


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 5 NOVEMBER 2019

WEATHER



Max: 32.2°C
Min: 22.2°C
RH: 57%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 32/22°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shudda Navami
Star: Danishta till 6.14 am (Wednesday)
Variyam: 7.51 am to 9.39 am
Durmuhurtam: 8.36 am to 9.21 am and 10.43 pm to 11.34 pm
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul-Awwal 7, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.15 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.08 pm
Maghrib: 5.50 pm
Isha: 6.59 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.43 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.16 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.43 AM
MOONSET TODAY --

Grenade attack hurts 35 in J&K

Srinagar: Terrorists lobbed a grenade in a busy market in the heart of the city, killing one person and injuring 35 on Monday, almost three months since the Centre revoked the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, police said. This is the second grenade attack in less than a month in the summer capital of what is now the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. — PTI

BJP's gag order on Ayodhya case

New Delhi: Ahead of the expected Supreme Court verdict on the Ayodhya case, the BJP on Monday asked its party workers and spokespersons to restrain from making emotive and provocative statements on the Ram temple issue. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had issued a similar word of caution to its cadre a few days ago. — PTI

Cop quits for getting married

Hyderabad: City police commissioner Anjani Kumar has accepted the resignation of constable Siddhanthi Pratap, 29. He had recently submitted his resignation as he was not getting brides due to his job. Mr Pratap, posted with the Charminar police, found that his prospective brides did not like his long working hours.

COUNTER POINT



New app, sir. No one can hack your phone... but you can hack your opponents!



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McD CEO fired for relation with staff



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Rafael Nadal back as tennis no. 1

TABLOID

The fastest Indians



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Attacker sets lady official afire after heated argument with her Tahsildar burnt alive in office

JAYENDRA T. CHAITANYA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

In a shocking incident in Hyderabad, a woman mandal revenue officer (MRO, or tahsildar) Ch. Vijaya Reddy, was burnt alive by a man at her office premises on Monday.

The accused and two others at the office, who tried to rescue her, also suffered burn injuries and are being treated at different hospitals in the city. The incident took place in broad daylight inside the MRO chamber, when other employees and members of the public were present to share their grievances.

The deceased, identified as Ch Vijaya Reddy, 37, was working as the MRO of Abdullapurmet mandal in Ranga Reddy district.

Revenue employees call for a bandh today

IREDDY SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The brutal killing of Abdullapurmet MRO Vijaya Reddy has caused severe heartburn amongst the staff of revenue department, who have been in distress by repeated statements of

various government officers against the department for indulging in rampant corruption. Protesting against the killing, revenue staff on Monday came out on to the roads and gave a call for bandh on Tuesday.

■ Full report on Page 4

The accused has been identified as Kura Suresh, a resident of Gowrelli village.

At around 1.30 pm, Ms Vijaya Reddy, who went to a court to attend proceed-

ings of a case, reached her office. She spoke to a senior assistant before asking the attendant to send the public inside her office, as Monday is observed as a 'Grievance Day'.

Suresh, who was present at the office, went inside the MRO's chamber and spoke to her for a while. When another citizen was entering the chamber, he noticed heated arguments and came out. Within no time, flames were seen rising from inside the chamber and Suresh came out running. Ms Reddy also followed him. Chandraiah, the attendant, and Gurnatham, her driver, who attempted to rescue her, also suffered burn injuries.

Ms Reddy, who was engulfed in flames, ran out of the office and fell before the main door. Other staff noticed and threw a blanket on her to douse off the flames, but she had already died by then.

■ Page 4: Case will be tried at fast-track court

Controversial Shift: Jagan shunts AP CS

Transfers LV Subrahmanyam as DG of HRDI

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 4

In a rare development that shook the Andhra Pradesh bureaucracy, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday removed chief secretary (CS) L.V. Subrahmanyam from the post. The incumbent, who in a dramatic turn of events took over as CS while the general elections were underway in April, has still got six months of service to go.

Mr Subrahmanyam had to pay the heavy unprecedented price for seeking an explanation from Praveen Prakash, principal secretary to Chief Minister, over certain violation of business rules by the latter.

Enraged by the action of the CS in questioning his principal secretary, the Chief Minister stood in support of his PS and choose to throw out the CS. Mr Subrahmanyam is a senior in service experience in the bureaucracy to Mr Prakash by at least 10 years.

In the meanwhile, chief commissioner of land administration, Neerab Kumar Prasad, was given the additional charge of the top bureaucratic post in the state.

This is only the second instance of an unceremonious exit of a chief secretary enforced by a political boss in the last two decades. The first time it happened was when Ananda Rao was ousted as the CS of combined Andhra Pradesh by the then chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu



● The Chief Secretary on Saturday issued a show cause notice to Mr Prakash for circulating files to the Cabinet without keeping him loop.

● On Monday, Mr Prakash as in-charge of GAD issued orders transferring the CS

PUNISHED FOR PROTECTING TIRUMALA: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 4

The transfer of chief secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam abruptly through a GO issued by a junior officer Praveen Prakash is a clear case of religious prosecution and a communally-minded and biased government at work, said leaders of the BJP.

"Mr Subrahmanyam had issued instructions on behalf of the state government, in capacity as CS, in Tirumala-Tirupati for voluntary transfer of non-Hindu employees since allegations were levelled against Christian evangelists of forced religious conversions in and around Tirumala. He took the decision to maintain the holiness of Lord Venkateswara," said Lanka Dinakar, BJP leader.

BJP state president Kanna Lakshmi Narayana on Monday said the sudden transfer of Mr Subrahmanyam exposed the dictatorial attitude of the Chief Minister.

TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu said the government has insulted Subrahmanyam by transferring him.

Former CS I.Y.R. Krishna Rao said, "Though CM has the power to replace the CS, the manner in which this was done is unfortunate."

■ Page 6: Notice issued for business rules violation

PAWAR MEETS SONIA, UPS GAME IN MAHA

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

True to his style, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar kept stirring the political pot in Maharashtra on Monday as he met Congress president Sonia Gandhi to discuss possible scenarios for the Congress-NCP to form or support a government in the state. Both sides decided to meet again later after discussing with their parties.

Mr Pawar, however, differed with some Congress leaders who felt the ongoing power struggle between the BJP and the Shiv Sena was a bargaining game. "I think the game between the two is serious," he said, adding at least twice that the Sena seemed interested in leading the government.

For the Shiv Sena too, the old warhorse had a message. On being repeatedly asked about the options that the Congress-NCP was exploring, he said that there was no communication from the Sena as of now and his mandate remained to sit in the Opposition.

When reporters reminded him of his meeting with Sena leader Sanjay Raut, Mr Pawar dismissed it as a routine meeting, saying any such proposal or communication has to come from none other than Uddhav Thackeray.

"As of now, we do not have the numbers," the NCP chief said, but asserted he does not know what would happen in the future. "The ground level situation as of today is against the BJP," he said.

■ Page 7: Maha Congress wants to explore options

India opts out of Asia's free trade

India claims its concerns weren't addressed

Bangkok, Nov. 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that India will not join the mega Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) deal as negotiations failed to address New Delhi's "outstanding issues and concerns".

Mr Modi made the announcement during his speech at the RCEP Summit here, which was attended by several world leaders.

"The present form of the RCEP agreement does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guiding principles of the RCEP. It also does not address satisfactorily India's outstanding issues and concerns. In such a situation, it is not possible for India to join RCEP agreement," Mr Modi said.

The RCEP comprises 10 Asean nations and six of its FTA (free trade agreement) partners — China, India, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. However, India opted out of the RCEP.

The original RCEP was aiming to facilitate the creation of the biggest free-trade region in the world as the 16-nation

● There have been fears in India that the country may be flooded with cheap industrial products from China and agricultural products from Australia and New Zealand once it signs the deal.

grouping is home to 3.6 billion people, or nearly half the world's population.

India has been forcefully raising the issue of market access as well as protected lists of goods mainly to shield its domestic market as there have been fears that the country may be flooded with cheap Chinese agricultural and industrial products once it signs the deal. "Today, when we look around we see during seven years of RCEP negotiations, many things, including the global economic and trade scenarios have changed. We cannot overlook these changes," he added.

"When I measure the RCEP agreement with

respect to the interests of all Indians, I do not get a positive answer. Therefore, neither the Talisman of Gandhiji nor my own conscience permit me to join RCEP," Mr Modi said.

This is not the first time that the Indian government under Mr Modi has demonstrated a strong resolve in matters of international trade and related negotiations. US President Donald Trump who is known for his negotiation skills has himself called Mr Modi a tough negotiator, sources said.

"Gone are the days when Indian negotiators caved in to pressures from the global powers on trade issues," sources said.

The sources said except India, all 15 RCEP member countries were on board in finalising the deal at Monday's summit.

On Saturday, the ministers from 16 RCEP countries failed to resolve the outstanding issues identified by India, though back-channel talks continued on the sidelines of the Asean summit to resolve the sticky issues. — PTI

■ Reports on nation page

Easing city's traffic gridlock



Municipal administration and urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao (second from right) inaugurates a flyover at Biodiversity Complex at Gachibowli on Monday as Hyderabad Mayor Bonthu Rammohan (right), minister Sabita Indra Reddy (second from left) and MLA Arekapudi Gandhi (left) look on. ■ Report on Page 3 — DC

No job for striking RTC staff after today, says CM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The Telangana state government has decided not to take back on duty those RTC employees and workers who fail to report to duty by Tuesday midnight. The state government has firmed up its view that a good opportunity has been given by it to striking RTC workers to join duties before the mid-

night deadline. It was now up to RTC workers and employees whether to join duties before the deadline or continue the strike and lose their jobs, and consequently put their families to hardships. The government has made it clear that if striking employees do not join duties before the expiry of the deadline, private buses would be given permits to remain-

ing 5,000 routes also, and mark the end of an entity called TSRTC.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao held a review meeting on Monday, in the backdrop of the ongoing RTC strike and the High Court's hearings and observations of the two-judge Bench on the matter.

■ Page 4: State ready for a long legal battle on RTC

SC bans construction, demolition in Delhi

New Delhi, Nov. 4: Terming the severe air pollution in Delhi-NCR as "atrocious", the Supreme Court banned all construction and demolition activities in the region, along with burning of garbage and waste, on Monday.

The court, which observed that people could not be "left to die" due to the "worse-than-emergency situation", said those carrying out construction and demolition activities, despite its order, would be fined ₹1 lakh.

It added that a penalty of ₹5,000 would be imposed if

anyone was found burning garbage and waste in the region. A bench comprising justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta said in case of any violation, the local administration and zonal officers would be held responsible.

It said the prevailing situation in the area was a "blatant and grave violation of the right to life of an individual" and scientific data suggested that the life span of people had reduced due to this.

■ Page 7: Deal with pollution collectively, says court

NO | PRIVACY

Court restrains Chhattisgarh from intercepting phones of IPS officer and his kids

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

The Supreme Court on Monday took serious view of the Chhattisgarh government snooping on the phones of a state cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Mukesh Gupta and his family members and asked how the right to privacy of a person can be violated in this manner.

Observing that "no privacy is left for anybody", a bench of Justice Arun

Mishra and Justice Indira Banerjee directed the Chhattisgarh government to file a detailed affidavit explaining who ordered the tapping of phones of the IPS officer and his family members and the justification for it.

"What is the need to do like this? No privacy is left for anybody. What is happening in this country? Can privacy of somebody be violated like this? Who ordered this?" the bench said.

What is the need to do like this? No privacy is left for anybody. What is happening in this country? Can privacy of somebody be violated like this?

— SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court's observation comes against the backdrop of the WhatsApp snooping scan-

dal, over which the Congress and the BJP have been sparring.

The court also noted with concern that a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged against the lawyer who appeared for Mr Gupta before the top court. Staying the investigation against the lawyer arising from the FIR, the court ordered that no coercive steps would be taken against him.

The court directed the deletion of the name of

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who has been arraigned as one of the respondents.

The court asked senior counsel Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for the IPS officer, not to politicise the issue by dragging the name of the chief minister.

The Supreme Court, which was unhappy over the tapping of the phones of the IPS officer, had in an earlier hearing refused to quash the FIR against Mr

Gupta, including one involving the violation of FCRA by a trust running an eye hospital financed by his father.

The court by its September 2, 2019, order had stayed further investigations in the case against IPS officer Gupta.

In the last hearing of the matter on October 25, the court had ordered no further phone tapping and no coercive action against him, including harassment.



Power base

Dr K. Laxman says TRS will understand BJP's stature if it comes to Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Secunderabad



KCR is looking for the easiest route of escape from RTC staff strike

— Dharmapuri Arvind
BJP Nizamabad MP

SHORT TAKES

ALWAL IN THE GRIP OF DENGUE FEVER

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The dreaded dengue fever has reared its ugly head in the city due to poor civic conditions and an apathetic Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, say residents of Alwal.

Recalling a recent death owing to dengue, the residents charged that GHMC did not pay heed to their complaints about waterlogging and muddy roads in their area. "We have already lost the life of one of our neighbours to dengue. When will the government take action and relieve us from this waterlogged mess," asked Narendra Reddy, a resident of Srinivasnagar Colony, Alwal.

He questioned whether GHMC is waiting for a massive outbreak of the deadly disease to take any preventive measures. "Prevention is better than cure, but the municipal corporation does not seem bothered," remarked Mr Reddy.

Residents of the area claim they have repeatedly complained to GHMC about pumping out water and fumigating the area with DDT to get rid of the mosquito menace.

"Despite all our complaints, corporation people visited the area only once and put some bleaching powder on the roadside. Sadly, this is not helping in any way," said Dr G.V. Rao, a resident of Alwal.

RAJESHWAR APPOINTED NEW ASG

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Advocate Namavarapu Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the assistant solicitor general (ASG) to represent Government of India in the Telangana High Court.

The Central Government issued a notification in this regard on Monday. The post has been vacant since August 23 when the then ASG, K. Laxman, got elevated as Judge of the Telangana High Court.

Appointed for three years, Rajeshwar Rao will hold the overall responsibility for conducting litigation in the High Court on behalf of the Union Government. He will also have the power to distribute cases to standing counsels in cases wherein Central Government is a litigant.

Rajeshwar Rao, a native of Warangal district, has a practice of over 18 years in the profession. He has remained as panel advocate of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and Armed Forces Tribunal since 2016.

WHEN HEART SKIPPED FOR METRO USERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Metro rail commuters faced anxious moments on Monday evening when the jam-packed train from Madhapur at 7.10 pm stopped and jerked thrice. It reached Ameerpet only at 7.40 pm.

Sai Kiran, a software employee, who had boarded the train at Madhapur, said, "For the first time, I got scared while travelling on the Metro. The jerks were severe and the train was screeching. This made men and women commuters very anxious." The concerned commuter also put up his complaint on the social media. He asked public representatives to travel on metro rail to realise the actual situation. The metro rail is fully packed during the evening hours as thousands of people opt for it for a faster commute.

L&T Metro Rail officials stated that they will check into the particular complaint and get back.

'Indo-US ties would define this century'

US cherishes friendship with India as its most important political relationship in the world: Consul General Joel R. Reifman



HYDERABAD is a beautiful city. It has one leg in the past, is strongly grounded because it is in touch with its roots and past. The majestic Charminar, the amazing Chowmahalla palace — they are all wonderful. And even more wonderful are the people and the culture here.

>>

US Consul General
Joel R. Reifman



example of Hindus and Muslims living in peace and harmony is so valuable for all.

Yet, the city also has its eyes set on the future; Hyderabad is visionary and is buzzing with zeal to script and shape tomorrow.

What is the business potential as you seen between the two nations, and in particular, the two Telugu states, and of course, Hyderabad?

The business relationship is amazing. Within two days of my taking charge, I had the privilege of inaugurating the second largest development and fulfilment centres of Amazon anywhere in the world.

Most of the large American companies are here — Microsoft, Google, Facebook and the entire tech spectrum.

In strategic defence ties, the city is enabling the Indo-US ties. US and Indian companies are already collaborating in co-production of C-130 transport aircraft, F-16 fighter planes and Apache helicopters at joint facilities in Hyderabad. Lockheed Martin is making wings for F16s. We will continue to evolve as important aerospace and defence manufacturing hubs in the area.

With over 150 major American companies operating in our Consulate district (Telangana state, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha combined), this area is very crucial.

Not just software or defence, but in consumer goods, retail, so on. Pepsi

has a big presence in Andhra Pradesh. Ports are crucial from AP's perspective.

How would you characterise the Indo-American friendship?

In 1591, when the Charminar was built, America as a nation was not in the gaze of India. Today, our relationship is strong, and growing. The investment and defence trade is over \$18 billion, it was hardly anything a decade ago.

The overall trade at \$140 plus billion represents a five-fold increase over what it was in 2004. US investment in India has

grown seven fold in the same last 15 years.

What about the trade disputes?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump are good friends, who have met six times so far. Our business ties will grow only stronger. There are trade issues but we are engaged in talks and can resolve them. Let this be said — for us in America, we consider the friendship with India to be the most important political relationship in the world, one that will define the century. Similarly, the Indian investments in US are growing too. Did you know that Telugu is the fastest growing language in the USA?

Let me bring your attention to people-to-people level issues? Like Indians visiting the US or planning to go there for studies or jobs? Issues like visas?

People-to-people contacts are the most important part of any interaction between nations. It provides the real strength. On visas, the main anchor of our life and work's purpose at any embassy or consulate, between 2016 and 2018, the US Consulate in Hyderabad adjudicated over 650,000 non-immigrant visa applications.

We have a seen five per cent growth registered in number of students going to the US for higher education every year; for the last five years. Nearly 200,000 students (around 1,96,000) have been issued education visas from here. We

will only increase these numbers because the potential is higher.

There are reports of an upcoming expansion of the physical footprint of the consulate in the city?

The Paigah Palace has been a great home for us since we arrived here, but we are bursting at the seams. In terms of operations, if we issued 13,000 professional visas in October last year, (business, L1, H1B), we did over 18,000 this October. Our new centre is gearing up for launch rapidly. We hope to have 52 working windows, while we have 16 now.

There are other kinds of expansion planned too. We have one American Corner (in a college in Begumpet), we would like to have more.

We have a reach-out programme, Access English, to teach English as a way to make a difference to poorer sections in villages. We have impacted 1,500 people so far, would like to do much more. Now, most urban Indians speak better English than I do though... with Indian authors making such great impact on literature.

I learnt you travelled to a faraway village in AP recently. And learnt to cook biryani with a master chef?

We travelled to a village, over 100 km away from Vizag, to meet people, who perhaps have never met any westerner personally before. We discussed about human trafficking, as part of a drive to educate people about the issue.

WITH OVER 150 major American companies operating in our Consulate district (Telangana state, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha combined), this area is very crucial. Not just software or defence, but in consumer goods, retail, so on.

There can be no greater honour than to meet celebrity chef Nawab Mehboob Alam Khan you have seen on TV in real life and to cook alongside in his house in Barkatpura. We made *biryani*, yes.

Have you caught up with some cricket, or Tollywood movies?

I must confess though I have been in all major cricketing cities in Asia but could not get cricket. Of course, like everyone else, I have seen Bollywood. I promise to bring myself to speed with Telugu movies soon.

How do you see the transformation in Asia? Do you think this could be the century of India?

My recently experience in Dhaka, and now what I see of India, I am in no doubt the future of the world lies in Asia. The growing middle class, burgeoning economy, and more importantly, the shared values of democracy and acceptance of everyone — is a truly fantastic phenomenon to witness.

tastic phenomenon to witness.

As the economy goes, where can we focus further upon?

Medical tourism is a great area I can think of for Hyderabad and India to grow multifold. This is where the trade talks are crucial — India must cut tariffs on import of fourth generation medical devices, and not be stuck with infrastructure of the second generation.

Ports are another area of cooperation. Most trade happens by sea routes. If we harness the fullest potential of the waters, our costs of trade can come down. There is additionally the scope for military bases.

A new role like this poses great challenges. How do you keep abreast of everything going on?

We have a great research team that helps us understand issues. There is no replacement to meeting people and visiting places to try to understand real scenarios.

And a lot comes from media. I read the *Deccan Chronicle* first thing every morning to understand everything about Hyderabad, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. You are my gateway to the Deccan. I also read other newspapers...

I will not mention the other newspapers part (Consul General laughs). My last question — I heard some major events are slated ahead in area of defence cooperation?

India and the US are conducting the first-ever triservices joint exercise named Tiger TRIUMPH, including several events and field training, scheduled from November 13 to 21 near Visakhapatnam and Kakinada. This will involve all three services — the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

The exercise, besides building capacity of both Indian and American soldiers, will also improve our ability to operate together. Over 1,200 Indian soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and 500 US marines, sailors and airmen will participate in the nine-day exercise.

The two forces will also become familiar with one another's aviation support capabilities by conducting cross deck landings by Indian Air Force on the USS Germantown's flight deck. There is a focus on counter-terrorism and humanitarian relief capabilities.

We are also hosting the US-India defence ties conference on December 18 and 19 in Hyderabad to bring together government officials, corporate leaders, researchers and entrepreneurs to further strengthen collaboration in defence manufacturing and innovation.

No compromise on privacy: Jayesh

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

At a time when cybersecurity and data encryption have become the buzzwords, principal secretary-information technology Jayesh Ranjan, said that the state government was not willing to compromise on privacy.

Speaking at a meeting of International Data Science Technology for

Sustainable Development Goals, he said that it is unnerving to note that even encrypted data is also breached, adding that it is a growing concern.

Mr Ranjan, who was the chief guest at the conference observed: "We have done a lot of work in the area of data science. We were the first state in the country to craft a clear-cut policy. Though Sikkim was the first state, but

● **MR RANJAN said that it is unnerving to note that even encrypted data is also breached, adding further that it is a growing concern.**

compared to the size of that state, Telangana was the first large state in

India to come out with the dedicated policy on matters related to data."

The policy Mr Ranjan was referring to was announced in 2016.

Mr Ranjan also said that the state machinery has placed some government data on a public platform. "This open data is very rich in content. It has information on 150 plus companies and is the single source of ready reck-

oner on 250 relevant resources," he said.

The open date provides real-time wealth of information on agriculture, agri produces' prices, spatial data such as the information of market yards etc, Mr Ranjan added.

Unfortunately, however, he confessed that the state machinery has done very little on healthcare due to privacy and security related issues.

CHANGING LIVES

Study finds cab aggregator making drivers 'business owners'

Uber provides full-time job, dignity

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Unlike in most other countries, where it is deemed a part-time job that helps make an extra buck in their spare time, Indian drivers attached to the multinational ridesharing company, Uber, consider it as a full-time permanent livelihood source in their capacity as independent business owners. Even more contended are the religious minorities as it gives them an identity wherein they are not sub-

ject to any sort of discrimination, unlike many other professions.

These were the major findings of a recent study conducted by IIIT Hyderabad, which has profiled close to 133 Uber drivers in a paper titled 'India's Uber Wallah: Profiling Uber Drivers in the Gig Economy'.

The paper has thrown light on several interesting facets related to drivers vis-a-vis working under the Uber umbrella but independent of the employer.

'For Mudassar, who hails from a family of glass-bangle makers, working for Uber provides him with lucrative employment opportunities and negates instances of discrimination he would have otherwise faced with respect to the religious minority group he belongs to,' reads one of the interviews taken by the researchers.

The paper was authored by Prof. Nimmi Rangaswamy and her students from Centre for Exact Humanities, Shantanu Prabhat and Sneha

Nanavati. For the purpose of the study, they had 133 drivers as respondents.

The paper chronicles the time from when Uber entered the Indian market, where it realised that the San Francisco-headquartered cab aggregator would have to tweak their economic model to suit local conditions.

'Unlike the West wherein typical Uber drivers are part-time workers looking to make that extra buck in their spare time, most Indian Uber drivers work full-time. Also, unlike

their western counterparts who drive their own private cars, Uber wallahs don't own personal vehicles but are, instead, driving them on behalf of someone else,' the paper reads.

The researchers also discovered that all Indian Uber drivers have been in an informal or gig economy until now

"This is like turning around the whole discourse that the developed world is trying to project," exclaims Prof. Rangaswamy.

Water harvesting still a challenge

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Water shortage is an accepted fact of life in many localities in Hyderabad. Rainwater harvesting have could helped improve the situation but it seems there is time before we see any progress on that front.

The government had in 2018 launched a programme to promote the importance of constructing rainwater harvesting pits. These pits, it was hoped, would be the answer to shortages. This programme was named Jalam Jeevam. However, with the rainy season ending, experts, and those closely associated with the subject, say that while progress is being made, it is not enough.

Ms. Kalpana Ramesh, architect and activist, working in this field for several years, says there are fundamental problems with the way the pits are being constructed.

"A good pit should allow for rainwater to get percolated into the ground. However, many pits found at such places are only channeling the water and

throwing it out. It is not making its way down," she said.

When *Deccan Chronicle* spoke to residents of a few multi-storey buildings in Himayatnagar and Musheerabad, some said their complexes did have rainwater pits but they were seldom maintained.

Mr J. Satyanarayana, OSD at the rainwater harvesting cell at the Metro Water Board, said that awareness was increasing among citizens. However, he admitted that their mandate was limited to provide technical assistance to people constructing pits and not monitoring them afterwards.

Ms M. Jayashree of Prakriti Foundation, said there was much distance to cover. "Twenty years ago, no house would have a rainwater pit. Today, because of borewells in the city drying up, many have woken up to the importance of pits. We get a lot of calls asking for assistance but it is not enough. I estimate the number of buildings or houses that have pits to be not more than 10 per cent," she said.



Sudden checks

SCR GM Gajanan Mallya tells officials to intensify safety inspections at different timings to maintain highest standards



City of Pearls, Land of Kohinoor, now City of Food. Visit Hyderabad just to eat

— Musharraf Ali Faruqi
GHMC additional commissioner

POWER | SHUTDOWN

10 am to 1 pm: Katora House, Golconda police station, Dilvarshanagar, Risala Bazaar, Salenagar Kancha and Dhana Kota.
10 am to 2 pm: Ambedkarnagar, Gyani Zail Singh Colony, Saidappa House area, Emergency Colony, Jubilee Hills Ridge Hotel, Benz Showroom, Kavuri Hills Water Tank and MP Rajeswara Rao's house.
2 pm to 5 pm: Jubilee Hills Road Nos. 5, 10, 25, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, Kavuri Hills Phase-II, Amar Co-Operative Society, Anjaninagar, Vemral Garden; IOA institute; Area behind Trinetra Supermarket; PRP office, Surya Paper, Bata Chowrasta, Woman Co-Operative Society; Aravindnagar; Samatha Colony, Aziz Bagh, Rahul Colony, Rainbow Apartments, Adithyanagar, Suryanagar, Shaikpet Nala Area; Sabja Colony, Ko-e-Sar Colony, Reliance Mart and Brundavan Colony.

SHORT TAKES

Server glitches hit Indigo flights

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Delays due to server issues affected Indigo Airlines flights for 90 minutes Monday morning at Hyderabad airport. Apart from that, the fog in Delhi also caused a delay of 20 minutes.
The flight delays of Indigo Airlines had a cascading effect and although the server issues were sorted out by afternoon flights continued to be late.
The airline on its part communicated to all its passengers and also gave a statement on the reason for the delay.
Due to the fog in Delhi the Air India flight (AI 839) which was to land in Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) at 11:30 pm on Sunday, reached the city only at 04:10 am on Monday.
“The fog in the national capital has delayed take-off of most flights. That is why they are landing late,” said a spokesperson of Air India.
Overall, close to ten Delhi-Hyderabad flights were delayed.

Row over old structure

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The Telangana High Court sought response from the State Government on awarding and releasing around ₹55 lakh to private persons as compensation for acquiring a 150-year-old ‘Buruju’, which is a public property in Chintaltana village of Rajanna-Sircilla district.
A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy, was dealing with a PIL filed by R. Shanker Rao, a former sarpanch of the village, challenging the award notification. He sought a thorough inquiry and stringent action against all errant officers.

Manic Monday for traffic

Travel time stretched to hours; most failed to login in time

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

It was virtual Monday Blues for the city folk, particularly those working in Gachibowli, Kondapur, Madhapur, Hitec City, Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills as traffic choked and went haywire bringing movements on the roads to a halt.
In the total gridlock, what normally takes a few minutes of travel time stretched to hours with most employees failing to login at the regular time. Of course, the reasons were inexplicable and went beyond the ongoing stir by the RTC and bad roads.
“Not only were my team members but even I logged in late,” says Sirisha K., who works as a team leader in one of the MNCs situated at Mind Space. She quipped, “Traffic congestion is commonplace but today it was nightmarish.”
“Most of my morning was literally on the roads as I had to shuttle around Gachibowli, Madhapur and Banjara Hills, where our sites are coming up,” says Balaji Vasanth, owner of a construction company.
A recently published study has revealed that caught in traffic and spending hours on the road in exasperation could trigger psychological illnesses. Are the authorities listening?

● **IN THE** total gridlock, what normally takes a few minutes of travel time stretched to hours with most employees failing to login at the regular time.



Traffic jams on roads leading to Gachibowli, Kondapur, Madhapur, Hitec City, Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills tested the patience of motorists on Monday. — GANDHI

DC IMPACT



Remove illegal mobile tower from residential area

Illegal cell tower demolished

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The illegally installed Reliance Jio tower at Patelnagar, Bandlaguda, was removed by the GHMC after the issue raised in the Speak Out pages of this newspaper (Remove illegal mobile tower from residential area) on Monday.
GHMC officials visited the place on Monday morning and found that the company had commenced work on the tower on the premises No 18-13-9/P/187. Officials stopped the work as approval from the GHMC office for the construction of cell towers had not been given.



Zeba Bagh trash dump gone

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The GHMC cleaned up a garbage dump in Zeba Bagh near Al-Kareem Hotel on Monday. The issue had been raised by a DC reader and was published in the Speak Out pages on Monday (*Garbage dump in Zeba Bagh*).
The GHMC workers after cleaning up the place and spreading disinfectant sent the action taken pictures to *Deccan Chronicle*.



Garbage dump in Zeba Bagh
There is a garbage dump near the Al-Kareem hotel. No matter how many times we complain, this issue never gets resolved. These unsanitary conditions are very harmful for residents. Please take immediate action.
— Zubinmishra
Rahem Faris
Zeba Bagh

CONTAINER WITH 8-TONNE ‘BEEF’ SEIZED IN AP

K. KALYAN KRISHNA KUMAR | DC
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 4

Police on Monday seized a container transporting eight tonnes of meat, suspected to be beef, from Vizianagaram to Chennai, near the Tadepalli control room in Guntur district and took two persons into custody.
The police stopped the container after being tipped off by a volunteer of the Animal Welfare Organisation Board M. Manikanta.
The police quoted a veterinarian saying that the meat in the container could be beef. However, the police will send it to a lab for confirmation on Tuesday.
According to police, the meat was being transported with a fake waybill that said that the container was carrying eight metric tonnes of ‘Ice with Fish’. The waybill was made in the name of one Kiran as the dealer and the owner of the vehicle was named as A. Gafoor of Gudivada.
Mr Manikanta informed the police that he got information from Animal Welfare Organisation Board official S. Gopala Rao that beef was being exporting illegally through a container (AP37 TD 0122) via Eluru to Vijayawada.
He said that he informed the Vijayawada police after getting information, but by then, the container had left the city limits. Mr Manikanta informed the Tadepalli Control Room and the police stopped the container. In his complaint, he urged the police to take action under the Prevention of Cow and Animal Slaughter Act, 1977.

Flyover, big relief at Biodiversity Jn

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao on Monday inaugurated the second level flyover at the Biodiversity junction, which will bring much-needed relief to motorists in the IT corridor.
The minister and his entourage travelled on the 990-metre flyover which starts at Orion SEZ and ends at Biodiversity junction which heads towards Mindspace and Shilpakala Vedika.
The uni-directional flyover will ease traffic from Mehdiapatnam and Khajaguda towards Mindspace. It also improves connectivity between Hitec City and Financial District. By creating additional road space, it will save travel time and fuel and reduces pollution.
Constructed at a cost ₹69.47 crore under Package-4 of the state government's Strategic Road Development

● **KTR AND** his entourage travelled on the 990-metre flyover starting from Orion SEZ

Programme (SRDP). it will provide conflict-free movement for traffic at the Biodiversity junction.
After the inauguration, Mr Rama Rao laid the foundation stone for a flyover at the Shilpa Layout. A four-lane bidirectional flyover is being constructed from Shilpa Layout to the Gas Godown. An underpass will be built at the Gas Godown road, and a six-lane bi-directional flyover will begin from Kondapur and end at Gachibowli junction, leading to Outer Ring Road (ORR).
All three projects together will cost an estimated ₹330 crore.
Mr Rama Rao was accompanied by education minister Sabita Indra Reddy, Mayor Bonthu Rammohan and GHMC officials.

DC IMPACT

Rukkamma's body cremated

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The highly decomposed body of O. Rukkamma, which had been detained at the Osmania General Hospital over a spelling mistake, was handed over to the Second Chance Trust (SCT) on Monday morning for the last rites.
This newspaper had highlighted the issue in the report (*Spelt wrongly, body denied funeral*) on Monday.

The trust employees stated that the body was in a highly decomposed state and they immediately carried out the cremation rituals.
Mr Jasper Paul, founder member of SCT, said, “Not a single question was asked. We were just called and the body handed over. But its condition upset us the most. My team has been involved in the last rites of more than 100 destitute and we never felt so helpless.”

BY | ORDER

TS reserves only 10% instead of 33% for women

Give 12 cop posts to women: HC

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

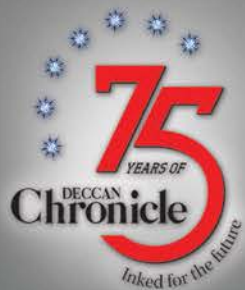
The Telangana High Court has directed the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TSL-PRB) to set aside 12 posts of woman police constables (Armed Reserve) for the petitioners, who have challenged the decision of the Board to reserve only 10 per cent of posts for women in Armed Reserve category rather than the mandatory 33 per cent quota as per statutory rules.
A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy,

● **THE BENCH** disagreed with state Counsel's contention and observed that there is no bar on the petitioners to challenge the Rule even after participating in the recruitment structure and that it can be done at any stage.
It directed the Board to keep aside 12 posts for the petitioners.

passed orders to this effect while hearing a writ petition filed by L. Krishnaveni and 11 others challenging the Rule issued in the concerned GO restricting reservation for women to 10 per cent as illegal and seeking redrawing of final merit list for the post of police constables (Armed Reserve).

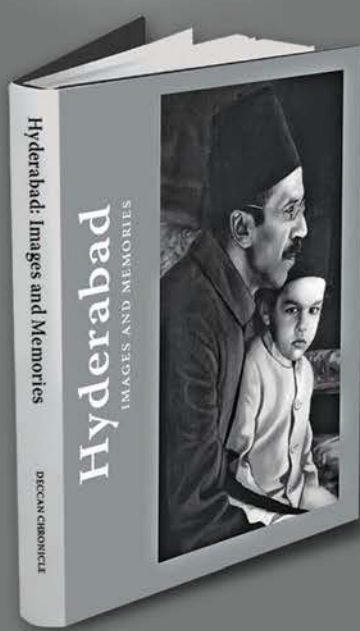
The petitioners also challenged the exercise of normalisation of marks of candidates in physical efficiency test, undertaken by the Board, which has resulted in severe loss to women candidates, whose marks have been drastically reduced as a result of this exercise. They contended that this exercise is dis-

criminatory and makes a mockery of Article 14 of the Constitution.
Mr M.V. Rama Rao, Counsel representing TSL-PRB, contended that the petitioners do not have the right to question the Rule after having participated in the recruitment process and failing to get selected. However, the Bench disagreed with this contention and observed that there is no bar on the petitioners to challenge the Rule even after participating in the recruitment structure and that it can be done at any stage. It directed the Board to keep aside 12 posts for the petitioners.



Hyderabad

IMAGES AND MEMORIES



We wrapped up our celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Deccan Chronicle on May 15, by bringing a special compilation of seventy-five stories filled with intrigue and delight from the final days of the Nizamshahi, titled *Hyderabad: Images & Memories*

From the palace mysteries and murder plots to the Nizam's 3,000 wives and how the ruler faced allegations of kidnapping his bride, all under the watchful eyes of the British, it is all there.

We scoured the archives and collected anecdotal evidence from several actors of that era to discover delightful asides like how the motichur laddus got their name, how an aide saved the Nizam's legendary treasures for the royal family and how Indira Gandhi floored the Nizam.

There are more than 75 pictures, a few of them rare and perhaps being published for the first time.

NOW AVAILABLE

HYDERABAD: IMAGES AND MEMORIES

The hard-bound : ₹2,000, Soft cover : ₹1,500.
at all Deccan Chronicle & The Asian Age offices across the cities



KTR shocked

KTR shocked by murder of MRO Vijaya Reddy, says inhuman attacks such as this are reprehensible, have no place in a democracy

City

PAGE 4

DECCAN CHRONICLE

TUESDAY | 5 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

3



The murder of MRO Vijaya Reddy is due to the instigation of the state

— Seethakka Congress MLA

2 CARS SET ON FIRE IN BS MAKHTA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD NOV. 4

Unidentified miscreants set two cars on fire at BS Makhta late Sunday night. Panjagutta police booked a case and further investigation is underway.

According to police, the cars were parked in front of two houses at Durga Matha temple in Raj Nagar, B.S. Makhta in the vicinity of Panjagutta police station.

They suspect that the incident might have happened between around 1am. It is learnt that there are no CCTV cameras in the surrounding areas due to which the police could not trace the miscreants.

The locals found the vehicles in flames and alerted the owners and the police, who in turn alerted fire personnel, who rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

FRAUDSTERS FROM U.P. ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The North Zone Task Force police on Monday arrested a two-member gang even as it was negotiating the sale of a copper idol by passing it off as an antique panchaloha icon.

The accused were identified as Arjun Singh, 35, a farmer, and Mohd Kallu, 34, both from Uttar Pradesh.

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar said the North Zone Task Force police on receiving a tip-off laid a trap and apprehended the two accused. The idol of the Jain saint Mahavir was said to weigh five kilograms. The gang claimed that it was an antique piece and was made of panchaloha, or five precious metals.

The deal was going on with prospective customer for ₹40 lakh near Alpha Hotel near Secunderabad railway station, when the police moved in and arrested them.

Police recovered 380 copper coins, the Mahavir idol and ₹9 lakh cash from the accused.

NRI COMPLAINS HE WAS CHEATED OF ₹1.47 CRORE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

A 52-year-old NRI has complained to the Central Crime Station stating that he has been cheated by his own relatives to the tune of ₹1.47 crore.

The complainant, Hameed-Uz-Zama Khan, 52, a civil engineer, said that while working in Dubai, the UAE, he had given an interest-free hand loan to Naresh Solanki, 44, and the latter's mother, as they were going through financial problems.

However, the duo had failed in repaying the borrowed money within the promised timeframe.

Khan said, "Both have started avoiding me. Solanki personally met and begged me at my residence to give him 60-days' time to repay the borrowed amount. He also gave me two cheques for encashment immediately after 60 days, promising there would be enough funds in his bank account to honour the same without fail."

But that did not happen. Subsequently, the NRI approached the Central Crime Station and booked a case against Naresh Solanki and his mother. The CCS registered a case of cheating on October 10.

Khan stated that there has been no progress in the case. "I request the police to act and hope justice would be done to me," he added.

Vijaya murder case will be tried in a fast-track court

Police probes if land issue was behind officer's killing

From Page 1

Mahesh, an eye-witness and an employee at the mandal revenue office, told media, "We did not know it was the MRO. When I was searching for her and screamed her name, Vijaya madam raised her hand to tell us that it was her. Then, she passed away."

The accused, Suresh, who was walking on the road with at least 60 per cent burn injuries, was caught by the police, who were on their way to the crime scene.

Abdullapurmet police said that they received an alert through Dial 100 about the incident. When a patrolling team was rushing to the spot, they saw a severely injured Suresh and shifted him to a private hospital, and subsequently, to the Osmania General Hospital (OGH) for treatment.

The other injured persons, Chandraiah and Gurnatham, were shifted to the DRDO Apollo hospital for treatment.

The police cordoned off the office and the clues team collected evidence from the spot.

Vijaya Reddy, a teacher by profession, had joined as MRO in 2009, after clearing the state public services examination. She was initially posted in Sangareddy. Three years ago, she took charge as the first MRO of Abdullapurmet mandal.

Her husband, P Subhash Reddy, works as a botany lecturer at the Hayathnagar degree college. The family hails from Kalvapally village in Munugodu mandal of Nalgonda district. The couple was married about 13 years ago, with two children - daughter Sai Chaitanya, a student of Class V and son Bhuvan Sanket who is in Class 1. The family resides at LB Nagar.

Soon after the incident, the staff of Abdullapurmet mandal revenue office and other revenue employees and relatives rushed to the spot. They staged a protest demanding justice to the bereaved family. They even stopped the police from shifting the body for post-mortem examination.

However, the police pacified the agitators and shifted the body to OGH mortuary.

Mr Mahesh Bhagwat, police commissioner, Rachakonda, said, "The accused person, Suresh, is in a critical condition and is undergoing treatment at OGH. It seems Suresh had a land-related issue. We are trying to find out why he resorted to such a barbaric act."

The commissioner said that the case will be tried in a fast-track court to ensure conviction to the accused by collecting all evidence.

Mr S. Devender, inspector, Abdullapurmet, said, "The incident occurred close to 2 pm. A team of doctors has performed post-mortem examination of the body of Vijaya Reddy. A land dispute could be the reason behind the murder, but we have to probe facts."

He said that a case has been registered under Indian Penal Code Section 302 (murder) and 307 (carrying out an act that could result in a person's death) against Suresh. "Suresh also suffered critical burns and is undergoing treatment at OGH. We are trying to take his statement."

Reacting to the attack on a public servant, Mr M. Mahendar Reddy, director-general of police, said, "We condemn the brutal murder of Vijaya Reddy, tahsildar of Abdullapurmet. Such a barbaric act is unacceptable in a civilised society. We shall bring the culprit to book and ensure that severest punishment is awarded at the earliest. Justice will be delivered to the victim and her family members."

Mr Subhash Reddy, the



Mandal revenue officer Vijaya Reddy (above); her parents (top) Linga Reddy and Vinodamma and sister Sandhya at the OGH mortuary and (right) husband Subash Reddy. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

VIJAYA REDDY HAD WON BEST OFFICER AWARD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Vijaya Reddy, the mandal revenue officer who was murdered on Monday, has two children, a 10-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son.

A relative who came to the house said "She was a disciplined person and her parents are in a state of shock. They are not able to come to terms with what happened."

She used to work as a government teacher but she resigned to pursue studies. She cleared the Group 2 exams and was selected as the revenue officer. She is the first Tahsildar after the formation of the Abdullapurmet zone.

She was awarded the best mandal revenue officer in 2018. Vijaya Reddy was given the appreciation certificate by the department.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The brutal killing of Abdullapurmet MRO Vijaya Reddy has caused severe anger amongst revenue officers and employees of the revenue department, who have been in distress following repeated statements of various officers of the state government against the department for indulging in rampant corruption.

Protesting against the killing of Vijaya Reddy, revenue employees and officers on Monday came out on to the roads and gave a call for state bandh on Tuesday. The association appealed to employees to reach Hyderabad and participate in her final rites.

The revenue staff, who

victim's husband, was inconsolable. Her mother reached the mortuary to collect the body along with other family members.

The body was shifted to her residence at LB Nagar. The final rites

Attacker family was in land row

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

A relative of K. Suresh, the man who attacked mandal revenue officer Vijaya Reddy, denied that there was a land dispute in the family, but another relative contradicted her.

However, contradicting her, Mr Durgaiah said, "The land dispute was not that big. It has been going on for years but we still own the land. It is a 412-acre parcel of land and 53 farmers belonging to 28 families cumulatively own it."

Mr Durgaiah said his own share was a small one. "Suresh will get only four acres of it. The land was on the name of our grandfather Venkaiah," he said.

The matter had gone to court. Mr Durgaiah told this newspaper, "We went to the High Court and got a stay order on the land."

The suicide by a tahsildar of Nizamabad Rural, had caused consternation amongst the revenue staff.

have been representing their grievances about reforming the department to weed out corruption, expressed their resentment against statements made from public platforms, including by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and other ministers. Though they had wished to resort to a strike from work, they beat a retreat in fear that the government might take severe action against them, like in the case of RTC workers.

Against this background, revenue associations seem keen not to miss the opportunity to ventilate their heartburn against the government after the murder of Vijaya Reddy.

The recent suicide by one Giridhar Rao, tahsildar of Nizamabad Rural, had caused consternation amongst the revenue staff.

Mr Vanga Ravinder Reddy, president, Telangana Revenue Employees Services Association, while severely condemning the murder, appealed to all revenue employees to boycott duty on Tuesday and reach to Hyderabad CCLA office to participate in the funeral procession. He said that revenue officers would boycott their duties for three days in memory of their colleague.

Indra Reddy and V. Srinivas Goud, former Congress MP V. Hanumantha Rao and several employees of the revenue department visited the OGH mortuary and expressed condolences to the shocked family members.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao expressed regret over the murder of Vijaya Reddy and spoke to police officers. He ordered that proper legal action must be taken.

ATTACKER WITH 60% BURNS FIGHTS FOR LIFE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

K. Suresh who fatally set fire to tahsildar Vijaya Reddy in her office in the city on Monday suffered 60 per cent burns. He was being treated at Osmania General Hospital where doctors said his condition was critical.

Suresh was rushed to a private hospitals where doctors found that he was very badly burnt and referred him to OGH.

Dr Pradeep Reddy, medical director of Sunrise Hospitals, said, "Suresh came to the hospital with 60 per cent burns. He had suffered burns in the abdomen, upper thighs and limbs and the upper body. He has been shifted to the Osmania General Hospital for treatment."

IT'S RESULT OF PROVOKING PEOPLE: CONG

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao termed the murder of mandal revenue officer Vijaya Reddy as the most inhuman attack while expressing grief over the incident. He said that the state government would ensure that the attacker faces severe punishment.

Ministers G. Jagadish Reddy, S. Niranjan Reddy, V. Srinivas Goud, V. Prashant Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod, E. Dayakar Rao and A. Indrakumar Reddy and State Planning Board vice chairman B. Vinod Kumar condemned the murder.

Congress MPs A. Revanth Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, CLP leader Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, and senior leaders Shabbir Ali and V. Hanumantha Rao expressed grief over the killing of Vijaya Reddy.

Congress MLA D. Anasuya (Seetakk) termed the killing as "state provoked murder". She alleged that the government had provoked the revenue staff by branding them as thieves.

Congress MLA T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy said employees unions were also to blame as they blindly supported the decisions taken by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

Student ends life, classmates protest

JAYENDRA T. CHAITHANYA IDC HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

A teenage student committed suicide by hanging herself at her house in Meerpet on Sunday. Students of the college protested on Monday demanding action against a woman lecturer who allegedly harassed the girl student.

Her parents, who did not want to lodge a complaint with police, said their daughter had shared her troubles with them a day before.

The girl a third year student at TRR Polytechnic College, was the younger

daughter of Yelkaiah, who runs a dry cleaning shop. He said, "My daughter was very upset with the way she was treated by a female faculty at the college. On Saturday, she came home crying and said her project work had not been approved, that she was made to stand for an hour in the lab in front of others."

Students gathered in huge numbers at the college and raised slogans against the faculty. They alleged that harassment had forced their fellow student to end her life.

Meerpet police learnt about the incident only after students protested at the college.

SHRADHANJALI

Death is not extinguishing the light. It is putting out the lamp because the daw had come.

Shri Laxman Varadkar (Manoj)
D.O.B. 30-07-1965 D.O.D. 24-10-2019

Your sad, sudden, untimely and tragic demise has come to all your friends like bolt from the blue. Ever since you left us, we are grief stricken for the irreparable loss. While we mourn your death, you will always be in our memory. We pray Almighty to give strength to the family members to bear the loss.

May the soul rest in eternal peace.

INSERTED BY:
Samasta Mitra Mandal, Hyderabad

OBITUARY

With deep sorrow we inform the passing away of **SHRI DEVENDRA KUMAR UPPATHI (LALA)** of UPPATHI & SON on 04-11-2019 at his residence after a brief illness. Cremation at SWARGH VATIKA, R.T.C. Colony, Trimulgherry on 05-11-2019 at 9.30 a.m.

Grieving Family Members
9963027196

(S/1920/D01187)

BHOG CEREMONY

Late Harbhajan Kaur Osahan
DOB: 13.01.1943 DOD: 29.10.2019

W/o S. Fateh Singh Osahan
Kirtan and Antim Ardas will be held Today (05.11.2019) at Gurudwara Sahab, Sitalhalmendi, Secunderabad. From 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Inserted by: S. Fateh Singh Osahan
S. Dilip Singh Osahan
S. Narinder Singh Osahan & Family
Ph: 9848031792, 8019531313

(S/1920/D01165)

OBITUARY

Mrs. RAMANA KUMARI
W/o P.R. Dayakar
Date of Death: 3.11.2019

Funeral on 5.11.2019 at 11 a.m.
H.No: 1-16-90 Sai Nagar Colony, Secunderabad on 5.11.2019, Alwal Crematorium.

Phone: 9052345396, 9703278307

(S/1920/D01182)

IN LOVING MEMORY

"For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain"

Mr. Karkala Daniel Surendra
W/o Mrs. Susanne Sujatha
DOB: 24.08.1957 DOD: 5.11.2019

Your life was your faith's testament
Your laugh was fervently pleasant
Your love was madly extravagant
But your time with us sadly insufficient

Inserted by:
Children & Grand Children
Ph.No. 9440286262

(S/1920/D01173)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

SARDARNI CHARAN KAUR
W/o Mrs. Suresh Sujatha
DOB: 05.11.1957 DOD: 29.07.2016

Teacher, Radiance High School, Khairatabad
W/o Late S. Trilok Singh, Punjab & Sind Bank

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MUMMY JI
"Your memories will always be in our heart forever. Miss you Mummy Ji in our lifetime."

Inserted by:
Mr & Mrs. Ashvinder Singh (Son)
Mr & Mrs. Arvinder Singh (Son)
Sardar Sukhvinder Singh (Son) U.S.A.

(B/1920/D00126)

SHRADHANJALI

Death is not extinguishing the light. It is putting out the lamp because the daw had come.

Esteemed founder of 'SANSKRUTI' Club and 'SANSKRUTI SHIKHAR' Trust: Smt. Lata Bhatia, loved and revered by all, left her heavenly abode on 2nd November 2019. Her memories are etched in our hearts for ever. May her soul rest in peace.

Founders: Kumud Dharia, Renu Jivan, Leelam Kapadia, Kokila Kadakia, Veena Desai. All the past Presidents and the Members of 'SANSKRUTI'.

(S/1920/D01183)

OBITUARY

KOKA SURYANARAYANA RAO
Chief Engineer (R&B) Retd
Expired on 3.11.2019

Funeral at Mahaprasthanam on 5.11.2019 at 11:00 AM

Inserted by:
FAMILY MEMBERS
9000724445, 9391029400

TWELTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late Ms. T.V. PHYLLIS
M.Sc., M.Ed.
D/o Late Mr. T. Vandanaam
Late Mrs. T.V. Manthamma

Fondly Remembered by:
Mr. & Mrs. T.V. Prem Kumar & Mr. & Mrs. T.V. Vijay Kumar
Family Members

OBITUARY

S. VITTAL RAO
Superintendent (Retd.)
MC/ME, Secunderabad
Expired on 04-11-2019 at 10.01 a.m.

Funeral will be held at 11.30 a.m. at Bansilalpet, Funerary Ground, Secunderabad on 5.11.2019.

Resident Address: Mettuguda, Secunderabad, Backside of Mettuguda Church.

Inserted by:
T. SANTOSH KUMAR, VARADARAJ

(S/1920/D01185)

OBITUARY

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

Mrs. BALUSU MARGARET PADMARAO
Slept in the Lord on 4-11-2019

Funeral will be held on 5-11-2019 at 3:00pm, at Medak Cathedral Cemetery, Mission Compound, Medak.

Inserted by:
Mrs. Sumathi Joy Kumar (Sister)
Sons : Mrs. & Mr. Galen Chitharanjan, Mrs. & Mr. Vivek and family.

Contact details : 9390122499

SALROOZ 29th ANNIVERSARY IN FOND MEMORY OF

HAJI MOHD. ALI DARVISH RAWZA KHANI BAAD
Namaz-E-Magribayn at 6.45 p.m. on 5th Nov. 2019 at Darbar-E-Hussaini, Purani Haveli, Hyd.

Inserted by: DARVISH FAMILY

(S/1920/D01186)



Seed business

Agriculture minister S. Niranjan Reddy says state's geographical and climactic conditions are favourable for setting up seed production, processing industries

DECCAN CHRONICLE

TUESDAY | 5 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Politics

PAGE
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The new Revenue Act is problematic for both farmers and officers

— T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy
Sangareddy Congress MLA

BRIEF

Concrete mixer owner fined

Hyderabad: The traffic police on Monday booked the owner of a ready-mix concrete vehicle which had entered the city beyond the permissible time, at Rasoolpura Junction. A Begumpet traffic police official said it fell under the category of heavy vehicle, and was not meant to use the flyover. The owner been fined ₹1,000. Heavy vehicles are not allowed on flyovers during peak hours.

BODY OF MLA'S PS TRACED

DC CORRESPONDENT
JAGTIAL, NOV. 4

The body of Korutla MLA K. Vidyasagar Rao's personal secretary Tagore Girish Singh who went missing in the Sriramsagar project canal on Sunday, was found at Thatipally of Malayala mandal on Monday.

Girish was an employee of the panchayat raj department and is survived by his wife and two children. On Sunday, Girish and his friends Vijay, Balan and Rama Krishna Reddy had stopped on their way home and entered the canal. Girish was swept away by the swiftly flowing water.

Police under the supervision of circle inspector Kishore deployed five teams to search for Girish. His body was found on Monday. The police sent the body for post-mortem. Mr Vidyasagar Rao expressed his deep condolences to the family members of Girish.

LAXMAN BRIEFS SHAH ON STRIKE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

State BJP president Dr K. Laxman on Monday met party president Amit Shah in Delhi to submit a report on the ongoing TSRTC employees which began on October 5.

Dr Laxman said he briefed Mr Shah about the manhandling of BJP Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar by the Telangana state police during a rally in support of RTC employees.

Dr Laxman also informed Mr Shah about the attitude of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao in dealing with the suicides and deaths of RTC employees.

Along with Dr Laxman, Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy and former TD minister Motkupalli Narsimulu, who joined the party on Monday, were present at the meeting.



TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao addresses elected representatives who worked in the Huzurnagar Assembly constituency for the party's victory in the byelection, in Hyderabad on Monday.

BJP's win a fluke: KTR

KTR: In Huzurnagar, Independent candidate got more

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Monday said that the people of Huzurnagar had given a befitting answer to Opposition parties for their false propaganda regarding the recent byelection. "This victory is like a tonic which has brought in new energy into the party," he said.

Mr Rama Rao said that the people had reposed their faith in Chief

Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's governance and leadership. The TRS victory was a testimony for the same, he told ministers, MLAs, MPs and other public representatives who worked at Huzurnagar.

He said the people have rejected the Congress in Huzurnagar which was their bastion and also the constituency of the state Congress president.

Talking about the BJP, he said that the victories registered by the party in

the Lok Sabha elections in the state were just a fluke. "They don't have any credibility among the people here," Mr Rama Rao said.

He pointed out that an independent candidate whose election symbol looked similar to that of the TRS symbol had won more votes than the BJP candidate.

"We will show our gratitude to the people of Huzurnagar by fulfilling all the promises made by the TRS during the campaign," he said.

Mr Rama Rao asked the MLAs to come up with a plan of action and take up the responsibility of leading the party towards victory in the upcoming municipal elections.

He thanked ministers Errabelli Dayakar Rao, G. Jagadish Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod, election incharge Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Legislative Council member, and the party leaders and cadre for playing an important role in the party's victory.

RSS, BJP order peace after Ayodhya verdict

AVINASH PUJARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Top brass of the RSS as well as the BJP high command have directed state presidents of the party as well as leaders and cadres to ensure peace across the country when the Supreme Court delivers its verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title case in the coming days.

BJP leaders are in a celebratory mode though, confident that the verdict will be in favour of Ram Janmabhoomi. Mr T. Raja Singh, the lone BJP MLA in the state, said, "We have full hope that the verdict will come in favour of Ram Janmabhoomi. Hindus and Muslims will together build the temple in Ayodhya happily."

Mr T.R. Srinivas, chairman, Telangana BJP Gulf NRI coordination committee, said, "We are looking forward to a favourable judgment. Hopefully, this will lead to construction of a grand Ram temple, reinforcing the faith of billions of Hindus across the world. After the verdict, I, along with people of Telangana living in Gulf, will contribute bricks for construction of the Ram temple."

A source disclosed that senior RSS sanghachalaks had asked their cadre to respect the verdict and maintain harmony. The Ayodhya is expected before Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi retires on November 17.

Babri, Shah Bano not linked: Owaisi

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has endorsed revelations of former Union home secretary Madhav Godbole on the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi issue and said it is a historical fact that late Rajiv Gandhi had unlocked the Babri Masjid.

Speaking to the media, the Hyderabad MP maintained that the decision of unlocking the masjid had no link to the Shah Bano case. He pointed out that district judge Hari Shankar Pandey, who allowed unlocking of the masjid, had stated in his book that a black monkey had sat in his court and when presented dry fruits, it did not accept. When he delivered the judgment, the same monkey came to his house. It was then that he (Pandey) realised that the Lord had accepted his judgment.

Asked about his expectations from the Supreme Court verdict on the issue, the MIM president said, "We expect a judgment that will reaffirm and strengthen the rule of law; a judgment, which will tell the world that facts are above faith."

Mr Owaisi felt that just

ice had not been done during the entire judicial course from 1949 till unlocking of the Babri Masjid. Further, he said while the judgment was delivered at 4.15 pm, locks of the Babri Masjid were broken within 15 minutes. None bothered to call the person who had the keys. The judgment ran into 25 pages and it would have taken at least 15-20 minutes to type it. Rajiv Gandhi had also started his election campaign from the same place. No one can deny these facts," Mr Owaisi stated.

The AIMIM president wondered why the contempt petition on demolition of Babri Masjid has not yet been heard. He said it is the Congress party that is responsible for unlocking of the Babri Masjid. Idols were kept inside the masjid when Congress leader Gobind Ballabh Pant was Chief Minister. "And, as per the FIR, when the masjid was demolished, Narasimha Rao of Congress was the Prime Minister," he pointed out. Owaisi observed that Supreme Court's impending judgment on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land case will have an effect on the Kashi and Mathura issues as well.

MANUU EX-VC: CHANCELLOR SMEARING ME

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) Vice Chancellor Dr Aslam Parvaiz wrote a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Visitor of the university, complaining against Chancellor Firoz Bakht Ahmed's alleged attempt to malign his name by fraudulently using the Union human resource development ministry's reference. He alleged the Chancellor had sent mails to local journalists falsely claiming that the HRD ministry had asked the VC to either resign or face inquiry.

Dr Parvaiz said that he had resigned because of personal reasons and that the fact finding committee constituted by the HRD Ministry earlier this year has made no recommendations against him in its report.

Dr Parvaiz further wrote that the performance audit, which presented its report before the parliament, did not find any irregularity, financial or otherwise, in the functioning of the university during his tenure.

Neelam Sawhney for AP CS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 4

Senior bureaucrat Neelam Sawhney would become Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, sources indicate. A 1984 batch officer, she is secretary of social empowerment and Justice at the Centre. After the ousted chief secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam, she is second in the seniority list after Ms Preeti Sudan, who is reportedly unwilling to return to the state from Central service.

Sources said that Ms Sawhney met Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at his residence on Monday and discussed the

new assignment. She reportedly conveyed her willingness to return to state service when Mr Reddy met bureaucrats of the state cadre at the AP Bhavan in New Delhi immediately after taking over as Chief Minister.

Though another bureaucrat, Mr Sameer Sarma, who is also serving at the centre and is posted in New Delhi showed keenness, the Chief Minister preferred Ms Sawhney, sources said. The Centre has to relieve Ms Sawhney for her to be able to take the top post.

Ms Sawhney comes with the reputation of being a straight forward officer. She was among a set of bureau-

crats who played a commendable role in implementing pet schemes of the then CM N Chandrababu Naidu. A section of the vernacular media raked up a controversy when she went on leave during the Y S Rajasekhara Reddy regime.

She was serving as secretary, roads and buildings, and applied for leave during the process of the construction of a new camp office and CM's official residence at Begumpet in Hyderabad. The escalated estimates of work and selection of contractors became controversial.

She avoided controversy because of her absence from work during that time.



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

PRESS RELEASE cum ADVERTISEMENT

EXAMINATION FOR CONFIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT OF GST PRACTITIONERS

The National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) has been authorized to conduct an examination for confirmation of enrollment of Goods and Services Tax Practitioners (GSTPs) in terms of the sub-rule (3) of Rule 83 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017, vide Notification No. 24/2018-Central Tax dated 28.5.2018.

The GSTPs enrolled on the GST Network under sub-rule (2) of Rule 83 and covered by clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 83, i.e. those meeting the eligibility criteria of having enrolled as Sales tax practitioners or Tax return preparer under the existing law for a period not less than five years, are required to pass the said examination before 31.12.2019 in terms of Notification no. 03/2019-Central Tax dated 29.01.2019. Three such examinations for such GSTPs have already been conducted on 31.10.2018, 17.12.2018 and 14.06.2019. The next examination for them shall be conducted on 12.12.2019 from 1100 hrs to 1330 hrs at designated examination centers across India.

It will be a Computer Based Exam. The registration for the exam can be done by the eligible GSTPs on a registration portal, link of which will be provided on NACIN and CBIC websites. The registration portal for exam scheduled on 12.12.2019 will be **activated on 22nd November, 2019** and will remain open up to **5th December, 2019**. For convenience of candidates, a help desk for this period will also be set up, details of which will be made available on the registration portal. The applicants are required to make online payment of examination fee of Rs. 500/- at the time of registration for this exam.

Principal Director General
NACIN, Faridabad

Adv. No: DAS (V) / 01 / 19

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (NAVY)

ENROLLMENT OF DESIGNATED TRADE APPRENTICES (2020 - 21 BATCH) AS PER APPRENTICES ACT 1961 AND APPRENTICES (AMENDMENT) ACT 2014
NAVAL DOCKYARD APPRENTICES SCHOOL
VISAKHAPATNAM - 530 014 ANDHRA PRADESH STATE

- Applications are invited from ITI qualified **INDIAN** National candidates for Apprenticeship Training in 13 designated trades viz., Electrician, Electronics Mechanic, Fitter, Instrument Mechanic, Machinist, Painter (General), R & A/C Mechanic, Welder (Gas & Electric), Carpenter, Foundryman, Mechanic (Diesel), Sheet Metal Worker and Pipe Fitter for one year training at the Naval Dockyard Apprentices School, Visakhapatnam, [DAS (Vzg)] for the Training Year 2020-21 in accordance with Apprentices Act 1961 and Apprentices (amendment) Act 2014.
- The Full Advertisement and Procedure for Applying for Apprenticeship Training can be downloaded from web portal-site under **Recruitment & Result** by accessing Indian Navy website at www.indiannavy.nic.in and then navigating to *personnel* → *civilian* → *Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam*.
- The last date to register on-line on website www.apprenticeship.gov.in prior to forwarding offline application is **05 Dec 2019**.
- The last date for receipt of offline application along with all relevant documents at Naval Dockyard Apprentices School, Visakhapatnam is **12 Dec 2019**.

Officer - In-Charge, DAS (Vzg)
0891 - 2812041

davp 10702/11/0167/1920



सत्यमेव जयते

केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड
(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संगठन)
CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
(An Autonomous Organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

No. CBSE/RECTT.CELL/ADVT/01/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Central Board of Secondary Education intends to invite **online applications** from eligible candidates for filling up the following different post(s) on All India Direct Recruitment basis:-

Sl. No.	Pay Level	Post Name
1.	Level-11 of 7th CPC	Assistant Secretary, Assistant Secretary (IT)
2.	Level-10 of 7th CPC	Analyst (IT)
3.	Level-6 of 7th CPC	Junior Hindi Translator
4.	Level-4 of 7th CPC	Senior Assistant, Stenographer, Accountant
5.	Level-2 of 7th CPC	Junior Assistant, Junior Accountant

The details of post(s), age, fee, CBT examination, Scheme of Examination(s), important dates and other general terms & conditions will be made available on the official website of the Board i.e. www.cbse.nic.in. The interested candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement which shall be made available on the official website and read the same carefully. The candidates have to make online applications only through official website www.cbse.nic.in. The schedule for online applications will be as under:-

STARTING DATE	15.11.2019
CLOSING DATE	16.12.2019

Sd/- SECRETARY

"शिक्षा केन्द्र", 2, समुदायिक केन्द्र, प्रीत विहार, दिल्ली-110092

"SHIKSHA KENDRA" 2, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PREET VIHAR, DELHI-110092
Phone (Off): 011-22509256-59, 22041807-08, Website: www.cbse.gov.in, www.cbse.nic.in

davp 21107/11/0012/1920



TRS vs BJP vs MIM allows GHMC to ditch Shaikpet

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The ego war between three political parties is leaving Shaikpet residents in the lurch. The residents claim that despite several representations to lay storm water drains and clear up water stagnation, neither the corporator nor the local MLA nor the civic authorities are responding.

Mr Iqbal Ahmed, president, Laxmi Teja Development and Welfare Association in Shaikpet, said that the residents have knocked on the door of Secunderabad BJP MP and Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, Jubilee Hills MLA Maganti

Gopinath who belongs to the TRS and Shaikpet corporator Rasheed Farazuddin of the MIM, to resolve several issues including mosquito menace, irregular lifting of garbage, water stagnation and laying of new storm water drain.

"We have been living in such a vulnerable condition in the heart of the city, where there is no sewerage line, no storm water network, stench emanating from garbage and mosquito menace. Instead of resolving the issue, public representatives get offended if we meet someone from a different party," Mr Reddy said.

"Vexed with the attitude of

politicians, we have given a representation to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and Hyderabad Water Supply and Sewerage Board. However, our grievances have been pending since a year," he said.

Echoing his concern, another resident, Mr M.A. Raheem Khan said that every year the residents have been spending whopping amounts on JCBs to lift the garbage in the area once a week and this has been going on for several years.

"We have been doing it since we can afford it but poorer areas cannot, and they are prone to dengue, malaria, and have to put up with the foul smell and

water stagnation 365 days a year," Mr Khan told this newspaper.

He said representations were made to all three elected representatives, "who claimed that they did not have the money to resolve the issues and same has been the case with the civic body. We urge the government to rescue us from such vulnerability. We have been paying our taxes on time and still we have to live at the mercy of public representatives and officials," Mr Khan added.

When this newspaper tried to contact the public representatives and officials, none of them were available for comment on the issue.



Generous gesture

Asaduddin Owaisi distributes ₹2.18 lakh to principals of 87 government Urdu schools to cover exam fee of 1.800 students in Hyderabad

DECCAN CHRONICLE

TUESDAY | 5 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

City

PAGE 6



Apart from the 80,000 books, CM should have read the Constitution

— V. Hanumantha Rao
Congress leader

IN BRIEF

Notice issued on business rules

Turn from Page 1

Sources said that Mr Prakash was keen to handle general administration department (GAD), (political), a dream posting, when Mr Reddy invited him to join the CMO. Mr Prakash issued several orders and circulated files to the Cabinet without keeping the CS in the loop. The CS, in his notice, also referred to his junior, Prakash, withholding certain files and usurping powers in violation of business rules. On Saturday, the CS gave 15 days time period to Mr Prakash to reply to his show cause notice. But on Monday, Prakash, in his capacity as in-charge of GAD (political) issued orders showing the doors to Subrahmanyam, who was put in an insignificant post of director general, Human Resources Development Institute.

STATE READY FOR A LONG LEGAL BATTLE

From Page 1

A discussion was held to devise a counter-strategy. Advice was taken from legal experts on various scenarios. Labour laws and the central government's Motor Vehicle Act were examined. The unanimous decision that emerged from the meeting was that deadline given to RTC employees to join duties would expire Tuesday midnight.

The future of workers and their families lies solely in the hands of employees, who must join work to protect their jobs. The labour department had already declared the ongoing RTC strike as illegal and submitted a report in this regard. Despite the strike being illegal, the government had acted with lot of benevolence and lenience.

If the opportunity given was not utilised, workers could not place the onus of blame on anyone else. If the workers do not join duties, the fault lies with them. The government had emphatically resolved that there was no question of taking back any employee back after Tuesday midnight.

The government would sternly implement its decision to give permits to private buses to ply in all remaining 5,000 routes. In fact, if workers fail to join duty by mid night, the government would start the process of issuing permits on the next day itself. Telangana would become an RTC-less state by midnight, if workers do not join, the meeting observed.

"Either way the High Court verdict goes, having come this far on the matter, either the RTC or the government would appeal against it in the Supreme Court. Once the case goes to the Supreme Court, the matter would be delayed further. Going by past experiences, the case may drag on for months or years to come, becoming a never-ending battle, which will do the workers no good," the meeting opined.

Lawyers in state strike work

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Condemning the alleged attack on advocates by the Delhi police at the Tis Hazari courts in Delhi, and expressing solidarity with the injured lawyers, advocates from all over the state stayed away from judicial work on Monday.

While High Court and district court advocates did not appear in judicial proceedings, some junior counsels took the next dates for the cases.

Lawyers held a rally from the High Court to Madina crossroads to protest the alleged assault in Delhi on

November 2. The Bar Council of Telangana state condemned the alleged attack which was sparked by a row over car parking. Mr A. Narasimha Reddy, chairman of the Bar Council, said that on behalf of advocates from the state, a representation would be sent to the Bar Council of India to press the Centre to enforce the Lawyers Protection Act.

High Court Bar Association president T. Surya Karan Reddy and his predecessor Gandra Mohan Rao said, "The Delhi incident was not simple assault on an advocate. It is an assault on the judicial sys-

tem. If the system remains intact and powerful, only then can justice be delivered."

Mr Sunkari Janardhan Goud, former secretary of the association, stated, "This incident is no less than the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The police shot bullets at point-blank range at the advocates over the trivial issue of parking a car."

Lawyers and police had clashed at Tis Hazari court complex in New Delhi on Saturday afternoon during which at least 20 police personnel and several lawyers were injured while 17 vehicles vandalised.

Day of reckoning for RTC

CM deadline ends today; many staffers join duty but retract

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Literally racing against time and driven to the wall, as only 24 hours remain for the deadline given by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to the striking TSRTC employees to resume duty, dilemma has turned into pressure for them.

Monday evening, around 20 employees from various depots across the state relented and submitted their applications to rejoin duties. Ironically, some of them withdrew their applications, almost pronto.

Most of the employees are caught between the government and the unions, both of whom are sticking to their guns. On the one hand, while the government is asking them to save their jobs, on the other hand, running parallel to the government diktat, unions are exhorting employees to continue the strike.

In fact, union leaders sought an oath from employees at Kacheguda bus depot that they would stay steadfast and not report for work, come what may. This, even as time is ticking for them when one considers the Chief Minister's ultimatum.

Mr Haimad from Kamareddy depot, who has joined duty, put things in perspective when stating "in the absence of salaries for the past two months, we are in a severe financial crisis. I agree with some people who had stated that the strike should have been timed around impending elections. But now, I have my own reservations about whether the government would have a change of heart. Driven by economic compulsions, I have joined duty."

Meanwhile, employees are being personally asked by TRS leaders to report for work. It is also said that some ministers are visiting houses of employees in Siricilla, Karimnagar and other constituencies with a similar request.

"Despite these attempts, most of our employees are working hard for the cause," averred Mr M. Thomas Reddy, working president of Telangana Mazdoor Union.



RTC workers welcome depot superintendent Srihari back into the strike after he had temporarily rejoined duty at Narsampet in Warangal Rural district on Monday.

VHR hits out at KCR doublespeak

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

AICC secretary and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao said that if Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao called the ongoing RTC strike as illegal, then he should clarify under which Act the strikes were conducted by employees of different organizations, including the RTC, during the separate Telangana movement that he had spearheaded.

Speaking to the media on Monday he said that Mr Chandrasekhar Rao had no

knowledge of the Constitution, and its provision. He said that for one who claimed that he read about 80,000 books, he should have read and understood the Constitution. He said that instead of ruling the State as the head of the family, he was behaving like a dictator. He said it was undemocratic to set a deadline for RTC workers to resume duty.

Mr Hanumantha Rao pointed out that so far 16 RTC employees had died. He urged the court to call the CM directly and seek details about the RTC strike.

RTC CAN NEVER RECOVER, CLAIMS DAYAKAR RAO

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Panchayat Raj minister E. Dayakar Rao on Monday said the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation will not recover from the losses it has incurred and it will not be possible to run it any longer.

Speaking to reporters, he felt that the only way RTC problems could be resolved and a semblance of order be restored would be in privatisation of 50 per cent of existing bus routes.

The minister reiterated that the government was not against RTC workers but only opposed to the behaviour of the union leaders. He said that the government would shortly announce its decisions on the issue. Meanwhile, Mr Dayakar Rao exuded confidence about winning a majority of municipalities and municipal corporations in the ensuing elections.

He said the polls in undivided Warangal district would be one-sided.

Storm brewing over pass validity

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4:

A fresh controversy is brewing in the city following the state government's proposal to privatise half of the TSRTC bus routes. And this time it is not from government officials or employees unions but from thousands of employees and students, who seem caught on a sticky wicket.

The decision has resulted in confusion over the future relevance and validity of bus passes. Thought not exactly up in arms, the crestfallen students are demanding reduction in the bus pass cost, particularly if their usage is invalidated by privately-run carriers.

During the strike time, even though officials had reassured that the passes would be valid across all routes, it was not the case. Passengers had to cough up money once they were on-board vehicles driven by temporary recruits.

"We ended up paying

for tickets in most of the buses that had temporary drivers. As a matter of principle, Setwin buses never accept passes and now private drivers are emulating them," rued Mr. Shekar Kumar, a consultancy employee and a regular commuter.

Although, a pass is valid for all TSRTC services, now their validity is questioned as roughly 5,100 services would be privatised, if the government goes ahead with its decision.

Regular commuter and college student Sneha D. said that "Every day, we are spending about ₹150 to attend classes. Given the shortage of buses, and in order to be punctual, we end up taking other modes of travel, which are costly. Some students, who cannot afford the expense and depend on the RTC are going late to college."

An TSRTC official said the passes would be accepted by private operators as they would be working under the TSRTC banner.

Tout nabbed in Tirumala

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV. 4

A tout was said to have been detained by the Tirumala police late on Sunday for allegedly fleeing devotees under the pretext of providing accommodation. The tout, identified as Durga Kiran, a resident of Tirupati, was caught offering accommodation at exorbitant prices to

devotees at Tirumala. Sources said that Kiran was collecting twice the room rent to secure bookings in TTD cottages and rooms. He was found to be telling devotees to deposit money in his account to ensure accommodation. Once he received the money, he avoided their calls. Kiran is said to be in cahoots with a TTD employees working at

the reception counters from whom he used to obtain accommodation on different names. It was learnt that he paid commission to the TTD employees.

Sources said that Kiran was suspected to have been running the raked for some time now and had established connections with local travel agencies and some employees of the TTD.

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

TENDER NOTICE 04.11.2019

Sealed competitive quotation in Two bid are invited from reputed firms having experience in similar job for the requirement mentioned in below tender enquiry for the repair vessel **ICGS AGRIM** at **CMSRU, Mumbai**. Quotations shall reach the under signed on or before **14 November 2019, 15.00 hrs.**

1. CMSRU/REFIT WORK/ICGS AGRIM dt.04.11.2019 – Tender for Refit Work.

Tender with detailed scope can be downloaded from CSL website at www.cochinshipyard.com/Tenders or at CPP Portal.

"Hindi version of this advertisement is published in the website (www.cochinshipyard.com) of CSL"

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager (Ship Repair Materials)

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR
PWD PIU GWALIOR

Telephone - 0751- 2347201 Email: apdpiu_gwalior@gmail.com
NIT No. 05/2019/Tender/G/APD **Gwalior Dated 15.10.2019**

Online bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:

No.	On line Tender ID	Name of Work / under piu	District	Probable Amount in Lakh Rs.	Earenest Money Deposit EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion (in months) (in Rainy Season)	Name of office to which physical submission to be sent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2019_PWPJUL_58295_1	Construction of Community Health Care Centre And 1 No F Type, 2 No G Type, 2 No. H Type Quarter At Phoop District Bhind (First Call)	Bhind	370.09 Lacs	370090.00	15000.00	15 Month	Office of the Additional Project Director PWD PIU Gwalior Jabalpur
2	2019_PWPJUL_58274_1	Construction of Law College at Sheopur District Sheopur (First Call)	Sheopur	697.62 Lacs	698000.00	20000.00	18 Month	Office of the Additional Project Director PWD PIU Gwalior

- Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in>.
- Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
- The Bid Submission Closing Date 11.11.2019.
- Physical Document submission only Speed Post, Last Date 14.11.2019 Time 5.30 p.m.
- Technical Bid Opening Date 15.11.2019.
- Building Works and electrical work. The current schedule of rates issued by the Project Director, PIU MP P.W.D. Bhopal in force from 01.08.2014 with up to date amendments up to date N.I.T.

Sd/- **SENIOR ACCOUNT OFFICER**
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR
PWD PIU GWALIOR
G-18711

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.W.D. (B/R) DIVISION, ANUPPUR

TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 04/SAC/APR/2019-20 **Anuppur Date 31.10.2019**

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement System of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mptenders.gov.in. Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of Work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs.in Lack)	Cost of Tender Doc	Earnest Money	Time allowed	Online Document at the office of as mentioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	2019_PWDRB_59695	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal on Dulhara Kansha Pagna road Km. 5/2 (100 mtr), 5/4-10, 6,7,8 Length 3.90 Km	Vllth	24.43	5000/-	48860/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
2	2019_PWDRB_59706	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal on Lapta to Chorhathi road Km 4 to 6 = 3.00 Km	Vth	21.69	5000/-	43380/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
3	2019_PWDRB_59707	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal on Dhangawan Guwari Amgawan road Length 4.80 Km Proposed Km 1 to 3/2 = 2.80 Km	Ilnd	17.75	2000/-	35500/-	03 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
4	2019_PWDRB_59709	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Darsagar Bagdumra road Length 6.20 Km Proposed Km 1,2,3,4,5/2 to 8 = 4.80 Km	Ist	37.56	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
5	2019_PWDRB_59710	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Anuppur Mediyaras Amalai road Length 8.80 Km Proposed Km 1,2,4,5,6=5.00 Km	Ist	31.30	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
6	2019_PWDRB_59711	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Ajaiharai Seoni Semarwar road Proposed Km 1 to 7 = 7.00 Km	Ist	45.07	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
7	2019_PWDRB_59714	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Lapta Chorhathi road Length 7.50 Km Proposed Km 1 to 3,7 to 8/2-4-6(100) = 4.50 Km	Ist	35.21	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
8	2019_PWDRB_59715	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Kapildhara approach road Length Km 1/4 to 6/6 = 5.26 Km	Ist	35.91	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
9	2019_PWDRB_59716	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Kabir Chabutra approach road Length Km 1/4 to 3/10 = 2.65 Km	Ist	22.10	5000/-	44200/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
10	2019_PWDRB_59717	Anuppur	8443 Deposit work	Upgradation and renewal of B.T. road including Divider NH-78 Anuppur Kotma approach road by pass partition of Kotma road to Baskhali Chouraha Length 7.50 mtr (C.C. 2.60+B.T. 4.90)	Ist	886.96	20000/-	886960/-	18 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
11	2019_PWDRB_59718	Anuppur	8443 Deposit work	Strengthening of Bamhani to Girwa approach road including 03 nos H.P. Culverts Length 2.00 Km	Ist	85.71	10000/-	85710/-	06 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
12	2019_PWDRB_59721	Anuppur	8443 Deposit work	Construction of approach road (Length 150 mtr) and culverts from main road to M.S. Thodhipani to Village Paderipani Kollary nala Block Jaitihari	Ist	11.76	2000/-	23520/-	04 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
13	2019_PWDRB_59722	Anuppur	Maintenance work	WBM and BT Patch repair work on jaitihari Seoni Semarwar Gaurela Manikpur lapta Chorhathi and Khondari Lahsunz Pondi road Payari approach road under Sub Division Dn. Anuppur (Section Jaitihari)	Ist	10.00	2000/-	20000/-	04 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
14	2019_PWDRB_59723	Anuppur	Maintenance work	White washing Colour washing and Repairing work of R.B. Under Sub Division Rajendragram	Ist	12.04	2000/-	24080/-	04 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
15	2019_PWDRB_59724	Anuppur	Maintenance work	White washing Colour washing and Repairing work of N.R.B. Under Sub Division Rajendragram H.O. Section, Banbari and Sarai Section	Ist	13.76	2000/-	27520/-	04 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
16	2019_PWDRB_59725	Anuppur	Maintenance work	White washing Colour washing and Repairing work of R.B. and N.R.B. Under Sub Division Rajendragram Amarkantak Section	Ist	9.82	2000/-	19640/-	04 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
17	2019_PWDRB_59726	Anuppur	Maintenance work	Providing Electrification work maintenance work A.R., S.R. Residential / Non Residential building Rajendragram Section 1 Under Division Anuppur	Ist	8.92	2000/-	17840/-	04 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
18	2019_PWDRB_59728	Anuppur	Maintenance work	Providing Electrification work maintenance work A.R., S.R. Residential / Non Residential building Anuppur H.O. No-2 Under Division Anuppur	Ist	8.92	2000/-	17840/-	04 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
19	2019_PWDRB_60761	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal on Leelatola to Medhakhar road Length 4.60 Km	Vllth	32.35	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD (B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
20	2019_PWDRB_60763	Anuppur	Maintenance work	White washing, Colour washing painting Repairing work etc. on District Hospital Building Anuppur, District Anuppur M.P.	Ilnd	10.00	2000/-	20000/-	06 Month	Executive Engineer, PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur (M.P.)
Total 20 No.						1361.26				

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is Dated 15.11.2019 up to (17.30). Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

The original FDR & Other document will be received on by Post Dated 19.11.2019 (17.30) in the office mentioned.

G-18722

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PWD (B/R) Division
Anuppur (M.P.)





Serious charge

Rahul Gandhi says 'Make in India' has become 'Buy from China'



3L people lost lives in natural calamities in 2 decades in SCO countries

— Amit Shah
Union minister

IN BRIEF

5-yr-old falls into borewell, dies

Chandigarh: The body of a five-year-old girl was pulled out by rescuers nearly 18 hours after she fell into a 50-feet-deep borewell at Harsinghpura village in Haryana's Karnal district, police said on Monday. She fell in the borewell belonging to her family while playing in the fields on Sunday in Gharaunda area, SHO of Gharaunda police station, inspector Sachin said over phone. "After being pulled out from the borewell by the rescuers, she was rushed to the Civil Hospital in Karnal where doctors declared her brought dead," the SHO said.

Cong may oppose Naga agreement

Imphal/Shillong: Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has slammed the Centre for alleged lack of transparency in the ongoing Naga peace talks and said the party will oppose any agreement that changes the geography of Manipur and any other northeastern state. During the tenure of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Centre had signed Assam, Mizoram and Tripura accords without changing the geography of any state, he said during a visit by a six-member Congress delegation to Imphal. The visit aimed to take stock of the situation in Manipur arising out of the Naga peace talks and gather the opinions of people and party leaders on the National Register of Citizens.

Vijayvargiya Jr threatens again

Bhopal: BJP legislator from Madhya Pradesh, Akash Vijayvargiya, who shot into limelight for bashing up a civic body officer in Indore with a bat five months ago, on Monday literally warned ministers in Kamal Nath government of meting out similar treatment if they failed to deliver on the promise of waiving farm loans and withdrawing inflated electricity bills of consumers immediately. The first time MLA, who is son of BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, threatened the state ministers and ruling Congress legislators visiting his Assembly constituency to lock them up in a room if the state government failed to fulfill its promises made to the farmers and people.

HC SAYS NEET BENEFITED ONLY A FEW

Chennai, Nov. 4: Opining that Neet, instead of giving the expected good results, has benefited only students who spend lakhs of rupees on coaching classes and put rural students at a disadvantage, the Madras High Court on Monday advised the Centre, which framed the rules, to take note of it. The division bench, comprising Justices N. Kirubakaran and P. Velmurugan, stated this when hearing a PIL after Additional Advocate General P.H. Aravind Pandian, complying with the court's October 25 directive, submitted a list of candidates who got admission after attending coaching classes and those without doing so. The court noted that the government stated that only 48 students got medical seats without attending coaching classes, whereas 3,033 secured admission to government colleges after going to coaching classes. Similarly, only 52 students got admission in self-financing colleges without attending coaching classes. The bench said it was shocking that only a negligible number of candidates got admission without coaching.

Activities pick up but stalemate continues

No solution in sight in Maharashtra even as Fadnavis meets Shah and Raut meets governor

BHAGWAN PARAB & YOJNA GUSAI | DC MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

As political stalemate in Maharashtra continued for the 10th consecutive day since results of the Assembly elections were announced, senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut met Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in Mumbai on Monday, while Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis flew down to Delhi to meet BJP president and Union home minister Amit Shah.

Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha MP, along with party minister Ramdas Kadam, met Governor at the Raj Bhavan on Monday evening, and said, "The Governor informed us that there is some time for government formation. He said that any political party with the majority can come forward and form the government".

The term of the current Legislative Assembly in Maharashtra comes to an end on November 9, but with both the BJP and the Shiv Sena remaining adamant on their respective demand, and neither having the requisite numbers to form a government on its own, there is no clarity over when the next government will be sworn in. "The Shiv Sena is not responsible for the fact that the government has not yet been formed. We are not creating any obstacles. Whoever has a majority in the House will form the government," Raut said.

From Raj Bhavan, Raut immediately headed for *Matoshree*, the residence of party chief Uddhav Thackeray. His meeting

FADNAVIS MEETS SHAH



Union home minister Amit Shah and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during a meeting in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

RAUT MEETS GOVERNOR



Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in a meeting with Shiv Sena spokesman Sanjay Raut, in Mumbai on Monday. — PTI

PAWAR MEETS SONIA



NCP chief Sharad Pawar addresses the media in New Delhi on Monday after meeting Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. — PTI

with the Governor is being seen as Sena's effort to put pressure on the BJP to accept its demands of power-sharing.

Fadnavis, after meeting party president Amit Shah in New Delhi, said that "there is need to form a government in Maharashtra at the earliest" and that he is "confident that the government will be formed."

Refusing to comment on the deadlock, the Chief Minister said, "New power equations are being raised in Maharashtra every day. But I don't want to comment on the situation. I can only say that the new government will be formed soon."

He did not specify whether the Sena will be part of the government.

Raut, responding to speculation that the Sena may support the BJP if

■ **A MARATHI DAILY**, widely seen inclined towards the RSS, has likened Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut to 'Betaal', the mythological ghost.

■ **Tarun Bharat**, the Nagpur-based publication, said Raut was hurting the chances of BJP-Sena alliance to come to power in Maharashtra.

■ **It published an editorial**, *Uddhav and Betaal*. The term *Betaal* is also used in Marathi where it means a person indulging in loose talks.

Fadnavis is not made the Chief Minister, said, "We have not made any such demand, nor have we heard of any such thing."

Sources disclosed that the BJP, which has offered deputy CM post to the Sena, could agree to give some key portfolios in the government as demanded by it ally but will not part with the CM's post.

While the Sena wants "50:50 power sharing" in the state, including the Chief Minister's post, the BJP has clarified that the CM's post is non-nego-

tiable. The Sena, which has claimed that its "tally will reach 170 with the help of NCP, Congress and others," wants either Shah or Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak to its chief to resolve the impasse. The BJP top brass, sources said, is miffed over Raut's "reckless" statements and editorials on the issue in party's mouthpiece, *Saamna*.

After his meeting with Shah and later with party's national general secretary and in-charge of

polls, Bupendra Yadav, the Maharashtra CM held an "unscheduled meeting" with the former national president and Union minister for road transport and highways, Nitin Gadkari for more than half-an-hour at the latter's residence.

Speculation is rife that the Sena wants the RSS to intervene in the matter as it is not getting any positive response from the other two Opposition parties — NCP and the Congress.

ANOTHER PMC BANK DEPOSITOR DIES

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 4

In yet another death of a depositor of the scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, 68-year-old Andrew Lobo passed away at his residence in Mulund.

The family claimed that he was facing difficulty in procuring money for his treatment owing to the curb on withdrawals from the bank mired in a ₹4,355.46 crore scam.

Lobo had an account in the bank's Mulund branch, where the family claimed he had many fixed deposits. The family added that he was undergoing treatment for age-related ailments and was finding it difficult to gather funds ever since the bank went down recently.

"It is a natural death and other details are not known yet," said an officer from Mulund police.

"Two months ago, he developed a lung infection which needed regular medicines and visits to the doctor. His money was stuck in the bank, and we also have our accounts with PMC only," his grandnephew Chris said.

Congress to meet Prez on snoopgate

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

Thirteen Opposition parties on Monday signed a joint memorandum to be submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind on the "WhatsApp snoopgate" controversy.

Although the leaders have already sought time from the President to submit the memorandum, they are yet to get an appointment, sources told this newspaper.

The memorandum against snooping was signed at a meeting of Opposition parties held in the capital on Monday, where they also decided to jointly protest issues such as the economic slowdown, RCEP, farm distress and unemployment during the upcoming Parliament session.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, said that the Opposition parties will meet again soon to discuss the issue of snooping and decide on the future course of action against the same.

Allegations of snooping started doing the rounds of political corridors after Facebook-owned WhatsApp accused the

Israel-based NSO Group of using spyware called "Pegasus" to target over 1,400 WhatsApp users, a few of them based in India.

As per the instant messaging app, the spyware targeted victims by giving missed calls on their mobile phones.

The Congress revved up the debate by claiming that party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi's phone, too, was hacked.

Among those who attended the meeting included Azad; Congress leaders Ahmed Patel, Randeep Surjewala and Rajiv Shukla; RLSP chief and former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha; CPI general secretary D.Raja; CPI(M)'s T.K. Rangarajan; RJD's Manoj Jha; Trinamul's Nadeem ul Haque; DMK's T.R. Baalu; and RLD's Ajit Singh and Sharad Yadav.

Among the Opposition parties conspicuous by their absence at the meeting were the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Aam Aadmi Party.

The discussions focused on the joint Opposition's strategy to corner the government on poor economic indicators and India's decision.

the current political situation in the state, but did not exactly discuss government formation.

Sources told this newspaper that a section of the Congress leadership is opposed to the idea of getting into any kind of political arrangement with the Shiv Sena, citing deep ideological differences. However, another section, chiefly consisting of Maharashtra leaders, feels any such opportunity should be explored as it gave out positive vibes to party workers.

Asked about the possibility of President's Rule in the state, Mr Pawar said: "We do not want that. We want the people who got the mandate to form the government".

AVOID AYODHYA DEBATES, BJP TELLS LEADERS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

After the RSS top brass issued 'do's and don'ts' to its office-bearers and pracharaks on the Ram Mandir issue, the BJP has asked its spokespersons and panelists to avoid participating in news channels debates on the issue until the Supreme Court delivers its verdict.

The party has asked its spokesperson and panelists in all states, to avoid participating in debates on the issue.

The apex court has reserved its verdict on the politically and religiously sensitive case and is likely to pronounce it by November 17.

The RSS has appealed for peace and harmony over the impending verdict and has asked its members not to make any statement, which could hurt the communal harmony. In a statement issued, the RSS had asserted that whatever the verdict, it should be "accepted wholeheartedly by everyone." The RSS top leaders recently held a two day long meet last week to deliberate the Ram Mandir issue.



Security personnel form a human chain as workers arrive at the station from J&K, in Kolkata on Monday. Majority of the 138 labourers who returned to the city on Monday from J&K after a 46-hour train journey, said they will eventually have to make their way back to the Valley for making ends meet. — PTI

Grenade attack in Valley kills toy vendor from UP

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, NOV. 4

In yet gory act of unknown assailants, a toy vendor from Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) was killed and 44 other persons including three Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel and civilians were injured in a grenade blast in a Srinagar marketplace on Monday afternoon.

This was the third grenade attack in Kashmir Valley in the last two weeks and the latest in a series of terror acts that took place since October 14 and were blamed by the police on separatist militants.

In earlier attacks, 11 persons including four non-local truck drivers, six labourers and an apple buyer were killed and scores injured in various parts of the Valley.

The police here said that suspected militants tossed a hand grenade towards a makeshift vegetable market along Hari Singh High Street in uptown Srinagar at 1.20 pm, killing a toy vendor from UP and injuring 41 shoppers and pedestrians and three SSB men.

The slain man has been identified as 35-year-old Rinku Singh.

The police and hospital sources said that the condition of two of the injured persons — Aijaz Ahmed and Fayaz Ahmed

■ **THIS WAS THE THIRD** grenade attack in Kashmir Valley in the last two weeks and the latest in a series of terror acts that took place since October 14 and were blamed by the police on militants.

— both local Kashmiris, is stated to be critical.

The attack took place at a time when the shops in Hari Singh High Street and elsewhere in Srinagar had been shut after remaining open for a few hours in the morning as the stalemate in the Valley over the abrogation of Article 370 continues.

However, roadside vendors were still doing business in several parts of Srinagar including Hari Singh High Street, the police and witnesses said. The powerful blast caused commotion in the area and many people were seen running for safety.

The police and Central armed police forces personnel deployed in the area were soon joined by reinforcements to conduct searches but no arrests could be made, the witnesses and police sources said.

The J&K police in a statement alleged that terrorists and Pakistan were involved in Monday's attack and similar other incidents that took place across the Valley over the past few weeks.

It said, "The police had arrested a local terrorist in Sopore two days ago who confessed to have been tasked to throw grenades in busy markets and patrol pumps". It added "The return of normalcy and opening of shops are unnerving terrorists and their handlers across Pakistan".

In a grenade attack that took place in north-western town of Sopore last week, as many as 15 civilians were injured. They were targeted when they were waiting at a bus stand.

Earlier on October 26, six members of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were injured when unknown men hurled a hand grenade at them while they were inspecting vehicles at a makeshift check-post in Srinagar's Karan Nagar area.

In October 12, a grenade blast had left five civilians injured along the Hari Singh High Street.

Since October 14, four non-local truck drivers, six labourers and an apple trader were killed in a series of attacks.

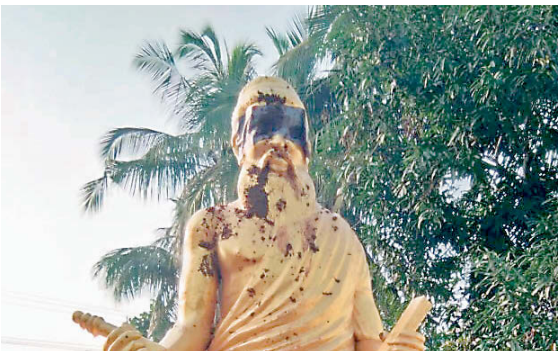
Tiruvalluvar statue desecrated

G. SRINIVASAN | DC THANJAVUR, NOV. 4

Tension prevailed at Pillaiyarpatti village near Thanjavur on Monday following desecration of a statue of Tamil saint-poet Tiruvalluvar there by some miscreants who wrapped its eyes with black cloth, and smeared its face with cow dung and black liquid on Sunday night.

People of Tiruvalluvar Nagar where the statue is located woke up on Monday morning only to see a defigured statue to their shock. They immediately informed Tamil University police, who rushed to the spot, cleaned it and adorned it with a garland.

People in the area staged a demonstration con-



The cement statue was installed in 2005.

demning the incident and demanded the arrest of the miscreants immediately.

The cement statue was installed in 2005 with the efforts by Thenninthiya Valluvar Sangam and residents of Thiruvalluvar street. The then district

collector of Thanjavur Veera Shanmugha Moni had unveiled the statue.

"We, people in this area, garland the statue on Tiruvalluvar Day every year. We hold the saint in high esteem, who is above caste, creed, colour, religion and countries. He

belongs to the whole world and his Tirukkural is considered as a book for the humanity. It is unfortunate that such disgrace was done to the saint's statue and those who did it should be arrested immediately and punished. We should not impose caste or religion on him. He belongs to humanity," a cross-section of people on Tiruvalluvar street said.

Students of Tamil University staged a demonstration near the campus condemning the incident. P. Maniarsan of Thamizh

Desiya Periyakkam condemned the incident. He said that saint Tiruvalluvar belonged to the whole world and that was why his 'Tirukkural' was translated in large number of languages.



Good start

Odd-even rule kicks in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal carpools with other ministers

DECCAN CHRONICLE

TUESDAY | 5 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Nation

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AAP must tell how many CPCB directions on pollution has it followed

—Prakash Javadekar
Union minister

IN BRIEF

NCMC takes stock to deal with Maha

New Delhi: The National Crisis Management Committee, the apex body to respond to emergency situations, on Monday reviewed preparedness in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Daman and Diu ahead of Cyclone Maha's landfall between Dwarka and Diu on November 6 night. The committee, headed by cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba, took stock of the preparations for rescue and relief operations and directed officials to provide immediate assistance, as required. The IMD told the committee that the cyclone, currently hovering over the east-central Arabian Sea is moving west and north-westwards and is likely to intensify till Tuesday.

WW-II aircraft lands in Nagpur

Nagpur: An iconic World War 2 aircraft 'Silver Spitfire', which is on a historic world tour expedition, landed in Nagpur on Monday. The vintage aircraft is expected to cover approximately a distance of 27,000 miles across 29 countries with a stopover at 100 different locations, a defence release said. "The aircraft entered Indian air space on November 2 at Kolkata and landed at Air Force Station, Sonagaon, (Nagpur) on Nov 4," it stated. The pilots of the aircraft Steve Brook and Matt Jones were welcomed by Gp Capt S.K. Tiwari, Station Commander, Air Force Station Sonagaon. Embarking on the expedition from England in August, the pilots plan to fly through countries in which 'Spitfire' had flown during World War-II.

Old vehicles banned in Bihar

Patna: Taking a grim view of the surge in pollution levels that has been recorded during the recent festive season, the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar on Monday imposed a complete ban on plying of state-owned vehicles which were more than 15 years old. Talking to reporters here after a high-level meeting on pollution control chaired by the Chief Minister, Deepak Kumar the state's chief secretary said the restriction on plying of vehicles more than 15 years old has also been extended to commercial vehicles "only for the Patna metropolitan area".

FATHER RAPES MINOR DAUGHTER

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 4

A man in a Madhya Pradesh village was accused of raping his 16-year-old daughter after thrashing her badly, police said on Monday. The incident took place in the remote village of Sirsoda village in Bhand district late on Saturday night. Police quoting the alleged victim said the accused used to beat his daughter since her childhood because of his gender bias. However, her mother used to protect her from him. Late on Saturday night, the accused confined his daughter in a room in his house and then started assaulting her "without any reason". He then allegedly raped her, investigation officer in the case K.K. Dubey said. The victim later called police on her mother's cell phone to inform about the incident. According to the police, her mother was in another room in their house when the incident took place. She gave her cell phone to her daughter and asked her to alert the police.



(L-R) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha at the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in Nonthaburi in Thailand on Monday.

— PTI

RCEP door will remain 'open' for India: Aus

Says deal would be bigger and better with India in it

Melbourne, Nov. 4: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Monday said the door will remain "wide open" for India to join the 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) if it decides to do so, as the others were on board in finalising the deal without New Delhi.

Morrison and trade minister Simon Birmingham are in Bangkok to discuss the RCEP during the Asean summit. India has been forcefully raising the issue of market access as well as protected lists of goods mainly to shield its domestic market as there have been fears that the country may be flooded with cheap Chinese agricultural and industrial products once it signs the deal.

"The door will always be open to India," Morrison was quoted as saying. He also said that the deal would be bigger and better with India in it. "It has always been our view, and the view of many who sit around the table, that this is a bigger and better deal with India in it," Morrison said.

"I think patience is the virtue in this," he added. Birmingham said, "We have to make sure that progress is realised amongst the 15 nations who are there without India. These make it easier for Australian businesses to do business through the region and that is what allows us to keep growing our exports." He said the new, multilateral deal will deliver better results. "There are real gains that Australia can get in terms of our services economy, financial services, areas of education, health sectors.

We are very focused on how we can value-add to those existing agreements," Birmingham said. Earlier, China on Monday said negotiations to firm up the RCEP deal during the Asean meeting in Bangkok have made "inspiring progress" though they may not fully meet the expectations of all the parties.

Asked about reports of delay in finalising the agreement among the 16 countries, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a media briefing here that "as I understand the progress made may not fully meet the expectations of all parties but we have seen inspiring progress and all parties also say they will make joint efforts for conclusion of the treaty.

"I shall say that this sent out a positive signal from the East Asian countries in support of multilateralism and free trade, and we hope all parties will continue to engage in negotiations in a constructive way and work together to achieve substantial and final results for the negotiations". Geng said the RCEP is the largest and

RCEP: TRICKS OF THE TRADE

What is RCEP?

■ The RCEP agreement is among 10 ASEAN members — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam — and their trade partners which are Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand to create a free trade pact covering a third of the world's economy.

■ The RCEP is the largest and most important trade agreement in the Asia Pacific region.

Why is it important?

■ When finalised, the RCEP would become the world's largest free trade area, comprising half of the world population and will account for nearly 40 per cent of the global commerce and 35 per cent of the GDP.

India's refrain

■ India has been forcefully raising the issue of market access as well as protected lists of goods mainly to shield its domestic market as there is fear that the country may be flooded with cheap Chinese agricultural and industrial products once it signs the deal.

■ **PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi** has conveyed to Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi about the importance India attaches to her country's cooperation in ensuring that insurgent groups do not find space to operate across the India-Myanmar border.

■ **MODI ALSO** conveyed to Suu Kyi about India's readiness to expand its socio-economic projects in the country's Rakhine state, months after New Delhi implemented a housing project in the restive province.

■ **MODI MADE** the proposal during a meeting with Suu Kyi on the sidelines of the Asean summit.

most important trade agreement in the Asia Pacific region.

"This FTA (Free Trade Agreement) will inject strong impetus into the regional economic integration. With the joint efforts of our members the RCEP negotiations made important progress. Now all parties are in close contact and we will hold the third leaders meeting later on," he said. After India opted out, the leaders of 15 RCEP countries issued a statement resolving to sign the free trade pact next year.

The RCEP negotiations were launched by Asean leaders and six other countries during the 21st Asean Summit in Phnom Penh in November 2012. The objective of launching RCEP negotiations was to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the Asean member States and its FTA partners.

Congress claims victory on RCEP

BOLD DECISION: RSS AFFILIATE

New Delhi, Nov. 4: The RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch welcomed on Monday the government's decision of not signing the China-backed mega Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and hailed it as a bold decision.

SJM co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said staying away from the RCEP is a decision in favour of the country's small businesses, farmers, dairy, data security and the manufacturing sector.

"We thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking the bold decision of not entering the agreement on RCEP," the SJM said in a statement.

— PTI

thank the Congress party workers who supported the farmers extensively on this issue," she also said on Twitter.

Surjewala said with "rampant unemployment, a sinking economy and deep agrarian crisis emanating from utter mismanagement of economy by BJP Government", signing RCEP would have been catastrophic.

"A forceful opposition by Congress and Rahul Gandhi ensures that BJP government backs down from bartering the interests of farmers, dairy producers, fishermen, small and medium businesses at the altar of political expediency (sic)," he said on Twitter.

"By backing down at the behest of the Congress party and farmers groups, our government has been forced to take a correct decision," Surjewala said.

— PTI

K'taka MLAs case awaits CJI's word

DC CORRESPONDENTS
NEW DELHI/ BENGALURU, NOV. 4

The fate of the 17 Congress and JD(S) rebel MLAs in the case on whether the Karnataka Speaker's decision to disqualify them should be upheld, is expected to take a crucial turn after a Supreme Court bench headed by Justice N.V. Ramana said on Monday that it will consult Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on constituting a bench on Tuesday, to consider the explosive new material handed in by the Karnataka Congress.

The Congress wants the SC to take on record an audio clip in which Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is purportedly heard hitting out at his BJP rivals for not recognising the 'sacrifice' of the disqualified Congress-JD(S) MLAs, because of whom the BJP was able to come to power.

The future of the disqualified MLAs depends on the court decision as they can contest the December 5 Assembly bypolls only if they get the nod from the court. They can contest if their disqualification is set aside and their resignations from the state Assembly are accepted, sources explained. If the case gets prolonged and the verdict is delayed, it could affect the chances of the disqualified MLAs contesting the bypolls to 15 Assembly seats.

The future of the Yediyurappa government too hinges on the results of the bypolls and the CM

may find himself in a precarious situation if the BJP fails to win at least 8 of the 15 seats.

In the audio clip which surfaced last Friday, Yediyurappa is reportedly heard expressing anguish against leaders at a meeting in Hubballi over their opposition to giving tickets to the disqualified MLAs for the December 5 Assembly bypolls in 15 constituencies. The Congress contends that this is enough proof of the horse trading tactics adopted by the BJP to topple the previous JD(S)-Congress coalition government.

What has made the audio tape even more controversial is the statement on tape by Yediyurappa that the rebel MLAs, who were later disqualified, were kept in Mumbai during the final days of the coalition government under BJP national president Amit Shah's watch. "I feel I have made a mistake by forcing the 17 MLAs to resign and becoming Chief Minister with their help as party leaders are not supporting them. All these legislators also look foolish by trusting us and sacrificing their positions. What was the need for them to resign and help us come to power when we should have been in the opposition? They stayed away from their constituencies and family members by camping in Mumbai for two-and-a-half to three months on the direction of Amit Shah," Yediyurappa reportedly says on the tape.

POLICEMAN THRASHED AT SAKET COURT

New Delhi, Nov. 4: Two days after lawyers and police clashed at the Tis Hazari Court complex, an on-duty policeman was allegedly thrashed by advocates outside Saket Court on Monday, officials said.

In a video of the purported incident, lawyers were seen beating up the policeman who is riding a bike. One of the lawyers was also seen slapping the policeman.

When the policeman was leaving the spot, the lawyer also hit his bike with his helmet.

"A policeman was beaten by lawyers at Saket Court. A video of the incident has also surfaced," a senior police official said.

Lawyers and police clashed at the Tis Hazari Court complex here on Saturday during which at least 20 police personnel and several lawyers were injured while many vehicles vandalised or set on fire, according to officials.

Meanwhile, advocates in the Delhi High Court and all district courts in New Delhi abstained from judicial work on Monday protesting against the clash between lawyers and police in the Tis Hazari court complex on Saturday.

Lawyers at the six district courts in the national capital — Tis Hazari, Karkardooma, Saket, Dwarka, Rohini and Patiala House — boycotted work throughout the day. Protest marches were held by lawyers all over the national capital. — PTI

Supreme Court says deal with pollution collectively

From Page 1

The top court said the authorities could not indulge in "passing the buck" and should collectively try to tackle the situation.

It asked the Delhi government and the civic bodies to chalk out a plan to ensure removal of the waste dumped at open spaces and come up with a scheme to deal with the issue. Regarding pollution due to dust accumulated on the roads, the bench said water be sprinkled on the stretches which were prone to dust.

It directed that a traffic plan be prepared so that there was no burden on a particular road and the problem of pollution due to traffic congestion could be tackled.

It asked the traffic authorities concerned to take immediate steps in this regard.

The bench asked the court-mandated Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) to hold a meeting on Monday itself and take a decision on whether the industries, which contributed to the pollution levels of Delhi-NCR, could be shut down during this period.

It also asked the EPCA to take a call regarding banning the entry of diesel-run trucks, except those carrying essential com-

TAJ MAHAL GETS AIR PURIFIER

New Delhi, Nov. 4: As smog levels exceeded those of Beijing by more than three times, authorities parked a van with an air purifier near the Taj Mahal — the iconic 17th-century marble mausoleum 250 south of Delhi — in a bid to clean the air in its surroundings.

Bollywood megastar Priyanka Chopra Jonas posted a selfie in pollution mask on Instagram and said it was "hard to shoot" in Delhi. "I can't even imagine what it must be like to live here under these conditions. We're blessed with air purifiers and masks. Pray for the homeless," she posted.

— AFP

modities, in Delhi.

Regarding the pollution caused due to generators, the bench directed the authorities to ensure that there was no power cut in the region so that there was no need to use generators, except in the case of emergency services.

"Let the order be effective till further orders are passed," the bench said.

It asked the Centre, the Delhi government and the states of NCR — Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan — to prepare a

road map within three weeks so that the situation did not recur in the future.

During the hearing, the bench asked why could air-conditioners not be used at a pre-set temperature of 25 degrees Celsius or above in the region.

"In Japan, ACs cannot work below 25 degrees Celsius. Here, we use ACs at 18 or even 16 degrees Celsius. We have forgotten the concept of conservation," the bench observed.

It also directed the Delhi government and the civic bodies to work in tandem to see that garbage and waste were tackled on a war-footing.

The bench questioned the Delhi government about the over 4,000 industries operating in the national capital.

The counsel appearing for the Delhi government said all such industries were allowed to operate as per the masterplan and that the polluting units were already shut down.

During the hearing, the bench was informed that on the day of Diwali (October 27), Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was in the "green category", but by the night, it started going into the severe category.

EPCA Chairman Bhure Lal appeared in the court and apprised it about the sowing of crop in states like Punjab and Haryana.



Delhi transport minister Kailash Gahlot presents roses to BJP leader Vijay Goel at his residence, in New Delhi on Monday. Goel defied the odd-even scheme of the Delhi government terming it an election stunt. Nearly 200 violaters were fined including Goel who in a symbolic protest drove his odd number SUV from his residence at Ashoka Road to Janpath.



More to come

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro says the worst is yet to come after an oil spill affects over 200 of the country's beaches



Terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to UK's security

— Priti Patel
UK home secretary

IN BRIEF

Bombing kills 8 in Afghanistan

Kabul: An Afghan official says a roadside bombing has killed at least eight civilians in northern Baghlian province. Jawed Basharat, police chief's spokesman, says six other people were wounded in Monday's attack in the Dand Shabuddin area outside of Puli Khumri. Basharat says women and children are among the casualties. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but the area is under Taliban control.

China media wants tough line on HK

Shanghai: Chinese state media on Monday urged authorities to take a tougher line against protesters in Hong Kong who vandalized state-run Xinhua news agency and other buildings at the weekend, saying the violence damaged the city's rule of law. In an editorial, state-backed China Daily newspaper criticized the 'wanton' attacks by 'naive' demonstrators, adding, "They are doomed to fail simply because their violence will encounter the full weight of the law." Police fired tear gas at black-clad protesters on Saturday in some of the worst violence in the financial hub, with metro stations set ablaze and buildings vandalized.

'Super-Neptune' exoplanet found

Tokyo: Astronomers using telescopes from around the world have discovered an exoplanet more massive than Neptune, orbiting a star cooler than the Sun at an orbital radius similar to that of the Earth. Around cool stars, this orbital region is thought to be the birth place of gas-giant planets, according to the researchers at National Astronomical Observatory of Japan. The results, published in the Astronomical Journal, suggest that Neptune-sized planets could be common around this orbital region. Because the exoplanet discovered is closer than other planets discovered by the same method, it is a good target for follow-up observations by telescopes like the Subaru Telescope, the researchers said.

ERDOGAN MAY CALL OFF VISIT TO U.S.

Ankara, Nov. 4: President Tayyip Erdogan may call off a visit to Washington next week in protest at votes in the House of Representatives to recognize mass killings of Armenians a century ago as genocide and to seek sanctions on Turkey, three Turkish officials said. Erdogan is due in Washington on Nov. 13 at President Donald Trump's invitation, but said last week that the votes put a "question mark" over the plans. "These steps seriously overshadow ties between the two countries. Due to these decisions, Erdogan's visit has been put on hold," a senior Turkish official said, adding that a final decision had not been taken. Turkish sources say Trump and Erdogan have a strong bond despite anger in Congress over Turkey's Syria offensive and its purchase of Russian air defenses, and despite what Ankara sees as Trump's own erratic pronouncements. Those personal ties could be crucial given Nato member Turkey's S-400 missile defense system, which under US law should trigger sanctions. Turkey is already suspended from the F-35 fighter jet program in which it was both joint producer and customer.

Leaders snub US meet after Trump skips Asean summit

US-China trade war and absence of top officials let down Asian leaders

Bangkok, Nov. 4: Several Southeast Asian leaders snubbed a meeting with US officials on Monday after President Donald Trump decided not to attend a regional summit in Bangkok.

Just three leaders from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) showed up to the session, along with a host of foreign ministers.

Trump has been accused of turning his back on Asian allies for pulling out of a major trade pact, as fellow superpower China pursues its own deals and investment projects in the region.

Washington did not send top officials to the weekend Asean summit, instead dispatching commerce secretary Wilbur Ross and national security

advisor Robert O'Brien.

Monday's sparsely attended address from O'Brien stood in contrast to earlier Asean meetings, which had all been attended by most heads of state.

"It's not appropriate for Asean to send leaders when the US representation is not on parity," one diplomat in Bangkok said. Another diplomat said: "It's not a boycott, it's just that other leaders have other meetings to attend to."

In attendance were the Prime Minister of Thailand, which is hosting the summit, along with the leaders of Laos and Vietnam, next year's Asean chair.

At other events during the summit, members have rallied against protectionism amid fears of dragging global growth

Don invites leaders to US after summit snub

Nonthaburi, Nov. 4: President Donald Trump has invited Southeast Asian leaders to a 'special summit' in the United States early next year after skipping their annual summit. Robert O'Brien, the national security adviser Trump sent in his stead, included the invitation in a letter from Trump that he read at a US-Asean meeting on Monday, on the sidelines of the summit of the 10-

nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the outskirts of Thailand's capital. That meeting normally would be attended by Presidents or Prime Ministers. But since O'Brien is not even a member of Trump's Cabinet, seven of the 10 Asean countries sent their foreign ministers instead in what appeared to be a pointed adherence to diplomatic protocol.

— AFP

made worse by the US-China trade war. Trump, who attended the 2017

Asean meeting in Singapore, could not come this year because he was

Indian held captive in Myanmar, dies

Yangon, Nov. 4: A 60-year-old Indian national has died in Myanmar after being taken hostage with several other compatriots and a Myanmar lawmaker by an ethnic rebel group in the country's restive Rakhine province, media reports said on Monday.

Vinoo Gopal was among 10 people, including four Indians and U. Whei Tin, a lawmaker from Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, abducted on Sunday by the Arakan Army from two boats while travelling from Paletwa in the Chin state to Kyauktaw in Rakhine, The Irrawaddy newspaper reported.

The Indian workers were part of the ongoing construction on the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transportation Project.

The incident about the death of the Indian worker came into limelight when the Arakan Army released eight people, including four Indians, two translators and two boat drivers, along with Gopal's body at the Kyauktaw Police Station on Monday morning, the

report said. Two of the Indian survivors are employees of the Engineering Projects of India Ltd, while the three other Indians, including Gopal, were from the RPP Infra Projects, the paper reported.

The incident came into limelight a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a 'constructive' meeting with Suu Kyi in Bangkok on the sidelines of the Asean summit.

The Arakan Army is a Rakhine based insurgent group founded as the armed wing of the United League of Arakan (ULA). It has been fighting for almost a decade for greater autonomy of ethnic Rakhine Buddhists.

This is the first time Arakan Army has captured foreign workers in the resource-rich area, which hosts a series of infrastructure projects linking India and Myanmar. The rebels confirmed the Indian worker's death as the group were marched up a hill.

"Unfortunately he suddenly died from exhaustion... we did not do anything to him," a spokesman said. — PTI

China says Xi, Trump are in touch

Beijing, Nov. 4: Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump have been in continuous touch through "various means," China's foreign ministry said on Monday, when asked when and where the two leaders might meet to ink a trade deal.

Trump on Friday suggested he could sign a long-awaited trade agreement with China in the farm state of Iowa, which has been hard hit by tariffs in a nearly 16-month trade war between the world's largest economies.

Trump said on Friday evening that negotiations about a "phase one" agreement were going well and he hoped to sign the deal with Xi at a US location when work on the agreement was completed.

China has so far not been drawn on when and where

N. Korea, US could resume talks soon

Seoul, Nov. 4: North Korea and the United States could hold another round of working-level talks as soon as mid-November to expedite progress before a year-end deadline set by the North, a member of South Korea's parliament said on Monday.

North Korean and US officials met last month in Stockholm, for the first time since US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed in June to reopen denu-

clearization talks that stalled after a failed summit in Vietnam in February. But the talks in Sweden broke off with the North's envoy saying the United States failed to show flexibility.

Both sides are expected to meet again no later than early December to get the negotiations going before a year-end deadline set by Kim, South Korean lawmaker Lee Eun-jae said after attending a briefing by the National Intelligence Service. — Reuters

Xi may go to meet Trump, apart from saying it was "pure speculation" they

could meet in the Chinese gambling hub of Macau. "As for a meeting

between the leaders of China and the United States, what I can say is that President Xi Jinping and President Trump have maintained continuous contact through various means," he told a daily news briefing, without elaborating.

US and Chinese negotiators have been racing to finalise a text of a 'phase one' agreement for Trump and Xi to sign this month, a process clouded by wrangling over US demands for a timetable of Chinese purchases of US farm products.

A critical date is December 15, when new US tariffs on Chinese imports such as laptops, toys and electronics are set to kick in.

Both the United States and China have an interest in reaching a deal and averting those tariffs. — Reuters

Leader threatens Pak lockdown

Islamabad, Nov. 4: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Pakistan's firebrand cleric-cum-politician, threatened to lockdown the entire country as a deadline set by him calling for Prime Minister Imran Khan's resignation expired on Sunday night.

Rehman, the leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), addressed a mammoth protest rally in Islamabad at the end of two-day deadline.

Rehman had led a caravan of supporters, dubbed the 'Azadi' March, to Islamabad last week in an attempt to pressure Khan to step down.

Rehman stressed that the protest would continue until the objective was achieved.

"It is clear that the ruler (Imran Khan) will have to go and give the people a chance to elect a new ruler through fair elections. It is clear that there is no other option," Rehman said.

Rehman said that the ongoing protest was part of plan A and he had a plan B and C and would take a decision about continuing the sit-in in Islamabad or expand it.

"Today Islamabad is facing lockdown; next we will lockdown the entire country. We will not stop and continue our struggle," Rehman said.

Rehman announced that he was planning to meet other Opposition leaders on Monday to take a consensus decision about any future course of action.

"This movement and this flood of people will continue until Imran Khan is thrown out of power," Rehman said.

Rehman was supported by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Qaumi Watan Party, National Party and Awami National Party. — PTI

Giving it back



Iraqi demonstrators use slingshots to hurl stones near al-Jumhuriya bridge which leads to the high-security Green Zone, during the ongoing anti-government protests in Baghdad on Monday. Security forces fired live rounds, after five demonstrators were shot dead overnight. — AFP

PRODUCING 5 KG URANIUM PER DAY, SAYS IRAN

Tehran, Nov. 4: Iran announced on Monday a more than ten-fold increase in enriched uranium production following a series of steps back from commitments under a 2015 nuclear deal abandoned by the United States.

Iran has also developed two new advanced centrifuges, one of which is undergoing testing, said Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran.

Enriched uranium production has reached five kgs per day, Salehi told reporters at the Natanz facility in central Iran in remarks broadcast by state TV. That compares with the level of 450 gms two months ago when it abandoned commitments under a landmark 2015 nuclear deal. — AFP

Greece truck found with 41 migrants

Thessaloniki, Nov. 4: Forty-one migrants were found alive in a refrigerated truck in northern Greece on Monday, said police, who arrested the driver.

The migrants, of apparent Afghan origin, were mostly in good condition. Seven of them were given first aid in hospital, the police said.

"The truck contained men and boys. Identifying their nationality will require a couple of days," a police source said. The truck was immobilised by police on the Egnatia motorway between the towns of Xanthi and Komotini. The driver, a man from Georgia, was arrested. Media reported that police were also seeking a second man from Turkey in connection with the incident. — AFP

8 MORE HELD OVER BRITISH TRUCK DEATHS

Hanoi, Nov. 4: Vietnamese police have arrested eight more suspects in connection with the deaths of 39 Vietnamese people who died in a refrigerated truck container in south-eastern England.

Police say the eight were arrested on charges of organising people smuggling overseas.

British police have charged 25-year-old Maurice Robinson, from Northern Ireland, with 39 counts of manslaughter and conspiracy to traffic people. — AP

CORPORATE | ISSUES

Company says he violated policy and demonstrated poor judgment in a recent incident

McDonald's fires CEO over relationship with employee

New York, Nov. 4: McDonald's announced on Monday that its president and CEO Steve Easterbrook was forced out after showing "poor judgment" by engaging in a "consensual relationship" with an employee.

He was replaced by Chris Kempczinski, the president of McDonald's USA. Kempczinski was also elected to the board of directors.

"Easterbrook has separated from the company

following the board's determination that he violated company policy and demonstrated poor judgment involving a recent consensual relationship with an employee," the company said in a statement.

"The company confirms that this leadership transition is unrelated to the company's operational or financial performance."

In an email to McDonald's employees, Easterbrook said his rela-



Steve Easterbrook

tionship was "a mistake" that violated company policy.

"Given the values of the company, I agree with the

■ In an email to McDonald's employees, Easterbrook said his relationship was 'a mistake' that violated company policy and that he was moving on.

board that it is time for me to move on," the email said.

Joe Erlinger, president of international operated

markets, will take over as head of McDonald's USA, the company said.

In its most recent earnings report, on October 22, McDonald's said profits dipped 1.8 percent in the third quarter from the year-ago period to \$1.6 billion.

Revenues at the company, which has 38,000 restaurants in more than 100 countries, edged up 1.1 percent to \$5.4 billion.

The fast-food giant notched a healthy 5.9 per-

cent increase in global comparable sales, including a solid rise in the United States.

But profits were pressured by increased spending on technology and research and development.

McDonald's has invested heavily in home delivery and mobile pay initiatives in recent years, and in 2019 has unveiled a number of acquisitions to boost its drive-through operation.

Kempczinski told The Wall Street Journal that he

plans to continue the focus on technology.

"There isn't going to be some radical, strategic shift. The plan is working," he said. Easterbrook had served as chief executive since 2015. Under his leadership, McDonald's share price doubled, but he was unable to stop a decline in sales.

Like other fast food chains, McDonald's is facing headwinds as consumers seek out healthier dining options. — AFP

SHORT TAKES

NASSCOM

CONCLAVE TO FOCUS ON DIGITAL WAVE

Bengaluru, Nov. 4: The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) is hosting its flagship event NASSCOM Product Conclave (NPC) in the city from Tuesday.

The 16th edition of the annual event will highlight the theme “10X Challenge: Scale@Speed” and focus on creatively enhancing businesses and developing products that drive the digital transformation wave in India, NASSCOM said in a statement.

NPC 2019 will hold a myriad of roundtables, plenaries, curated sessions, keynotes, summits and a showcase dedicated to cutting-edge product start-ups from India, it said.

The 10X Challenge entails the vision held by the product sector to drive its growth from \$8 billion in 2019 to \$80 billion by 2025, NASSCOM said.

“This means that companies would have to expand rapidly and grow their products to capitalise on emerging opportunities,” it was stated.

The large industry players would have to build their product portfolio to position India as the hub for all aspects pertaining to products,” it was stated.

“The two-day conclave will orchestrate eight summits dedicated to FinTech, Mobility, SaaS, HealthTech, RetailTech, Product Management & Design, IoT-Devices and Bharat...,” the statement added.

—PTI

motorola

MOTO ONE HYPER RELEASE IN FEW MONTHS

New Delhi, Nov. 4: Going by the fact that Moto One Hyper has gone through the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) certification, the much awaited device is up for launch in near future.

Earlier, Motorola introduced a new naming scheme for its smartphone line, bringing them under the ‘Moto One’ canopy, with each of them specializing in different aspects.

The Moto One Hyper will be the latest addition to the family, with a 64MP camera module along with a pop-up selfie camera for a notch-less front.

Going by the leaks, the Moto One Hyper, just like other recent phones from Motorola, is a mid-ranger powered by a Snapdragon 675 chipset with 4GB of RAM and 128GB of storage.

The front will sport a 6.39-inch IPS LCD panel with a Full HD+ resolution and will have no notch or holes for the selfie camera.

The 32MP front camera will reside in a housing that will pop-up from the top edge when needed.

The back of the Moto One Hyper will have a 64MP primary camera, likely to be the Bright GW1 image sensor from Samsung along with an 8MP depth sensor.

There’s also a physical fingerprint scanner under the cameras.

The entire package is powered by a 3,600 mAh battery and is expected to bring fast charging over USB Type-C as well.

The bottom also has a head-phone jack.

Motorola is yet to confirm a launch date for the Moto One Hyper but has only one event on the horizon on November 13, when the next-gen Moto Razr foldable will be unveiled.

Experts believe Motorola could reveal more details on the Moto One Hyper at the same event.

FB takes on Dems over political ads

Democrats advance against Zuckerberg’s refusal to fact-check political ads and remove false ones

Washington, Nov. 4: Mark Zuckerberg’s social network in Washington is shrinking. Bipartisan hostility against Facebook has been building for months, fueled by a series of privacy scandals, the site’s role in Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential campaign and accusations that Facebook crushes competitors.

Now, with the 2020 elections approaching, Democrats especially are homing in on the conduct of the social media giant and its refusal to fact-check political ads and remove false ones.

“When you’re the No. 1 monopoly, people are going to come after you,” says John Feehery, a veteran Republican communications strategist. The challenge for Democrats, as he sees it: “They’re facing a base that is very angry and restive. So they have to be much more aggressive in taking on corporations.”

Zuckerberg enjoyed a cozy relationship with the Obama administration. But in the face of growing public outrage, the co-founder of the upstart born under the motto “Move fast and break things” is learning the art

of smoothing over and piecing back together.

His new strategy: a personal blitz featuring serial private meetings in Washington with key lawmakers of both parties and President Donald Trump; small, off-the-record dinners at his California home with conservative journalists and opinion makers; and the occasional public address or TV interview.

He’s become lobbyist-in-chief for a tech giant that has about 60 people officially playing that role. The company spent an estimated \$12.6 million on federal influencing last year.

The political ad issue hits close to home for Democrats. Facebook, as well as Twitter and Google, refused in September to remove a misleading video ad from Trump’s re-election campaign that targeted top-tier Democratic candidate Joe Biden. Senator Elizabeth Warren, another top Democratic contender, chose to hit back by running her own ad and making it personal by falsely claiming that Zuckerberg had endorsed Trump for 2020.

Warren, who has called

POLITICAL ADS KEY TO 2020 POLL

This really is not about money. It is important that people can see for themselves what politicians are saying

MARK ZUCKERBERG, Facebook CEO



■ FACEBOOK refused in September to remove a misleading video ad from Trump’s re-election campaign that targeted Democratic candidate Joe

■ Senator Elizabeth Warren, another Democratic contender, chose to hit back by running her own advertisement.

■ WARREN made it personal by falsely claiming that Zuckerberg had endorsed Trump for 2020.

■ The Senator, calling for breaking up Facebook, acknowledged the advertisement’s deliberate falsity to make her point.

■ Facebook changed its ad-targeting systems this year to prevent discrimination in housing, credit and employment ads.

for breaking up Facebook and other tech giants, acknowledged the ad’s deliberate falsity to make her point.

Then came Zuckerberg’s speech last month at Georgetown University in which he promoted free expression as the foundation for Facebook’s refusal to take down content it deems newsworthy, even if the material violates company standards. The next week, during prickly questioning by Democratic lawmakers at a televised

House hearing, Zuckerberg dug in on not fact-checking politicians’ speech and the handling of hate speech and potential incitements to violence.

“This really is not about money,” Zuckerberg insisted. “It is important that people can see for themselves what politicians are saying.” Facebook says political advertising accounts for less than half of 1% of its total revenue.

In the lambasting from Democrats, Joyce Beatty of Ohio, the vice-chair of the

Congressional Black Caucus, focused on Facebook’s track record on civil rights and diversity. She told Zuckerberg that he had “ruined the lives of many people, discriminated against them.”

As part of a legal settlement with civil rights groups, Facebook changed its ad-targeting systems this year to prevent discrimination in housing, credit and employment ads.

It previously had allowed such ads to be targeted to

people based on age, sex or race, which is illegal.

At some points, friendlier Republican members of the House Financial Services Committee asked Zuckerberg how he was holding up through the six-hour hearing. “I’m doing OK,” replied the 35-year-old co-founder, chairman and CEO. He’s one of the world’s richest individuals, with a net worth currently estimated at \$71 billion.

Summing up, Maxine Waters, the California Democrat who leads the committee, told Zuckerberg, “You have opened up a discussion about whether Facebook should be broken up.”

A mandated breakup would be the worst-case scenario for Facebook and the other big tech companies.

Facebook says splitting up large tech corporations would make the election system more vulnerable to interference because the companies wouldn’t be able to work together to prevent it.

For Zuckerberg and the Democrats, “it may be a nasty divorce,” said James Thurber, a professor of government at American University who founded

its Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. “He clearly has taken a stand that’s really quite unpopular.”

Thurber called Zuckerberg’s backstage celebrity approach to lobbying efforts “very dangerous.” You’ve got to be very careful about that, if you think you can do it yourself,” he said.

David Cicilline, a senior House Democrat who leads the Judiciary Committee’s investigation into the market dominance of big tech companies, is working on legislation that may target the profits made by Facebook from political ads it knows are false.

The measure likely would also apply to social media rivals Twitter and Google.

Twitter recently made the unexpected announcement that it will ban all political advertising from its service.

Zuckerberg’s quick riposte, during Facebook’s quarterly conference call on earnings, was to reaffirm the company’s commitment to the value of free speech, including for politicians.

—AP

AFTER FACEBOOK, IT’S TIKTOK TURN

TIKTOK HAS BECOME THE LATEST CHINESE FIRM CAUGHT IN U.S. REGULATORY CROSSFIRE, WITH WASHINGTON LAUNCHING A SECURITY REVIEW OF ITS \$1 BILLION ACQUISITION OF US SOCIAL MEDIA APP, MUSICAL.Y. U.S. LAWMAKERS RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT ITS COLLECTION OF USER DATA AND WHETHER CHINA CENSORS CONTENT SEEN BY U.S. USERS. HERE ARE A FEW KEY FACTS ABOUT TIKTOK:



■ TikTok allows users to upload short videos with special effects, many of whom dance, jump and lip-sync to pop songs and music in the app. The app has especially created a buzz among US teenagers.

■ Around 60% of its 26.5 million monthly active users in the US are aged between 16 and 24, the company said earlier this year.

1B TikTok, one of the world’s most popular apps with more than one billion downloads globally, offers easy-to-use editing tools, so users can simply edit the videos via their cellphones.

#4 It ranks fourth behind Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat as the most used social app in the US Google Play Store

■ TikTok’s success in the US market can be largely attributed to its acquisition of the lip-synching app Musical.ly in 2017.

■ Criticism: A US Senator asked for review of TikTok’s acquisition of Musical.ly, arguing that TikTok was being used by the Chinese government to censor politically sensitive content.

■ Rubio said that despite Hong Kong protests dominating international headlines for months, TikTok only had a few videos of the protests.

■ Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg later said the app censored political protests.

■ TikTok denies that China censors its content, saying it is not influenced by any foreign government.

■ In February, ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok, agreed to pay a \$5.7 million fine to the Federal Trade Commission in the US over TikTok’s illegal collection of personal information from minors.

■ In India, a local court ordered the federal government to temporarily ban new downloads of TikTok in April, saying the app was encouraging pornography and could expose children to sexual predators.

SPACEX TESTS ITS CREW DRAGON PARACHUTES

Washington, Nov. 4: US aerospace manufacturer SpaceX has successfully demonstrated that its Mark 3 Crew Dragon parachutes will work even if things go awry.

In a short video clip that the company posted on Twitter, it showed a payload landing with only three of four parachutes deployed, and said it has successfully tested the system 13 times in a row.

After CEO Elon Musk had set a target last month, SpaceX arrived at the goal.

“We certainly want to get at least on the order of 10 successful tests in a row before, before launching astronauts,” he said.

“So that seems like where the behavior of the parachutes is consistent, is across 10 successful tests.”

The parachutes now wear a completely different from the ones SpaceX first tested. They now use ‘Zylon’ a stronger polymer material for the parachutes.

—Agencies

‘Mother’ of designs



Modified car sports a bonnet that looks similar to a motherboard.

First BlueKeep mass hacking traced

Washington, Nov. 4: A global hacking campaign has finally arrived an year after Microsoft revealed millions of Windows devices had a serious hackable flaw known as BlueKeep — capable of enabling an automated worm to spread malware from computer to computer. Thankfully, it has not reached its full potential yet. However, it is only a matter of time before BlueKeep goes en masse.

Security researchers have spotted evidence that their so-called honeypots — trap-machines designed to help detect and analyze malware outbreaks — are being compromised using the

BlueKeep vulnerability.

The bug in Microsoft’s Remote Desktop Protocol allows a hacker to gain full remote code execution on unpatched machines; while it had previously only been exploited in proofs of concept, it has potentially devastating consequences.

Another worm that targeted Windows machines in 2017, the NotPetya ransomware attack, caused more than 10 billion dollars in damage worldwide.

But so far, the widespread BlueKeep hacking merely installs a cryptocurrency miner, leeching a victim’s processing power to generate cryptocurrency. And rather than a worm that

jumps unassisted from one computer to the next, these attackers appear to have scanned the internet for vulnerable machines to exploit. That makes this current wave unlikely to result in an epidemic.

“BlueKeep has been out there for a while now. But this is the first instance where I’ve seen it being used on a mass scale,” says Marcus Hutchins, a malware researcher, who was one of the first to build a working proof-of-concept for the BlueKeep vulnerability.

“They’re not seeking targets. They’re scanning the internet and spraying exploits.”

“Hutchins says that he first learned of the BlueKeep hacking outbreak from fellow security researcher Kevin Beaumont, who observed his honeypot machines crashing over the last few days. Since those devices exposed only port 3389 to the internet — the port used by RDP — he quickly suspected BlueKeep.

He then shared a ‘crash-dump,’ forensic data from those crashed machines, with Hutchins, who confirmed that BlueKeep was the cause, and that the hackers had intended to install a cryptocurrency miner on the victim machines.

—Agencies

KEY INVENTION Yale’s research team develops skin that communicates, connects with human cells

Living skin 3D-printed with blood vessels

New York, Nov. 4: A team led by an Indian-origin scientist has developed a novel way to 3D print living skin complete with blood vessels, a ‘significant step’ towards creating grafts that are more like the natural skin.

Three dimensional (3D) bioprinting combines cells, growth factors, and biomaterials to fabricate biomedical parts that maximally imitate natural tissue characteristics.

“Right now, whatever is available as a clinical product is more like a fancy Band-Aid,” said Pankaj Karande, an associate professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the US.

“It provides some accelerated wound healing, but eventu-

ally it just falls off; it never really integrates with the host cells,” said Karande, who led the research published in the journal *Tissue Engineering Part A*.

Researchers noted that a significant barrier to that integration has been the absence of a functioning vascular system in the skin grafts.

The team found that if they add key elements — including human endothelial cells, which line the inside of blood vessels, and human pericyte cells, which wrap around the endothelial cells — with animal collagen and

other structural cells typically found in a skin graft, the cells start communicating.

Such cells form a biologically relevant vascular structure within the span of a few weeks, according to the researchers.

When a team at Yale School of Medicine in the US grafted the structure onto a special type of mouse, the vessels from the 3D printed skin began to communicate and connect with the mouse’s own vessels.

“That is extremely important, because we know there is actually a transfer of blood and nutrients to the



graft which is keeping the graft alive,” Karande explained.

In order to make this usable at a clinical level, researchers need to be able to edit the donor cells using something like the CRISPR gene-editing technology, so that the vessels can integrate and be accepted by the patient’s body.

“We are still not at that step, but we are one step closer,” Karande added.

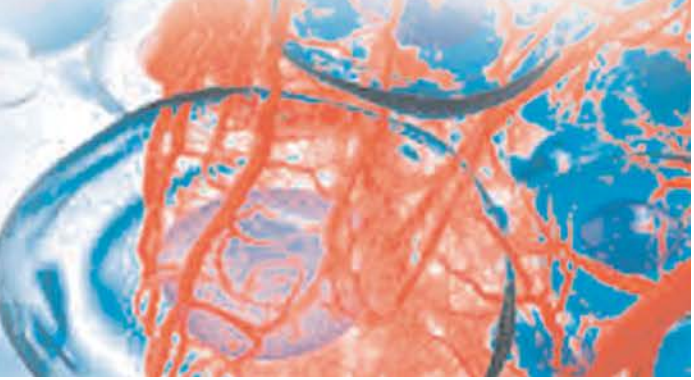
“This significant development highlights the vast potential of 3D bioprinting in precision medicine, where solutions can be tailored to specific situations and eventually to individuals,” said Deepak Vashishta, the director of Center for

Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies (CBIS) in the US.

Karande noted that more work is needed to address the challenges associated with burn patients, which include

the loss of nerve and vascular endings.

However, the grafts his team has created bring researchers closer to helping people with more discrete issues, like diabetic or pressure ulcers.—PTI



Housing sales down 9%, new units drop 24%

Global stocks rally over US job report, deal hope



Overleaf

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,301.96	+0.34
Nifty 50	11,941.30	+0.43
S&P 500	3,079.58	+0.41
Dollar (₹)	70.77	-0.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.36	-0.29
Euro (₹)	78.95	-0.04
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,263.78	+0.19
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	62.67	+1.59
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.473	+0.434
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.758	+1.736

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Mothercare puts UK stores into administration

Britain's children and baby products retailer Mothercare said it was putting its loss-making UK business into administration at a risk of more than 2,000 jobs. The 58-year-old global brand's 79 British stores have been bleeding cash for years. The firm said it has been holding fruitless talks with partners about its domestic operations since May 2018.

ArcelorMittal calls off Italy's Ilva acquisition



ArcelorMittal said it was pulling out of the purchase of Italian group Ilva after Italy's parliament removed a legal protection deemed crucial to undertake key environmental work without criminal liability. Ilva's Taranto site is at the centre of a legal case in experts said of the 11,550 people who died in the area, 7,500 were killed by diseases linked to toxic emissions.

Ranitidine recall impacts DRL P&L by ₹40 cr

Dr Reddy's Laboratories, which initiated a voluntary recall of ranitidine from the US market following the FDA investigation into the reported carcinogenic impurity in the drug at low levels, has said it made Rs 40 crore towards provisioning, anticipating market impact. The drug maker in a filing with bourses had said the recall had begun on October 1.

Airtel prepaid users to get ₹4 L life cover

Pre-paid customers of Bharti Airtel subscribing to its Rs 599 plan will now get life insurance cover from Bharti Axa under a partnership deal between the two. Bharti Airtel announced a new pre-paid plan priced at Rs 599 bundled with 2GB data per day, unlimited calls to any network and 100 SMS per day, and also offers Rs 4 lakh life insurance cover from Bharti AXA Life Insurance.

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■ Firm says it can't determine correctness of complaints now No prima facie evidence of allegations: Infosys

New Delhi, Nov. 4: Infosys on Monday said it is yet to receive any evidence to corroborate anonymous whistleblowers' complaints that alleged unethical practices by the company's top management. "With respect to the anonymous complaints, there is no prima facie evidence that the company has received until date to corroborate any of the allegations made," Infosys told the National Stock Exchange.

On October 24, the NSE sought clarification from the IT major on the whistleblowers' allegations and why the company had not disclosed the same to the exchanges.

In its response, the company said the audit committee has already engaged law firm, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, to investigate the matter, and had also started consultations with an independent internal auditor, Ernst & Young.

The independent internal auditor was given a mandate to review certain



processes on the basis of the allegation in the anonymous complaints. "... Given the circumstances at this stage, where there is complete absence of prima facie evidence and the anonymous complaints are still under investigation, the company is not in a position to determine the concreteness, credibility and materiality of the anonymous complaints," Infosys noted.

The company also said it would keep stock exchanges informed about the matter on the basis of the findings of the investigation.

Shares of Infosys rose 3.23 per cent to close at Rs 710.10 apiece on the NSE.

In October, Infosys informed the stock exchanges of having received anonymous whistleblowers' complaints alleging certain unethical practices by the top management.

Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani had said the whistleblower complaint dated September 20 as well as an undated complaint had been received by one of the board members on September 30.

In the letter, dated

GST rate cut boosts hotel industry revenue in September quarter

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 4


The reduction in GST rates have started working for the hospitality industry, with nine out of top 11 markets seeing better performance in terms of revenue per available rooms (RevPAR) and average daily rates (ADR).

According to JLL's Third Quarter Hotel Momentum India (HMI) report, nine out of top cities witnessed a rise in RevPAR performance during the July-September 2019 period.

Bengaluru was the leader in RevPAR growth as it saw 12.4 per cent year-to-date rise and 11 per cent growth in Q3 over the same period last year. Gurugram witnessed 11.9 per cent YTD and 9.5 per cent Q3 growth. Hyderabad, too, saw 11.1 per cent and 6.9 per cent growth, respectively.

RevPAR is arrived at by dividing a hotel's total guestroom revenue by the room count and the number of days in the period. ADR is calculated by taking the average revenue earned from rooms and dividing it by the number of rooms sold.

Eight of the top 11 cities



witnessed an increase in ADRs in Q3 2019. Bengaluru witnessed 7.9 per cent growth in ADR in Q3, Hyderabad 6.9 per cent and Gurugram 5.6 per cent over the same period last year. At 2.4 per cent, Gurugram was the leader in occupancy growth for Q3 2019.

Government had recently reduced GST from 28 per cent to 18 per cent for premium and luxury hotels with room tariffs of Rs 7,500 and above. For hotels with tariffs below Rs 7,500, the GST rates were brought down from 18 per cent to 12 per cent. This had mainly contributed to the growth in RevPAR across top Indian markets. Ahmedabad and Goa have been the only exception to the trend.

"First nine months of the

September 20 and signed by 'Ethical Employees', it was alleged that CEO Salil Parikh as well as Chief Financial Officer Nilanjan Roy engaged in forced revenue recognition from large contracts not adhering to accounting standards.

The complaints were placed before the audit committee on October 10, and to the company's non-executive board members on October 11, also the day when Infosys announced its second quarter results.

US market regulator SEC has also initiated a probe on the matter, while Rosen Law Firm had said it was preparing a class action lawsuit to recover losses suffered by Infosys investors in the US.

Back home, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had sought additional information from the company, while the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), part of the corporate affairs ministry, is looking into alleged accounting lapses at the firm.

Tata, Rockefeller Foundation plan 10,000 microgrids

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH NOV. 4

Tata Power Co. Ltd, in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation, plans to develop 10,000 microgrids in India to boost access to affordable and reliable electricity to homes and enterprises across the nation's vast rural areas.

Tata Power will set up a new unit, TP Renewable Microgrid Ltd, to build the microgrids through 2026 that will serve nearly 5 million homes in the countryside and impact 25 million people, the two organisations said in a joint statement on Monday. The venture will become the world's largest microgrid developer and operator,

they said.

The plan "represents important scaling up of efforts to provide access to affordable, reliable and clean electricity in India, and will serve as a model for expanding access to more than 800 million people who are without power worldwide," they said in the statement.

Typically, each of the microgrid projects cost Rs 40 lakh to Rs 50 lakh, but a final cost is still being worked out, Tata Power's Managing Director Praveer Sinha said in an interview in New Delhi on Monday.

The initiative will be controlled and operated by Tata Power, while the Rockefeller Foundation will provide technical

expertise, according to the statement. As the venture progresses, Tata Power will have more partners on board, Sinha said.

Though the government said in March it brought power connections to almost all homes, reliable power continues to elude citizens in rural communities. That's partly because distribution utilities tend to lose money due to power theft and poor billing, resulting in regular supply curbs to contain those losses. That also leads some homes and enterprises to source energy from diesel generators, an expensive and polluting option, or forgo grid-connected power entirely.

—Bloomberg

Piramal plans to step down from Shriram

BAIJU KALESH & P. R. SANJAI NOV. 4

Ajay Piramal said he plans to resign as Chairman of Shriram Capital, the Indian non-bank finance company

backed by South Africa's Sanlam Group, as he works to sell his stake in Shriram's parent group.

"I will step down in due course as I do not have much role in Shriram Capital," Piramal said in a recent interview in

Mumbai. He declined to share details.

The Shriram Group is urging Piramal to continue as chairman even if he doesn't hold any shares, founder R Thyagarajan said by phone.

—Bloomberg

US asked to train more people on AI

Washington, Nov. 5: US government funding in artificial intelligence has fallen short and the country needs to invest in research, train an AI-ready workforce and apply the technology to national security missions, an independent government-commissioned panel said in an interim report on Monday.

The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence raised concerns about the progress China has made in this area. It also said the US government still faces enormous work before it can transition AI from "a promising technological novelty into a mature technology integrated into core national security missions."

The commission thinks an allied effort on AI in

the realm of national security is important, Robert Work, vice chairman of the NSCAI and a former deputy secretary of defense, told reporters. The NSCAI has spoken with Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and the European Union, Work said.

China is investing more than the United States in AI, said the report, which referred to the Asian nation more than 50 times.

"China takes advantage of the openness of US society in numerous ways - some legal, some not - to transfer AI know-how," the report said, at a time of heightened tensions between the countries.

A spokeswoman for China's embassy in Washington did not immediately return a request for comment.

—Reuters

Round-tripping finds new routes

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Round-tripping in gems and jewellery exports has found a new avenue, crude gold and silver articles. Making most of the festive period, the exports of gold and silver articles have seen a sudden five-fold surge.

Till August this year, 'articles made of gold, silver and other metals' was not even a category big enough to be mentioned in the export data sheet of the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council. Between April and August last year, articles worth Rs 83 crore were exported. This year, for the same period, exports in this category went up to Rs 1,326 crore - a growth of 1,489 per cent.

The exports went further up in September—Rs 230 crore against Rs 34 crore in the same month last year and Rs 8.64 crore in August. During April-September, the exports were up 575 per cent to Rs 1,788 crore against Rs 118 crore in the same period last year.

"These are articles like plates, cutlery, small idols of Hindu gods and god-

desses in silver and items like cufflinks and broaches in gold. Gold and silver account for 90 per cent of articles in this category. During the Diwali time, such articles are usually exported to markets like Dubai, Singapore and Hong Kong. But usually they are not very big in value terms," said an industry expert.

"The sudden surge in the exports of such articles this year is not due to any increased demand. Such articles in their crude form have become a new avenue for some bogus exporters to do round-tripping in order to fulfill their export obligations," he said.

Some exporters, who avail of export credit at a lower rate compared to domestic lending rates, are increasingly using crude gold and silver articles with minimal addition as a means to fulfill their turnover obligations.

"Export credit is around 6 per cent lower than the domestic rates and even after the expenses on minimal value addition and shipping, these exporters are able to make savings of 4 per cent by importing gold and exporting crude articles," he said.

IndiGo says systems back to normal after outage



Bengaluru, Nov. 4: India's largest airline IndiGo said on Monday its flights and check-in systems were running normally, after an hours-long outage hit operations at airports, leading to long queues and hassling passengers.

IndiGo said earlier its systems had been down across the network since Monday morning.

"Our system is up now but has disrupted operations across the network," IndiGo said in a Twitter post, adding that it was working to bring operations back to normal.

The outage added to passenger woes as dozens of Indian flights already faced delays or cancellations on Monday, according to reports, due to a decline in visibility because of air pollution shrouding New Delhi, home to the country's busiest airport.

Hassled travellers affected by IndiGo's outage posted pictures on Twitter of long lines at check-in counters at major airports.

"IndiGo says systems down and huge queues till outside the main entrance gates in Mumbai T2. Chaos," one user with the handle @Sathyantweets said in a tweet, referring to Terminal 2 at Mumbai's airport.

IndiGo, owned by Interglobe Aviation, is the country's largest carrier with a nearly 50 per cent share of the domestic market.

Interglobe Aviation's shares fell 0.3 per cent in Mumbai, while shares in rival airline SpiceJet Ltd went down 2.7 per cent.

—Reuters



The new Volkswagen electric car, the ID.3 model, is displayed at the Volkswagen car factory in Zwickau, eastern Germany, on Monday, the day of the start of its production.

—AFP

Housing sales down 9%, new units drop 24%

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, NOV. 4

And now the residential housing sector in the country has shown clear signs of jitters and nose-diving. The sales or absorption of residential housing units fell by 9 per cent across top 9 cities in India in the third quarter of 2019 to 52,885 units compared to 58,060 units in Q2 2019. The scenario is even worse, when it comes to new launches. The new launches witnessed a steeper 24 per cent fall in Q3 at 32,834 units as against 43,256 units in Q2 2019. The latest report by PropEquity, India's leading real estate data research and analytics firm, attributed this sharp fall to fewer new launches and significant lack of buyer confidence. The nine cities covered in the study included Gurgaon, Noida, Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Thane and Chennai. Kolkata saw an increase of 62 per cent in new launches in Q3 at 2,816 units with sales falling by 6 per cent versus Q2 2019.

Cadila's Moraiya facility gets FDA warning letter

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Cadila Healthcare has received a warning letter from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) with regard to its Moraiya formulation facility in Ahmedabad, following which the stock tumbled on Monday. The letter is based on the Corrective and Preventive Action submitted by Cadila to the observations raised by USFDA. The USFDA inspection was conducted between April-22 and May-3, 2019 following which the regulator issued 14 observations relating to cleaning validation, out of specification and product contamination. As per the company, there were no repeat observations or Data Integrity related observations. Subsequently, the US FDA accorded Moraiya facility as Official Action Indicated status in August 2019. The US is a big market for Cadila, which contributes 40 per cent of total sales while Moraiya is an important facility accounting for 50 per cent of the US sales.

'Growth in bank credit to decline to 8.5% in FY20'

New Delhi, Nov. 4: Growth in bank credit may decelerate sharply to 8-8.5 per cent during 2019-20 from 13.3 per cent last fiscal, mainly due to decline in incremental credit in first half of the current financial year, rating agency Ibra said. "With the bond markets remaining risk averse towards NBFCs, the YoY growth in the volume of bonds outstanding is expected to moderate to about 4 per cent in FY2020 from 12 per cent in FY2019," it said. The recent changes in mutual funds regulations may result in a decline in the volume of commercial paper (CP) outstanding by March 2020, it said. Considering these three domestic sources of funding, that is bank credit, corporate bonds and CP outstanding, Ibra expects YoY credit growth to decline to 6.2-6.8 per cent in FY20 from 13.5 per cent in FY19. A shift of large borrowers such as NBFCs and HFCs to the banking system for their funding requirements had boosted bank credit growth in FY19, it said.

— PTI

Markets expect China & US to sign a mini-trade pact

Global stocks rally over US job report, deal hope

London, Nov. 4: Global stock markets rallied on Monday as optimism from a forecast-busting US jobs report lingered and confidence grew that China and the United States will finally sign off on a mini trade pact.

Investor sentiment was also lifted by British Airways owner IAG, which agreed to buy Spain's Air Europa for 1.0 billion euros (\$1.2 billion), sending its share price more than 1.5 per cent higher in London.

European markets were "starting off the week in positive fashion, with stocks following their Asian counterparts higher amid optimism over an upside surprise to Friday's jobs report and US-China talks," said IG Analyst Joshua Mahoney.

Wall Street also opened higher, building on a strong performance Friday after the Labor Department said the US created 1,28,000 net new jobs in October, far surpassing the 80,000 expected, while the figure for the previous two months was also revised



upwards. The reading came days after data showed the world's top economy slowed slightly in July-September but not as much as projected, which suggested it is stabilising.

"US stocks are higher in early action, following a fourth-straight weekly gain to all-time highs, with US-China trade optimism doing most of the heavy lifting, along with the better-than-feared earnings season," analysts at Charles Schwab said.

In Asia, Hong Kong,

Seoul, Bangkok and Taipei each piled on more than one per cent while Shanghai jumped 0.6 per cent.

In Europe, Frankfurt, London, Paris and Milan enjoyed gains of well over one per cent.

The upbeat mood was enhanced by comments from Chinese Vice Premier Liu He that indicated trade talks with Washington were on track.

Liu said he had spoken on Friday to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin,

with both sides saying the talks were "constructive".

Progress on the discussions has provided support to equities for the past few weeks, with speculation that Donald Trump and Xi Jinping will meet this month to sign off on the mini pact.

While the agreement would only be the first part of a wider deal, it would be a major step after more than a year of a trade war that has undermined the world economy.

However, National Australia Bank's Rodrigo Catril warned there were still important issues to address.

"As much as the US-China trade updates continue to point to a phase one deal looking like a certainty, the contentious issues on whether the US will cancel the planned December tariffs and remove some of the current tariffs in line with China's demands remains an unknown and if the issue is not resolved then a deal could easily collapse," he said in a note.

—AFP

HC seeks RBI reply on PMC Bank crisis

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 4

The Bombay High Court has asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to file an affidavit stating steps it has taken to protect the interests of depositors of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank. The high court said it only wants to know what the RBI has done and is doing to alleviate the problem of PMC bank depositors. The court said it will not interfere and dilute RBI's authority and refused to grant any interim relief in the matter.

A division bench of Justices S.C. Dharmadhikari and R.I. Chagla was hearing a bunch of petitions filed by the bank depositors challenging the restrictions imposed by the RBI on withdrawals. On September 23, the RBI imposed regulatory restrictions on the PMC Bank for six months over alleged financial irregularities. The withdrawal limit for account holders was initially Rs 1,000 each customer for six months, which was

later raised to Rs 10,000 and then to Rs 40,000.

On Monday, when the petition came up for hearing, the bench said it only wanted to know what the RBI was doing in the case. "The RBI is the bankers' bank and an expert body on such issues. We don't want to interfere and dilute your authority," the court said.

It said in such financial issues, the RBI would be the judge and not the court. It directed the RBI to file its affidavit and posted the matter for hearing on November 19.

One of the petitioners sought direction to the RBI to permit depositors to access their lockers. The court, while refusing to pass any order, said, "The court cannot allow access. How can anyone or we prevent the RBI from taking action? If the RBI says stay away from the bank, then do so."

It said the depositors could sue the bank if they wanted.

The bench said by filing multiple petitions, lawyers should not give false hopes to depositors that the courts will help them.

LIC launches special revival campaign

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOV. 4

Do you have a policy from Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India that was bought post January 1, 2014 and has lapsed? Public sector behemoth LIC on Monday has launched a special revival campaign for its policyholders under which policies that were bought post January 1, 2014 and have lapsed can now be revived and the insurance cover restored. Traditional or non-linked policies can be revived within 5 years while unit linked policies (Ulipis) can be revived within three years of the first unpaid premium.

The new Insurance Product Regulations 2019 that were introduced in July, allow revival of policies upto 5 years for non-linked plans and revival upto three years for Ulips for plans that were introduced from

the date of implementation of revised regulations. "We had sought and got a special approval for extending this benefit to policies issued from January 1, 2014 also," said LIC.

Vipin Anand, Managing Director of LIC said, "Buying life insurance is one of the most prudent decisions a person takes in life. Unfortunately, there are circumstances when one is unable to continue paying premiums and the policy lapses. It always makes a better sense to revive an old policy rather than discontinuing it and buying a new policy to restore insurance cover."

"Now, even those LIC policyholders who bought their policies post January 1, 2014 can revive their non-linked policies within five years and unit linked policies within three years of first unpaid premium," added Anand.

Compensation norms for pvt bank hochos

Mumbai, Nov. 4: The Reserve Bank on Monday issued compensation guidelines for whole-time directors and chief executives of foreign, private, small finance, payments banks and local area banks mandating the cash component of variable pay at 67 per cent.

Banks should continue to formulate and adopt a comprehensive compensation policy covering all their employees and conduct annual reviews, RBI said, adding the new guidelines will be effective next April. The regulator said if the variable pay is up to 200 per cent of the fixed pay, at least 50 per cent of it should be in non-cash, and if the vari-

able pay is above 200 per cent, 67 per cent of it should be paid via non-cash instruments. It also wants banks to claw-back the non-variable pay components if there is divergence in provisioning for NPAs or asset classification exceeds the prescribed threshold for public disclosure.

"The policy should cover all aspects of the compensation structure such as fixed pay, perquisites, performance bonuses, guaranteed bonuses, severance package, share-linked instruments like employee stock option plans, pension plans, and gratuity" RBI said in a notification.

— PTI

— Reuters

— FC BUREAU

Govt mulls mega parks near ports

New Delhi, Nov. 4: The government is mulling setting up around ten integrated mega parks with state-of-the-art infrastructure near ports to attract foreign direct investment, a top official said on Monday.

Addressing a conference, Textile Secretary Ravi Capoor said there has been a "very good response" from state governments on the

proposed mega parks.

He noted there are serious issues about India's competitiveness in exports, cutting across all sectors, and the fear of all Free Trade Agreements essentially comes down to the fact that India is not so competitive.

"A country which is competitive need not fear about anybody, no country. Our fears stem from the fact that

we know we cannot sustain the onslaught of the most competitive country or that particular product," Capoor said. "The government is very seriously contemplating mega parks in this country... Limited, maybe ten and compete with the best of the world. Provide... Integrated parks close to the port," he said.

— PTI

PERFORMANCE STREET

Varun Beverages net rises 84%

PepsiCo India's bottling partner Varun Beverages on Monday posted 83.73 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 81.12 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2019. The company had clocked a profit of Rs 44.15 crore in the year-ago period.

Revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,776.85 crore as against Rs 1,204.47 crore in July-September 2018, Varun Beverages said.

The company follows January-December finan-

cial year.

"Our India business has delivered an organic volume growth of 17.5 per cent and our international territories have registered a 27 per cent growth led by exceptional performance in under penetrated territories acquired in 2017 and early 2018," Varun Beverages Chairman Ravi Jaipuria said.

Besides, the company's key markets like Morocco, Zimbabwe, Nepal and Sri Lanka have reported double-digit growth, he added.

Myntra logs ₹539-cr loss in FY19

Flipkart-owned Myntra has seen a manifold rise in net loss to Rs 539.20 crore in FY2018-19, according to regulatory documents. The company had registered losses of Rs 151.22 crore in the previous year, documents sourced by business intelligence platform Tofler said. However, the company's revenue from operations more than doubled to Rs 1,041.10 crore in FY19 from Rs 398.33 crore in the previous fiscal, it added.

MHRIL posts ₹24 cr net

Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 24.42 crore for the September quarter.

The company had reported a net loss of Rs 3.34 crore in the July-September period of 2018-19. Total income rose to Rs 573.83 crore as compared with Rs 532.88 crore, the company said.

The company's cash position rose to Rs 675 crore and this is despite lower resort occupancies due to heavy rains/ floods in Kerala, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, he added.

SPARC loss widens to ₹63 cr

Sun Pharma Advanced Research Company (SPARC) reported a net loss of Rs 63.16 crore for the quarter ended September 30 of the ongoing fiscal.

The company had reported a loss of Rs 2.58 crore for July-September, 2018-19.

Total income declined to Rs 19.45 crore during the second quarter as compared with Rs 65.92 crore in the year-ago period, SPARC said.

Shares of SPARC were trading at Rs 146.7 apiece, up 2.34 per cent on the BSE.

IOB posts net loss of ₹2,254 cr

Indian Overseas Bank reported widening of its net loss to Rs 2,253.64 crore for the second quarter ended September 30.

The bank had registered a net loss of Rs 487.26 crore in the corresponding quarter of FY19. In the Q1 of FY20, it had posted a net loss of Rs 342 crore. Total income fell to Rs 5,024 crore from Rs 5,348.35 crore. The bank's asset quality remains elevated with the gross NPAs standing at 20 per cent (Rs 28,673.95 crore) of gross advances, compared with 24.73 per cent (Rs 37,109.96 crore) in year-ago period.

—PTI

OPENING
BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Consolidation with a bullish bias seen in market

The Sensex rose to a record high intra-day to 40,483.21 points, as better-than-expected company earnings continued to attract investors. Gaining for the seventh straight session in its longest winning run since March 20, the Sensex finally settled at a fresh closing peak of 40,302 on Monday, up 136.93 points, or 0.34 per cent. The broader Nifty-50 advanced 50.70 points, or 0.43 per cent, to close at 11,941.30.

Eighteen out of 28 Nifty companies that have reported quarterly earnings have beaten or matched the average analyst estimate.

Experts said better liquidity from foreign funds, de-escalation in geopolitical risks and focus on upcoming reforms to revive growth also boosted investor sentiment.

"Indian equities have seen a good rally recently, powered by improved global equity flows" amid better than expected results, Citigroup Inc strategists led by Surendra Goyal wrote in a note on Sunday. "We see limited upside given valuations post the rally and the continued uncertainty over growth outlook," the note added.

"India is probably one of the few economies where growth will re-accelerate next calendar year, it stands very well among its peers," said David Gaud, Chief Investment Officer for Asia at Pictet Wealth Management in Singapore.

Technical View

Chandan Tapparai, Vice President, Analyst-Derivatives at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said: "The Nifty failed to surpass psychological 12,000-mark and witnessed some consolidation with a bullish bias. It has been forming higher highs-higher lows on the weekly scale and supports are gradually shifting higher. Now, it has to continue to hold above 11,880 levels to witness an up-move towards 12,000 and then 12,103 zones while on the downside, major support is seen at 11,780 zones."

Market View

Sunil Sharma, Chief Investment Officer, Sanctum Wealth Management, said: "Indian markets continued their upward rally as better than anticipated earnings attracted investors. Further, buoyant global markets have supported the Indian markets. For instance, passenger car sales grew last month for the first time since February 2019. On the flows front, FIIs have been net buyers for a second straight month."

— FC BUREAU

Yes, cut the loose talk and close this rescue

ANDY MUKHERJEE

Yes Bank Ltd. has changed. In the past, the troubled lender kept quiet rather than tell shareholders the truth about its bad loans. Now, under new management, it can't stop talking about an impending rescue. If the former approach nearly destroyed the bank, this latest strategy isn't going to help fix it.

In early September, CEO Ravneet Gill told *Reuters* that Yes was in "fairly advanced level of talks" with a top global technology company for a stake sale. In an interview with *Press Trust of India* earlier this month, Gill said the white knight would be a tech firm, a deep-pocketed family office, a financial investor, or any two out of the three.

"In future banks will become technology companies with a banking licence," he said.

On Friday night, after reporting a September quarter loss of almost \$85 million, 50 per cent more than expected by analysts, Gill said the bank has \$3 billion in rescue offers, led by a \$1.2 billion binding bid from a North American family office that hasn't previously invested in India. The other eager parties include a couple of Indian mutual funds and global buyout funds that have made a \$1.5 billion overture, he said. Another consortium has shown up with a smaller \$350 million offer. Everyone wants a piece of Yes Bank, it seems, except those tech suitors. They may not be able to participate immediately,

according to media reports of what Gill is telling journalists now. And just like that, speculation that Microsoft Corp. would invest has gone out of the window.

Gill's hurry to close fundraising by December is understandable: Yes is skating on a dangerously thin layer of capital. Gross non-performing loans jumped to 7.4 per cent of total assets in September from 5 per cent in June. The Reserve Bank of India is already getting flak for neglecting supervision of a small cooperative lender and then trapping depositors by limiting withdrawals. The central bank won't take any chances - not with Yes losing 7 per cent of its deposits in one quarter. If

the regulator puts the private-sector bank into its correctional facility for way-

ward lenders, there will be limits on risk-taking. The value of the franchise to any potential investor will erode sharply. So Yes can't count its chickens before the eggs have hatched. Gill says he informed the local stock exchanges about the binding offer of \$1.2 billion because it was price-sensitive information. However, the disclosure had no details about how many shares will be sold and at what price. The bank's board is yet to weigh the plan. Regulatory approvals are far from certain.

Will the RBI, which doesn't normally allow a single

investor to own more than 10 per cent of a bank, make an exception to save Yes? It did allow Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa's Fairfax India Holdings Corp. to buy 51 per cent of a small private bank based in the southwestern state of Kerala, the first time it had permitted a foreign investor to assume majority control. That lender, now known as CSB Bank Ltd., has nevertheless been instructed to do an IPO and dilute Watsa's stake.

For Yes, which is already listed, the approvals will be more complicated. The central bank will assess the suitability of the acquirer and the extent of its control. Beyond this, though, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the stock-market regulator, will have

to bless the price at which new equity is sold. A two-week average of high and low prices, the floor for an institutional placement, is a meaningless number for a stock whose trading volatility is currently off the charts.

What regulators seem to be missing — or turning a blind eye to — is that volatility is being amplified by half-baked disclosures. News of the planned \$1.2 billion rescue hit the market on the last Thursday of October, the day of expiry for monthly derivative contracts on the bank's stock. Bears got trapped by a near 24 per cent rise in Yes shares. The very next day, the shares slumped 5.4 per cent, in anticipation of poor earnings.

If the previous manage-

ment was guilty of hiding the lender's tattered asset quality, the new lot's premature hopefulness is thwarting orderly price discovery by giving rise to a cottage industry in loose talk. Last month it was the turn of an Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.-backed payments firm to buy Yes Bank. Speculation last week had DBS Group Holdings Ltd. writing the check. The Singapore bank denied the rumor.

This everyday excitement is unhelpful. It would be nice to have Yes's board approve a concrete fundraising offer — one that has at least a reasonable chance of satisfying the regulators. Then Gill can talk about a rescue as much as he wants.

— Bloomberg



Fabio survives

Under-fire Fabio Cannavaro will remain coach of struggling Guangzhou Evergrande for now, but only after a stinging rebuke from the club's hierarchy

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Games

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Hamilton wins 6th Formula One title

Austin (Texas, USA), Nov. 4: Lewis Hamilton clinched his sixth world title, but not in the style he hoped for on Sunday when he finished second behind his triumphant Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas in an eventful United States Grand Prix. The 34-year-old Briton fought with ferocious determination to win from fifth on the grid, but was unable to resist the Finn, who started from pole and, with a two-stop strategy, had fresher tyres in the critical final laps.

After leading twice, Hamilton was passed by Bottas with three laps remaining and then resisted Red Bull's Max Verstappen to take his 150th podium finish and his 31st successive finish in the points. It sealed

his sixth title, leaving him one adrift of Michael Schumacher on seven. Hamilton added the 2019 title to previous triumphs in 2008, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018.

"I can't believe it, thanks a lot," Hamilton said over the team radio as he moved out of a tie for five titles he held with Argentina's Juan-Manuel Fangio.

He added: "It's just overwhelming if I'm really honest. It was such a tough race today. As an athlete I feel as fresh as can be. We'll keep pushing for the rest of the season. I didn't know if it would be possible but I worked as hard as I could here with my team back at the factory. My mum, dad, step-mum and step-dad and my family are here, it's an honour."

— AFP

LEBRON POSTS 2ND STRAIGHT TRIPLE DOUBLE

Los Angeles, Nov. 4: LeBron James delivered his second straight triple double as the Los Angeles Lakers won their fifth game in a row for the first time in over a year with a 103-96 victory against the San Antonio Spurs.

James finished with 21 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists for the Lakers, who have missed the playoffs six seasons in a row and went the entire 2018-19 season without winning five consecutive games.

"I'm playing injury free. I'm not injured. My quick twitch is back. My speed is back, my strength is back," James said.

The Spurs kept it close in the fourth thanks to Dejounte Murray's 16 consecutive San Antonio points. He made a layup with just over four minutes to play to tie the contest 90-90.

Los Angeles then went on a 9-2 to hold off the Spurs down the stretch and get the victory.

"It was about us and how we could execute on the offensive end which we did," James said. "We held a great offensive team to 40 percent shooting and under 100 points."

Anthony Davis finished with 25 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who are trying to rebuild their team around James, who also had a triple double two nights earlier against Dallas.

James said being healthy makes all the difference in the world.

— AFP



Winner Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the trophy after winning the ATP World Tour Masters in Paris on Sunday. Djokovic defeated Canada's Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 6-4 in the men's singles final match on Sunday.

Master of Paris

Djokovic shuts out Shapovalov for fifth Masters title

Paris, Nov. 4: Novak Djokovic said he "couldn't be happier" after easing to a record-extending fifth Paris Masters title by brushing aside Canadian youngster Denis Shapovalov in Sunday's final, boosting his hopes of taking the year-end world number one spot.

The top seed claimed a dominant 6-3, 6-4 victory over his 20-year-old opponent, who looked nervous after being the beneficiary of Rafael Nadal's withdrawal before their scheduled semi-final.

"I thought I had the best serving match of the tournament and that's why the match was pretty short," said Djokovic, who won the tournament without dropping a set.

"Just one of the best matches I have played, definitely, this week. And I feel like the second part of the week was terrific."

"I couldn't be happier with this win."

Djokovic could equal Pete Sampras' record by finishing a sixth year as

NADAL REGAINS NUMBER ONE RANKING

Paris, Nov. 4: Rafael Nadal's return to the world number one position for the eighth time in his career was confirmed when the ATP rankings were released on Monday.

Djokovic slips down the rankings because he loses the points that he won a year ago in London when Nadal was absent.

The 2019 battle between Nadal, winner of the French and US Opens, and Djokovic who triumphed in Australia and Wimbledon, is set to go to the wire as either

could still finish the year at number one.

If the Spaniard does not play or fails to win a round-robin match at the World Tour Finals, Djokovic must claim two group-stage victories and make the final to pass him.

Djokovic would also be sure of the year-end top ranking should he win the tournament and Nadal does not reach the semis.

Nadal first reached number one on August 18, 2008 when he was just 22. He has spent 197 weeks at the top, the sixth highest in ATP

history behind Roger Federer (310), Pete Sampras (286), Djokovic (275), Ivan Lendl (270) and Jimmy Connors (268).

Barty ends on top

Ashleigh Barty of Australia tops the end of season women's tennis rankings, a day after her triumph in the WTA Finals in Shenzhen.

With 7,851 points, Barty, who has topped the rankings since early September, eclipsed second-placed Karolina Plisková (5,940 points).

— AFP

champion has now won 34 Masters singles titles, moving to within one of Nadal at the top of the all-time list, and 77 on the ATP Tour in total.

That takes him level with John McEnroe with the fifth-most ever, behind Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer, Ivan Lendl and Nadal.

His success adds to his previous Paris Masters titles from 2009 and 2013-2015.

Strong statement

Djokovic, playing in his 50th Masters final, wasted no time in making a statement, serving an ace on the first point en route to a hold to love.

Nerves were clearly affecting Shapovalov, as he gifted Djokovic an early 2-0 lead with a series of unforced errors. Shapovalov found his rhythm on serve to get on the board, but the first-set momentum had already been seized by his illustrious opponent, who eased 5-2 in front.

— AFP

Jishnu, Razzak, Niketh, Manish, Adrith shine

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Jishnu turned in an all-round performance while Razzak Bin Ali, K. Srineth, Adrith Reddy, D. Manish and Rohan also did well at the Hyderabad Cricket Association's U-16 one-day league matches.

Jishnu of Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya hit an unbeaten 123 off 99 balls with 14 boundaries and three sixes to his credit to help his team post 252 for 8 in 45 overs. Later, he also took five

wickets while conceding 10 runs to consign Sri Vidya Niketan to defeat.

Manish of Delhi Public School (Nacharam) scalped six Chirec International School wickets while giving away just 19 runs to bowl them out for 110 in reply to Delhi Public School's 178 in 44 overs.

Razzak was the other centurion. He hit 127 not out as All Saints made 261 for 6 in 45 overs and then bowled out Global International School for a paltry 60.

Sri Niketh put up a splendid show for Vignan Vidyalaya as he hit a second successive century — 111 with 18 boundaries — to fashion his team's eight-wicket win over Central Public School.

Adrith of Sreenidhi International School took six wickets to bowl his side to victory as the team posted 66 for five in 17.4 overs against Loyola Academy Junior College all out for 65 in 29.3 overs.

In another match, Rohan took five wickets for 10 runs for P. Obul

Reddy High School who beat Jawahar High School by nine wickets.

Brief Scores:

UNDER-16 ONE-DAY

■ Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya 252/8 in 45 overs (Jishnu 123 n.o. — 99b, 14x4, 3x6) bt Sri Vidya Niketan 194 in 40.1 overs (Ch Nythik Reddy 42, Akshith Reddy 62, Jishnu 5/37).

■ Jawahar High School 42 in 23 overs (Rohan 5/10 — 9-5-10-5, Arun 4 for 9) lost to P. Obul Reddy High School 46/1 in 7 overs (P. Akshat 34 n.o.).

■ Loyola Academy Junior

College 65 in 29.3 overs (Adrith Reddy 6/7 — 7-3-7-6) lost to Sreenidhi International School 66/5 in 17.4 overs (Deekshit S. 3/23).

■ All Saints High School 261/6 in 45 overs (Razzak Bin Ali 127 n.o. — 130b, 19x4, A. Pranav Aditya 43) bt Global Indian International School 60 in 38 overs (Vikrant Reddy 34 n.o., Razzak Bin Ali 3/13, C.H. Madhuveer Reddy 4/3).

■ Delhi Public School (Nacharam) 178 in 44 overs (Sai Charan 52, Sai

Prachutan 42, Nihar 3/35) bt Chirec International School 111 in 35 overs (D. Manish 6/19).

■ Central Public School 178/9 in 43 overs (Praval S. 66, P. Vishnu 42, B. V. Anirudh 4/33) lost to Vignan Vidyalaya 182/2 in 33.3 overs (K. Sri Niketh 111 — 126b, 18x4), Aryan Chavan 38).

■ Jahanvi Junior College 182/8 in 50 overs (Rohit Reddy 91, Sachit 3/28) bt St Andrews High School 141 in 47 overs (Shashank Srivastava 42, Rohit Reddy 3/18, Jatin Yadav 3/40).

Loyola, Sanathnagar, Young Men advance

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Loyola Academy, Sanathnagar Playground, BPHC and Young Men Guild marched into the finals of the Annual League Basketball Championship conducted by the Hyderabad District Basketball Association.

After 33 playing days and 98 matches at three different levels by 44 club teams, four — Loyola Academy, Sanathnagar Playground, BPHC and Young Men Guild — have qualified for the Clubs Super League Finals in which they will play each other for the Club Championship.

All four matches were well contested with BPHC and Young Men Guild causing upsetting victories over Eagles and YMCA Secunderabad respectively.

THE RESULTS	
■ BPHC 81 (Lokesh 19, Shantanu 15, Sachin 14, Yash 10) bt Eagles 73 (Abhishek 25, Aman 16, Avaneesh 14). Half Time: 27-26.	■ Loyola Academy 66 (Nathan 19, Vamshi 16, Sudershan 12, Salman 10) bt Airborne 43 (Peter 20, Sugun 7, Zack 7). Half Time: 35-22.
■ Young Men Guild 71 (Prudhvi 29, G. Pranav 16, Pranav 9, Kunal 8) bt YMCA Secunderabad 66 (Samuel 18, Varma 15, Ashu 15, Allen 10). Half Time: 27-32.	

Loyola Academy won over Airborne after a good fight in the second half, whereas Sanathnagar Playground were awarded the match by default as Victory Playground did not play.

BPHC and Eagles were nip and tuck for most part of the match. Shantanu and Lokesh combined well to score for BPHC, whereas Aynesh and Abhishek chipped in with baskets at regular intervals. Eagles led 15-14 at the end of the first quarter, however

BPHC led 27-26 at half time. After change of ends BPHC shifted gears and played a fast paced game to score quickly through Yash and Sachin. With just one minute left for the third quarter, aided by Sachin's 7 consecutive points and a 3-pointer from Yash, BPHC led at 50-41 at end of the penultimate quarter.


In the fiercely contested fourth quarter Eagles tried hard to make a comeback, however tight defence from BPHC did not allow them

easy points with Yash, Shantanu and Sachin controlling the ball well. Aman's three 3-pointers at the bag end of the game could not save Eagles as BPHC won the match 81-73.

YMG trounced tournament favourites and hosts YMCA Secunderabad 71-66. Both teams started slow as the first point was scored in the third minute of the game. The teams were locked 12-12 at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter went neck and

neck with Ashu and Varma playing well for YMCA, whereas Pranav and Anurag combined well for YMG as YMCA led 32-27 at half time. After change of ends Allen and Samuel combined well and consolidated the lead to 53-46 at end of third quarter. Within the first minute of the fourth quarter Kunal and Pruthvi scored a 3-pointer a piece to bridge the lead to just one point 52-53. With 3 minutes 48 seconds left for the match to end Pruthvi scored through a drive-in and converted a free throw to level the scores 61-61.

Pruthvi, who maintained a low profile in three quarters scoring just six points in the first half, burst out in the fourth quarter scoring a massive 17 points out of the 25 scored by YMG as YMCA were just unable to stop him. YMG won 71-66.



PSPCL

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
(O/o CE/TS, B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala)
Phone No. 0175-2301537, Fax No. 0175-2220143,
Email: se-ss-design@pspcl.in
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in

Online Tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per Tender Specification No. **199/2019** of PSPCL :-

Item No.	Description	Qty (Nos.)	Enquiry No/Year.	Last date & time for downloading of tenders
1.	11KV, Capacitor Banks (1.361 MVAR each)	1000	199/2019	05.12.19 11.30 A.M.
2.	Spare Capacitor Units (137.234 KVAR)	2000		

Last date & time for bid submission	06.12.19 11.00 A.M.
Date and time of opening of bids	06.12.19 11.30 A.M.

EMD - Rs. 20,00,000/-
Minimum EMD - Rs. 9,80,000/-

Detailed NIT and Specification may be down-loaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <https://pspcl.abcpocure.com>

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

C-443/19
RO : C-7693

Dy.CE/Sub-Station Design
PSPCL, Patiala.
Contact No. 96461-22185

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

सं. ईसीआर/सीएओ/कॉन्/डब्ल्यू.टी/ई.निविदा/उत्तर/९८/१९-२०. दिनांक ०१.११.२०१९. E-tender Notice No. - ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-98-19-20. E-tender is invited on behalf of the president of India for the under mentioned work :-

1. Name of work with it's location : Earthwork in embankment, blanketing, construction of minor bridges, RUB, LHS and other allied misc. works between Supaul station (Excl.) to Pipra station (Incl.) i.e. Km 73.000 to Km 95.556 in connection with construction of new B. G. Rail line between Ararai - Supaul. 2. Approx. cost of the work of : ₹172.54.38.963.64. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹87.77.200/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 25.11.2019 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 is 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> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-Tender. CAO/Con/North/ECR/Mahendrugath, Patna PR/1578/Con/Engg./T/19-20/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

सं. ईसीआर/सीएओ/कॉन्/डब्ल्यू.टी/ई.निविदा/उत्तर/१०२/१९-२०. दिनांक ३१.१०.२०१९. E-Tender Notice No.-ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-102-19-20. E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.

1. Name of work with it's location : Rehabilitation/Rebuilding of Sub-structure of Existing Bridge No.5 (1x30.50M OVG) in (1x61.00M OVG) and Existing Bridge No.7 (1x30.50M OVG) in (1x61.00M OVG) on well foundation, construction of Temporary Diversion to Bridge No 5&7 between Nirmal-Saraighar in Samastipur Division. 2. Approx. cost of the work of : ₹22,06,74,245.30. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹12,53,400/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 22.11.2019 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 is 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> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-Tender. CAO/Con/North/ECR/Mahendrugath, Patna PR/1577/Con/Engg./T/19-20/44

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad.

1. E-Tender No. : 358-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Supplying stacking and loading of 40,000 cum (Nominal size 50mm gauge) machine crushed track ballast as per Railway specification and loading the same into Railway wagon/GS/Hopper/Box/KG type etc. from Bandhwa Depot under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Railway, Gujnahat. 06 (Six) Month. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹9,10,00,000/- Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹6,05,000/-

2. E-Tender No. : 359-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Repairs to Major & Minor Bridge as per annual inspection 2018-19 under Assistant Engineer, E.C. Rly., Daltonganj. 12 (Twelve) Month. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹62,51,381/- Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,25,000/-

3. E-Tender No. : 360-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Repairs to P.Way training school & TRD Workshop building at Dhanbad. 06 (Six) Month. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹45,90,001.35, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,98,700/-

4. E-Tender No. : 361-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Repairs to P.Way training school & TRD Workshop building at Dhanbad. 06 (Six) Month. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹45,90,001.35, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,98,700/-

Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender : Date of closing of e-tender at 17.00 hours on 02.12.2019. Date of opening of e-tender from 12.00 hrs. on 03.12.2019. Website particulars : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), ECR/Dhanbad PR/1572/DHN/Engg./T/19-20/60



Surya shine

Batsman Suryakumar Yadav will lead hosts Mumbai in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the national T20 tournament, beginning on Friday

Cricket

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

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We do need better selectors, for sure.

Whenever they select 15, there will be talk on what about other 15.

— Yuvraj Singh, former cricketer

SHORT TAKES

Power Player in IPL most likely

New Delhi: The concept of players' substitutions during an IPL match could be floated during Wednesday's governing council meeting in Mumbai but the final call rests with BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

It has been learnt that a senior executive of the IPL operations team prepared a note few months ago with an intention to do away with traditional playing XI.

According to the note, a 'Power Player' concept could be used, allowing a player, who is not a part of playing XI, to come in at the fall of a wicket or replace a bowler at any given point of time.

"The final call will rest with the BCCI president. He will certainly discuss with the IPL GC including chairman Brijesh Patel and other office bearers but a lot of factors needs to be taken into account," a senior BCCI functionary said on conditions of anonymity. Ganguly was unavailable for a comment. — PTI

Power in play at Indo-Bangla T20

New Delhi: Power discom BYPL used state-of-the-art technology to ensure uninterrupted power supply for India-Bangladesh T20 cricket match here as there was a ban on the use of generator sets in view of "severe" air pollution, a spokesperson of the company said on Monday.

The use of power through the grid helped saved 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, the spokesperson of the BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), said. "The match was organised solely on grid power as the use of diesel gensets in Delhi-NCR was banned by EPCA (Environmental Pollution — Prevention and Control — Authority)," he said. The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA), which organised the match, had an electricity connection of 1800 KW at the stadium. They approached BYPL for an additional load of 1500 KW. "Thus, a total electricity load of 3300 KW (3.3 MW) was required at the stadium," he said.

Apart from network augmentation, BYPL used various state-of-the-art technology to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the venue during the match. BYPL CEO P. R. Kumar said the discom lived up to the challenge and provided uninterrupted and reliable power supply during the match. — PTI

WOMEN LEVEL ODI SERIES WITH WINDIES

North Sound, Antigua: Punam Raut starred with the bat before spinners put up a fine performance to set up India's comfortable 53-run win over West Indies in the second ICC Women's Championship ODI here. India were able to defend a modest 191 by bowling out West Indies for 138 in 47.2 overs and level the three-match ODI series 1-1 on Sunday night. The spin troika of — left-arm orthodox Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/27), leg-break specialist Poonam Yadav (2/26) and off-spinner Deepti Sharma (2/25) returned with two wickets each to restrict the hosts to below-par score.

Opting to bat, India began on a shaky note with openers Priya Punia (5) and Jemimah Rodrigues (0) departing cheaply, leaving the side reeling at 17 for 2 in nine overs. However, Punam (77), who was the top scorer for India, and skipper Mithali Raj (40) and vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur (46) steadied the ship putting up a modest target on the board. — PTI

Brief scores: India 191/6 in 50 overs (Punam Raut 77, Harmanpreet Kaur 46, Afy Fletcher 2/32) bt West Indies 138 in 47.2 overs (Shemaine Campbell 39, Stafanie Taylor 20, Deepti Sharma 2/25).

ROHIT RUES SLIP

Inexperience led to mistakes on field and decision making, admits stand-in captain

Indian captain Rohit Sharma (above) fields a ball during the first T20 against Bangladesh at Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday. Indian wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant (below) reacts during the match.

New Delhi, Nov. 4: The Indian team paid the price for Rishabh Pant's poor DRS calls against Bangladesh and skipper Rohit Sharma says that he doesn't want to jump to a conclusion yet whether the youngster is good enough to take tricky review decisions.

India did not review the decision when the umpire turned down an lbw appeal against Mushfiqur Rahim in the third ball of the 10th over, bowled by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

Rahim was on six at that time and went on to make an unbeaten 60 to lead Bangladesh to a comfortable seven-wicket win, while chasing 149 on Sunday night.

"Of course, Rishabh is young and he will need time to understand. It's too soon to judge whether he can make those decisions. Plus, the bowlers as well. It's a combination when the captain is not in the right position to make that decision," Rohit said at the post-match conference.

In the last ball of that Chahal's over, when the umpire turned down a caught behind appeal against Soumya Sarkar, Rohit reviewed the decision on Pant's insistence but lost it since there was no edge. "When you are not in the right position (as a fielder), you have to trust your bowler and the wicketkeeper. Based on that, you have to make that decision, whichever format you play," Rohit said.

Rohit felt that 148 was a defendable score had they



been smart on the field. "148 was a good score. We would have defended it if we were smart on the field. A couple of decisions we did not get it right on the field and that went against us. That's where we lacked in decision making," he said.

Sent in to bat, India lost Rohit in the very first over and the skipper his early dismissal combined with a tough pitch negotiate made life tough for them. "When ever you lose a wicket in the first over, it's not easy to build on that. The pitch was slightly soft, so shot-making was

not that easy. We wanted something around 140-150, on batting first, that was the message," he said.

While Bangladesh batsmen negotiated the conditions better, young Indian batsmen struggled to cope.

Rohit said he was not overly worried about that fact that his brigade failed in home conditions but lauded Bangladesh for raising crucial partnerships. "The ball was stopping and gripping a little bit. These are young players trying to get into the squad, so they need a bit of time to understand how they need to bat on such

pitches. I would not call that an over-cautious approach. I think we were smart but we did not get enough runs.

"It was good fighting total but when you defend such total, you need to keep taking wickets but they had good partnerships and that was the turning point," Rohit said.

Needing to defend 22 runs in the last two overs, Rohit handed the ball to young left-arm paceman Khaleel Ahmed, who conceded four straight boundaries.

Asked if how difficult it was to operate without

proven performers such as Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah, the captain backed his young bowlers. "These are the guys, who did not play for a while in this format. These are bowlers we have been identified that they are the ones who can do well in this format. They have done reasonably well," Rohit said.

He expects them to learn from their mistakes. "They still need to understand when defending smaller targets, they need to bowl according to the plan. They will learn by playing these games. They have the talent and ability to bounce back but only time will tell if they can do that or not," he said.

He also said that, asking Khaleel to bowl the penultimate

bowler was the best option he had. "I did not want our spinners to bowl at the back-end. I kept one over for Chahal because he has bowled in that situation before. Two right-handers, I will take that chance anytime with Chahal taking the ball away from them. So that was the idea behind keeping Khaleel," he said. — PTI

Rahim simply had to close

New Delhi, Nov. 4: No one knows the pain of losing close T20 games as much as Mushfiqur Rahim does and the former Bangladesh captain was determined to win games of cricket in order to forget what he termed as "difficult last two weeks".

Rahim had to endure the heartbreak during Bangladesh's one-run defeat against India in a 2016 World T20 encounter in Bengaluru, anchored his team's tricky 149-run chase during the first game with an unbeaten 60.

"We have had a lot of close games against India. So we promised ourselves that the next time we go into such a phase of the game, we don't want to lose," Rahim said after Bangladesh's first-ever T20 win over India.

Rahim said the "last two weeks were the most difficult" in his 15-year career, referring to players' protest followed by Shakib Al Hasan's two-year suspension by the ICC for breaching anti-corruption code. "Before I left Bangladesh, I had said that everything can come on right track if we win some matches. That's what we have done and we will try continue this form," he said.

"We have learned a lot from those last two games against India that went into the last over, so we discussed on how we can overcome those moments. I was a

We have had a lot of close games against India. So we promised ourselves that the next time we go into such a phase of the game, we don't want to lose.

We have learned a lot from those last two games against India that went into the last over, so we discussed on how we can overcome those moments.

— MUSHFIQUR RAHIM
Bangladesh player

telling Riyad bhai (Mahmudullah) that let's win in singles and doubles rather than going for big hits. I think we have nothing to lose coming into this game and also in this whole series. So that gave the freedom to play to our potential and fearless cricket," he said.

Rahim termed it as a great moment for Bangladesh cricket. "It is a great moment for Bangladesh. We didn't win before against them in T20 form before. We are missing couple of our key players but they way young players sticked together and the way bowlers bowled on this track specially against India, it's outstanding," he said.

"I am trying my level best to improve as a cricketer. I am trying to learn each and every day, and want to do more for Bangladesh," Rahim added. — PTI



Mushfiqur Rahim celebrates Bangladesh's win. — PTI

Ganguly thanks teams for 'tough' match

New Delhi, Nov. 4: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Monday thanked Indian captain Rohit Sharma and the Bangladesh team for agreeing to play the first T20 International despite severe air pollution in the national capital.

The Delhi government had issued health emergency across NCR as the toxic air quality in Delhi reached peak levels on Sunday morning with Air Quality Index (AQI) showing a staggering 999.

"Thank u to both the teams to play this game

@ImRo45 @BCBTigers under tuff (sic) conditions .. well done bangladesh." Ganguly tweeted from his official handle. It was learnt that the BCCI president was apprehensive as there could have been serious health concerns but both Rohit and the

Bangladesh team management assured that they would like to play the game. Some players wore masks at training. Ganguly has already said that next time when the Board prepared itinerary for home games, they would be

"more practical" about slotting matches in Delhi during post Diwali when air pollution is at its peak.

Yuvi trains guns on selectors

Mumbai, Nov. 4: Former India batsman Yuvraj Singh on Monday slammed the MSK Prasad-led national selection panel, saying there is a definite need for having better selectors as the current committee's "thinking in terms of modern-day cricket" is not up to the mark.

"We do need better selectors, for sure. Selectors' job is not easy. Whenever they select 15 players, there will be talks that what will happen to the other 15. It's a difficult job but their thinking in terms of modern-day cricket is not up to the mark. It's my opinion," Yuvraj told reporters here.

"I am always in favour of protecting the players and being positive about them. By talking negative about your players and team does

● **The former batsman took potshots at the selection committee and lauded formation of players association which he thought should stand up for cricketers who need breaks.**

n't show you in true light. The character only shows when things go wrong and you motivate the players. In bad times, everyone talks bad. We definitely need better selectors," he said.

It is not the first time that Yuvraj has criticised the selection panel. He had earlier claimed that the selectors did not pick him after being asked to clear the yo yo test which he did.

Yuvraj also said cricketers feel compelled to play even when they are not in a condition to for the fear of losing their place. He batted for a players association. "We deserve it. Because

there are a lot of times we have been asked to play cricket that we don't want to. We have to play with the pressure that if we don't play we will be thrown out. So a players' association is very important," Yuvraj said, adding, "That pressure has to go off the players that even if they are tired or fatigued or carrying injuries, they have to play."

Yuvraj was also asked about the speculation surrounding the international future of former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who is currently on a sabbatical. "I don't know boss.

You should ask your great selectors, when you meet them. That's their call, not mine," he responded.

He also advised the selectors not to "shuffle, pick and drop players at the last moment" ahead of the T20 World Cup next year.

All-rounder Vijay Shankar was India's surprise pick in the ODI World Cup squad this year but has not made a comeback since recovering from an injury. Yuvraj took another jibe at the five-member panel. "In between, there was your Vijay Shankar, now he has vanished. You play him and then remove him. How can you make players this way? You cannot produce players by giving them just three of four innings, you have to give somebody a longer run," he added. — PTI



The Indian cricket team arrive at a hotel in Rajkot ahead of their second Twenty20 match against Bangladesh on Monday.

— PTI



Injury woes

Manchester City captain David Silva set to miss Liverpool clash in Premier League on Sunday due to injury



It is a bad moment for us as a team. It's more than a football game, this is the most important thing right now.

— Marco Silva, Everton manager after their EPL match against Spurs

SHORT TAKES

Wrestler Ravi loses in bronze play-off

Budapest: Ravi Rathi (97kg) suffered a 0-8 loss against Belarus' Dzmitry Kaminski in the bronze medal play-off in Greco-Roman category as Indian grapplers ended their campaign with two silver medals at the UWW Under-23 World Championships here. Ravi had emerged victorious in the repechage bout when he edged Uzur Dzhuzupbekov of Kyrgyzstan 3-1 on Sunday but he couldn't bring his best to the fore during the bronze medal play-off. With this, India's campaign at the tournament came to an end with Ravinder (61kg) and Pooja Gehlot (53kg) returning with silver medals. India earned its best position in men's freestyle team rankings, where 48 points gave the contingent an 11th place finish. In women's wrestling, India finished at 12th and 15th spots in freestyle and Greco-Roman respectively. — PTI

SHOOTERS EYE QUOTA PLACES AT ASIAN MEET

Lusail, Qatar: Indian shooters will look to grab as many quota places as possible when the 14th Asian Shooting Championship begins on Tuesday at the Lusail Shooting Complex. An Indian team of 63 men and 45 women will take part in the senior, junior and youth categories across rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines in the 10-day continental championship which offers 38 Tokyo Olympic quota places across 12 of the 15 Olympic shooting events. The three mixed team events do not carry quota places while the men's 25m rapid fire pistol competition will give out a maximum of four quotas in an event. India has already secured nine Tokyo quotas in rifle and pistol and lies behind China (25 quotas) and Korea (12) in the Asian region, besides the host-country Japan (12 allotted slots), in terms of quotas won. "The team is raring to go and confident of a good show. While quotas are high on priority, we should not forget that a good show at the region's top competition is by itself no mean feat. The aim is definitely to surpass the number of quotas won at the last Olympics (13) and the more the merrier," summed up Samareesh Jung, High Performance Coach (Pistol) of the national team. The first day of competitions on Tuesday has four finals lined up. Indian shooters will be eligible to pick up just one quota place out of the nine on offer. — PTI

RAJPAL NAMED CAPTAIN, 'END' OF BHUPATHI ERA

New Delhi, Nov. 4: The national tennis federation on Monday named former India player and chairman of the its selection panel, Rohit Rajpal as India's non-playing captain for the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Pakistan, signalling end of Mahesh Bhupathi's era. There was speculation that Leander Paes could be considered for the job after the 46-year-old made himself available following pull-outs from top players and skipper Bhupathi. The November 29-30 tie in Islamabad has already been rescheduled once owing to security concerns raised by India. The All India Tennis Association decided to appoint Rajpal at its Executive Committee

meeting which was followed by Annual General Meeting in Chandigarh. A source said Bhupathi, whose term had ended in December 2018 but was allowed an extension for the Italy tie in Kolkata, may not be considered for the job, for he refused national duty. Bhupathi had taken over from Anand Amritraj in December 2016. "The refusal of Bhupathi to travel to Pakistan has not gone down well with the AITA. I don't think he will be considered for captain's job in future. It's over for him. The AITA wants to continue with the tradition of non-playing captain, so Leander will definitely be considered once he hangs up his boots," said an official. — PTI

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Catalans out to pick up the pieces

Barca eye win at Camp Nou after Levante disaster

Madrid, Nov. 4: They may be one of Europe's most devastating teams at their best but another collapse in La Liga last weekend has shown Barcelona can be a soft touch. Their 3-1 defeat by Levante on Saturday reopened old wounds from Anfield and Rome and suggests they have not learned from either of those collapses. Levante scored three times in seven minutes after half-time exposing Barcelona's inability to regroup during a spell of intense pressure — a familiar weakness since coach Ernesto Valverde came to the helm in 2017. Most clubs in Europe would gladly take winning two league titles and a Copa del Rey in that time but Barcelona are a team concerned with details, the small margins that could define a good season or a great one.

Barca play Slavia Prague on Tuesday in the Champions League, when victory at Camp Nou against Group F's weakest team will ensure the frustration and failings from Levante swiftly fade.

But fragility persists that can be exposed by elite opponents when it matters most, as Roma and then Liverpool so emphatically proved in the last two Champions League campaigns, when three-goal first-leg leads were squandered by the Catalan giants.

Barcelona have shown they lack steel when they are uncomfortable, not least away from home, where their record under Valverde has been disap-

Live on TV

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Barcelona vs Slavia Praha from 11.25pm on SONY TEN 2, HD

Zenit vs Leipzig from 11.25pm on SONY ESPN, HD

Liverpool vs Genk from 1.30pm (Wednesday) on SONY TEN 2, HD

Napoli vs Salzburg from 1.30pm (Wednesday) on SONY TEN 3, HD

Lyon vs Benfica from 1.30pm (Wednesday) on SONY ESPN, HD

Chelsea vs Ajax from 1.30pm (Wednesday) on SONY TEN 1, HD

Dortmund vs Inter Milan from 1.30pm (Wednesday) on SONY SIX, HD

pointing. In Valverde's three seasons, they have won only 25 out of 44 league matches on the road. By comparison, Manchester City have won 35 out of 44. In the Champions League Barca have only won five out of 13 away games.

"It is true we are not getting the same results away as we are at home but after the first few games we have managed to put together a good run," Valverde said on Saturday. "We have lost a match and that's it, it's true that we must analyse it but we know when we lose that criticism is strong. We always respond and this time it will not be different." — AFP



Chelsea players at a training session in London on Monday, the eve of their Champions League Group 'H' match against Ajax. — AFP

Revenge on mind as Ajax visit Chelsea

London, Nov. 4: Christian Pulisic had to be patient in the early months of his Chelsea career, but the United States captain and talisman now has the chance to make his mark on the Champions League after earning his place in a rapidly rising side.

Pulisic scored his fourth goal in two Premier League games to secure a 2-1 win at Watford on Saturday, a week on from becoming the youngest Chelsea player ever to score a hat-trick in a 4-2 victory at Burnley.

The fortnight that changed the course of the 21-year-old's first season in England began in the Champions League against Ajax, when he came off the bench to set



Chelsea coach Frank Lampard kicks the ball during a training session. — AFP

up Michy Batshuayi's winner at the Johan Cruyff Arena and inflict a first defeat since May on the

Dutch champions. Prior to that Pulisic had been forced largely to wait on the sidelines at Chelsea

since his switch to West London. Ajax travel to Stamford Bridge on Tuesday seeking revenge, but for the first time this season Pulisic is set to start in Europe's top club competition with his impact in recent weeks impossible for Frank Lampard to ignore any longer.

"If he continues doing that sort of thing then the goals will rack up," said Lampard after Pulisic followed up his hat-trick with a predatory goal from close range at Watford. "His general performance was top as well."

Victory at Vicarage Road saw Chelsea equal a club record for seven straight away wins with Lampard earning plaudits for his

ability to quickly turn the negativity of a summer transfer ban and the loss of Eden Hazard into a buoyant atmosphere at the Bridge.

Pulisic was the one big money arrival. Chelsea anticipated both the 12-month ban on signing players and Hazard's departure to Real Madrid by completing his signing for £58 million (\$75 million) in January before being loaned back to Borussia Dortmund for the second half of last season. However, that move left the Pennsylvanian in limbo in Germany with his time at Dortmund coming to an end and the rise of English wonder kid Jadon Sancho limiting his first team appearances. — AFP

PREMIER LEAGUE

Toffees hold Spurs in drama-filled tie

Liverpool, Nov. 4: Cenk Tosun's header eight minutes into stoppage time salvaged a 1-1 draw for Everton against Tottenham in a match overshadowed by a broken ankle suffered by Everton midfielder Andre Gomes.

Spurs' Son Heung-min was shown a straight red card for his foul on the Portuguese international, but the injury occurred as Gomes's momentum saw him crash into Serge Aurier.

"It is a bad moment for us as a group and as a team. It's more than a football game, this is the most important thing right now," said Everton manager Marco Silva.

Tottenham led 1-0 at that stage thanks to Dele Alli's strike just after the hour mark.

The injury to Gomes proved a turning point with Son visibly upset even before he was shown a red card. "He (Son) is devastated and in tears," said Alli. "It's not his fault. Son is one of nicest people you've ever met. He can't even lift his head up, he's crying so much."

Later Sunday, Everton confirmed the 26-year-old former Barcelona star Gomes had broken his right ankle and will undergo surgery on Monday.

"Everton Football Club can confirm Andre Gomes will undergo surgery after sustaining an ankle injury in today's game with Tottenham Hotspur," the Merseysiders said in a statement.

"After undergoing hospital tests, it was confirmed he had suffered a fracture dislocation to his right ankle. The club will provide further updates in due course."

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said his club had the utmost sympathy for Gomes.

"We feel very sorry," he said. "Was a really bad situation, very bad luck how he landed in the action."

"We can only send our best wishes and (we are) devastated for the situation."

However, Pochettino believed the red card shown to Son was harsh, particularly as referee Martin Atkinson had first produced a yellow card prior to seeing Gomes's injury.

"I cannot agree with the red card of Sonny," added Pochettino.

"VAR must help the referee, I don't know what is going on and what happens with this tool. Rather than help the referee it is creating more confusion." — AFP



Everton's Andre Gomes (centre) is brought down in a challenge by Son Heung-Min (left) of Tottenham leading to an injury to Gomes during the English Premier League football match in Liverpool on Monday. — AFP

Racism storm hits Italy again

Balotelli faces racist chants

Rome, Nov. 4: Mario Balotelli on Sunday thanked his fellow players and supporters for their support after he was racially abused by Hellas Verona fans, the latest in a series of ugly incidents that have blighted the early weeks of the Serie A season.

Brescia striker Balotelli scored in a 2-1 Serie A defeat at Verona that leaves his hometown side in the relegation zone, but his performance was overshadowed by his fury at Verona's notorious supporters, who have a long track record of far-right politics and open racism.

Despite denials of abuse from Verona, a video published on Twitter by a fan showed a number of supporters clearly directing monkey chants at Balotelli before the Italy international booted the ball at them in the stands.

The 29-year-old, who was born in Palermo to Ghanaian parents but was raised just outside Brescia, then had to be held back by players from both teams to stop him from leaving the field of play.

"Thanks to all the colleagues on and off the field for the solidarity expressed toward me and all of the messages received from you fans," Balotelli wrote in a message on Instagram alongside a video of the incident.

"A heartfelt thanks. You're real men, not like those who deny the evidence."

Verona coach Ivan Juric had earlier told Sky Sport that he heard "no racist chants, nothing at all" after a win that lifts his side to ninth, adding that



Brescia's Mario Balotelli (left) reacts to Verona supporters' racist chants during their Serie 'A' match against Verona on Sunday. — AP

"to say otherwise is a lie". The club's president Maurizio Setti then said that his club's supporters were "light-hearted, not racist" and were a crowd with "real sport in its DNA".

"We are the first to condemn racism but it is wrong to generalise... Maybe two or three people among 20,000 fans might have said something," he said to Sky.

The match was suspended for a few minutes around the hour mark as Balotelli tried to force himself from the field before a message was read out on the stadium loudspeaker threatening that both teams would leave the field if there was a repeat of any abuse, a message that was whistled loudly by a large number of the home fans. — AFP

Sindhu, Saina run into China Wall

Fuzhou, Nov. 4: Kidambi Srikanth has decided to give China Open a miss but top Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will have their task cut out when they begin their campaign at the \$700,000 event, beginning here on Tuesday. Former world number one Srikanth was pitted against reigning two-time world champion and numero uno ranked Kento Momota of Japan in his opening round but he pulled out of the tournament.

Srikanth will now feature at the Hong Kong Open World Tour Super 500, next week.

Sindhu and Saina will once again be India's best bet as they look to put up a good show this week. All eyes will also be on men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had reached the finals at the French Open last month.

Both Sindhu and Saina had made early exits in three successive tournaments at China, Korea and Denmark before somewhat regaining form with a quarter-final finish at the French Open and the duo will be



Saina Nehwal

desperate to go deep in the draw.

Sixth seed Sindhu, who claimed the World Championship gold in August, will begin her campaign against Germany's Yvonne Li, while eighth seed Saina will open against China's Cai Yan Yan.

The BWF World Tour Super 750 tournament will also feature a host of Indian

male shuttlers as they vie for honours this week.

B. Sai Praneeth, who had won a bronze at the World Championships, will face Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia. Sameer Verma will square off against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu, while H.S. Prannoy, who recently recovered from a bout of dengue, is up against Rasmus Gemke of Denmark. Former

Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap, who had reached the semifinals at India Open and Korea Open, will face Thailand's Sitthikom Thammasin in the opening round.

In doubles, Satwik and Chirag will look to continue their good run as they open against Korean combination of Kim Gi Jung and Lee Yong Dae. — PTI