Hyderabad:** The Lingampalli-Vijayawada-Lingampalli Intercity Express trains will be speeded by 15 minutes from November 3. Accordingly, Train 12796 will leave Lingampalli at 4:40 am and reach Vijayawada at 10:30 am instead of 10:45 am. Train 12795 will leave Vijayawada at 5:30 pm and arrive at Lingampalli at 9:15 pm instead of 11:35 pm.

### 1,415 traffic violations in Oct.

**Hyderabad:** The Cyberabad traffic police has booked 1,415 cases of traffic rule violations in October, and the courts convicted 144 persons and sentenced them to imprisonment. A total of 811 two-wheelers, 84 three-wheelers, 486 four-wheelers and 34 heavy vehicles were booked for violations like drunk driving. The Cyberabad traffic police also booked 263 cases on the ORR.

## CHEATING CASE AGAINST BIGIL DIRECTOR ATLEE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Director Atlee and producers of the Tamil film Bigil, which stars actor Vijay, have been booked in a case of alleged cheating by Gachibowli police, following a complaint from a city resident. Others booked include Akhilesh Paul on whose life story the movie was made, and the screenplay writer.

Complainant Nandi Chinni Kumar, a resident of Kothaguda, alleged that on March 19, 2018, he made an agreement with Akhilesh Paul and purchased his life story to make a feature film. They agreed upon ₹12 lakh and Mr Kumar said he paid ₹5.5 lakh to Akhilesh Paul. The remaining amount was to be paid in installments, and given the copyright of the life story and the screen story of Akhilesh Paul. Kumar alleged that when he saw the trailer of Bigil, he contacted AGS Entertainment, director Atlee and the executive producer of the film and shared the documents of his agreement and sought an explanation but did not receive any reply. Alleging that he was cheated by Akhilesh Paul, Atlee, producer Mahesh Koneru, AGS Entertainment Pvt Ltd and screenplay writer Ramana Girvasan, despite knowing that he was holding copyrights of the movie, Kumar lodged a complaint with the Gachibowli police in the last week of October.

# I-T dept taking measures to reduce tax litigations

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

The income-tax department has been taking measures to reduce tax litigations including settle disputes out of court by withdrawing the cases relating to tax recovery. According to Mr N. Sankaran, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-Tax (PCCIT), TS and AP region, the department has withdrawn 969 appeals involving ₹403 crore pending in courts as well as the I-T Appellate Tribunal.

The PCCIT's office announced that in accordance with the circular of the Central Court of Direct Taxation dated August, 2019, it will not prefer appeals against the cases before the income-tax appellate tribunal wherein less than ₹50 lakh demand is involved. The I-T department made it

■ THE I-T DEPT made it clear that it will not prefer appeals in the HC against cases wherein less than ₹1 crore is involved and will not prefer appeals in the SC for cases involving demand of less than ₹2 crore

clear that it will not prefer appeals in the High Court against cases wherein less than ₹1 crore is involved and it will not prefer appeals in the Supreme Court for cases involving demand of less than ₹2 crore.

#### Vigilance week ends

The vigilance week being observed by the income-tax department will end on

November 2 in Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh.

Former Central Vigilance Commissioner K.V. Chowdary addressing officials on 'Integrity – A way of life' said that standard procedures should be followed while discharging duties and urged the officials to maintain integrity at all times.

The Department conducted essay, slogan and elocution competitions for students of colleges and schools. Competitions were also held for the staff.

Mr N. Sankaran, principal chief commissioner for TS and AP, Mr R.K. Paliwal, director-general of income-tax (Inv), Hyderabad, Mr Atul Pranay, chief commissioner of income-tax, Hyderabad, and Mr Peeyush Sonkar, commissioner of income-tax (administration & TPS) and other senior officers participated.

# Teachers to pay RTC staff kids' fee

With no salaries for the striking employees, govt teachers come to their rescue

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Government teachers have volunteered to pay the SSC exam fee of students whose parents are TSRTC employees, as the latter are in a financial crisis because they have not received their salaries. The exam fee of SSC students is due on November 7.

Announcing this, United Teachers Federation leader Raghunandan called on teachers across the state to help students in appearing for their SSC exams.

He said that at the school he works in Pochampally, there are 20 to 25 SSC students, who belong to families of RTC workers. The fee to be paid by these students would total to around ₹3,750.

"Teachers of our school will pay the fee on the students' behalf," the UTF leader remarked.

"We are under stress because of the strike and uncertain about the situation," said an RTC employee on condition of anonymity.

"We have not got our salary even for the month that we have worked. Some of the employees are in such dire straits that they cannot pay even the SSC fee.

We want the RTC issue to be resolved as soon as possible. Our financial and emotional struggle has become too overwhelming for us to bear," the employee remarked.

Meanwhile, expressing his solidarity with agitating RTC employees, Mr Sheelam Shankar, a former deputy engineer of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, wrote a social media post stating that he would not charge any rent from his tenant, an RTC employee, till the strike is resolved.

"I will not collect rent at all during the period the RTC strike is on," he stated.



College students wait at a bus stop at Habsiguda on Friday amid lack of RTC buses.

— P.SURENDRA

# Govt covers up data with half-truths, court loses its cool

From Page 1

With regards to the GHMC, he submitted that the GHMC does not owe the corporation for operation of buses in Hyderabad city, as there was no agreement between the two bodies for reimbursement of losses accruing to the RTC.

Responding to the affidavit, Chief Justice Chauhan made several observations against Mr. Sharma and K. Ramakrishna Rao, principal secretary finance, who was not present in the court and other babus for filing vague, false reports and affidavits under oath before the High Court.

"Remember, you are not

dealing with donkeys here. Don't pretend, don't underestimate the court and judges," the bench commented.

"You are trying to pull wool over our eyes by placing fudged figures and incorrect statements," CJ Chauhan observed.

Cautioning babus of the state, that they would have to face severe consequences for filing the false affidavits under oath, the Chief Justice said that higher officials do not know the consequences of filing a false affidavit.

"It is unwarranted from bureaucrats," Chief Justice Chauhan said.

Sunil Sharma, in-charge MD, filed an affidavit on the directions of the court,

when the division bench doubted the affidavit submitted by K. Ramakrishna Rao, principal secretary, finance department, in which it was claimed that the government had paid all reimbursement since 2014 to RTC, and an excess amount of ₹622 crore was also provided as assistance. The workers' unions had submitted that the government owed ₹2,475 crore to the corporation and the GHMC owed ₹1,492 crore towards bus pass concessions. The Bench directed Mr. Sharma to file an affidavit on 29 October to ascertain facts from the corporation. The Bench came to conclusion that the affidavit placed by Mr Sharma was

false, when it learnt that the state transport minister had confessed on the floor of the Assembly that the government and GHMC owed money to the RTC. D. Prakash Reddy, senior counsel, appearing for the unions informed the Bench that the minister for transport had in September made a statement in the Assembly based on information given to him by same official, Sharma. The counsel read out the transcript of the minister's statement before the bench. The minister had said that several crore of rupees were due from government and GHMC to the RTC. If they clear the dues, the Corporation would not

reel under a financial crisis.

Mr Reddy further submitted that the in-charge MD of RTC had submitted a representation to the minister that ₹2,277 crore were due to the corporation up to December 2018 from various wings. He prayed the court to get the original copy of the minister's speech.

Reacting to the counsel's arguments, Mr Sharma and Mr Prasad argued that the "representation and letters were given to the minister for internal circulation, and the figures were wrong."

Chief Justice Chauhan became furious at their rationalisations, saying, "As in-charge MD of the

## RTC DRIVER'S LAST RITES PERFORMED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 1

The last rites of RTC driver Nangunuri Babu, 52, who died of cardiac arrest, were held at Arepalli village of Karimnagar district on Friday amid high tension and stray incidents of burning tyres and pelting of stones by protestors.

The Joint Action Committee of TSRTC had given a call for Chalo Karimnagar over the death of the driver.

Employees of 10 bus depots of old Karimnagar district attended a dharna at the place where the body of driver Babu was kept till the afternoon.

Later, RTC JAC leaders, along with BJP MP, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, and leaders of opposition parties, decided to shift the body of the RTC driver to Karimnagar Bus Depot-II for the final procession. Though the police initially tried to stop the procession, it was later allowed amid tight security to the burial ground.

RTC, it was you who fed information to the minister for making a statement on the floor of the House. In this Court, the same officer is giving us another set of other figures."

The CJ observed that this was not a clerical mistake and there would be serious consequences for making a wrong statement under oath before the court. The Court also said that the government orders while releasing funds only mentioned loan amount released and not as reimbursement. It found fault with Mr Sharma's conclusion that GHMC did not owe money to the corporation. The case was adjourned till November 7.

## For the departed souls



People decorate the graves of their beloved ones on Friday, on the eve of All Souls Day at Catholic Cemetery in Bhoiguda, Secunderabad.

— P. SURENDRA

# Latent TB poses bigger risk

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Active tuberculosis (TB) infections could only be the tip of the iceberg. It is the latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) that makes up the largest portion of this proverbial iceberg, not so well known but is as dangerous as TB infections.

Experts who came to attend a session of 'The Union World Conference on Lung Health' on Friday said there could be disastrous consequences if measures are not taken to address the issue of LTBI. The session was held at a convention centre in Hyderabad, as part of a four-day conference being organised by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Health, known as 'the union'. A person with LTBI has small quantities of dormant TB bacteria. He/she does not show any

■ A PERSON with LTBI has small quantities of dormant tuberculosis bacteria. The patient exhibits no symptoms of the disease

symptoms or signs of the disease and is not infectious. An alarmingly high number of people — 40 per cent of Indians according to some studies — have LTBI. If left untreated, 5-10 per cent of them can develop TB over their lifetimes. Conditions such as diabetes, malnourishment and HIV increase the chances of persons with LTBI developing TB in their lifetimes. It is estimated that a quarter of the world's population, 1.7 billion people, has LTBI.

The Centre had earlier announced its intentions to eliminate TB from the country by 2025, Dr Sundari Mase, a TB consultant for the WHO, said, adding that it wouldn't be

possible if LTBI is ignored.

"India has the highest burden of LTBI and TB in the world. Tackling it will be key," she said.

Dr Rohit Sarin, director of the National Institute for Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, made it clear that it isn't necessary for everyone to undergo preventive treatment.

"There are some very high-risk groups who we also suggest undergo TB Preventive Therapy (TBPT) without any testing. These include people who are tested HIV positive and people in direct contact with patients with active TB infections. There are groups who are also at risk, such as prisoners, health workers and immigrants from countries with high TB burden, who we also suggest undergo tests for LTBI before any preventive treatment," he said. Dr Srinath Satya-

narayana, deputy director, Centre for Operations Research of the International Union against Lung Disease and Tuberculosis, argued for better links between stakeholders working on TB prevention and treatment across the world.

"For the world to meet targets under the UN's sustainable development goals-3 (on health), such as reducing the number of preventable deaths and end epidemics of communicable diseases, tackling LTBI is crucial," he said.

Mr Mallesh, a TB survivor from Hyderabad, spoke on his trials and tribulations: "After I was diagnosed with TB, my wife and I decided that she and our three children should live away from each other so that they don't get TB. We were separated for a year. One of our daughters caught TB. If TB can be prevented, it should be," he said.





## New lesson

IIT-H director Prof B.S. Murthy says it is important to expose children to research; they may not understand it but will have life-long memories



Government respects people of all religions, castes and sections of society

— Jagadish Reddy  
Energy minister

## IN BRIEF

### POWER | SHUTDOWN

**10 am to 1 pm:** OU Colony, Shaikpet, Vinobhanagar, Vinayaknagar, Dattatreyanagar, Dwarakanagar, Dream Valley, Marutnagar.

**10 am to 2 pm:** Shilparamam Kalavedika, Rock Garden and Night Bazaar areas; Manjira Water Works, Value Labs, petrol bunk, Murali Mohan Kamaan, Jubilee Enclave; Vasihnavi Building, Huda lane and surrounding area; Pavani Homes, Jubilee Hills Road No. 70, 72, Jubilee Hills Filmnagar, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Colony, Mohan Babu guest house area, Prashasan Water Works area, IAS Colony.

**11 am to 1 pm:** Gandhinagar, Valmikinagar, Rambo PT Sanjeevaiah Housing Society, Azad Chandrasekhar Nagar, Mahendra Hills, Ravi Society and Dhanalaxmi PT 2 pm to 4 pm: Court Office area, MCH commercially police station, KMA Tent House area, Suman Housing Colony.

**2 pm to 5 pm:** Patrika Nagar, Doctors' Colony, Durgam Cheruvu area, Kavuri Hills Phase-II, AP State Gallery; Jubilee Hills Roads 25, 26, 27, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 70, Amar Co-Operative Society, Anjaninagar, Vemral Garden, IOA Institute; Gulshan Colony, Smatha Colony, Laxmannagar, Diamond Hills, Alijapur.

## Acquire skills with Digithon: Official

**Hyderabad:** The Digithon tour, being organized by software engineers under the flag of Telangana Information Technology Association (TITA) to impart digital literacy to students of government schools across the state, will impart new skills to them, said Mr Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary, IT. He said the tour which will create awareness among students on the basics of computers is praiseworthy. He flagged off the tour which will be held in Mulugu district on November 2 and 3 at the BRK Bhavan. He appreciated software engineers who came forward to take up such initiatives under TITA in the weekends. He has released a book, *Computer Login* which was being given for the first time to government school students. This 60-page book will teach students the basics of computers, the official said.

# GHMC tweaks its plastic plan

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) plans to encourage local women's groups and MSMEs to manufacture alternatives to single-use plastic products. The civic body has tied up with ICLEI South Asia to reorient its action plan on curtailing the single use plastics. ICLEI South Asia has developed the strategy taking into consideration consumption of plastic and the collection, processing and scientific disposal of plastic waste. "The main takeaway is that not all plastics are bad and the plastic ban doesn't mean ban on every plastic. What is important is that the plastic consumed should be recycled and disposed off responsibly where it is integrated into the recycling loop. Alternatives to plastic should be accessible and affordable to the public. These alternatives should be upscaled to a commercially profitable level," said Ms Hari Chandana, IAS, zonal commissioner, Serilingampally Zone at a workshop on Friday. Under this project, the current status of plastic

- Reduce use of single-use plastic
- Ensure proper segregation, storage and collection of plastic waste
- Ensure scientific processing of plastic waste
- Strengthen institutional framework of stakeholders

waste management in GHMC has been assessed in detail. The project is in its second phase where the emphasis is on reducing the generation and consumption of plastic waste with a focus on single-use plastic and promoting the recycling of plastic waste. It has decided to ensure segregation, storage and collection of plastic waste both recyclable and non-recyclable, scientific processing of plastic waste including recycling, plastic to fuels and plastics to bituminous pavements and waste to energy. Ms. Sikta Patnaik, IAS, additional commissioner said it would be difficult to convince local women's groups to take up the manufacture of alternative

products (cloth and jute bags) due to the present financial viability of the same. "Solutions to this should be a focus," she said. Mr. Srinivas Reddy, zonal commissioner, Charminar zone, said addressing the demand of single-use plastic by street vendors due to the lack of affordability of alternatives is a challenge. "More R&D and industrial innovation is necessary to promote the manufacture of alternatives from small scale units," he said. According to Dr Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage, programme manager, IGES, "Source reduction is critical in order to reduce single-use plastic. Other steps to improve plastic waste management include restriction of microbeads in cosmetics, promotion of EPR as an economic tool to merge production with the plastic waste value-chain, and the involvement of stakeholders." Dr Yoichi Kodera, expert from Japan, AIP, "Availability of commercially viable technologies and favourable business conditions are critical to establish plastic waste processing businesses."

## CIVIC BODY YET TO FINALISE BYLAWS ON EPR

From Page 1

A senior official said GHMC was only responsible for plastic sold in retail shops and vendors outlets. However, the official said that GHMC was yet to finalise bylaws regarding EPR. He said the GHMC was an enforcing authority whereas the PCB was the nodal agency. D. Narendra, senior environmentalist, PCB, said that the board had already issued notices to about 600 firms, manufacturers and brand owners in Telangana. He said that 50 per cent of them have already responded to notices issued for submitting an action plan for EPR. He said that notices were issued to major manufacturers like Paradise hotel, Vijaya Dairy, Chennai Silks, Amazon, D'Mart, Big Bazaar, Heritage Group, Reliance Trends, among others. GHMC commissioner D S, Lokesh Kumar was not available to give a response on the failings of the corporations in implementing these crucial environment laws.



Preparations underway for Chhath Puja celebrations at Sanjeevaiah Park in Hyderabad on Friday.

— DC

# Chhath begins in Hyderabad

GHMC undertakes lighting, sanitation arrangements at 15 ponds in city

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Over 40,000 people living in the city with roots in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand will begin their annual Chhath Puja from Saturday. The festival, which venerates the sun god, will be held near various water bodies, with Hussainsagar being the largest one of them all. "This festival is taken up to revere the sun and perform pujas. On this day, women perform the puja by standing in a water body — with the

water coming up to their waists — and offer water to the sun," said Parmanand Sharma, chairman of the Chhath Pooja Committee. Explaining the celebrations, he said: "We wear new clothes and fast for about 8-12 hours. Then we offer a prayer to the sun god and eat sweets like kheer. On Saturday, we have *sandhya argh*, an evening offering to the sun. For most part of the day, we rest and begin making sweetmeats at home. In the evening, we gather at the banks of a river, pond or a reservoir to perform the puja."

Municipal administration principal secretary, Aravind Kumar, visited the ghat near Sanjeevaiah Park to inspect the preparations for the festival. In a bid to ensure smooth function, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has made extensive arrangements at several ponds in the city. "This festival is of utmost importance to the people of the east, especially for those from Bihar. It also celebrated in a grand manner by people from Odisha, Chhattisgarh and

Madhya Pradesh," said an official of the civic body. To make sure that there are no shortcomings during the veneration, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials have undertaken a programme of lighting and sanitation at as many as 15 ponds within its limits. "The water bodies have been cleaned up and the roads leading to the ponds are being repaired to avoid any trouble for the festival," said GHMC commissioner, D.S. Lokesh Kumar. On the day of the festi-

val, there will also be medical officers and sanitation staff to oversee the arrangements and ensure there is no drop in the quality of services. On Saturday, there would be a *sandhya argh* and the devotees would gather at the banks of a river or lake to perform pooja. On Sunday, there would be a *usha argh*, where an offering is made to the sun god in the morning. On this day, devotees gather, offer water to the sun god and sing hymns and praises in his name.

## Feast to dog lovers



A dog lover in a playful mood on the first day of Petex India dog show at Hitex on Friday.

— DC

# City officials target encroachments

DC, CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Following complaints by citizens, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation zonal commissioner, Mohammed Musharraf Ali Faruqui, Ahmednagar corporator Ayesha Rubena, and officers from the town planning, health and sanitation departments visited the Masab Tank-Ahmed Nagar Road to identify illegal encroachments on Friday. Residents of Garden Towers, Elegance Apartments and other buildings had met Faruqui and complained about the illegal encroachment on the stretch of road between Khaja Mansion function hall/ Balaji Grand Bazaar and Ahmednagar, First Lancer. They had submitted a representation and asked for action against the illegal encroachments. They also submitted a representation to DCP East Zone, B Sumathi, requesting police protec-

tion for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation staff. Faruqui said after the inspection, "We have asked the officials to carry out a detailed survey and prepare a report on encroachment. After identification of the encroachment and marking the properties, we will carry out the demolition operation." Capt. Ikram Khaleel, one of the residents of the area, said the road was a busy one approaching Ahmednagar and First Lancer and the encroachments create traffic bottlenecks. He said the shops on Ahmed Nagar main road have no parking for customers and the footpaths have been encroached upon. He said hawkers run their businesses from push carts that occupy much of the road, frequently obstructing the flow of traffic and leading to mishaps. He also complained that drug peddlers are active in the area but the police do nothing about it.

# Vikarabad hospital faces state backlash

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

The management of Crawford Memorial Hospital in Vikarabad and the district administration seem to be caught in a mud-slinging battle. On Sunday, hospital superintendent, Dr B. Avinash, said district officials had confiscated the original copy of the hospital's operating licence. Afterwards, he said, the officials sent him a show cause notice for running the hospital without a licence. On Wednesday, and Thursday, Dr Avinash made waves after claiming to the media that around 150 dengue-positive patients had come to Crawford Memorial for treatment over the past few days. The hospital could not accommodate these patients indoors so some of them were made to sit outdoors. Dr Avinash blamed the district administration for this apparent rise in dengue cases. "The district administration is not taking the necessary measures to control the mosquito population. This is causing a high number of dengue cases," he told regional media outlets. The claim raised quite a furore. The district health department sent in a team to collect blood samples from the patients but they were unwilling. Later, a larger team, with district medical health officer (DHMO), Dr Sudhakar, arrived, along with policemen. The DHMO said Dr Avinash had made false statements and there had been only 105 dengue cases in Vikarabad district between January and October 2019. He said the people were being misled about having dengue. On Friday, Dr Avinash told *Deccan Chronicle* he could prove that those who had come to his hospital were suffering from dengue and he wasn't lying. "I have around 45 test reports of patients, issued by diagnostic centres in Vikarabad. These people are coming to us because government hospitals are not admitting them and referring them to hospitals in Hyderabad. These people cannot afford to travel there," he said. He claimed that the medical and health department was harassing him. "The officials came on Thursday evening with policemen. They asked me to produce the original copy of the hospital's operating licence and I did. They took it away from me. Later, they sent me a show cause notice for operating without a licence!" he exclaimed. Dr Avinash claimed he had the necessary documentation to prove the officials wrong. Meanwhile, a senior official from the district med-

■ **DR AVINASH**, superintendent of a hospital in Vikarabad, had on Wednesday claimed that around 150 dengue-positive patients had come to the hospital for treatment over the past few days. ■ **Later**, the district medical health officer said Dr Avinash had made false statements and there had been only 105 dengue cases in the district between January and October 2019. ■ **On Friday**, Dr Avinash said the people are visiting the hospital because government hospitals are not admitting them and referring them to hospitals in Hyderabad, adding that he has around 45 test reports of patients, from various diagnostic centres in Vikarabad.

ical and health department said the test reports that Dr Avinash had in his possession were not convincing. "There are currently no testing centres in Vikarabad that can perform confirmatory tests for dengue. Only IgM and ELISA tests can be taken as final. But there are some kits available on the market that test NS1 antigen. This is a rapid test. Their results cannot be taken as dengue-positive. Dr Avinash is misrepresenting these tests and creating panic among the general public," he said. The official said people at Crawford Memorial were schooled by Dr Avinash to resist attempts to test them. "He brainwashed the patients and told them to resist us. The first team that went there to investigate the matter had to cut their visit short because of this. Later, another team visited and it found the hospital was operating without any license," he said. Responding to the allegation that the officials' team confiscated the hospital's license, he said, "This is a lie. Why would we do such a thing? We have the records to prove what we say. We will definitely prove this in the courts." Dr Avinash claimed he was the victim of a smear campaign. "The government is scared of admitting to the prevalence of dengue cases. The district administration knows that any positive cases will get them in trouble. So they are under-reporting the figures. They (the officials) are trying to discredit me by spreading these lies," he said.



भारतकृषि  
राष्ट्रीय कृषि अनुसंधान प्रबंध अकादमी  
राजेंद्रनगर, हैदराबाद-500030, तेलंगणा, भारत  
ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management  
(ISO 9001:2008 Certified)  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030, Telangana, India



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## Invite to TS

Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, in Germany on a visit, invites European seed companies to invest in the state



KCR wants to kill the RTC issue by using police power

— A.P. Jithender Reddy  
BJP senior leader

## IN BRIEF

### Milk van mows down woman

**Hyderabad:** A milk van ran over a woman while she was crossing the road at LB Nagar on Friday. Elimeneti Anjamma, 45, a housewife and resident of Ambedkar Nagar in Mehdiapatnam, was on her way to Devarakonda. She boarded a bus at Mehdiapatnam and got down at LB Nagar at about 7 am. While she was crossing the main road, the milk van (AP07 W 5459) ran over Anjamma. Death was instantaneous. Following a complaint by E. Anjaiah, her husband of the deceased, a case has been registered against the missing driver.

### Priest booked for outraging modesty

**Hyderabad:** A 26-year-old priest working at a temple in Malkajigiri was arrested for outraging the modesty of a minor girl and abusing her father by his caste. According to Malkajigiri police, T. Soma Shekar Sarma, 26, a resident of Prashantnagar, had deceived a 14-year-old student, on the pretext of love and was talking to her frequently. The girl's father who learned about the conversations went to the priest's house to question him, but the latter reportedly had abused the girl's father by making using filthy language and caste name. A case was registered against the accused.

### KEY ACCUSED IN IMS SCAM ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

P. Srinivasa Reddy, managing director of Vaishnavi Enterprises, the medical agency that colluded with officials of ESI and caused a loss of ₹4.09 crore to the state government, has been arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

The ACB, which is probing the Insurance Medical Services (IMS) scam case, disclosed on Friday that Srinivasa Reddy, a resident of Alwal, colluded with the Director, Assistant Director and other officials of IMS to get purchase orders of ₹5.48 crore on rate contract. No guidelines were followed in the process.

The actual cost of the orders was ₹1.39 crore. The remaining ₹4.09 crore was swindled by Srinivasa Reddy and the officials involved.

ACB officials said no specific reason was mentioned for placing such huge orders to the agency. The rates were also much higher than those of the rate contract. "Accused Srinivasa Reddy induced and influenced officials of ESI and obtained purchase orders violating the procedures. Two shell firms, namely Mahidhara Medicals and Surgicals and Sai Sairam Distributors, were floated by the Director of ESI and a pharmacist K. Nagalakshmi, with the help Srinivasa Reddy and his brother P. Rajeshwara Reddy. The shell companies were looked after by Srinivasa Reddy at the behest of the accused officials," said the ACB.

The accused has been arrested and produced before the ACB court.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instructions of my client's 1. Syed Mustafiz Mahmood, S/o Late Mahmood Khan, 2. Aliya Sabina, D/o Late Mahmood Khan, 3. Siddiq Almania, D/o Syed Mahmood Khan R/o H.No. 6-3-246/2, Road No.1, Banjara Hills, Hyd. Telangana. General Power of Attorney with V.L.S. Prasad S/o Late Pithaiah, R/o 'A' Block, 604, Land Mark Residency, Madinaguda, Miyapur, Hyd, Land in Sy.No. 278, A.C. 8.13 at Kollur registered on 27-12-2006, document No. "1262006" Book IV at S.F.O. Office Sangareddy, Medak District is cancelled and registered on 18-10-2019 vide Document 224/2019 Book IV S.R.O. Office Sangareddy, Medak District.

Sd/- Dr. J Vijaya Lakshmi, Advocate  
Flat No. 503, Green Block, My Home Rainbow Apts., Tolichowki, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-08. Contact No. 9866606109

(S/1920/D01167)

# Woman claims given triple talaq over teeth

Woman alleges husband divorced her over crooked teeth

JAYENDRA CHAITANYA  
T. I DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

A city-based man who allegedly divorced his wife through the triple talaq ruck because she had crooked teeth, was booked by the Kusaiguda police of Rachakonda commissionerate under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act and for domestic violence.

Ms Ruksana Begum, 25, alleged that she was harassed for additional dowry by her husband and in-laws and after she left her marital home because of the harassment, she was given triple talaq by her husband, who had also lied about his profession as a textile businessman.

This is the second allegation of triple talaq after the law against the practice was passed in Parliament.

According to the com-

plaint, Mohammed Mustafa, 36, an autorickshaw driver, married Ms Ruksana Begum on June 27 this year. Her family gave ₹5 lakh cash, five tolas of gold, and household articles to Mustafa on the occasion of the marriage.

She was told that Mustafa has a textile business in Madina in the Old City and was well-settled. It was only after the marriage that she found out that he was a driver, and the house they lived in was rented. "They (Mustafa's family) were really good to me before marriage. Soon after marriage,

they showed their true colours. They started harassing for additional dowry and household articles. They do not have space to keep articles in the house," alleged Ms Ruksana Begum.

She said that on July 19, her health was affected by the harassment and she went to live with her parents. When she complained to the police, her husband and in-laws promised to take better care of her and take her back to their home.

But on October 1, her husband Mustafa went to the house of his in-laws, where he abused his wife in filthy language and uttered instant triple talaq. On Thursday night, she approached the Kusaiguda police and lodged a complaint seeking action against her husband.

Ms Ruksana Begum said, "My husband told me I have crooked teeth and he does not like me,

for which he pronounced triple talaq when he came to my parents' house. We were told lies about his profession and their financial status. Despite knowing about it, I was silent, as we were already married. But, they harassed me for additional dowry. All I want now is justice."

The Kusaiguda police said that a case has been registered against Mustafa under Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 3 and 4 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, and investigation has begun.

It may be recalled that in September this year, a case was registered against Mohammed Shareef, principal of a private school, for allegedly pronouncing triple talaq to his wife Sumaya Banu over a WhatsApp call made in November 2018. A case was registered with the Banjara Hills police.

## Spirited fight



Residents of Parsigutta hold brooms and protest in front of a liquor shop on Friday. They demanded that the state government declare Friday a holiday for liquor shops. A brief scuffle broke out between the protesters and the shop owner. Passersby immediately called the police who rushed to the spot and separated the two groups. One woman was reportedly injured.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

# Woman gets husband murdered by her lover

PILLALAMARRI  
SRINIVAS I DC  
NIRMAL, NOV.1

The investigation into the unidentified body of a man found near the Godavari river in Ponkal, Mamada mandal in Nirmal district, led to the unravelling of the bizarre murder of a man by his wife and her lover.

The body was found by local villagers and brought to the police who started an investigation on June 9, 2019.

The investigation was handed over to sub-inspectors Jeevan Reddy (Soan) and M.D. Ashish (Mamada).

The police sent pic-

tures of the deceased to other mandals and bordering districts for identification.

They learnt that one Gujjeti Udaykumar, 39, of Ankapur, Armoor mandal, Nizamabad, a labourer, had been missing for some days.

The family went to Gujjeti Pavan, the wife of Udaykumar, to ask about him and found her living with one Dhawate Dawlaji, 25. He threatened he would kill Udaykumar's sister if they came again to the house.

Udaykumar's family lodged a complaint against Pavan and Dawlaji for threatening to kill them. Police

arrested both but they were released on bail.

On Friday, the police caught Pavan and Dawlaji while they were going on a bike on suspicion. On questioning them, they revealed that they killed Udaykumar with the help of another person, Mudurukola Gangadhar, 38, on June 5.

Dawlaji reportedly revealed that on the instruction of Pavan, he, a driver, and Gangadhar, got Udaykumar drunk, took him on a bike to the river in Ponkal. Gangadhar drowned Udaykumar by forcefully plunging him into the river, Dawlaji told the police.

# Old City jewellers fight off burqa-clad thieves

ATHER MOIN I DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

In the Old City, thefts by burqa-clad persons have increased. In most of the cases, cellphones or purses have been stolen and the victims do not lodge police complaints unless the value of the item is high.

Police find such thefts difficult to handle as recognising the offender is not easy given the burqa. In the Old City jewellers have been transacting daily business with Muslim women, most of them in burqa, but the thieves have now also started using the burqa

to escape recognition. A jeweller from the Old City, Mohammed Ghouse Pasha, said, "We have to keep vigil on suspects whoever it may be without letting on that they are being treated as suspects."

He said a good trader can guess who is a genuine customer by their action and behaviour. "We never face problems with our regular customers, but we get alerted on the arrival of strangers because we can't trust them blindly," he said.

Another jeweller said almost every jewellery shop has CCTV cameras. But burqa clad

women cannot be recognised so "we teach our salesmen to keep watch on customers without showing we doubt them."

A police detective with the South Zone police said that with the use of CCTV cameras catching offenders has become easy, but detecting lady offenders whether they use burqa or not is difficult. "We can detect habitual offenders from their modus operandi and their body language caught on CCTV cameras, but it is almost impossible if an offender conceals his or her face," he said

# Amangal hospital seized for helping minor girl abort

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Padma Nursing Home located at Amangal, where an illegal abortion was allegedly performed for a minor girl, was temporarily seized by the officials of Ranga Reddy district medical and health department on Friday.

The hospital had reportedly performed the abortion on the minor who had become pregnant because of her affair with K. Shashi Kumar.

Police became aware of the only after the girl, now a major, was arrested along K. Shashi Kumar, for killing the her mother Rajitha.

■ **POLICE SAID** the girl, accused in the murder of her mother, had gone to the hospital when she was a minor and got an abortion done with the help of her two associates.

The police had booked the girl's another boyfriend Bal Reddy under the POCSO Act and for causing miscarriage to the minor.

Following the registration of a case by Hayathanagar police on the allegations that a minor girl who had become pregnant because of an affair, was taken to the private hospital at Amangal, the medical and health authorities on Friday,

inspected the hospital and found irregularities.

According to sources, a team of officials of the Ranga Reddy medical and health department during the inspection found that the hospital did not have permission to carry out abortions. Padma Nursing Home at Amangal was temporarily seized to find out if the abortion was performed at the hospital.

Two patients who were admitted at the hospital were shifted to another hospital. Officials seized the records of Padma Hospitals for verification. The equipment at the hospital was already seized by the police, said the sources.

## MENTALLY-ILL MOM KILLED HER KIDS, SAYS PROBE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD NOVEMBER 1

Kanchanbagh police unravelled the mystery of the death of two children on Saturday and said their mentally disturbed mother had killed them.

The children were identified as Neha Jabeen, 15, and Mohd Abdul Aziz, 14.

According to the police, their mother, Syeda Farhath Begum, 35, was mentally disturbed for the past fortnight, fearing that she would die anytime due to her ill-health.

She wanted to kill her children before she died, as her husband would not look after them after her demise. Following this, she killed her two children on October 26 between 5.30 pm and 9 pm, lacing their soft drink with sleeping pills, giving them insulin injections and strangling them with her foot. Kanchanbagh police has booked her for murder.

## MAN KILLS LOVER AFTER PROMISING TO MARRY HER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Police arrested a 28-year-old man for killing his lover by pushing her from a building in Vanasthalipuram.

Tilakchand Sundarlal Lihare, 28, a mason from Hanmakonda, was married and has a daughter. He started an affair with one Seema Damaha, 22. When she demanded that he marry her, Lihare decided to kill her and pushed her off a building.


**OBITUARY**

Padma Bhushan  
**SANANDARAM**  
IPS  
Shri S. ANANDARAM  
Garu aged 92yrs  
passed away at  
Hyd@2250hrs. on  
31st Oct. 19.  
The Final rites will  
be performed  
at Vaikunta  
Mahaprasantham  
Crematorium,  
next to Whisper  
Valley between  
11am & 1pm  
On Nov.2, 2019.

S. ANANDARAM served as Director General of Police - A.P. Director General of CSF @New Delhi & as Special Commissioner of SIT for the investigation of our Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Assassination.


Mourning by Vimala Anandaram,  
Maini, Srikrishna & Shanthi  
Grand Children Ph: 04023745501

**11th DAY CEREMONY**

  
**P. NAVANEETHA**  
W/o Venkateshwar Rao  
D.O.B: 23-10-2019  
"Mummy you taught us everything except how to live without you"  
11th Day Ceremony will be on  
02-11-2019 at Gouda Sangam Bhavan,  
beside Mahankali Temple Burj Galli,  
Amberpet, Hyderabad.  
Inserted by: Husband, Daughters,  
Sons-in-law, Grand Children,  
Relatives, Near & Dear.  
Contact: 9519532156 P. Sandhya

(S/1920/D01133)

**OBITUARY**

  
**PHILIP JOY**  
DOB: 23.11.1938 DOD: 31.10.2019  
Funeral service: 02/11/2019  
Residence: 1.30pm, St George church: 2.30pm,  
St George Cemetery, Medchal: 4pm  
Inserted by  
**GRACY PHILIP (Wife)**  
Sons: Melvin Philip, Joseph Philip,  
Daughter Susan Philip

(S/1920/D01166)


**SAD DEMISE**

  
**Late Smt. PERKA BALAMANI**  
W/o. Late P. Tej Rao Mudiraj  
Expired on 26-10-2019  
"10th Day Ceremony"  
on 03-11-2019 SUNDAY, 12.30 P.M.  
at Munnuru Kapu Sangam,  
Aliabad, Hyderabad.  
Inserted by : Family Members  
☎: 7801005253, 9000203450, 99855 64850

(S/1920/D01159)


**IN REMEMBRANCE**

The memory of the just is blessed Pro. 10:7

  
**K.J. RAJABHUSHANAM**  
D.O.B: 2.11.2013  
(Retd. Teacher, Preston Institute, Jangaon)  
S/o Late Rev. Dr. K.P. Jerome  
Because someone we love is in  
Heaven there's a little bit of  
Heaven in our heart  
His memories are  
Timeless treasures of the heart  
Inserted by: Family Members

(S/1920/D01159)

**1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**


  
**ANNE PRAKASH**  
S/o Late A. Anjaneyulu  
D.O.B: 2.11.2018  
Plot No. 16, Suman Housing Colony,  
West Marredpally, Sec'bad.  
Inserted by: Family Members

(S/1920/D01160)

**OBITUARY**

  
**Smt. P.Vijayalaxmi**  
DOB: 31-10-2019  
Life Member, Agri-Horticultural Society  
W/o P. Aijt Kumar  
Joint Director of Agriculture (Retd.)  
"May her Soul Rest in Peace"  
Inserted by : Chairman & Members  
of Agri-Horticultural Society,  
Public Gardens, Hyderabad - 500 004.

**11th day ceremony**

  
**Dr. I. RAVINDER (Jan 1952 - Oct 2019)**  
We cordially invite you to 11th day  
ceremony of Dr. I. Ravinder on  
03-11-2019. Please join us for  
Lunch 12.30 PM at 2-1-528/A,  
St. No. 9, Udaya Shelters, Near  
Railway Track, Nallakunta, Hyd.  
From: Shyamala.I & Family  
Ph: 9848167882, 9160758441

(S/1920/D01166)

**1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

Those who believe in me even though  
they die, they live.

  
**AROKIA MARY (Vinodha)**  
W/o Frank Edward Martin  
DOB: 18-02-1949 DOD: 02-11-2018  
Daughters: SHARLET & FLY,  
JENNIFER & FLY

(S/1920/D01166)

**REMEMBRANCE**

You will always remain in our hearts  
forever. May her soul rest in peace.

  
**Late LIZZY**  
Inserted by:  
CHILDREN GRAND CHILDREN &  
GREAT GRAND CHILDREN

(S/1920/D01168)

**FOND REMEMBRANCE OF OUR PARENTS**

The memory of the righteous is blessed. Prov 10:7

  
**Mr. M.K. DEVADATHAM**  
DOD: 08-02-2003  
**Mrs. MARY SAVITHRY**  
DOD: 02-11-2006  
We cherish your loving memories and  
live with hope to meet you at his feet.  
Inserted by:  
Children, Grand Children &  
Great Grand Children. Ph: 9985033354

(S/1920/D01159)


**TENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever. P. 23-6


  
**SHIRLEY MARIE CLEUR**  
DOB: 29.9.1940 DOD: 3.11.2009  
Mom your life was a  
Blessing your memory  
A Treasure you are loved  
Beyond words and missed  
Beyond measure  
From Her Loving: Daughters / Sons,  
Daughters-in-law, Sons-in-law &  
Grand Children.

(S/1920/D01162)

**OBITUARY**

  
**PHILIP JOY**  
DOB: 23.11.1938 DOD: 31.10.2019  
Funeral service: 02/11/2019  
Residence: 1.30pm, St George church: 2.30pm,  
St George Cemetery, Medchal: 4pm  
Inserted by  
**St George Orthodox Church, Jeedimetla.**

**OBITUARY**

  
**HEMALATHA RABINDRANATH**  
With Deep Grief we inform You That  
Our MOTHER Expired on 31-10-2019.  
Last Journey begins : 12:00 PM From  
Adarsh Nagar House & Reaches  
Swarg Dham Crematorium,  
Lothukunta, ALWAL by 1:30 PM  
In Grief :  
Sahana, Aparna, Rakshith & Violet  
Ph: 9849777811 / 9885133362

**REMEMBRANCE**


You will always remain  
in our hearts forever.  
May her soul rest in peace.

  
**Late PRECILLA JENNIFER**  
DOB: 17-02-1983 DOD: 04-06-2014  
Inserted by:  
**MARTIN & FAMILY**

(S/1920/D01169)

**3rd ANNIVERSARY**

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith"  
...2 Timothy 4:7  
In Loving Memory of...

  
**Mr. A. BABU RAO**  
Retd. Physical Director, Methodist Boys High School  
DOB: 12-08-1947 DOD: 02-11-2016  
We Miss your Presence DAD!  
But Sweetly Rings your Voice in our Hearts.  
With much love and Hope.  
From Family Members. Ph: 9246886721

(S/1920/D01168)


**5th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE**

The memory of the just is blessed. Pro. 10:7

  
**Mrs. PRABHAVATHY**  
(W/o Mr. G. Raj Kumar)  
Called to Glory: 02.11.2014  
We miss you every moment of our lives.  
You live in the hearts and minds of the  
loving family you left behind.  
Inserted by: Husband  
Children and Grand Children

(S/1920/D01158)

**11th ANNIVERSARY**

  
**SARDARNI KARTAR KAUR SOKHI**  
W/o Sardarni Singh Sokhi  
Though you are not physically with us, you are  
living in our hearts we took back to yours  
memories. When we feel sad your smile will cheer  
us up. Your guidance and love is always with us.  
Inserted by: Family Members  
Seethapalmandi, Ph: 9849000079





## Police 'zulum'

BJP's Krishna Saagar Rao condemns 'highhandedness' of senior police in dealing with Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay who was mourning death of RTC employee

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 2 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

# Politics

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5

## Palla Rajeshwar not invited, upset

AVINASH PUJARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Telangana Rashtra Samiti general secretary and MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy is said to be upset because he was not invited for the inauguration by industries minister K.T. Rama Rao of the Green Industrial Park in Yadadri Bhongir district on Friday.

Mr Reddy represents the erstwhile Nalgonda district of which the current Yadadri district is a part. He expressed his displeasure to his close associates at not being invited and his name not being put on the inaugural plaque at the venue.

However, when reporters asked him how he felt about being ignored, Mr Rajeshwar Reddy said that he did not want to comment.

Party leaders are discussing reasons for not inviting Mr Reddy for the programme when he is known to be close to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for many years.

■ **TRS SOURCES** said that during the Huzurnagar bypolls, Rajeshwar Reddy's prediction was proved wrong. Though he was put in charge of the election, he was not confident of the TRS candidate winning and this irked reportedly irked the Chief Minister.

Sources in the party disclosed that during the recent by-election in Huzurnagar, Mr Rajeshwar Reddy's prediction was proved wrong. Though he was put in charge of the election, he was not confident of the TRS candidate winning and this irked reportedly irked the Chief Minister.

Sources disclosed that putting Mr Reddy in charge of the Huzurnagar election led to differences between him and the local minister G. Jagadish Reddy. This is one of the reasons for the widening gap between the TRS top bosses and Mr Rajeshwar Reddy.



Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao speaks at a function to mark the inauguration of the TIF-MSME Green Industrial Park at Dandumalkapur in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Friday.

## Project will create 50k jobs

KTR says Green Industrial Park will be extended to 2,000 acres

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao said that the state government's aim is to attract major investments and provide employment opportunities for the local unemployed youth in the state.

He was inaugurating the TIF-MSME Green Industrial Park at Dandumalkapur in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Friday. The TIF-MSME Green Industrial Park is jointly developed by Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) and Telangana Industrialists Federation (TIF).

The minister said that this first-of-its-kind pollution-free industrial park in the country has been set up in 482 acres, attracting investments of ₹1,552 crore and the park can house more than 450 industrial units, providing direct employment of 19,000 and indirect employment of 30,000.

He assured of expansion of the park in 2,000 acres in the near future he asked the district col-

lector and principal secretary industries department to take necessary steps to acquire lands adjacent to the park by paying the legitimate compensation to the farmers and land owners.

Mr Rama Rao said that a skill development center is also being set up at the park to train the local youth. With a walk-to-work concept, a housing colony is being built in 192 acres in the park premises.

Maintaining that the MSMEs and industrialists are happy today with sufficient power supply to their industries and the Telangana state is now a power surplus state and that the government is able to provide 24 hrs uninterrupted power supply, not just to industries but for agriculture and also to the households.

Making it clear that the Telangana state government will not let industrialization happen at the cost of environment and green cover, he said that lands have been given only to Green Industries,

## Now, Komatireddy Jr sings praises of KTR

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, who has been praising the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recent days, surprised everyone by praising industries minister K.T. Rama Rao.

Mr Reddy was present at the inauguration of Green Industrial Park by Mr Rama Rao. The park is situated in Dandumalkapur in Yadadri Bhongir district.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr Rajagopal Reddy said, "It is fortunate for Telangana people to have industries minister K.T.

Rama Rao who is well experienced in the industries field."

He thanked the minister for inaugurating the Green Industrial Park and said that the people of Telangana state believe in the TRS and this voted it to power for a second term. He said that lakhs of youth are waiting in hope after the formation of Telangana state, and the Green Industrial Park will bring light into the lives of such people. He also thanked the people who have given their lands for this Industrial Park at cheaper rates.

The Congress MLA's praise of the TRS minister has become a hot

topic for discussion not only in the Congress but also in the TRS.

There had been speculation earlier that Mr Reddy may join the BJP or the TRS. He then announced that he was going to join the BJP.

But the Huzurnagar byelection result and the results of Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana, where the BJP did not do as well as expected, may have changed his mind.

His continuation in the Congress will depend on whether his brother, MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, becomes president of the Telangana state Congress, said party leaders.

and not red and orange industries in the TIF-MSME green industrial park.

Minister Jagadish Reddy, TIF president Sudhir Reddy, TSIIC managing director

Narsimha Reddy and IT and industries principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan participated.

**GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION**  
Special Project Department  
S.P.D.C.No.B1/0789/2019  
**CORRIGENDUM-I**  
The Special Project Department has invited Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Selection of Concessionaire to install, Commission and Maintain underground City Wide Optical Fiber Connectivity for Chennai City under PPP mode and was published in Deccan Chronicle and New Indian Express English Newspapers on **01.10.2019**. The following changes are to be published.  

As Published	Revised
Due date and time of submission of Eoi <b>04.11.2019</b> upto <b>3.00 p.m</b>	Due date and time of submission of Eoi <b>21.11.2019</b> upto <b>3.00 p.m</b>
Date and Time of opening of Eoi <b>05.11.2019</b> at <b>3.30 p.m</b>	Date and Time of opening of Eoi <b>22.11.2019</b> at <b>3.30 p.m</b>

All other Conditions remains same.

DIPR/3889/Tender/2019  
Superintending Engineer (Special Projects)

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**  
Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg  
(Old Minto Road),  
New Delhi - 110002  
**Subject:- Registration of Consumer organisations with TRAI**  
Applications are invited from the consumer organisations working for the interest of consumers for registration with TRAI under "Registration of Consumer Organisations Regulations 2013" dated 21.02.2013. The detailed information is available on TRAI website at <https://main.trai.gov.in/consumer-info/telecom/consumer-groups>. Interested organisations may send their applications along with requisite document to the Joint Advisor (CA).  
The last date for receipt of application form is **29.11.2019**.  
davp 06202/11/0025/1920

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001  
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SG033813; Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
**OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER / METERING**  
C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, Punjab - 147001  
Tel. No. 0175-2218871, Fax 0175-2200284,  
e-mail: [se-hq-metering@pspcpl.in](mailto:se-hq-metering@pspcpl.in), Registration No.: 33813  
E-tendering portal: <https://pspcpl.abcpocprocure.com>

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  

Tender Enquiry No.	MQP-154/2019-20/PO (M)
Short Description	Supply, installation, commissioning and integration with existing MDM system of PSPCL of "ISI" marked, LT AC 3-Phase, 4-wire, CT operated Static, DLMS Compliant, Energy Meters Category 'D3' SMART METERS of ratio -/5A of Accuracy Class-0.5S (for both active and reactive energy) with 'Optical port' along with Compatible Software.
Prebid Meeting	08.11.2019 upto 11.00 Hrs
Last date and time for down-loading of tender documents	12.12.2019 upto 11.00 Hrs
Last date and time for Bid submission	13.12.2019 upto 11.00 Hrs
Date and time of opening of tender	13.12.2019 at 11.30 Hrs

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <https://pspcpl.abcpocprocure.com>.  
Note : Corrigendum, if any after the publication of this tender enquiry shall only be uploaded on website <https://pspcpl.abcpocprocure.com> and will not be published in newspapers.

C-44/19  
RO - C-7679  
DY. CE/HMC  
PSPCL, Patiala.

**सैन्य नर्सिंग सेवा में शामिल हों**  
**बीएससी (नर्सिंग) कोर्स - 2020**  
**JOIN MILITARY NURSING SERVICE**  
**B.Sc (NURSING) COURSE-2020**  
आवेदन केवल महिला उम्मीदवारों से 4 साल बीएससी नर्सिंग कोर्स - 2020 के लिए आमंत्रित हैं। पात्रता नियम और शर्तों के लिए, 09 नवम्बर 2019 का रोजगार समाचार देखें।  
यह वेबसाइट [www.indianarmy.nic.in](http://www.indianarmy.nic.in) और [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध होगा।  
ऑनलाइन आवेदनों के लिए [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in) वेबसाइट पर पंजीकरण 14 नवम्बर 2019 से 02 दिसम्बर 2019 तक खुलेगा।  
Applications are invited from **FEMALE CANDIDATES** only for 4 years B.Sc (Nursing) Course 2020.  
For the Eligibility, Terms and Conditions see Employment News/Rozgar Samachar of **09 Nov 2019**. The same will be available on website [www.indianarmy.nic.in](http://www.indianarmy.nic.in) and [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in).  
Registration for online applications will open from 14 Nov 2019 to 02 Dec 2019 on [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in).  
davp10601/11/0026/1920



KCR has no sense. Due to his arrogance, families of 50,000 staff are suffering

— **Ponnam Prabhakar**  
Congress leader

## City activist challenges UAPA

**Hyderabad:** Challenging the constitutional validity of the impugned Unlawful Activities Prevention (Amendment) Act of 2019 Nawab Mohammed Kazam Ali Khan, president of Ambedkar National Congress, has filed a public interest petition in the Supreme Court seeking to declare the law as unconstitutional. He said the law as violative of Article 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution. Writ petition No. 1317/2019 was filed under Article 32 expressing apprehension of being designated as 'terrorist' by the government's discretion would significantly endanger and limit the exercise of free expression secured under Article 19 of the Constitution. — **INN**

## Manuu plans Azad Day fete

**Hyderabad:** Maulana Azad National Urdu University will celebrate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first education minister, from November 4 to 11. Chief guest Syed Aminul Hasan Jafri, MLC, will inaugurate the Azad Day celebrations and address students of Manuu Model School in Vattepalli at 10.30 am on Monday. Ms Syeda Salwa Fatima, a pilot, be the guest of honour and Manuu V-C Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz will preside. The Maulana Azad Day Memorial Lecture, 'Siasat, Taleem aur Saqafat: Maulana Abul Kalam Azad aur Hindustani Qaumiyat ky tameer' will be delivered by Prof. Rizwan Gaiser of Jamia Millia Islamia at the DDE DDE Auditorium at 10.30 am on November 11, Manuu said.

## A COP THAT CHINNA JEEYAR FETES ANNUALLY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 1

A police officer will be felicitated for the 25th year running by the Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamy during the thiru nakshatra celebration of the Jeeyar Peetham. Vijayawada DCP, D. Koteswara Rao, is the recipient of this unique honour for a man in a uniform.

The seer has been felicitating the police officer who helped solve the theft of idols from his ashram located in Seetanagaram of Tadepalli for decades now.

The ashram was started in November 1993. On November 14, eleven idols of Perumal Peetham were found stolen. A large number devotees in rushed to the ashram and demanded that the culprits be banned. The seer announced that he would commit 'atmarpanam' if the police fail to trace the idols in 36 hours. Rao was then working at sub-inspector of Tadepalli and began investigations. He took a vow that he would not eat food till he found the idols. He started an intensive search, and his team found the idols under some bushes on the second day. He returned the idols to the ashram. The police arrested two persons for the theft.

As a gesture of thanksgiving, Swamy invited Rao to the thiru nakshatra celebration in 1994 and asked him to begin the event by performing sahara kalasabhishekam to the idols. The ashram conducts the thiru nakshatra celebration every year in different places, including in the US. Mr Rao has been invited to all the celebrations and felicitated there.

This year, the ashram will be conducting the programme in Muchintal, Shamshabad. Mr Rao said it was a rare opportunity and he was very fortunate to get a chance to perform the holy rituals.

## SEC ready for 2-phase civic poll

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

The State Election Commission is said to be gearing up to hold elections to the urban local bodies in two phases to side-step the stay orders on 77 municipalities. It will likely issue the notification on November 4.

Sources in the SEC said that it was taking steps to hold elections to 121 municipalities and 10 municipal corporations if the High Court vacat-

ed the stays against the 77 municipalities in one phase. If there is any delay in the court cases, then it will first hold elections to the ULBs which are litigation free.

In fact the term of the majority of 68 old municipalities and Karimnagar, Ramagundam and Nizamabad municipal corporations ended on July 2.

After formation of the 73 new municipalities and seven new corporations, the government

has proposed elections to the 138 ULBs, but the number was reduced to 121 with the court cases against the division and delimitation of wards and finalisation of the boundaries of the new entities.

The state government this could hold polls to only 66 ULBs, but the ruling party is planning to go for the elections to 121 ULBs by moving petitions to vacate the interim stay orders.

The government has

moved the vacate stay petitions and the single judge who is dealing the cases made it clear that he will take final call on the petitions on Monday.

Sources said that if the High Court clears the cases on Monday the SEC would go for single phase elections for the 128 municipalities and Karimnagar, Ramagundam, Nizamabad, Bandlaguda Jagir, Peerzadiguda, Boduppal, Jawaharnagar, Badangpet and Nizampet ULBs.

ACUTE | DISTRESS

■ **Loans not waived, no Rythu Bandhu funds**

## TRS leaves farmers stranded

IREDDY SRINIVAS  
REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

The rabi season throws a big challenge for the farmers who are worried over not receiving the Rythu Bandhu money and the government's delay in waiving their agricultural loans.

During the Assembly election campaign in 2018, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had promised that the Telangana Rashtra Samiti government would waive farmer loans up to ₹1 lakh in three phases.

It is close to one year since the formation of the second TRS government, but no measures have been taken to start the waiver process. The government has mentioned allotting ₹6,000 crore for loan waivers during the recent Budget session.

Telangana state has around 44 lakh farmers, who would benefit from the loan waiver. The

agriculture and finance departments have estimated that the total loans taken by the farmers amount to about ₹29,000 crore. Apart from the allotted ₹6,000 crore, there is no clarity on how many phases the waiver process will involve. The CM had also announced that they would recall the earlier systems of depositing the waiver amount to the banks and issue cheques to the farmers to deposit in the banks. However, the departments concerned have not taken any measures to start the process with the allocated budget.

For the loans under ₹1 lakh, farmers get the benefit of a waiver of 4 per cent interest, for which the state has to pay ₹800 crore to the respective banks. As the banks did not receive the waiver money, they are collecting the interest from the farmers. In the recent Assembly session, when opposition parties raised this point, the CM

Around 70 per cent of the beneficiaries are marginal farmers. It would be a huge burden for them to go for the renewal of the loans and pay the interest. How would even ₹6,000 crore be sufficient?

— **S. MALLA REDDY**  
All India Kisan Sabha chief

said that if the farmers pay the interest, the government would pay it back to them.

As the rabi season is nearing, farmers are facing difficulties in getting fresh loans from the banks as the pending amounts have not been released yet.

Meanwhile, out of 55 lakh beneficiaries under the Rythu Bandhu scheme for the kharif season, about 14 lakh farmers are yet to receive the money. It is learned that due to the financial crisis, the government has used the funds allocated for the welfare schemes for other purposes. With

this, the farmers are worried about whether they would receive the money at all and how to proceed with farming activities.

All India Kisan Sabha president S. Malla Reddy alleged that even after completion of a year since the elections, the state government has not taken any steps toward waiving the loans. "Why would the farmers borrow if they have money? But, the government is asking them to clear the loans and says it will pay them back. With no clarity on when the farmers would receive the cheques, how will they pay the money," he questioned.

"Around 70 per cent of the beneficiaries are marginal farmers. It would be a huge burden for them to go for the renewal of the loans and pay the interest. How would even ₹6,000 crore be sufficient for the loan waivers and interest waivers," asked Mr Malla Reddy.

## CPI LEADER: STATE TELLING LIES ON RTC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

CPI senior leader K. Sambasiva Rao on Friday alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has been making false statements with regard to the RTC staff strike and his officers were blatantly misleading court by placing incorrect facts and figures with regard to RTC losses.

While addressing a press conference in the Makhdoom Bhavan in the city he said that if Mr Chandrasekhar Rao continued with his attitude the people of the state will revolt like in the Philippines.

While thanking all those who supported his six-day hunger strike in support of RTC employees, he said that the state government has raking up the new litigation before the court every time the case came up for hearing which is leading to the suicides and deaths of the RTC workers.

He said asked how the government expected profits from the service oriented departments like education, medical, and RTC.

He alleged that corporates who had obstructed the Telangana statehood movement have now become close aide of the Chief Minister.

■ **CPI SENIOR LEADER** K. Sambasiva Rao, who was on a fast for six days, asked how the government could expect to profit from the service oriented departments like education, medical and health and the RTC.





## Global mark

British Deputy High Commissioner Dr Andrew Fleming immensely pleased with Hyderabad being recognised as Unesco gastronomy city

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 2 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

PAGE  
6



1 library per village and 1 toilet per home should become a people's movement

— M. Venkaiah Naidu  
Vice-President

## CBI INSISTED ON JAGAN'S APPEARANCE

From Page 1

Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy sought exemption on the grounds that he has several responsibilities as Chief Minister and appearing personally in a court situated in Hyderabad and travelling back to Amaravati would "interfere with his discharge of duty."

At the hearing, the counsel for Mr Reddy informed the court that the Chief Minister's security protocol would cost up to ₹60 lakh for each appearance, a burden on state exchequer for making arrangements to enable his personal appearance before the court.

However, countering Mr Reddy's counsel's contentions, the CBI filed a counter-petition stating that Mr Reddy was the principal beneficiary in several fraudulent transactions of quid pro quo to his firms, and therefore, his appearance in the court during the trial was necessary.

"The petitioner seeking dispensation of his personal attendance in court on whatever grounds, will virtually entail him to liberate himself from lawful restrictions imposed by the court. Exemption would give him an unsolicited liberty to do whatever he wants and influence witnesses behind the iron walls of political, money and muscle powers," the CBI argued.

Following hearing of arguments of both parties, the court rejected Mr Reddy's petition and ruled that he has to appear before the court in Hyderabad every Friday.

When Mr Reddy got bail in the illegal investments cases filed by the CBI, he was asked to be present before the court during the case proceedings. In 2017, the Hyderabad High Court had rejected a similar plea by Mr Reddy to be exempt from appearing in the special court. He had pleaded for exemption, citing his duties as a legislator and leader of the opposition. The High Court, however, ruled that he can apply for an exemption on a week-by-week basis.

Mr Reddy has not appeared in court since he became Chief Minister in May 2019.

## POLAVARAM WORKS BEGIN WITH PRAYER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 1

With the AP High Court clearing the decks, the state government issued orders entrusting head works of the Polavaram project as well as the hydel works to Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited.

MEIL had bagged the reverse tender for Polavaram head works and earth-cum-rockfill dam hydropower station issued by the YSRC government, which had cancelled the previous contract signed by the TD government with the Navayuga Group. Megha bid 12.6 per cent lesser compared to the state government's base price.

Works on the project commenced formally with MEIL representatives conducting bhumi puja.

Addressing media at the YSRC central office here on occasion of the State Formation Day on Friday, irrigation minister P. Anil Kumar Yadav expressed happiness that the High Court had vacated the stay on the Polavaram project granted by a lower court. He asserted that the HC verdict was vindication of the government stand on reverse tendering. Appearances cast by Opposition leaders on the issue were only politically motivated, Mr Yadav stated.

He assured that Polavaram as well as all other projects would be completed in time.



Differently abled children face the risk of accidents as they walk on Nampally main road which has no pavement, on Friday. Children from various states are in Hyderabad to attend a sports meet. — GANDHI

# Tout makes big biz of VVIP darshan letters

TS' T. Rajaiah's letters misused 36 times, finds probe

AVINASH P.  
SUBBRAMANYAM I DC  
TIRUMALA, NOV. 1

Officials of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Board and the police were shocked when an ongoing investigation into black marketing of the most sought after VIP break darshan tickets at Tirumala took an unexpected turn.

Officials found that a tout, who was recently booked by the police in connection with the black marketing racket, had misused the recommendation letters of 46 VVIPs including ministers, MLAs, MPs and bureaucrats of both Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state, several times.

It may be recalled that on October 29, the TTD's Vigilance and Security wing took one Sriram Veerachari, 39, into custody after he was found selling VIP break darshan tickets — which he obtained using the recommendation letter of Mandapeta MLA Jogeswara Rao to devotees at exorbitant rates.

During the course of investigation, Veerachari confessed to officials that he had obtained a letter from the Mandapeta MLA by pleading that his relatives wanted to have VIP break darshan at Tirumala. Subsequently, he sold the tickets to other devotees for an exorbitant price.

Veerachari confessed to the TTD vigilance wing that he has been operating the black mar-

ketting racket at Tirumala with the help of his accomplices, a journalist with a local news magazine, identified as Thota Venkateswara Rao, Veera Venkata Krishna and Subbarayuni Umashankar.

Further investigation has unearthed that the key middlemen, Veerachari, has gained access to more than 46 ministers, MLAs, MPs,

and bureaucrats of AP and TS and obtained recommendation letters from them on the same pretext: his relatives wanted darshan tickets. Veerachari said he misused the recommendation letters of VVIPs, at several times over the past several months.

According to the list, Veerachari has misused the recommendation letter of Mr Tatikonda Rajaiah, then deputy

chief minister of Telangana state, over 36 times. This was followed by the recommendation letters of Mr Kaleru Venkatesh, MLA of Amberpet, over 27 times and Mr D. Vinaya Bhaskar, MLA, Warangal, 17 times.

Veerachari also misused the recommendation letter of AP home minister M. Sucharitha four times apart from other VVIPs.

Devasthanams (TTD) issued termination letters to more than 142 retired officers who were continuing on contractual or outsourcing basis in the TTD.

However, there has been no official confirmation yet about weeding out Dollar Seshadri, who attained superannuation in 2007, 12 years after he took over as the superintendent of the Bokkasam — the temple treasury. He still continues as the officer on special duty of the Lord Venkateswara temple at Tirumala.

According to sources, there are technical difficulties in implementing the GO in the case of Dollar Seshadri. Officials are currently holding talks with the state government in his case and it is expected that the official confirmation will be out any-

time soon following the government's direction.

Seshadri is known for his VIP management skills and has, over the years, developed direct access to VVIPs, be it presidents, prime ministers, governors, chief ministers, union and state ministers, judges or top business personalities.

There was strong objection from various quarters over the continuation of Dollar Seshadri in service at the temple. Several former priests and Hindu rights activists have openly expressed their objection to his continuation in the post.

Those objections have now been strengthened following the latest developments. It has to be seen now how the state government will deal with this matter, sources said.

## Mancherial newborn is serious

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS I  
DC  
MANCHERIAL, NOV. 1

Gudimallu Rajagattu and Sona's newborn infant's health condition was reportedly serious as the baby was facing a big decrease in platelet count.

The newborn was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Mancherial. Sona died after giving birth to the baby and her husband had predeceased her. A total of four members of the baby's family have died of dengue. Sona's funeral was held in Mancherial on Thursday.

It is learnt that the doctors asked the family to arrange blood to extract platelets to administer to the newborn.

The doctors collected blood samples from Rajagattu's parents and his elder son, Sri Vikas, who is seven years old.

■ IT IS LEARNT that the doctors have asked the baby's family to arrange blood to extract platelets to administer to the newborn. Four members of the baby's family have died of dengue in the last 20 days.

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-  
**SI No. 1. e-Tender No. :** ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-08-19-20. **Name of work :** "Design and drawings" and "Soil Exploration" along with preparation of L-section & X-Section of Road & Railway line, Land Plans, Design and drawing of all Bridges & RE Wall also collecting all required input data for design near New Prop. ROB at Phulsarai (Between Km. 34/5-5) in CIG Section of Ranchi Road-Paritala Doubling Work. **Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) :** 34,58,965.98. **Cost of tender form in (Rs.) :** 3,000.00. **Earnest money in (Rs.) :** 69,200. **Period of work completion :** 03 (Three) Months. **2. e-Tender No. :** ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-34-19-20. **Name of work :** Construction of Satellite shed for track machine & miscellaneous work at Ranchi Road Station under Dy. CE/CON/HZME/2 in Dhanbad Division in ECR. **Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) :** 5,51,95,164.65. **Cost of tender form in (Rs.) :** 10,000.00. **Earnest money in (Rs.) :** 4,26,000.00. **Period of work completion :** 06 (Six) Months. **3. e-Tender No. :** ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-35-19-20. **Name of work :** Soil investigation, Design and drawings of ROR/Major bridge, Minor bridges, RUBs and all relevant bridges for Parasnath-Madhuan-Girdih New BG Railway line Project. **Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) :** 3,83,52,473.55. **Cost of tender form in (Rs.) :** 10,000.00. **Earnest money in (Rs.) :** 3,41,800.00. **Period of work completion :** 09 Months. Date and time for closing of tender : 22.11.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender information with full information is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. **Note :** In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> at least 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in connection with this e-tender. Any change/addendum/corrigendum will be published on IREPS website only.  
**CAO/CON/South E. C. Rly., MHX, Patna**  
**PR/01566/CON/ENGG/T/19-20/68**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
**No. ECR-CAO-CON-C-N-ETN-101-19-20**  
E-Tender is invited on Behalf of the president of India for the under mentioned work  
**Particular : SI No. 1. Name of work with it's location :** Works in connection with Yard Remodeling work at Muzaffarpur, related with construction of two additional stabling tracks towards Ramdayalu Nagar end and Kaptipura end each including the basic facilities, involving E/W, extension of Bridges, track linking etc. at MFP Yard. **2. Approx. cost of the work of :** Rs. 17,72,29,065.91. **3. Earnest money to be deposited :** Rs. 10,36,200/-. **4. Date and time for closing of tender :** 19.11.2019 at 14.30 hrs. **5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. :** The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. **Note :** In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> at least 15 day before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.  
**CAO/CON/North E. C. Rly., MHX, Patna**  
**PR/01563/CON/ENGG/T/19-20/40**

**Tender Notice**  
**No. DNR/S&T/Sig/2019/13 dtd. 30.10.2019**  
Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for the following work:  
**1. Name of work with its location :** Reliability of signalling gears for the equipment Axle counter, UFSBI etc through media diversity arrangements at 35 nos of block section under DNR Division. **2. Approximate cost of work :** Rs. 16580992.70 **3. Earnest Money :** Rs. 232900/- **4. Last Date & Time of Submission :** Up to 15.00 hrs. on 28.11.2019 **5. Opening of tender :** 15.30 hrs. on 28.11.2019 **6. Website particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen :** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **7. Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained :** Sr. Divnl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur. **Note :** Any corrigendum if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days  
**Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer E.C.Railway, Danapur**  
**PR/01556/DNR/S&T/T/19-20/36**

**Open E-Tender Notice**  
**No. RS-Outsourcing-WCC-MGS-19 Date : 30.10.2019**  
Sr. DME/ECR/MGS on behalf of the President of India invite "Open" "E-Tender on Two Packet System from the eligible and experienced agency or contractor for e-tender no. RS-Outsourcing-WCC-MGS-19. Particular are as under:-  
**Details are as below:- S.No. 1. Name of the work with its location :** Outsourcing of various activity WCC to provide an extra examination batch in each shift at DRY/MGS for a period of 02 years. **2. Approx. cost of the work :** Rs. 3,62,74,630/- (Rupees Three crore sixty two lakh seventy four thousand six hundred thirty) only. **3. Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 3,31,400/- (Rupees Three lakhs thirty one thousand four hundred) only. **4. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender :** From 01.11.2019 up to closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 15.11.2019 **5. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** IREPS Website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids online through this website only. Manual offer are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
**ADME (Prt.) E.C.Railway, Mughalsarai**  
**PR/01560/MGS/MECH/T/19-20/44**

**CSIR - CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) PO: CIMAP Lucknow - 226015**  
**CORRIGENDUM/RE-TENDER**  
In continuation to the e-tender published on CPP portal dated -11.10.2019 for the work "Renovation and upgradation of existing Nursery Shed into Boiler Shed at CSIR-CIMAP R.C. Hyderabad" the date has been revised as below:-

Tender No.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest money deposit (Rs.)	Bid Submission Start date	Bid Submission end date	Bid opening date
68_016/809/2019-MP (Works)	27,28,435.00	54,569.00	01.11.2019	08.11.2019	13.11.2019

Bidders may please go through revised tender documents and BOQ available on <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> **(Controller of Administration)**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Tender Notice No. 09 / 2019-2020 Dated: 01.11.2019**  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**  
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	15190087	SET OF MATERIAL SPARES FOR E CHECK	8 NOS	18.11.19
02	051915028	KIT OF FILTER FOR KTA SOL	654 SET	25.11.19
03	08195655	STAND FOR SLIDING BOOM	2800 NOS	03.12.19
04	08195656	SUPPLY OF DIADO TYPE TOKENLESS	5 PAIRS	03.12.19
05	08195658	SET OF EMERGENCY SLIDING BOOM	400 SET	03.12.19
06	041900228A	COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS TO IS	237067 KGS	04.12.19

**NOTE:-** 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. **3521/2019**  
**Serving Customers with a Smile**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CHHATTISGARH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY PROJECT CIRCLE NO. 02 KANKER, DISTRICT NORTH BASTAR KANKER.**  
**E-Procurement Tender Notice**  
**NIT No. 171 / TS 1627 / CGRRDA / 2019 Kanker 30.10.2019**  
The Superintending Engineer, Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency, Project Circle No. 02 Kanker on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of 13 number of works (Length - 27.50 km) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna of 2018-19 Batch - II (100-249) with estimated cost Rs. 1431.07 Lacs in District Kanker (Including GST) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with unified registration system (e-registration). Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 04.11.2019 after 17.30 hours.  
**Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (i) Online payment receipt / Challan submitted by bidder for form of tender and (ii) Online payment receipt / Challan / NEFT submitted by bidder for bid security (EMD) and (iii) scan copy in appropriate form of original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provision of clause 4.4B(a)(ii) of ITB.  
**Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement as per time schedule.** For further details please log on to <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. In future of any related corrigendum would be seen in the notice section of the website.  
**Sd/- (MUKESH SANTOSHI) Superintending Engineer Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency Project Circle No. 02, Kanker Dist. Kanker**  
**E mail ID: sejd2@gmail.com**  
**S-23336/5**

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**कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन द्वितीय तल सतपुडा भवन भोपाल मध्यप्रदेश**  
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक/04/2019-20/643 भोपाल, दिनांक 29.10.2019  
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन मध्यप्रदेश की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य संपादित करने के लिये निविदा पोर्टल ऑनलाइन (निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम) (<http://mptenders.gov.in>) Department Directorate of Health Services से 02 लिफाका से प्रोजेक्ट श्रेष्ठतम पी.आई.डी.ए. लोक निर्माण विभाग भोपाल द्वारा भवन एवं विद्युतीकरण एस.ओ.आर. 01/08/2014 निविदा सूचना जारी होने तक किये गये संशोधनों सहित (भास शासन द्वारा प्राथमिकित पी.एस.टी. की शर्तें लागू होंगी) प्रपत्र "अ" फॉर्म में परसेटिंग बैसिस पर उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

क्र.	टेन्डर नं.	कार्य का नाम	ठेके की अनुमानित लागत	अमानत राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	2019_DH S_60495	जिला कटनी विकासखण्ड मुड़वारा एवं बडवारा में 06 प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र एवं 08 उपस्वास्थ्य केन्द्र भवनों को हेल्थ एण्ड वेलनेस सेंटर के रूप में सुदृढीकरण हेतु मरम्मत/उन्नयन एवं पेंटिंग कार्य। (पृष्ठ क्रमांक-1)	78.88	78880.00	10000.00	09 माह वर्षा ऋतु सहित	
2	2019_DH S_60496	जिला कटनी विकासखण्ड विजयनगरखण्ड एवं डीमरखंडा में 07 प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र एवं 06 उपस्वास्थ्य केन्द्र भवनों को हेल्थ एण्ड वेलनेस सेंटर के रूप में सुदृढीकरण हेतु मरम्मत/उन्नयन एवं पेंटिंग कार्य। (पृष्ठ क्रमांक-2)	79.82	79820.00	10000.00	09 माह वर्षा ऋतु सहित	
3	2019_DH S_60497	जिला कटनी विकासखण्ड बरोहीखण्ड एवं नेली में 07 प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र एवं 06 उपस्वास्थ्य केन्द्र भवनों को हेल्थ एण्ड वेलनेस सेंटर के रूप में सुदृढीकरण हेतु मरम्मत/उन्नयन एवं पेंटिंग कार्य। (पृष्ठ क्रमांक-3)	82.77	82770.00	10000.00	09 माह वर्षा ऋतु सहित	लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार
4	2019_DH S_60498	जिला झाबुआ विकासखण्ड पटनाखण्ड के अनर्गत उपस्वास्थ्य केन्द्र कुडवाण, पाडेवा एवं जवावली में नवीन भवन निर्माण कार्य मय विद्युत कनेक्टिंग, सेनेटरी एवं बाउंड्रीवाल का निर्माण कार्य।	64.80	64800.00	10000.00	12 माह वर्षा ऋतु सहित	
5	2019_DH S_60499	सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र बैरसिया में छत की वाटरप्रूफिंग, रंगई-पुलाई, जनप्रदाय एवं सेवाएं लाईन की मरम्मत एवं संस्थापन कार्य।	15.25	30500.00	5000.00	06 माह वर्षा ऋतु सहित	
6	2019_DH S_60500	जिला डिण्डोरी विकासखण्ड जापुरा के अनर्गत ग्राम सभागार में नवीन भवन निर्माण कार्य मय विद्युत कनेक्टिंग, सेनेटरी इत्यादि निर्माण कार्य।	20.00	40000.00	2000.00	06 माह वर्षा ऋतु सहित	

**1. कार्य से संबंधित एन.आई.टी. वेबसाइट (<http://mptenders.gov.in>) पर देखी जा सकती है। 2. निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन दिनांक 02/11/2019 प्रातः 10:30 बजे से दिनांक 14/11/2019 सांय 17:30 बजे तक क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। 3. एन.आई.टी. में कोई भी संशोधन होने की स्थिति में वेबसाइट (<http://mptenders.gov.in>) पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा एवं समाचार पत्रों में सार्वजनिक। 4. आवश्यक अभिलेख कार्यालय यंत्री, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन द्वितीय तल सतपुडा भवन भोपाल के कार्यालय में सार्वजनिक प्रदर्शित दिनांक 18/11/2019 सांय 17:30 बजे तक स्पीड/रजिस्टर्ड डाक कार्यालय में जमा किये जा सकते हैं। 5. जो निविदाकार लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत नहीं है ऐसे निविदाकार लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत करने हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया हो वे भी निविदा में भाग लेने की पात्रता रखते हैं लेकिन अनुबंध निष्पादन के पूर्व लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत होना अनिवार्य है।  
**कार्यपालन यंत्री, संभाग भोपाल, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, द्वितीय तल सतपुडा भवन भोपाल**  
**G-18634/19****





## Fresh trouble

A court restored an application seeking criminal proceedings against Devendra Fadnavis for alleged non-disclosure of two criminal cases in election affidavit

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 2 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

# Nation

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Government should take all steps to ensure security of apple transporters

— Karan Singh  
Congress leader

## BRIEF

### CBI begins works on Narada chargesheet

**Kolkata:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated the process of preparing its chargesheet in the Narada sting operation case. It has sought permission from the Lok Sabha speaker to book three Trinamul MPs, Sougata Roy, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Prasun Banerjee in its chargesheet. While Roy is an MP from Dum Dum, Dastidar represents Barasat while Banerjee is from Howrah. According to sources, the CBI's anti-corruption branch sent a letter to seek permission from the Lok Sabha speaker to book them in April for the first time. Since they are yet to get a response, they have again sent a letter.

### SOVAN GETS SECURITY COVER BACK

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 1**

Within two days of meeting Trinamul supremo Mamata Banerjee at her residence in Kalighat, Behala East MLA Sovan Chatterjee has got back his security cover from her government indicating that his return to the party is only a matter of time now. The former Kolkata mayor has been provided with the Y-plus category protection by the state government. It includes eight personnel of the special branch of the Kolkata Police who will guard his residence at Golpark and also escort him during his visit. State home department sources, however, claimed that he was given the protection only after reviewing threat perception. Trinamul insiders indicated that the review took place after Chatterjee met the Chief Minister on October 29. Already four of the security personnel have joined duty since Thursday night. Many of them see the reinstatement of security cover as a gift for Bhatridwitiya to 'Kanon.'

### SUSPICIOUS BAG FOUND AT DELHI AIRPORT

**New Delhi, Nov. 1:** An unattended bag triggered panic on Friday at the Delhi airport on the suspicion of containing RDX, but officials later said it has been claimed by a passenger who had forgotten it outside the Terminal-3. It is almost certain that the bag does not have the explosive and it will be opened in the presence of the claimant, they said. Shahid Hussain contacted airport authorities after over 16 hours of allegedly losing his bag. He said he had forgotten it outside the Indira Gandhi International airport's Terminal-3 after he arrived from Mumbai on a SpiceJet plane, sources said. The man, the sources said, told a joint investigation team of security officials that the bag contained a laptop, among other items. He has been taken to the isolated area where the black coloured trolley bag has been kept inside a total containment vessel (TCV) or a thick metal sheeted bomb defusing container. The entire security paraphernalia at the sensitive airport went into a tizzy after initial inputs suggested that the bag could be holding RDX. What added to the suspicion was that the place where the bag was spotted was in a "dark zone" outside the arrival terminal, where there is little CCTV coverage. The bag was detected around 1 am by a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) staffer and has been since kept in an isolated zone with a joint of CISF, the bomb experts of the National Security Guard and forensics keeping it under observation.

## Festive spirit



Customers buy religious items to perform prayers on the eve of Chhath Puja at a market in Amritsar on Friday. The Chhath Festival, also known as Surya Pooja, or worship of the sun, is observed in some parts of the northern states, and sees devotees worshipping the sun god on the banks of rivers or small ponds, and praying for the longevity and health of their spouse.

— AFP

## FAMILIES FACE BAN FOR OPEN DEFECAATION

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BERTHAMPUR, NOV. 1**

Twenty families in Ganjam district have not been given ration supply after a panchayat body decided to stop the benefits from reaching people who were found defecating in the open. According to a decision taken at a panchayat meeting on October 20, the distribution of ration under the public distribution system (PDS) was stopped to over 20 families, said Sushant Swain, sarpanch of Goutami panchayat in Sanakhemundi block. If anyone was found defecating in the open, particularly on the roadside, the panchayat has decided to instruct the dealer concerned to stop giving ration to such people for a month, Swain said. The move is aimed at making people aware of the need to use toilets, he said. Around 300 women, all members of a self-help group, patrol the open spaces from 3 am to 5 am and 5 pm to 7 pm to keep a vigil on the violators, the sarpanch said. "If they find anyone defecating in the open, they inform the panchayat. The women do the work voluntarily," he said. Initially, several villagers had opposed the decision of the panchayat but the number of people defecating in the open is now gradually reducing, he claimed. Those who do not have toilets in their houses have been asked to build toilets in the next two months under Swachh Bharat Mission, Swain said. Goutami panchayat has around 2,000 households with a population of 4,563. Of these, 180 families do not have toilets in their houses at present, he said. However, some of them have initiated steps for the construction of toilets, he added.

# PDP expels its MP for attending Murmu fete

Laway attended Murmu's swearing-in ceremony as L-G

**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, NOV. 1**

People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday expelled its Rajya Sabha member Nazir Ahmad Laway from the party for attending the swearing-in ceremony of Jammu and Kashmir's first Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu here on Thursday. A PDP spokesman said that he has been expelled from the basic membership of the party for indulging in "anti-party activities".

Confirming that Laway has been expelled for attending Murmu's swearing-in ceremony, the spokesman said, that "by doing so he has undermined the party leadership in entirety". Laway was the only non-BJP political leader who attended the ceremony held at Raj Nivas here. The PDP spokesman said that his participation in the ceremony was in contravention to the party's stand on the revocation of Article 370, splitting J&K into two Union Territories and the current political situation in the (erst-while) state. This is not for the first time that Laway has gone against the party stand on issues. In July this year, he had along with another PDP Rajya Sabha member Fayaz Ahmad Mir rendered his support for the

## REBEL WITH A CAUSE

■ This is not for the first time that Laway has gone against the party stand on issues.

■ He had supported the RTI Bill in the Upper House despite party's objection.

■ Laway had also instead of voting against the Triple Talaq Bill abstained from the House.

■ The leader said that during his interaction with the L-G, he raised the issue of youths being detained.

passage of the RTI Bill in the Upper House of Parliament despite objections raised by their party. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had opposed the Bill on the plea that J&K had its own RTI Act 2009 and, therefore, there was "no question of supporting the RTI Bill in Rajya Sabha". Laway and Mir had also instead of voting against the Triple Talaq Bill abstained from the House

on the day of voting even after publicly asserting that they will oppose it as "it is against the principles of Islam".

Laway said that he has not received the expulsion notice from the party yet and that he wondered who is authorised to take such action against him when the party leadership has been incarcerated by the authorities.

"I don't know who is doing this. It is the party president who is the ultimate authority to take such a decision. She is in detention for past three months," he said.

He said that some people within the party were against him and they have been trying to denigrate him. "In fact, I raised the issue of the party leadership's uncalled for detention and also the incarceration of hundreds of Kashmiri youth with the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor," he said.

## GARBAGE SEEN AROUND TN CM'S HOUSE: HC

**Chennai, Nov. 1:** The Madras High Court took a dig at the civic conditions in the city on Friday, observing that mounds of garbage could be spotted beside the residence of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister himself and wondering what would be the situation in other areas.

Going through the RA Puram area, garbage heaps resembling a mountain could be spotted beside the Chief Minister's residence, which indicated that the locality was not cleaned up. Justice N. Seshasayee, said in his oral observations while hearing a plea. — PTI

Raut had, on Thursday, met NCP chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's residence in Mumbai. However, he refused to divulge what had transpired, spurring speculation that the Sena was exploring the option of forming the government with the NCP and Congress' support. In the 288-member House, the Shiv Sena has 56 MLAs and the party also has the support of seven Independent MLAs. If the Sena joins forces with the NCP and Congress — which have 98 MLAs between them — they can easily cross the majority mark of 145. The Opposition parties,

# CAB is communal, says Neso ahead of agitation

**MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, NOV. 1**

The powerful North East Students' Organisation (Neso), a conglomeration of leading student organisations of north-eastern states, on Friday threatened to launch agitation to prevent the passage to the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) which it described as "communal."

Neso adviser, Samujjal Bhattacharya, who has been in the forefront of anti-foreigners movement told reporters, "The proposed CAB is to give protection to illegal migrants at the cost of identities and safeguards of the indigenous people of the northeast. We cannot allow a communal, unconstitutional and anti-indigenous Bill to become a legislation."

Assam health minister and convener of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance (Neda), Himanta Biswa

Sarma, had announced last month that the Centre will introduce the CAB in Parliament in November and will ensure that it is passed.

Sarma also claimed that through the CAB, the Narendra Modi government will ensure that persecuted religious minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who have taken shelter in India till December 31, 2014, are granted citizenship.

Jyrwa, taking cognisance to the minister's remark said, "We will go for an agitation to prevent the passage of the CAB in the winter session of Parliament. On November 18, there will be protests against the CAB in the state capitals of the region. The Centre should not impose the Bill because it is against the interest of indigenous people of the North-East." The Neso leaders said, "We have been telling the Centre not to impose

Citizenship Amendment Bill. The proposed legislation is being pursued by the government for political benefits as it will create a vote bank. But we will not spare anybody who supports the Bill."

The decision to intensify agitation to block CAB was taken in the executive body meeting of Neso which was held here on Thursday.

The executive body meeting also decided to have a National Register of Citizens (NRC) for all the seven states in the region.

"Assam has got the NRC done. Now, all the N-E states need NRC. There is a need to have a database of people who have entered the states illegally. The modalities for each state may be different, but the NRC is a must. The cut off date for the National Register of Citizens may also be different based on the specific history of each state," Jyrwa added.

# Shiv Sena: Can prove majority

From Page 1

Earlier, Shiv Sena upped the ante with its spokesperson Sanjay Raut stating that if his party decides to form the government on its own, it would get the required numbers to form a stable government in Maharashtra.

Raut also said that party president Uddhav Thackeray had said that the Chief Minister would be from the Shiv Sena. "If we have to, we will prove our majority on the floor of the House. We can declare in writing that the Chief Minister will be from Shiv Sena. Those who do not have a clear majority should not attempt to form the government or they will fall flat on their face," Raut said.

"The people want a Chief Minister from the Shiv Sena. The 50-50 formula, which was decided before the public, should be implemented in the state. Shiv Sena and BJP should together run the government. This is the people's mandate. But if someone refuses to accept this, we cannot have any discussions with the BJP," the Sena MP added. In an apparent reference to the BJP leadership, Raut also tweeted, "Sahib, mat paliye ahankar ko itna, waqt ke sagar me kai Sinkandar doob gaye." (Boss, don't feed your arrogance. Many Alexanders have drowned in the ocean of time.)

Raut had, on Thursday, met NCP chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's residence in Mumbai. However, he refused to divulge what had transpired, spurring speculation that the Sena was exploring the option of forming the government with the NCP and Congress' support. In the 288-member House, the Shiv Sena has 56 MLAs and the party also has the support of seven Independent MLAs. If the Sena joins forces with the NCP and Congress — which have 98 MLAs between them — they can easily cross the majority mark of 145. The Opposition parties,

**FARMER WANTS TO BE MAHA CHIEF MINISTER**

**Aurangabad, Nov. 1:** A farmer from Beed district wants to be Chief Minister of Maharashtra till the ruling BJP and the Shiv Sena resolve their differences over power-sharing and formation of the next government.

The farmer, Srikant Vishnu Gadale, a resident of Vadmauli in Kej taluka, has expressed this wish in a letter submitted to the office of Beed district collector on Thursday.

Gadale has said that by taking over the top post, he wants to solve the problems of farmers who are facing crop loss due to unseasonal rains. In his letter, he wrote, "The Shiv Sena and the BJP are yet to resolve their issues. Natural calamities (unseasonal rains) have damaged ready-to-harvest crops in the state. Farmers are tense over these calamities."

"At a time when farmers are suffering, the Shiv Sena and the BJP are unable to resolve the issue of holding Chief Minister's post."

"Hence, till the issue is resolved, the governor should hand over the responsibility of Chief Minister's post to me," Gadale said in his letter. — PTI

however, have reiterated that they would sit in the Opposition but were also prepared to work on "alternatives" if the BJP fails to form the government.

NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik said, "We will prevent the imposition of President's Rule by Delhi. We will try to provide an alternate elected government."

BJP sources said that if their party fails to convince its ally soon, the party will approach Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari to stake claim to form the government alone.



NCP president Sharad Pawar looks at a vineyard damaged by rains at Khedgaon village in Nashik. — PTI

## FAITH | MATTERS

**Pak PM says no service fee to be charged on Nov. 9 and 12**

# No passport for Kartarpur: Imran

**VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 1**

In a special gesture, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday announced waiver of the mandatory 10-day-long registration process for Indian Sikh pilgrims visiting Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara, as well as carrying passports as identity proof.

Khan also waived off \$20 'service fee' for all Indian pilgrims coming on the day of inauguration, November 9, and on Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary, November 12.

"For Sikhs coming for pilgrimage to Kartarpur from India, I have waived off 2 requirements: 1) They wont need a passport — just a valid ID; 2) They no longer have to register 10 days in advance. Also, no fee will be charged on the day of inauguration and on Guruji's 550th birthday," Imran Khan tweeted on Friday.

However, sources in the Indian government said that so far no official communication has reached them. It is learnt that any change, as announced by

Pakistan's PM, would mean modification in the agreement that was signed between the two countries on October 24. Sources added that in such a scenario a fresh agreement will have to be signed.

The Indian government is hoping that Pakistan will at some point give up its demand for \$20 "service fee" for pilgrims visiting Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara through the corridor.

In a statement issued some time back, the ministry of external affairs had urged Pakistan to

shed rigidity and drop the ideas of charging the pilgrims \$20 'service fee'.

"Government has consistently urged Pakistan that in deference to the wishes of the pilgrims, it should not levy such a fee," the Indian government said in a statement, adding that India would be ready to amend the agreement accordingly at any time when Pakistan decides to change its mind.

The Kartarpur Corridor will connect the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Punjab with Darbar Sahib at

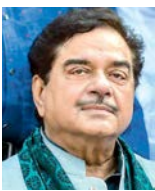
Kartarpur, just 4 kilometres from the International Border, located at Narowal district of Pakistan's Punjab province.

Notwithstanding a chill in bilateral ties over Kashmir, Pakistan and India after tough negotiations signed a landmark agreement last week to operationalise the historic Kartarpur Corridor to allow Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the holy Darbar Sahib in Pakistan.

The two countries decided that 5,000 pilgrims can visit the shrine everyday.







Probe sought

Shatrughan Sinha demanded probe into the mobile phone spying case, which allegedly targeted journalists



Public health emergency in Delhi a crisis we must all solve together

— Priyanka Gandhi Congress leader

BRIEF

Gir's 'lone voter' passes away

Veraval (Guj): One of the country's most famous voters, written about routinely for being the lone person to exercise his franchise at a polling booth in Banej in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district, has died. Mahant Bharatdas Bapu died at a private hospital in Rajkot on Friday, his followers, based out of Veraval, headquarters of Gir Somnath district, said. The Banej polling booth, part of Junagadh Lok Sabha seat, used to be set up during Gujarat and general polls only for Bapu, who used to live alone at a Shiva Temple-cum-ashram in Gir West forest division there. "Bharatdas Bapu was undergoing treatment for a kidney ailment in a private hospital in Rajkot for the past one month. He died on Friday morning. His last rites will be performed on Saturday at an ashram near Jamvala in Gir Forest," said a follower.

Raj back to toll tax regime

Jaipur: Toll tax collection from private vehicles on state highways has begun again from Friday midnight in Rajasthan, 18 months since it was revoked by the previous Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in the state. Private vehicles were exempted from paying toll tax on state highways in April last year in Rajasthan, but the Congress government in the state decided to reverse the decision for maintenance and repairing of roads. A notification for toll tax collection was issued by the government on Thursday, following which the exercise was started from midnight. The state government, in a statement, said repairing and maintenance of the highways were being affected due to the previous regime's decision, which was taken "hurriedly and without consideration," adding that this was being done in public interest and to ensure that the exchequer was not burdened.

TIGER TRAVELS 200 KM, UNDER WATCH

Aurangabad, Nov. 1: A tiger housed in Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district has travelled almost 200 km to enter Hingoli in the northwestern part of Maharashtra region, a forest official said on Friday. The big cat has hunted four cows in the area and his movement has been reported only in the agricultural belt, the official said. "The full-grown tiger has a radio collar fitted on him, and a team from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is currently monitoring his movements," forest official Keshav Wable said. The tiger has hunted four cows in villages of Hingoli taluka during his travels, he said, adding that the pug marks of the big cat have been tracked and the authorities have been receiving updates about his location every 12 hours. Trap cameras have been installed at Khandala and Kalgaon to track the runaway big cat, he added. "The tiger is currently moving around in the non-jungle area of Hingoli, where most of the land is under cultivation," Wable said. The WII team's findings suggest that he is not a man-eater, but may attack if threatened, the official said. "The runaway tiger crossed over to Telangana and returned to Tipeswar. He then crossed Penganga in Umardh area and further moved to Isapur Sanctuary and moved to Pusad-Washim border and finally entering Hingoli," Wable said.

To the point



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a visit to the Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi on Friday.

No interim bail, but PC gets a few amenities

Medical board tells court that hospitalisation not required

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

Incarcerated former finance minister P. Chidambaram does not require hospitalisation for his ailments, the Delhi high court was informed on Friday. The Tihar jail authorities, nonetheless, were directed to take a slew of steps for his well-being. The court was hearing 74-year-old Chidambaram's plea for interim bail in the money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on medical grounds. The Congress leader had submitted that his condition is deteriorating and needs to be in a sterile environment. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta read out the report of AIIMS medical board, set up on the court's order to examine the Congress leader's health condition, and said he does not require a sterile environment. Justice Suresh Kait,

THE COURT was earlier informed that Chidambaram's weight has reduced from 73 kg to 66 kg, which showed that his condition was deteriorating in custody.

CHIDAMBARAM has been sent to Tihar jail on Wednesday till November 13 by the trial court in the INX Media case.

who was hearing Chidambaram's interim bail application, directed the Tihar jail superintendent to provide clean and hygienic surrounding to the veteran Congress leader as also home-cooked food, mineral water, a mosquito protection net and repellent. The court also directed that Chidambaram's medical check up be done regularly. The judge directed that Chidambaram's regular blood pressure monitoring, sugar test and other medical tests should

be done and periodical follow up as an out patient be done once a week. The court disposed of the plea after senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, representing Chidambaram, said they did not require any further direction. The court had on Thursday directed the AIIMS director to constitute a medical board to give opinion on the health of Chidambaram, who is suffering from Crohn's disease or the inflammation of the digestive tract leading to abdominal pain, diarrhoea and also weight loss. The high court had said that the Hyderabad-based gastroenterologist Nageshwar Reddy, who has been treating the Congress leader, be included in the board to give his opinion on Chidambaram's medical condition. Chidambaram had sought interim bail in the case filed by the ED, on medical grounds saying his condition is deteriorating and he needs to be in a sterile environment. He had sought interim relief for six days to enable him to consult and get examined by his regular doctor, Dr Reddy, at the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG) in Hyderabad. He had claimed that he needs "urgent medical treatment for the acute and persistent abdominal pain being experienced" by him since October 5 due to Crohn's disease which he was diagnosed with in 2017. The court was earlier informed that Chidambaram's weight has reduced from 73 kg to 66 kg, which showed that his condition was deteriorating in custody. Chidambaram, who was sent to Tihar jail on Wednesday till November 13 by the trial court in the INX Media money laundering case, was arrested by the CBI on August 21 in the INX Media corruption case.

STUBBLE BURNING HITS DELHI HARD

From Page 1

Stubble burning in the neighbouring states has been one of the major contributors to pollution in the national capital. On Thursday, stubble-burning in Punjab and Haryana contributed to 27 per cent pollution in Delhi while on Wednesday the contribution was recorded at 35 per cent, the highest so far. Kejriwal also distributed masks to school children as part of the government's initiative to protect them from pollution and also explained the children about stubble burning. He told students that smoke emanating from stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana was causing air pollution here and asked them to write letters to the chief ministers of the two states urging them to control it. As the pollution level in the region entered the 'severe plus' category, the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) banned construction activity till November 5 and bursting of crackers during the winter season. "In the wake of the rising level of pollution caused by stubble burning, the Delhi government has decided to shut all schools till November 5," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi. The blanket of haze over Delhi thickened on Friday morning.

Told to part with her pet dog, woman ends life

Coimbatore, Nov. 1: Upset over being told by her father to part with her pet dog, whose continuous barking irked neighbours, a 24-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide at her home in the city outskirts, police said. Kavitha, a private sector employee, had been rearing her pet dog Caesar for the last two years. On Wednesday night, the dog started barking continuously out of fear as there was heavy rain,

accompanied by deafening thunderclaps and lightning. Unable to bear it, neighbours told her father to dispose it. The father scolded Kavitha the next day and asked her to leave the dog in some other area. Unable to digest the reprimand and also fearing she would be separated from her pet, Kavitha committed suicide by hanging from a fan in her room on late Thursday evening, police said. On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. They also recovered a letter purportedly written by her, in which she asked her parents, grandmother and brother to look after her dog, "as all should live peacefully." Apologising for her act, she also asked them to visit the temple every week, police said.

SECURITY | MATTERS

The Centre has sought a reply from the messaging platform by Nov. 4

Have taken strong action: WhatsApp

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Amid an uproar over allegations of an Israeli software being used to spy over activists and journalists, WhatsApp on Friday said it has taken a "strong action" in the incident and supports the Indian government's stand on the need to safeguard the privacy of all citizens. On Thursday, the Facebook-owned company had said Indian journalists and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unnamed entities using an Israeli spyware Pegasus, leading to a furore over breach of citizens' privacy. Following the disclosure by WhatsApp, the Indian government has asked the messaging platform to

explain the matter and list out the measures that have been taken by it to safeguard the privacy of millions of Indians. According to sources, the company has been asked to submit its response by November 4. The company has received the correspondence and will reply, one of the spokespersons said. "We agree with the government of India's strong statement about the need to safeguard the privacy of all Indian citizens. That is why we've taken this strong action to hold cyber attackers accountable and why WhatsApp is so committed to the protection of all user messages through the product we provide," a WhatsApp spokesperson said.

ON THURSDAY, the Facebook-owned company had said Indian journalists and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unnamed entities using an Israeli spyware Pegasus, leading to a furore over breach of citizens' privacy.

The spokesperson, however, did not comment on whether WhatsApp has submitted its response to the government's query. WhatsApp had said it was suing NSO Group, an Israeli surveillance firm that is reportedly behind the technology that helped unnamed entities' spies hack into phones of

roughly 1,400 users spanning across four continents, including diplomats, political dissidents, journalists and senior government officials. However, it did not say on whose behalf the phones of journalists and activists across the world were targeted. Refusing to divulge identities or the exact number of those targeted in India, WhatsApp had said in May, it had stopped a highly sophisticated cyberattack that exploited its video calling system to send malware to its users. The mobile messaging giant said it had sent a special WhatsApp message to about 1,400 users that it has "reason to believe were impacted by this attack to directly inform them about what hap-

pened". While the messaging giant did not disclose the details or the number of people affected in India, the company confirmed that Indian users were among those contacted by the company. WhatsApp has over 1.5 billion users globally, of which India alone accounts for about 400 million. In the past too, WhatsApp has drawn flak from the Indian government on the platform being misused for spreading misinformation that led to incidents of mob lynching. The government has categorically told WhatsApp that it wants the platform to bring in a mechanism to enable tracing of the originator of messages, a

demand that WhatsApp has resisted citing privacy issues. The government is also working on tightening rules of social media companies in India that will increase the accountability of such platforms. WhatsApp on Tuesday filed a lawsuit in a California federal court against NSO Group, which allegedly developed the spyware, saying an attempt was made to infect approximately 1,400 "target devices" globally with malicious software to steal valuable information from those using the messaging app. WhatsApp had said it "believes the attack targeted at least 100 members of civil society... this number may grow higher as more victims come forward".

India, Germany ink pacts on start-ups, yoga, sports

From Page 1

The remarks also ironically came after more than 20 European Union MPs, who had visited Kashmir recently on a "private visit" that was "facilitated" by the Indian government, backed India on the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism. Meanwhile, in a veiled message to Pakistan without naming it, Modi and Merkel on Thursday underlined the "need for all countries to ensure that their territory is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries in any manner." In presence of the German Chancellor, Modi said the two countries

MERKEL braved the toxic air in Delhi as she went about her outdoor engagements without wearing a mask, when people in the national capital were seen taking preventive measures against inhaling the polluted air. would "intensify bilateral and multilateral cooperation to deal with threats like terrorism and extremism." On the occasion, India and Germany also held their fifth biennial Inter Governmental Consultations (IGC), with the two nations signing a total of 22 pacts, including

five joint declarations of intent in various fields and including strategic sectors, green technology, Artificial Intelligence, prevention of marine litter, Space, civil aviation, smart cities, start-ups, skill development, education, yoga and sports. The two countries together emphasised that "terrorism is a global scourge" and "called upon all countries to work towards rooting out terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and financing channels and halting cross border movement of terrorists." Both nations also reiterated their cooperation for UNSC reform.

BJP sets target of 65+ for J'khand

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 1

The Assembly polls in Jharkhand will be held in five phases beginning November 30, the Election Commission announced on Friday. Primary challenges faced by Chief Minister Raghubar Das-led BJP would be the Naxal issues, human trafficking and rising cases of mob lynching in the state. According to officials who have been monitoring the poll preparations in the state, there are about 19 districts that are affected by Left-wing extremism out of which 13 have been marked as ultra-sensitive. Das who is trying hard to retain power for the second term, has been pushing for the implementation of NRC in Jharkhand. Last month he had raised the political pitch in the state by saying that "all illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators would be identified and sent back to their country by the BJP government".

The BJP has been of the view that illegal Bangladeshi migrants entered Jharkhand through the West Bengal route and settled in various districts of the state. The BJP in alliance with All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) had won 42 seats (BJP- 37 and AJSU- 5) in the 2014 Assembly elections. However, the strength had gone up to 48 after six Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (JVM) legislators joined the BJP in February 2015. During the Lok Sabha polls this year, the BJP and allies had clinched 12 out of 14 seats in the state. Jharkhand which was separated from Bihar in 2000 has remained BJP and JMM stronghold. The state has 28 Scheduled Tribe (ST) and 9 Scheduled Caste (SC) seats in the 81 member state Assembly. Political analysts who have been closely monitoring political developments in Jharkhand are of the view that both the JMM and the Congress may face trouble finding

Thirteen constituencies will go to polls in the first phase, 20 in the second phase, 17 in the third, 15 in the fourth phase and 16 constituencies will go to polls in the fifth phase. IN A FIRST, people with disabilities and those above 80 years of age can cast their vote using postal ballot in Jharkhand Assembly polls. THE POLLS to 81-member Assembly will be held on November 30, December 7, 12, 16 and 20. The results will be announced on December 23.

suitable candidates in constituencies which were earlier held by legislatures who joined BJP last month. "We are confident that the BJP will return to power with full majority this year. Our target is to win more than 65 plus Assembly seats in Jharkhand. I can say this with full confidence because our government has worked hard for the development of Jharkhand and people have benefitted from several welfare schemes," Nand Kishore Yadav, BJP election co-in charge of Jharkhand told this newspaper. He said that the party has been holding interactive sessions in tribal areas to understand people's viewpoints on the developmental schemes launched by the state government. Meanwhile, the opposition parties, the JMM and the Congress have announced their alliance but are yet to finalize the seat-sharing deal. Sources claim that the RJD is also in talks with the JMM for sizable seat share to contest in the Assembly polls. "All these issues have already been discussed by our alliance partners and we will be announced soon," Congress Jharkhand in-charge RPN Singh told reporters after the election commission announced the poll dates on Friday.

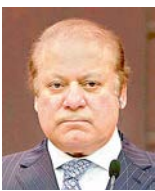


CBI TO GRILL HARISH RAWAT NEXT WEEK

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is all set to question senior Congress leader and former chief minister of Uttarakhand, Harish Rawat in connection with its investigation into his alleged role in a 2016 sting video that purportedly shows him negotiating a deal to buy the support of rebel MLAs. According to sources, "The former chief minister of Uttarakhand is expected to be questioned next week. The agency will also question his then cabinet colleague Harak Singh Rawat, who is now a member of the state's BJP-led government, in connection with the case." Besides, the CBI will also question three former Congress MLAs as they are suspected to have been in constant touch with Harish Rawat, it said. The CBI recently filed an FIR against Harish Rawat and Harak Singh Rawat for alleged horse-trading in 2016, which was caught on tape by the editor of a news channel. The CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry to probe the alleged horse trading attempt on March 23, 2016, when the state was under President's Rule. It sent the tape for analysis to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, which opined that the recording was "genuine" and there was no evidence of any "addition/deletion/insertion/tampering/morphing" in the video that purportedly showed the Congress leader discussing money.





Good news

Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's health has showed signs of improvement



I have been treated very badly in NY. I hated having to make this decision — Donald Trump on his relocation to Florida

BRIEF

Turkey-Russian patrols in Syria

Sevimli: Turkey and Russia launched joint patrols on Friday in northeastern Syria, under a deal that halted a Turkish offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters who were forced to withdraw from the border area following Ankara's incursion. The patrols will cover two sections, in the west and east of Turkey's operation zone in Syria, with a depth of 10 kilometers. Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters now control the border towns of Tal Abyad, Ras al-Ayn and nearby villages. The deal on the patrols excludes the city of Qamishli, according to the ministry's statement.

U.S. withholding Lebanon aid

Washington: US President Donald Trump's administration is withholding \$105 million in security aid for Lebanon, two US officials said, after the resignation of Lebanese prime minister Saad al-Hariri. The state department told Congress that the White House budget office and National Security Council had decided to withhold the foreign military assistance. The officials did not say why the aid was blocked. One of the sources said the state department did not give Congress a reason for the decision. The administration had sought approval for the assistance saying it was crucial for Lebanon, an important US partner in Middle East, to be able to protect its borders.

N. Korea test-fires third rocket

Seoul: North Korea confirmed on Friday it conducted its third test-firing of a new "super-large" multiple rocket launcher that it says expands its ability to destroy enemy targets in surprise attacks. The latest launches extended a months-long streak of weapons displays by the North, which continues to use a standoff in nuclear negotiations to advance its military capabilities while pressuring Washington for concessions. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency described the tests a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries said they detected two projectiles launched from an area near the Pyongyang traveling more than 321 kilometers.

MORE FIRES, EVACUATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles, Nov. 1: Californian firefighters tackled fresh and fast-moving wildfires overnight making headway against a number of major blazes that have forced mass evacuations and power cuts. Three rapidly moving infernos broke out in the southern part of the state, burning several homes and forcing people to flee. One — the Hillside Fire — was in San Bernardino, some 60 miles east of Los Angeles, while the other — the 46 Fire — was in neighboring Riverside County. The third — dubbed the Maria Fire — broke out in Ventura County, threatening two small agricultural towns nearby, and forcing the evacuation of more than 7,000 people as it raged across 5,000 acres, according to Ventura County fire department. Hundreds of firefighters backed by water-dropping helicopters were attacking blazes driven by record so-called Santa Ana winds that have prompted unprecedented warnings of "extremely critical" fire risk — the most severe category. There have been no fatalities linked to this year's fires.

Protests to topple Imran government



Supporters of Islamic political party Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam wave flags during an anti-government "Azadi (Freedom) March" in Islamabad on Friday. Thousands of Islamists rallied as several huge marches from across Pakistan converged on the capital to demand that Prime Minister Imran Khan step down.

JOHNSON DEFENDS BREXIT DEAL

London, Nov. 1: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office has defended his Brexit deal with the EU, after US President Donald Trump warned it would make it impossible for the two nations to strike a future trade agreement. The president, whose impeachment in the US has moved a stage closer following a key vote in Congress, waded into the British election campaign to criticise Johnson's divorce terms with the European bloc. "This deal you can't do it, you can't trade. We can't make a trade deal with the UK," he said. But a Downing Street spokesman later said the deal would allow the UK to strike "our own free trade deals around the world from which every part of the UK will benefit". Trump's comments appear at odds with his previous pledge in September that he was working closely with Johnson to strike a "magnificent trade deal" once Britain left the EU. He also launched a stinging attack on Jeremy Corbyn and urged Johnson to unite with eurosceptic hardliner Nigel Farage, a key figure in the 2016 referendum on EU membership. — AFP

China to boost patriotism

Beijing pledges not to allow foreign interference in Hong Kong affairs

Beijing, Nov. 1: China warned on Friday it would not tolerate any challenge to Hong Kong's governing system, as it laid out plans to boost patriotism in the city and change how its leader is chosen or removed after months of pro-democracy protests.

Beijing also said it would brook no foreign interference in Hong Kong affairs as it discussed the unrest in the semi-autonomous city at a major, four-day meeting of the Communist Party chaired by President Xi Jinping, according to a senior party cadre. The central government in Beijing has so far voiced its confidence in Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam and the city police to put a lid on the increasingly violent protests.

But all eyes have been on whether the party leadership will assert more control over the situation if the demonstrations spin out of control.

Protesters take up self-defence classes

Hong Kong, Nov. 1: Protesters in Hong Kong are learning to fight. They have joined self-defence class where instructors give lessons on how to fight police, evade arrest, and navigate the unrest on the streets of the Asian financial hub. Lessons sometimes incorporate videos of real protest clashes. These classes are one of several that have sprung up in recent months, say protesters, pitched at demonstrators and others concerned about getting caught in the chaos. The rallies have been marred by violence which

The former British colony has been rocked by months of protests with

flares mostly during weekends, with demonstrators throwing Molotov cocktails, destroying shops seen as pro-Beijing, vandalizing train stations and engaging in running battles with police. "Not only the frontliners or the youngsters, we all need to learn these skills to protect ourselves," said William Cheung, the organizer. Pino, who volunteers as a medic during protests and attends to those injured, said she has learned how to disarm an attacker. "I think in this society, we need to fight," she says. — Reuters

citizens lampooning the city's pro-Beijing leaders and erosion of basic



China would never tolerate any act that aims to split the country or endanger national security.

— SHEN CHUNYAO, Director, Law Commission

rights. Shen Chunyao, director of the Hong Kong, Macau and Basic Law Commission, said party leaders at the meeting in Beijing agreed to "further improve the central government's system of governance over the region" and maintain its "long-

term prosperity and stability." China, he added, would "never tolerate any act" that aims to split the country or endanger national security. Elements of the People's Armed Police were deployed over the summer in Shenzhen, the city bordering Hong Kong, fuelling speculation that Beijing might be prepared to intervene if necessary. The paramilitary group was seen conducting drills with assault rifles fitted with bayonets at a sports stadium in Shenzhen. Hong Kong's chief executive is not directly elected, a source of major friction and a headache for the leaders themselves because they have no popular mandate. Currently the city's leader is chosen by a 1,200-strong committee that is stacked with Beijing loyalists. Lam, who now boasts record low approval ratings, became leader in 2017 after securing 777 votes. — AFP

Ukraine aid was held up: Official

Washington, Nov. 1: A former top White House official confirmed that military aid to Ukraine was held up by President Donald Trump's demand for the ally to investigate Democrats and Joe Biden but testified that there's nothing illegal, in his view, about the quid pro quo at the center of the Democrat-led impeachment inquiry. Tim Morrison, who stepped down from the National Security Council the day before his Thursday testimony, was the first White House political appointee to appear and spent more than eight hours behind closed doors with House investigators. "I want to be clear, I was not concerned that anything illegal was discussed," Morrison said about a pivotal phone call between Trump and the Ukraine president. Trump tweeted about Morrison's comment that no law was broken: "Thank you to Tim Morrison for your honesty."

But Morrison also confirmed what diplomat William Taylor told investigators in earlier testimony — that Morrison had a "sinking feeling" when he learned that Trump was asking the Ukrainians to publicly announce an investigation of Biden and the Democrats, even as the Republican president denied it was a quid pro quo. "I can confirm," Morrison wrote, that the substance of the diplomat's testimony "is accurate." Morrison told investigators that he and Taylor did not realize the money was being withheld for the investigation of Burisma, the gas company connected to Biden, until a conversation with European Union Ambassador Gordon Sondland. A defense hawk, Morrison was the National Security Council's top adviser for Russian and European affairs until he quit. — AP



HILL ACCUSES TRUMP OF POWER ABUSE

Washington, Nov. 1: A US Congresswoman who resigned amid lurid revelations about her private life and the publication of nude photos without her consent on Friday used her final vote in office to accuse President Donald Trump of "abuse of power over women." "As my last vote, I voted on impeachment proceedings because of the deepest abuse of power, including the abuse of power over women," said Katie Hill in her final speech to Congress. Hill, who had been seen as a rising star in the Democratic Party, announced she was stepping down after accusations that she had a sexual relationship with a subordinate in violation of House ethics rules. The California lawmaker denied that accusation but did admit that she and her husband — whom she is now divorcing — engaged in a three-way sexual relationship with a female campaign staffer. This relationship would not fall under House ethics rules, as it occurred before Hill took office. But the House Committee on Ethics said it was investigating allegations against the 32-year-old lawmaker. — AFP

Chile protesters continue march

Santiago, Nov. 1: Thousands of young Chileans marched to demand improved social services as government and opposition leaders debated the response to nearly two weeks of protests that have paralysed much of the capital and forced the cancellation of two major international summits. Despite some vandalism and confrontations with police, the march on the presidential palace was mostly peaceful, the first day of a four-day holiday weekend in Chile. While

there were several thousand people on the street, some said the massive waves of protests of the last two weeks appeared to be at least temporarily flagging. "I think there's a fatigue factor. People are now more than 10 days into coming to protest every day, most from the outskirts of Santiago," said José Solís, a student. A proposed hike in subway fares in October set off the 14 days of protests that morphed into a call for deep-rooted changes. — AP

PAK TRAIN FIRE

Survivors recall ordeal

Multan, Nov. 1: A raging fire swept through a train in Pakistan's eastern Punjab Province killing 74 people, and survivors said afterward it took nearly 20 minutes for the train to stop amid contradictory reports about the condition of the train's brakes. Three carriages were consumed by flames from a fire caused by a cooking gas stove and dozens of people jumped in panic from the speeding train. Conductor Sadiue Ahmed Khan said the train's emergency braking system was in perfect



People walk past the burnt train carriages, a day after 74 people were charred to death in fire.

working order and the train stopped within three minutes after the first signs of fire. "This is the worst tragedy in my life as a driver," he said. — AP

BAD | CHAPTER

California students who dialed helpline got phone sex instead

School lists sex hotline for suicide help

Los Angeles, Nov. 1: Officials from a California school district were left red-faced after students who dialed a suicide prevention hotline listed on their ID badges instead stumbled on a sex line. "I was just kind of flabbergasted. I was very surprised," parent Janene Lavelle said that after her daughter, who attends middle school, alerted her to the mixup.

Lavelle said the teen had dialed the number for kicks and was in disbelief when she got a sex hotline. "Someone who genuinely needs help like that, they shouldn't hear that kind of thing from what they thought was going to help them," the student said. "They should fact-check that kind of thing." The suicide prevention number was in a directory of emergency lines and other

resources on the back of badges for students at New

Vista Middle School in Lancaster, a 90-minute drive north of downtown Los Angeles. However, because of a mistake with just one digit, a sex hotline number instead of the correct suicide prevention number was given to students. "We were made aware that the middle school student Identification cards have the wrong phone number listed for the sui-

cide hotline," the Lancaster Unified School district said in a statement. "The phone numbers have two digits transposed and this is a mistake. The number listed on the card is actually a sex line." School officials said they have collected all the old badges and planned to issue new ones — this time with the correct number. — AFP



White House Russia expert Timothy Morrison arrives for a deposition for the House Impeachment inquiries at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. — AFP







Export index to rank states from Jan. 2020

Overleaf

Replace engines or face grounding, IndiGo told



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,165.03	+0.09
Nifty 50	11,890.60	+0.11
S&P 500	3,056.30	+0.62
Dollar (₹)	70.81	-0.15
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.40	-0.80
Euro (₹)	78.86	-0.64
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,395 ▲181	-0.47
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$59.94	-0.54
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.44	-0.14
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.73	+2.48

\* As of 9:30 pm IST

### Centre orders SFIO probe into crisis-hit DHFL

**New Delhi:** The government has ordered an SFIO probe into alleged financial irregularities at mortgage lender DHFL after finding instances of suspected fund diversions, according to a source. DHFL came under the scanner in the wake of allegations that the company had siphoned off ₹31,000 crore worth bank loans through layers of shell entities. — PTI

### Sanjeev Sahai takes charge as power secretary



**New Delhi:** Sanjeev Nandan Sahai has assumed charge as Secretary of the Power Ministry on Friday. “Sanjeev Nandan Sahai assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Power here today. Prior to this, he was serving as the special secretary in the Ministry of Power,” the ministry said in a statement. Mr Sahai is a UT cadre IAS officer of 1986 batch.

### Voda Idea stock surges over 10% after clarification

**New Delhi:** Shares of Vodafone Idea on Friday zoomed over 10 per cent after Vodafone clarified that it is not going to exit the Indian market. Shares of the telecom operator settled 10.54 per cent higher at ₹4.30 apiece on the BSE. The telecom company added over ₹1,100 crore to its market capitalisation, which now stands at ₹12,356.22 crore.

### Gold demand tapers off after festival spike

**Mumbai:** Gold discounts in India widened this week as physical demand cooled because of high prices after a busy festival week. “We lost momentum this week due to a recovery in prices. Last week demand for Dhanteras and Diwali was lower than last year but better than our expectations,” said Ashok Jain, proprietor of gold wholesaler Chenaji Narsinghji. — Reuters

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## ■ PMI Factory activity growth hits two-year low; escapes industrial contraction by 0.6 point

# Factory output close to stagnation in Oct.

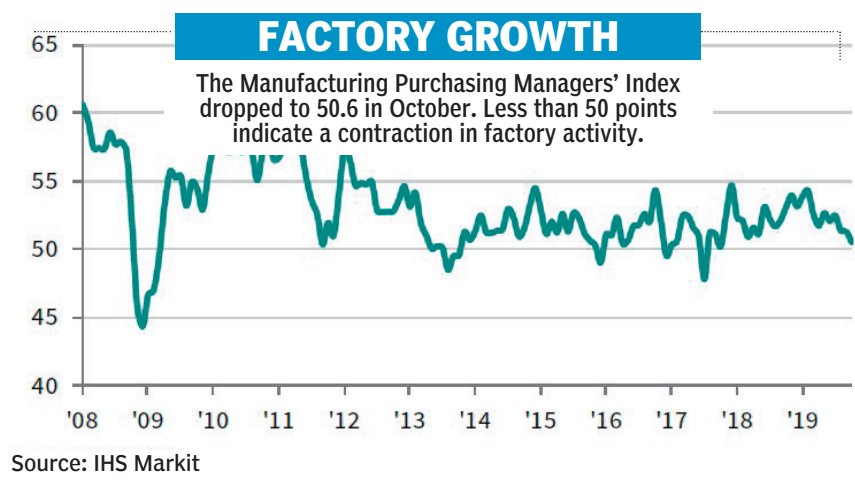
**Bengaluru, Nov. 1:** India's factory activity growth hit a two-year low in October as new orders and output rose at a slower pace, dragging business confidence to its weakest since early 2017, a survey showed on Friday, suggesting more policy easing is on the cards. That mirrors a recent sharp deceleration in global manufacturing activity as a protracted US-China trade war took a toll on business sentiment, investment and overall growth. The Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, dropped to 50.6

**Weakening demand had a domino effect in the manufacturing industry, knocking down rates of increase in production, jobs and business sentiment.**  
— Pollyanna De Lima, IHS Markit

last month from September's 51.4, confounding expectations in a Reuters poll for a rise to 51.8. Just the same, it has held above the 50-point thresh-

old mark that separates growth from contraction for the 27th straight month, an uninterrupted run not seen for around five years. “PMI data for October showed a continuation of manufacturing sector weakness in India, with sales growth softening to the slowest in two years,” noted Pollyanna De Lima, principal economist at IHS Markit. “Weakening demand had a domino effect in the manufacturing industry, knocking down rates of increase in production, employment and business sentiment.” The new orders sub-

index, a proxy for domestic demand, slumped to 51.3 from September's 52.3, its lowest since October 2017. That pushed firms to slow the pace of hiring to a six month low, which is likely to raise concerns for the BJP government given it is under pressure to create more jobs. Moreover, in a further sign the ailing economy will take a while to recover, optimism slipped in October to its weakest since soon after a 2016 high-value currency ban that affected day-to-day operations of small- and medium-sized businesses. — Reuters



### I-T officials cancel six Tata Trusts registration

**New Delhi, Nov. 1:** The income tax department has cancelled registration of six Tata Trusts, including Jamsetji Tata Trust, R.D. Tata Trust and Tata Education Trust, following their decision to surrender the same. The Tata Trusts said the cancellation was a culmination of the decision taken by these six Trusts in 2015 to surrender their registration and to not claim the associated income tax exemptions. The other Trusts are Tata Social Welfare Trust, Sarvajani Seva Trust, and Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust. “The decision to surrender the registration (an option available in law) was taken in the best interests of the Trust and to maximise the resources available to the Trust for their charitable work which is the principal object and focus of the Trusts,” Tata Trusts said in a statement on Friday. According to the statement, the Office of the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai, by its order on Thursday cancelled the income tax registration of six Tata Trusts companies. “While the tax department's order has cancelled the Trusts' registration with immediate effect, we believe that as a matter of law and consistent with the department's own decision in the past, the cancellation should take effect from 2015, when the registrations were surrendered and the Trusts themselves consented to cancellation,” it said. The Trusts are examining the order and will take necessary next steps in accordance with the law and the Trusts have effective legal options to vindicate their grievances against the order both factually and legally, it said. “Since inception in 1892, Tata Trusts, India's oldest philanthropic organisation, has played a pioneering role in bringing about an enduring difference in the lives of the communities it serves,” it said. — PTI

# Car firms get festive boost, Oct. sales rise

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV. 1

The 42 days festive season between Navratri and end of Diwali, which typically brings in about 20 to 25 per cent of car sales rescued Maruti Suzuki, India's largest car maker, which for the first time reported a 2.3 per cent growth in passenger vehicle sales in October ending a declining trend in monthly sales that started back in March.

But other major car makers like Hyundai, the second biggest car maker, followed by Mahindra, Tata Motors, Toyota Kirloskar and Honda Cars continued to report declining sales but improved their sales tally due to demand in festive season, especially during Dhanteras and Diwali. Maruti, which sells one out of two cars bought in the country, sold 2.3 per cent more cars to 1,39,121 units last month against 1,35,948 units sold in October last year. In absolute terms, this was Maruti's highest sales in any month this fiscal. The last time it had posted higher sales than this was in March 2019 when it had sent 145,031 units to its dealers. In India, auto makers count car dispatches to



**Maruti, which sells one out of two cars bought in the country, sold 2.3 per cent more cars to 1,39,121 units last month against 1,35,948 units sold in October last year.**

dealerships as sales. Maruti saw growth coming from two of the most crucial sub-segments – compact cars and utility vehicles. While this could still be a temporary revival in the market sentiment, Maruti's numbers do hint at a good month for other auto firms too. Sales at Hyundai Motor fell 3.8 per cent at 50,010 units last month, down from 52,001 units in October 2018, the company said. Sales at Mahindra

and Mahindra, India's biggest utility vehicle maker, fell 23 per cent to 18,460 units from 24,066 units last year. “The festive October month was excellent for Mahindra, with retail volume exceeding wholesale by approximately 40 per cent. This robust retail performance was contributed by both passenger and commercial vehicles. Further, our billing numbers are in line with what we had planned for the month, since the objective was to significantly correct our channel inventory. We hope to see the positive consumer sentiment continue going forward,” Veejay Ram Nakra, Chief of Sales and Marketing, Automotive Division at Mahindra and Mahindra, said. Sales at Tata Motors,

India's biggest automaker by value, also declined by 28 per cent at 13,169 units, down from 18,290 units it sold last year. “Retail sales results have been encouraging with retails at 36 per cent more than wholesale,” Mayank Pareek, president, passenger vehicles at Tata Motors, said. Customer response was positive to festive offers and retail sales last month were the highest in this fiscal recording a 70 per cent increase month-on-month, he said. “We remain optimistic that the positive sentiments of the festive season will lead to a structural recovery in the market,” Pareek said. Sales at Japanese auto major Toyota dropped 6 per cent at 11,866 units, down from 12,606 units it sold last year. “Compared to the last few months of slowdown, it was quite encouraging to see the marked improvement in customer orders on account of festive season,” N Raja, deputy MD at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said. He said he is hoping this pace in retail sales continues beyond the festive season. Sales at Honda Cars also declined by 29.44 per cent at 10,010 units in October as against 14,187 units in the same month last year.

## Navratri, Diwali fail to cheer Centre, GST rises just 3.7%

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection declined by 5.29 per cent to ₹95,380 crore in October 2019, as against the same month last year. However, the GST collection increased 3.76 per cent notably in comparison to September 2019, when it was ₹91,916 crore, according to data released by the finance ministry on Friday. This is the third consecutive month when GST

**This is the third consecutive month when GST collection remained below the ₹1 lakh crore mark, despite October being a festive month.**

mop-up remained below the ₹1 lakh crore mark, despite October being a festive month. The GST revenue collection in October 2018 stood at ₹1,00,710 crore. The revenue collection in

September this year stood at ₹91,916 crore. “The gross GST revenue collected in the month of October, 2019 is ₹95,380 crore of which CGST is ₹17,582 crore, SGST is ₹23,674 crore, IGST is ₹46,517 crore and Cess is ₹7,607 crore,” the finance ministry said in a statement. It further said the total number of GSTR 3B returns (summary of self-assessed return) filed for the month of September (up to October 30) was 73.83 lakh.

## Flipkart sales rise 42% in fiscal 2019

FC BUREAU CHENNAI, NOV. 1

Flipkart's revenue jumped 42 per cent year-on-year to over \$6 billion in FY19, while its losses came down by 63 per cent. Reduction in finance costs helped the e-commerce company cut its losses in FY19. The stricter regulations for the e-commerce sector, especially for the FDI-funded entities, in the country have not affected Flipkart's revenue growth much.

## Jobless rate at 3-yr high

### ■ Tripura, Haryana fare badly, TN best in India

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Unemployment rate in October rose to 8.5 per cent — the highest since August 2016 — and up from 7.2 per cent in September, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) on Friday, reflecting the impact of a slowdown in the economy. The increase in unemployment rate mirrors the fall in industrial growth and consumption in the country. The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey claimed an unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent that India witnessed between July 2017 and June 2018 was the worst in 45 years. According to CMIE, urban India has a higher unemployment at 8.89 per cent than rural joblessness which is at 8.28 per cent. The average unemployment rate is 8.48 per cent. The decline in employment began in November 2017 — a year after the Narendra Modi government demonetised high value currency and four months after it rolled out the GST regime. Tripura topped the list with 27.2 per cent of unemployed. Delhi and adjoining states are the most impacted with the economic slowdown — Haryana having 23.4 per cent of unemployed, followed by Himachal Pradesh 16.7 per cent, Punjab 13 per cent and Delhi 12.8 per cent. Among the bigger states, Rajasthan tops the joblessness list with double digit unemployed figure at 14.4 per cent, followed by Bihar with 12.7 per cent and Uttar Pradesh 10.1 per cent. Uttarakhand has the lowest unemployment among northern states at 1.5 per cent, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 3.5 per cent, Chhattisgarh at 7.8 per cent and Jharkhand 9.8 per cent. The southern states fared comparatively well by registering lower unemployment rates. Tamil Nadu is the most well-performing state in the country. It has merely 1.1 per cent unemployed. Puducherry followed closely at 1.2 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at four per cent, and Karnataka at 5.8 per cent. Telangana and Kerala fared badly in the south with an unemployment rate of 7.5 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively. In the east, Odisha performed well with 4.2 per cent, followed by Meghalaya 4.3 per cent, West Bengal 6.8 per cent and Sikkim 7.1 per cent. In the western region, Goa has the highest unemployment at 9.1 per cent, followed by Maharashtra 5.6 per cent and Gujarat 5.2 per cent.

## Labour productivity at multi-year low

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, NOV. 1

Labour productivity growth in organised manufacturing sector has dropped to multi-year lows. India Ratings and Research's analysis of data of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) indicates a slowdown in labour productivity growth in the Indian organised manufacturing sector. As per the data, labour productivity grew at an average annual rate of 3.7 per cent during the financial year 2016-2018. In the financial year 2017, labour productivity growth fell to 2.6 per cent and 2.9 per cent in FY18. Labour productivity had been growing by 9.6 per cent in FY01-06 and had peaked at 14.2 per cent between FY04-FY08. It grew by 10.3 per cent

between FY06 and FY10. However between FY11 and FY15, it slowed down to 7.4 per cent. According to Ind-Ra, longer and sustainable labour productivity growth is dependent on investments in innovation, knowledge, and intangible capital by businesses. It is also dependent on governments' commitments towards structural reforms. Further, average monthly wage of a worker in the organised manufacturing sector rose to ₹12,405 during FY16-18 from ₹4,006 during FY01-FY05. However, the wage growth has slowed down lately. The average wage growth has been 6.5 per cent over FY16-FY18 as compared to 11.7 per cent and 8.1 per cent during FY11-FY15 and FY05-FY10, respectively.



## Yes Bank registers ₹600cr loss

FC BANKING BUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOV. 1

Private sector lender Yes Bank on Friday reported a net loss of ₹600 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, hurt by a one-time deferred tax adjustment (DTA) of ₹709 crore and higher provisions on impaired loans.

Excluding the one-time DTA impact, the adjusted net profit was at ₹109 crore. Yes Bank had reported a net profit of ₹965 crore in the same quarter of the previous year. Net interest income during the quarter declined 9.6 per cent year-on-year to ₹2,185.91 crore, including the impact of around ₹228 crore due to fresh slippages. The Non-interest income or other income in the second quarter declined by 35.8 per cent year-on-year to ₹946 crore.

Provisions rose by 42 per cent to ₹1,336 crore in the September quarter, as compared to ₹939 crore in the year ago period. The pre-provision operating profit fell 38.4 per cent voy to ₹1,458.44 crore.

## DRL profit more than doubles

Hyderabad, Nov. 1: Dr Reddys Laboratories Limited on Friday said its profit after tax (PAT) for the quarter ended September 30 was up 117 per cent to ₹1,092.50 crore.

Attributing the increase to one-time revenues from selling the rights of three brands and tax advantage, president, CFO and global head (HR) of the city-based drug-maker Saumen Chakraborty said the PAT was ₹503.80 crore for the second quarter of FY19.

Revenue for the quarter under review was up by 26 per cent at ₹4,801 crore against ₹3,798 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, he said.

DRL garnered ₹720 crore towards licence fee for selling US and select territory rights for two of their neurology brands Symtouch (sumatriptan injection) and Tosymratm (sumatriptan nasal spray) 10 mg and Zembrace to Upsher-Smith Laboratories, he said.

The drug-maker also had an income tax benefit of ₹326 crore during the quarter. — PTI

## Oil blocks bid fails, only 2 PSUs show up

New Delhi, Nov. 1: India's offer of seven oil blocks on revamped licence terms attracted just eight bids from state-owned firms including six single bids in the latest licensing round ignored by both private and foreign companies.

The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in a statement said state-owned ONGC bid for all the seven blocks while Oil India Ltd (OIL) put in an offer for one block at the close of bidding on Thursday. The block in Rajasthan saw competition from ONGC and OIL but the five in Madhya Pradesh and one in West Bengal saw single bids from ONGC, DGH said.

"Seven onland blocks were on offer (in the fourth round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy) with an area of approx 18,500 sq km," DGH said. "The results demonstrate continued interest of established players in Indian E&P (exploration and production) with bids received for all 7 blocks. The evaluation of the bids would be undertaken in a time-bound manner." — PTI

■ Central bank creates new supervisory and regulatory cadre

# RBI rejigs internal setup to monitor banks better

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, NOV. 1

Facing public ire for not being able to detect scams and frauds on time, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has created two separate departments for supervisory and regulatory function to improve the oversight for banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and co-operative banks. The development follows the RBI's central board decision to create separate supervisory and regulatory cadre.

There have been a long list of scams within banks and NBFCs that remained undetected for years by the RBI inspections such as the ₹14,000 crore Nirav Modi fraud at Punjab National Bank, collapse of IL&FS scam, the recent PMC Bank crisis and failure of large NBFCs to service their debt.

"With a view to having a holistic approach to supervision and regulation of the regulated entities so as to address growing complexities, size and inter-



connectedness as also to deal more effectively with potential systemic risk that could arise due to possible supervisory arbitrage and information asymmetry, it has been decided to integrate the supervision function into a unified Department of Supervision and regulatory functions into a unified Department of Regulation with effect from November 1, 2019," said the central bank.

The central board of the RBI on May 21 had approved the creation of the separate supervisory and regulatory cadre. The restructuring of the regu-

lation and supervision function is among a series of steps RBI will take to implement this decision, the central bank added.

Currently, the supervision of financial sector entities is undertaken through three separate departments, Department of Banking Supervision, Department of Non-Banking Supervision and Department of Co-operative Bank Supervision. Similarly, the regulatory functions relating to financial sector entities are carried out through three separate departments, viz., Department of Banking

Regulation, Department of Non-Banking Regulation and Department of Cooperative Banking Regulation.

The RBI said that the restructuring will make supervisory and regulatory process more activity based rather than being segmented purely based on the organisational structure of regulated entities. The exercise will bestow graded supervisory approach to all the RBI-supervised entities linked to their size and complexity, and also facilitate more effective consolidated supervision of financial conglomerates among the RBI-supervised entities.

"The restructuring will result in a more efficient allocation of human resources attending to regulation and supervision of financial sector entities under the Bank's purview", the RBI said.

It also said the revamping will help build an experienced and skilled human resources in the area of regulation and supervision of financial sector entities.

## Replace jet engines or face grounding: DGCA to IndiGo

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Stating that "desperate measures" were required to "put things in order", aviation regulator DGCA told IndiGo on Friday to replace the Pratt and Whitney (PW) engines under both wings of 97 A320neo aircraft "at all costs" by January 31 or they would be grounded.

Of the 97 aircraft, 23 have PW engines that have been used for more than 2,900 hours and have to be replaced by November 19, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) told the low-cost carrier.

The DGCA directive came after the airline faced four mid-air engine malfunctions in A320neo planes in the last one week, which "has caused a serious concern and resultant disruption", according to the regulator.

The DGCA had, on Monday, asked IndiGo to replace the PW engines of 16 A320neo planes, which were used for over 2,900 hours, by November 12, but it subsequently found out that seven more aircraft were flying with such engines.

"Kindly note that after that (November 19), none of



these 23 aircraft, which does not have at least one LPT (low-pressure turbine) modified engine on its wings, shall be allowed for commercial operation and their schedule will suitably be curtailed till this is accomplished," the regulator said in a press note on Friday.

With a fleet of 247 planes and a share of around 48 per cent of the domestic air passenger market, IndiGo is India's largest airline.

Just three days after the company placed one of the single-largest aircraft orders with Airbus, the DGCA advised it on Friday to "stagger or defer your future (aircraft) induction plan and procure a sufficient number of modified engines to keep the existing fleet in operation". — PTI

## Trai: Mobile calls to ring for 30 sec, landline 60 sec

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Telecom regulator Trai on Friday fixed phone call ring time at 30 seconds for mobiles and 60 seconds for landline phones in case the call is neither answered nor rejected by a subscriber.

The new rules will come into effect after 15 days.

"The time duration of alert for an incoming voice call, which is neither answered nor rejected by the called party, shall be thirty seconds for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and sixty seconds for basic telephone service," Trai said in an amendment to quality of service norms for basic telephone service and cellular mobile telephone service.

The UN body International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has specifications for international calls or circuits in the range of 1.5 minutes to 3 minutes but there is no prescribed value for the timer for domestic calls.

The present range of duration of call alert by different telecom service providers (TSPs) varies from 30 seconds to 45 seconds in case of the mobile networks, except one telecom operator has set "alert duration" as 25 seconds and in case of basic telephone networks, it varies from 60 seconds to 120 seconds.

Reliance Jio has accused old operators, including

**The present range of duration of call alert by different telecom service providers (TSPs) varies from 30 seconds to 45 seconds in case of the mobile networks, except one telecom operator has set "alert duration" as 25 seconds**

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, of "illegally" masquerading wire-line numbers as mobile numbers for "undue enrichment" and has exhorted Trai to slap "severest penalty" on them for violating regulations and licensing norms.

Bharti Airtel has hit back saying Jio is trying to misguide the regulator ahead of the consultation on call connect charges (also called interconnect usage charges).

Telecom operators on their own were reducing incoming call ring time to attract reverse call from subscribers of other networks.

Under the new rules, telecom operators on whose network call is made will have to release the network channel which has been used to send incoming call alert after 30 seconds on mobile network and 60 seconds on landline network. — PTI

## States to be ranked for export-preparedness

New Delhi, Nov. 1: The government is likely to release the first index in January to rank states and Union territories based on their preparedness to promote exports, an official said.

The exercise would help in promoting healthy competition among states and UTs to work on parameters for promoting the country's exports, which is one of the key indicators for boosting economic growth.

The index will rank them on some key parameters such as business environment, infrastructure, transport connectivity, access to finance, export infrastructure and trade support, the official said.

Both the Niti Aayog and the commerce ministry is working on this index.

Besides overall ranking, it will also be there for coastal states, landlocked states and hilly states.

According to experts, the exercise would help in giv-

ing a direction to states and UTs to work on their policies and infrastructure to attract both investors and exporters.

"It would give an empirical tool to states and UTs for introspection for their export preparedness. Exporters will also get a direction and guideline," Professor at Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) Rakesh Mohan Joshi said.

The government is already carrying out similar exercise to rank states and UTs on the ease of doing business.

Several steps are being taken to promote foreign trade as it constitutes 45 per cent of the country's economy. There is a target to increase share of the country's exports in global trade.

India's share in global merchandise exports and services was 1.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent, respectively. — PTI

# BFSI, FMCG, tech sectors resilient to layoffs: Experts

Mumbai, Nov. 1: Even as there are reports of companies laying off and putting a halt to new hiring, some sectors remain resilient during this difficult times, including banking and financial services, FMCG, food and technology, according to industry experts.

Despite the economic downturn, the BFSI sector has shown a positive outlook in terms of hiring, TeamLease Service vice president Ajay Shah said.

Banks' penetration into rural markets will result in a surge of job opportunities in tier II-III cities, he said. Top banks like HDFC Bank and Axis Bank are slated to add around 10,000 jobs in the next 9 to 12 months, he added.

Similarly, retail and online busi-

ness have shown demand in the hiring of temporary and contractual workers so fresh hiring can be seen in this sector. For this festive season, e-commerce portals increased their temp headcount by 30-50 per cent year-on-year," he added.

However, automotive, real estate and manufacturing sectors are affected the most, he said adding it has seen around 2.3 lakhs of lay-offs, the highest in the last 20 years due to a dip in sales.

In the real estate sector, lakhs of jobs have been lost because of the low demand and liquidity crunch and according to estimates more than a million jobs will still be lost

in the coming few months, he added.

Since there is a dip in the production in the manufacturing sector, jobs are being cut in this industry across the ancillary companies in food processing, auto and agriculture, he said.

Michael Page India managing director Nicolas Dumoulin opined that everything within the technology space is resilient today because there is already a shortage of good people within that particular field. "Most companies know that they need to invest in technology to be future-ready. And there's a huge start-up community in

India, which requires and thrives on tech. So these types of industries, which are looking at long term growth are typically tech-based. We have not had any reduction in hiring in this sector," he added.

He said due to the liquidity crunch in the markets investments have been altered in heavy capital equipment, real estate and so on. Claricent Partners Managing Partner Jyoti Bowen Nath said many small and medium-scale companies have been forced to lay off lakh of employees over the past few months to reduce production costs. Contractual manufacturing jobs, associated with the auto sector would also be at risk because of lower consumption. — PTI

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 1

By accelerating digitisation and leveraging next generation technologies, the life insurance sector can double its assets under management to ₹70 lakh crore and the non-life to ₹4 lakh crore, finds a study.

According to a study by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and FICCI, the AUM of life business will grow by a CAGR of 14 to 15 per cent till FY25 and this will double the assets from ₹35.80 lakh crore to Rs 70-75 lakh crore.

Non-life AUM too is expected to grow by 15 to 16 per cent from Rs 1.7 lakh crore to Rs 3.85-4.15 lakh

crore in the next 5 to 6 years. The new annualized business premiums of life insurance sector and gross premiums of non-life will also grow at a similar pace.

Digital trends will be a key catalyst for growth and will be at the core of the industry's transformation, finds the study. Insurers will have to drive digital-led transformation across 10 major themes to unlock growth, improve business economics, and deliver superior customer, distributor, and partner experience.

This includes building a customer centric mindset, building bionic distribution by leveraging digital and data as a 'force multiplier' to enhance human

MARKET FORECAST	
► The AUM of life business will grow by a CAGR of 14 to 15 per cent till FY25 and this will double the assets from ₹35.80 lakh crore to ₹70-75 lakh crore.	► Non-life insurance AUM too is expected to grow by 15 to 16 per cent from ₹1.7 lakh crore to ₹3.85-₹4.15 lakh crore in the next 5 to 6 years.

interactions improving productivity and quality.

Insurers will have to accelerate process digitization and automation by deploying next generation technologies such as robotic process automation, artificial intelligence and machine learning. They will have to set up 'next

generation' technology function as the core of a digital-led model and rewire business using analytics at scale.

Policymakers and the regulator also will have to play a crucial role in enabling the insurance industry to innovate. They will have to drive reforms in public sec-

tor insurance companies, deepen penetration of insurance through social security schemes, help address product-need gaps by enhancing coverage of social security schemes and encourage cross-pollination of product innovation.

The sector will also need policies to attract further capital flow to the industry, encourage innovation, implement robust risk-based capital regime in timely manner and facilitate dynamic underwriting for enabling further product innovation. Most importantly, insurers will have to adapt to the fast evolving reality and invest in themselves as well as their partners.

OPENING  
BELL  
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

## Nov. trade begins on a weak note

After a big rally in October, first day of November saw lack lustre trading session. Sensex gained for sixth consecutive session as it closed 35.98 points up at 40,165.03 gaining just 0.09 per cent. The BSE index touched an intra-day high of 40,283.30 and low of 40,014.23.

Nifty-50 index closed 13.15 points or 0.11 per cent higher at 11,890.60. The broader market outperformed with BSE Mid Cap Index up 0.18 per cent and BSE Small Cap Index up 0.32 per cent. Sector wise BSE Auto index fell 0.75 per cent as October month sales announced so far were mixed. Other laggards included BSE Capital Good (-0.72 per cent), Consumer Durables (-1.16 per cent), IT (-0.77 per cent). The gainers included BSE Metal (2.50 per cent), Telecom (1.49 per cent), Bankex (0.84 per cent), FMCG (0.46 per cent) and Healthcare (0.56 per cent). Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth ₹533.37 crore while the domestic institutions booked were net sellers by ₹136.50 crore.

Technical View  
Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research said, "November rollover data showed much better numbers with Nifty seeing above average while the underperformance from Bank Nifty continued. So we do expect Nifty to continue its outperformance with muted action in Nifty bank, which is skewed to private banks."

"In the coming week, we will have earnings numbers from HDFC, Dabur, Tata Steel, Can bank and also Divis and Titan which have been outperforming. A lot will also depend on how global markets are performing as they will direct domestic sentiments. We remain bullish as far as Nifty is sustaining above 11700 and dips should be utilized," he said.

Sameet Chavan, chief analyst-Technical and Derivatives, Angel Broking said, "Sensex already posting a fresh high, the Nifty is not going to shy away for a long time. Soon, we would be witnessing Nifty traversing the 12,000 mark to go beyond its record high of 12103.05. Before this some brakes seems to have applied on the recent momentum."

Market view  
Sanjeev Zarbade, vice president, Private Client Group Research, Kotak Securities said, "Global equities were flat or sideways during the week. Market sentiment in the US was more driven by the developments on the US China trade deal. While in recent weeks, the trade talks seemed to be moving in the right direction but during the week, the Chinese have expressed doubts whether long term trade deal is possible, leading to some weakness in US stocks. The BSE-30 Index gained 2.9 per cent in the past week. Markets were upbeat on reports of better-than-expected festive sales and slightly better-than-expected 2QFY20 results as well as progress on trade disputes between US and China and a 25 bps rate cut by the US Fed. FPIs bought equities worth \$1.1 billion over the past five trading sessions while domestic institutional investors sold \$67 million worth of equities," Zarbade said.

—RAVI RANJAN PRASAD





## Kane Cleared

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson's bowling action was given the stamp of approval by the ICC after he was reported during the first Test against Sri Lanka in August

# Games

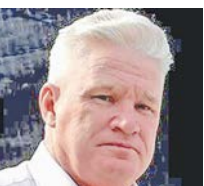
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DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 2 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

# Air of uncertainty

India eager to play in Delhi despite growing concerns over pollution

The dew factor is a concern, there is no doubt about that. If the ball is wet, just change it.  
— Dean Jones, former Australian cricketer on 'dew factor' in day-night Tests

## SHORT TAKES

### Edulji hits out at 'friend' Engineer

**New Delhi:** Former India captain and CoA member Diana Edulji on Friday took offence to the "foolish" comment made by Farokh Engineer targeting her, saying the 81-year-old's poor cricket knowledge surprised her.  
Speaking to a newspaper, Engineer, who played 46 Tests and five ODIs for India, had ridiculed the credentials of India's five-member selection panel led by MSK Prasad. He had also called Committee of Administrators' 33-month tenure at the BCCI a "waste of time", saying the three-member panel had no idea about the game though Edulji had played "little cricket". "He is an old friend. For someone whom I have known for years, I am surprised that his knowledge of cricket is so poor. I wish he had thought a bit before making such a foolish statement. I don't want to say further because I respect his cricket and he should respect cricket," Edulji, who played 20 Tests and 34 ODIs. "Whether it is women's cricket or men's cricket, one should not discriminate between the two," said the 63-year-old. — PTI

## England draw first blood in NZ T20

**Christchurch:** A maiden half century from James Vince powered England to a convincing seven-wicket victory over New Zealand in the opening Twenty20 international in Christchurch on Friday. Vince top-scored for the tourists with 59 as England chased down New Zealand's 154-run target in 18.3 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. While Vince's man-of-the-match performance caught the eye, captain Eoin Morgan was also full of praise for his bowlers, who laid the platform for victory by restricting the Black Caps to 153 for five. "The game was won and lost in the first innings... James Vince played outstanding well but all credit to the bowlers today," he said. A three-wicket haul from spinner Mitchell Santner was not enough to rescue the Black Caps, whose batting line-up failed to fire after Morgan won the toss and sent them in. England's win came despite the absence of several senior players, who have been rested for the series after a gruelling period that saw them win the World Cup and fail to reclaim the Ashes. — AFP



Rohit Sharma during a training session in New Delhi on Friday. — AFP


## Need to identify core players for T20 World Cup: Rathour

**New Delhi, Nov. 1:** Getting the core of players right without too much tinkering will be India's priority going into the 2020 T20 World Cup, batting coach Vikram Rathour said here on Friday.  
India will start their three-match T20 campaign against Bangladesh here on Sunday with an aim to test young players like Shivam Dube and

Sanju Samson. Rathour said that experiments can happen but he is not in favour of frequent chop and change.  
"You can't be changing too much as well. I agree. But a big tournament is coming so we need to know the core of our team and we need to maintain that core," Rathour said during the media conference.  
"And in between, try out

new players who are coming through. If they work out good for our combination, it will work for our team," said Rathour.  
The former India opener said that winning matches while batting first is one area the team needs to improve on. "In the last series, we deliberately batted first in one game which we lost. That's one area we need to work on." — PTI



 You can't be changing too much as well. I agree. But a big tournament is coming so we need to know the core of our team and we need to maintain that core.

—VIKRAM RATHOUR, India batting coach



Bangladesh coaches Daniel Vettori (left) and Russell Domingo wear masks during a training session in New Delhi on Friday. — AFP

## Not ideal but none will die, says coach

**New Delhi, Nov. 1:** The prevailing smoggy conditions in the national capital are not perfect, admitted Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo but said "no one is dying" as pollution is an issue in their country as well.  
Domingo said getting exposed to poor quality air in India was not as big a shock for them as it is for some other countries. Bangladesh players Al Amin, Abu Hider Rony and team's spin consultant Daniel Vettori were seen wearing masks during their

Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority to declare a public health emergency. The Supreme Court mandated panel also banned the bursting of crackers during the winter season apart from banning the construction activity till November 5.  
On Thursday, Bangladesh batsman Liton Das briefly wore the mask during practice session but later said it was due to a personal health issue and not because of pollution. Domingo admitted that the situation is not ideal and it's same for both teams.  
"There's no breeze but obviously not perfect weather with the smog. But it same for both teams. Not perfect, not ideal but you can't complain about and get on with the game," the coach said.  
When India's batting coach Vikram Rathour's response was sought on prevailing conditions, he said, "You are asking the wrong person. I have played all my cricket in North India (Punjab and Himachal Pradesh). Basically nothing special. There is pollution but a game has been scheduled and we have to play."

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly made it clear on Thursday that match will not be cancelled at the last minute but promised practical scheduling in future, hinting that North India venues may not be considered for matches post Diwali.

### Shakib episode will affect Bangla: Domingo

Domingo expects the recent ban on Shakib Al Hasan to affect the team's performance against India but is hopeful that his players will step up to the challenge against the formidable hosts.  
"He has been a big player for Bangladesh and is close friends with a lot of players. Obviously he has made a mistake and he is paying the price for it," Domingo said. — PTI

## Nitin snares five wickets for Hyd

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Himachal Pradesh defeated Hyderabad by 147 runs in the second round of the BCCI men's U-23 one-day trophy being played at Dehradun.  
Himachal Pradesh posted 246 for 9 in 50 overs. In reply Hyderabad were bowled out for a paltry 99 in 27.1 overs.  
Barring A. Varun Goud (29) and Rahul Buddhi (26), none of the Hyderabad batsmen could measure up to the task as Himachal bowlers Arpit Guleria (2/28), Vaibhav Arora (2/18), Ayush Jamwal (2/9) and Apoorva Walia (3/13) made life difficult for their rivals.  
Earlier, Karthikeya Kak (2/57), S. Praneeth Raj (2/58) and C. Hitesh Yadav (2/25) were the bowlers who punched above their weight for Hyderabad.  
Meanwhile in the Vijay Merchant Trophy being played at the Rajiv

Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal, Pondicherry replied to Hyderabad's 259 with 169 for 8 in 95 overs on the second day of the match.  
Jashwanth Shreeram got 48 and M. Mukesh scored 31 for Pondicherry even as Nitin Sai Yadav took five wickets while conceding 37 runs.  
**BRIEF SCORES**  
■ **Under 23 trophy:** Himachal Pradesh 246/9 in 50 overs (Ravi Inder Thakur 45, Nitin Sharma 75, Ayush Jamwal 54, Karthikeya Kak 2/57, S. Praneeth Raj 2/58, C. Hitesh Yadav 2/25) bt Hyderabad 99 in 27.1 overs (A. Varun Goud 29, Rahul Buddhi 26, Arpit Guleria 2/28, Vaibhav Arora 2/18, Ayush Jamwal 2/9, Apoorva Walia 3/13).  
■ **Vijay Merchant trophy:** Hyderabad 259 in 88.5 vs CA Pondicherry 169/8 in 95 overs (Kushwant Silora 29, Jashwanth Shreeram 48, M. Mukesh 31, Pranav Varma 2/26, Nitin Sai Yadav 5/37).



Australia celebrate after beating Sri Lanka by seven wickets in Melbourne to sweep the three-match Twenty20 series on Friday. — AFP

## Unbeaten Warner sets up win for hosts, Oz claim series 3-0

**Melbourne, Nov. 1:** Australia cruised past Sri Lanka to clean-sweep their three-match Twenty20 series Friday, with an inform David Warner grinding out a third successive half-century in the seven-wicket win.  
The home team have been dominant throughout, winning by 134 runs in Adelaide and by nine wickets with seven overs to spare in Brisbane ahead of

the clash in Melbourne.  
Sri Lanka's batting had been insipid until now, but they finally posted a competitive score of 142 for six, with Kusal Perera hitting 57.  
However their bowlers, led by Lasith Malinga, have been no match for a quality Australian batting line-up, spearheaded by Warner who has now scored 217 in three innings without losing his wicket.

"The way the bowlers set it up for us over the last two games, it was outstanding," said captain Aaron Finch after the win. — AFP

### BRIEF SCORES

**Sri Lanka 142/6 in 20 overs** (K. Perera 57; Starc 2/32, Richardson 2/25, Cummins 2/23) lost to **Australia 145/3 in 17.4 overs** (A. Finch 37, D. Warner 57 not out; Malinga 1/22, Kumara 1/49, Pradeep 1/20).

## Andrews girls bag bronze in CBSE's basketball tourney

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

St Andrews school secured the bronze medal at the Cluster VII Basketball tournament held at Sri Prakash Vidyaniketan in Tuni, Vishakhapatnam.  
As many as 36 teams had participated in both boys and girls under-19 categories, matches in which were played on knockout basis.  
Nidhi shone for Andrews in the Under 19 semifinal with 10 points to her credit, as the team put up a tough fight against P. Obul Reddy School but lost with an 18-35 scoreline.  
The losing semifinalists are declared joint third place finishers at the Cluster meet.  
Earlier in the quarterfinals, Nidhi (8) and Shrishti (6) of Andrews put out brilliant performances scoring from under the basket against Nalanda School to take their team forward.  
In the boys category, St Andrews lost to Chirec Public School in the quarterfinals.



Members of the St Andrews girls team pose after securing a bronze medal in the CBSE Cluster VII basketball tournament held in Tuni, Visakhapatnam.

### THE RESULTS

■ **Girls U-19 semifinal:** St. Andrews 18 (Nidhi 10) lost to P. Obul Reddy School 35.

**Quarterfinals:** St. Andrews School 16 (Nidhi 8, Shrishti 6) bt Nalanda School (Vijayawada) 2.





Booted out

Strugglers Stoke City sack coach Nathan Jones only 10 months after his charge at the club

Liverpool resume charge

Reds look to consolidate lead at English top in game against Villa

Birmingham, Nov. 1: Liverpool resume their Premier League title charge at Aston Villa on Saturday with Jurgen Klopp hoping to avoid a repeat of the defensive mayhem that nearly wrecked their dramatic League Cup win against Arsenal.

Klopp played a reserve side for the fourth round tie on Wednesday, featuring a number of emerging stars, and saw them advance via a penalty shoot-out having twice overcome two-goal deficits to draw 5-5 in 90 minutes. Liverpool conceded as many goals in one cup game as they have all season at Anfield in the Premier League so, while it was a memorable evening, Klopp will be banking on his regular defence returning to their miserly ways at Villa Park. Klopp's system is based on defending from the front and launching a devastating press whenever the opposition are in possession.

It is an approach that carried Liverpool to Champions League glory last season and has put them in pole position to win the title this term.

Klopp's high-tempo game-plan also makes the most of the abilities of Brazilian striker Roberto Firmino.

The 28-year-old has scored just three league goals in 10 appearances this season, below his normal productivity rate.

While Firmino's goal record may have come under scrutiny outside Anfield, within the club his status and reputation appears to be rising with every passing month.

Experts have described Firmino as the best player in the world at what he does: implementing Klopp's complicated, but hugely successful, tactical, pressing system.

By comparison, Xherdan Shaqiri has been with Liverpool for nearly 18 months and is still not trusted by Klopp, in big games at least, because of his inability to carry out precise and demanding instructions.

The Liverpool manager requires his forwards, when out of possession, to constantly close down angles to prevent opposition defences passing the ball forward.

GUARDIOLA'S CITY TAKE ON SOUTHAMPTON

Meanwhile, Sergio Aguero holds the key to Manchester City's bid to overhaul Premier League leaders Liverpool as the Argentine striker reaps the rewards of his "best decision of his life".

When Aguero walks onto the Etihad Stadium pitch ahead of Saturday's clash with Southampton, he will feel more at one with his surroundings than he would ever have imagined when he arrived eight years ago.

Back then, Aguero was a talented but not yet fully rounded player hoping to thrive in England after a promising start to his European career with Atletico Madrid.

The intervening years have been a dream come



Lionel Messi (centre) practices with his Argentinian teammates in this file photo.



Sergio Aguero will play a key role in Manchester City's English Premier League clash against Bournemouth on Saturday.

true for Aguero, who is now City's record goalscorer and has amassed four Premier League titles, one FA Cup and four League Cups while helping the club's become top dogs in Manchester.

Aguero marked his 350th appearance with two goals against Southampton earlier this week.

UNITED TRAVEL TO BOURNEMOUTH

Elsewhere, Manchester United, enjoying a mini-revival after their poor start, can make it four successive away wins when they visit Bournemouth.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side beat Chelsea in the League Cup on Wednesday thanks to Marcus Rashford's superb free-kick and the United strik-

er feels confidence is growing in the squad.

"If you get a couple of wins back-to-back early on in the season it can change the direction the season is going," Rashford said.

"When you're winning back-to-back games, the team's confidence levels go up," he said at the pre-match United star said.

In another match, Arsenal boss Unai Emery will be under pressure to deliver a win against Wolves after his side blew leads against Liverpool and Crystal Palace.

The Palace match was marred by Granit Xhaka's astonishing feud with Gunners fans and the fall-out continues, with Emery still deciding whether to strip him of the captaincy.

— AFP

Lionel back in Argentina side

Buenos Aires, Nov. 1: Lionel Messi was called up by Argentina on Thursday for friendly games against Brazil and Uruguay next month, the country's football association announced on Twitter.

Messi has not played for Argentina since he was sent off against Chile in their victorious third-place play-off match in the Copa America on July 7.

The striker was then handed a three-month suspension for comments he made after the game, in which he accused CONMEBOL, the governing body of South American football, of corruption.

In-form Manchester City forward Sergio Aguero has been recalled after missing out on the last four friendlies, while Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo remains in the squad following his surprise recall after the Copa America.

In Messi's absence, Argentina have played four friendlies, drawing against Chile (0-0) and Germany (2-2) while thrashing Mexico 4-0 and Ecuador 6-1.

They face Brazil in Saudi Arabia on November 15 and then Uruguay in Israel on November 18. Messi's ban ends on November 3.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has endured an injury-hit start to the season after hurting his foot

● Five-time Ballon d'Or winner, Lionel Messi has not played for Argentina since he was sent off against Chile in their victorious third-place play-off match in the Copa America on July 7.

in August and then his thigh in September.

But his recovery has coincided with a return to form for Barcelona, who have won their last seven consecutive games in all competitions.

Messi scored twice in a 5-1 win over Real Valladolid on Tuesday.

THE SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Agustín Marchesin, Juan Musso, Emiliano Martínez, and Esteban Andrada.

Defenders: Juan Foyth, Renzo Saravia, Nicolas Otamendi, German Pezzella, Marcos Rojo, Walter Kannemann, Nicolas Tagliafico, Nehuen Perez, and Guido Rodriguez.

Midfielders: Giovanni Lo Celso, Leandro Paredes, Nicolas Dominguez, Rodrigo de Paul, Marcos Acuna, Roberto Pereyra, and Lucas Ocampos.

Forwards: Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero, Nicolas Gonzalez, Lucas Alario, Lautaro Martinez, and Paulo Dybala.

Battle heats up in Spain for top spot

Madrid, Nov. 1: Real Madrid's 5-0 thumping of Leganes on Wednesday was their biggest win in La Liga since his first spell as coach but Zinedine Zidane was hardly in a celebratory mood.

In the press conference after the match, one expectant journalist asked if it was Madrid's best performance of the season. "No I don't think so," Zidane said.

The fact is there are few candidates, from a campaign in which Real Madrid have produced only in spurts, flitting between commanding and chaotic even within individual matches, let alone from week-to-week.

"The problem is we have to show every three days that we are good. That is the difficulty and that is what we do not do," Zidane said earlier this month.

After 10 games, the juncture when teams can supposedly be judged, the picture is still not clear, yet there are signs, in Zidane's selection at least, that his second tenure is taking shape.

A spine has been established with the places of Thibaut Courtois, Sergio Ramos, Raphael Varane, Toni Kroos and Karim Benzema seemingly assured.

Dani Carvajal has been more reliable at right-back than the erratic Alvaro Odriozola while on the other side Ferland Mendy has yet to dislodge Marcelo, despite his 50 million arrival.

Casemiro remains the squad's only defensive midfielder and Fede Valverde has brought much-needed energy into the midfield.

Lionel Messi's mesmerising performance against Real Valladolid served as an announcement that he is fit and firing again.

Diego Simeone insists Atletico Madrid are a work in progress but their draw away at Alaves in midweek leaves them playing catch-up.

— AFP



The problem is we have to show every three days that we are good. That is the difficulty and that is what we do not do.

— ZINEDINE ZIDANE

Real Madrid coach

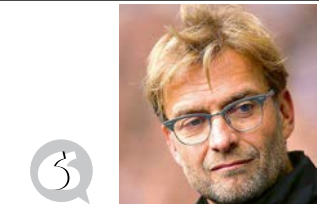
Live

SPANISH LEAGUE

Levante vs Barcelona from 8.30 pm

Sevilla vs Atletico Madrid from 11 pm

Real Madrid vs Real Betis from 12.30 am (Sunday)



He's an incredibly important player. He enjoys it so much to play in this team, to be really there.

— Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool manager, on striker Roberto Firmino

SHORT TAKES

Nadal, Djokovic sail into quarters

Paris: Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic continued their battle for the year-end world number one ranking as both players reached the Paris Masters quarterfinals with wins over Stan Wawrinka and Kyle Edmund respectively.

The 33-year-old Nadal is already guaranteed to usurp Djokovic at the rankings summit next week, but winning a maiden Bercy title would also secure the year-end top spot before next month's ATP Tour Finals in London.

He produced an impressive display on Thursday to take his career head-to-head record against three-time Grand Slam champion Wawrinka to 19-3 with a clinical 6-4, 6-4 victory. Djokovic had earlier booked his last-eight place with a 7-6 (9/7), 6-1 win over Britain's Edmund.

The spariard Nadal will face home favourite and 2008 champion Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the quarterfinal, while the World No.1 Djokovic will take on Stefanos Tsitsipas.

— AFP

Barty, Bencic in semifinal round

Shenzhen: World number one Ashleigh Barty and Belinda Bencic both advanced to the semifinals after contrasting victories at the WTA Finals in China on Thursday.

Barty progressed from the round-robin stage with a crushing 6-4, 6-2 win over Petra Kvitova in one hour and 28 minutes at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Centre. Bencic prevailed 7-5, 1-0 in 61 minutes after late replacement Kiki Bertens retired ill.

Bertens received medical attention after the opening game of the second set, where her blood pressure and pulse were checked, before becoming the second player in the tournament to retire mid-match after Bianca Andreescu withdrew against Karolina Pliskova on Wednesday.

"I didn't feel well on court. I had some problems with my stomach. The energy was not there. (I felt) a little bit dizzy," Bencic said.

— AFP

GURJIT NETS BRACE AS INDIA BEAT US

Bhubaneswar: Indian women's hockey team took a giant leap towards Olympic qualification with a near-flawless performance to hammer USA 5-1 in the first-leg of the two-match FIH Qualifier here on Friday.

It was expected to be a tricky tie for the hosts but the women punched above their weight to simply demolish USA's challenge in front of a partisan crowd at the Kalinga Stadium. Dragflicker Gurjit Kaur (42nd and 51st) struck brace while Lilima Minz (28th), Sharmila Devi (40th) and Navneet Kaur (46th) were the other scorers.

Ranked ninth in the world, India now need to defend their four-goal advantage in Saturday's second and final-leg to seal their Tokyo Olympic 2020 ticket.

Sushila failed to stop the push but from the ensuing move, an unmarked Lilima, stationed at the far post, tapped it in to break the deadlock.

The late goal in the second quarter seemed to have worked wonders for the Indian girls as they completely dominated the remaining minutes of the game.

— PTI

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MANVIR SCORES LATE EQUALISER FOR NORTH EAST

Guwahati, Nov. 1: Manvir Singh's late equaliser preserved the Gaurs' unbeaten run in season six of the Indian Super League FC Goa drew 2-2 with NorthEast United at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Sarusajai, Guwahati on Friday.

Hugo Boumous and Manvir Singh scored for the Gaurs, while Asamoah Gyan and Redeem Tlang netted for the Highlanders. Len Doungel was sent off for FC Goa.

Sergio Lobera made two changes to the line-up that drew 1-1 with Bengaluru FC at the Fatorda Stadium. Hugo Boumous made his first start of the season and Jackichand Singh came back into the 11.

— PTI

High-derabad! Football's back home

MOSES KONDETY | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

It's been decades since Hyderabad figured in top flight football, and aficionados in the city would be 'kicked' when Hyderabad Football Club turn up at the Gachibowli Stadium here on Saturday night to match their wits against Kerala Blasters in their first home game of the Indian Super League.

Not quite a position to be in though. Having lost both their matches — against ATK and Jamshedpur FC — Hyderabad are sitting at the bottom of the league with no points to their credit. They have scored just one goal — courtesy Marcelo against Jamshedpur — and have let in eight for a dismal goal differ-

ence of -7, the worst among 10 teams.

The Pearl City pack need to shine, and do justice to the Kohinoor diamond-inspired logo on the jersey. Manager Phil Brown sees light. "There's only one way we can go from here — up," he said at the pre-match press conference on Friday.

To be fair, Hyderabad have been hit by injuries and exclusion, making the task harder. Key players like Bobo, Giles Barnes, Sahil Panwar and Rafael Gomez are recovering while Nestor Gordillo is serving suspension. "We have a team full of injuries and unfortunately (Brazilian) Marcelo is not one of them. Some of our bigger players are sitting in the stands. Robin (Singh, striker) will get the



Hyderabad Football Club manager Phil Brown (left) and striker Marcelo speak to reporters on Friday.

benefit when they are fit. Once the treatment room clears out, you will see the difference," Brown pledged.

"We have had very difficult games away, but the players have been working really, really hard every day. There's lot to work

with as far as the team is concerned. Once we get our strongest team out, we can start talking about defence, midfield and attack. Give us a chance to breathe and we will show you a different brand of football," Brown vowed, adding, "We are a new

brand and want to represent Hyderabad, make the people of this city feel proud of us, but it will take time for us to gel together. Hopefully we can fill that beautiful stadium at some stage of the season with our performance."

The Englishman also revealed that Tollywood actor and team co-owner Rana Daggubati had a pep talk with players at the stadium on Friday.

Kerala, on the other hand, are seventh on the table with three points from two games and would be keen to inch their way north. It's early days yet but only the top four qualify for the play-offs. The Blasters burst out of the blocks to beat ATK in the opener but were pipped by Mumbai City at home in

the next game. The visitors are also without some key players after injuries to midfielder Mario Arques and central defender Sandesh Jhingan.

Manager Eelco Schattorie feels they are better off though.

"Hyderabad have a lot of injuries, it is never easy when you don't have your strongest possible set up. We are not that worse, but I am also not playing with my strongest possible unit — all my foreign players are not fully fit," he said.

Team strength is tilted towards the Kerala Blasters and Hyderabad FC could in all probability be punished. However, football would emerge winner right after the first whistle is blown — having come home!