

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | SATURDAY 10 | OCTOBER 2020

## WEATHER



**Max:** 31°C  
**Min:** 22°C  
**Rainfall:** 4 mm

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Purattasi 24  
**Tithi:** Ashtami/ Navami  
**Star:** Punarpusam  
**Rahukalam:** 9 am to 10.30 am  
**Yamagandam:** 1.30 pm to 3 pm

### PRAYERS

**Fajar:** 4.48 am  
**Zohar:** 12.02 pm  
**Asar:** 3.18 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.56 pm  
**Isha:** 7.06 pm

**SUNSET TODAY** 5.53 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 5.59 AM  
**MOONRISE TODAY** 11.58 AM  
**MOONSET TOMORROW** 12.46 PM

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+60,310)	(+621)
69,64,098	1,07,142

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+5,185 )  
TN: 6,46,128 10,120

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3,69,88,985

### DEATHS

10,69,846

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES  
214

worldometers.info

## Lalu gets bail in Chaibasa treasury case, to remain in jail

**Ranchi:** The Jharkhand High Court on Friday granted bail to RJD chief Lalu Prasad in a fodder scam case related to Chaibasa treasury, observing that he has served half of the five-year sentence awarded to him. The case pertains to fraudulent withdrawal amounting to ₹33.67 crore from the Chaibasa treasury in undivided Bihar, when Prasad was the chief minister. The veteran leader, however, will have to remain in jail as he is serving time in another case related to Dumka treasury, which involves embezzlement of around ₹3.13 crore.

## Piyush gets addl charge of consumer affairs, food and public distribution minister

**New Delhi:** Railway minister Piyush Goyal was on Friday given additional charge of the Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution ministry, a portfolio held by the late Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan.

## NIA files chargesheet against eight people in Bhima Koregaon case

**Mumbai:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet against eight people, including activists Gautam Navlakha and 82-year-old Father Stan Swamy, for their alleged involvement in inciting mob violence at Bhima-Koregaon near Pune on January 1, 2018. The NIA arrested Mr Swamy on Thursday from his home in Ranchi, brought him to Mumbai and produced him before a court that remanded him to judicial custody till October 23.

## COUNTER POINT



**No crowd? Don't worry, continue your speech... it's live on our channel!**



## STATE | 3

**Resumption of NMR train services put off**



**Amid Covid, Trump plans rally in Florida**

## WORLD | 5

**Delhi Capitals beat RR by 46 runs**

## SPORT | 8



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

## Walk in the rain



Tirusulam, Pallavaram, Chromepet and Tambaram areas witnessed sudden showers accompanied by thunder and lightning on Friday evening.

— E.K. SANJAY

# CM thanks PM for including Tamil as qualification criteria for ASI course

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and other leaders welcomed the Centre's decision to include a master's degree in Tamil as a minimum qualification for the postgraduate diploma course in archaeology offered by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology, Noida. "I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the immediate response to my request to include Master's degree in Tamil as one of the minimum qualification criteria for the two-year



postgraduate diploma an Archaeology course for the session 2020-2022,' Palaniswami said in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. On Thursday, citing a recent ASI advertisement listing Pali, Prakrit, Arabic or Persian too under the classical language category

alongside Sanskrit, Palaniswami had pointed out to Modi that among the listed languages, only Sanskrit was declared a classical language in 2005 by the Centre. "Tamil, which was the first language in India officially recognised as a classical language in 2004, has been completely ignored (in the admission process)," he had alleged.

DMK president M. K. Stalin, in a Facebook post, welcomed the inclusion of Tamil and all the classical languages of India as qualifiers for the course and said Tamil was deliberately excluded initially.

The significance of a language could not be covered by anybody, PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss said in a tweet, adding that by making amends a mistake had been corrected, which was a victory to Tamil.

The notification originally issued by the institute calling for applications for the course, drew a lot of flak in the State as Tamil was not mentioned as a qualifier. Following protests from several quarters, including the State government, amends were made and a fresh notification was issued including all the classical languages in India.

## India gets 2nd set of Swiss bank account details

**New Delhi/Berne, Oct. 9:** India has got the second set of Swiss bank account details of its nationals and entities under the automatic exchange of information pact with Switzerland, marking a key milestone in the government's fight against black money allegedly stashed abroad.

India is among the 86 countries with which Switzerland's Federal Tax Administration (FTA) has exchanged information on financial accounts within the framework of global standards on AEOI this year. India had received the first set of details from Switzerland in September 2019 under AEOI (Automatic Exchange of Information), when it involved 75 countries.

The information exchange this year involved nearly 3.1 million (31 lakh) financial accounts, FTA said in a statement on Friday. The number of such accounts was similar in 2019.

— PTI

# Anti-radiation missile test-fired

**New Delhi, Oct. 9:** In a major milestone, India on Friday successfully test fired a new generation anti-radiation missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force that can destroy a wide variety of enemy radars, air defence systems and communication networks from large stand-off ranges, officials said.

The missile, Rudram-1, is India's first indigenously developed anti-radiation weapon system and it was test-fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), at an integrated



New Gen Anti Radiation Missile (NGARM) Rudram being test-fired from Sukhoi 30 MKI aircraft onto a radiation target located on Kalam Island off Odisha coast on Friday.

— Twitter

## HAL staffer held for supplying aircraft details to Pak's ISI

**SAURABH JOSHI | DC**  
MUMBAI, OCT. 9

Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested an employee of Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) after he was allegedly found spying for Pakistan's notorious Inter-State Intelligence (ISI) and passing on sensitive information about India's fighter jets. The accused was nabbed from Ojhar in Nashik district based on the specific information received by the Nashik's ATS unit.

The officials have seized mobile handsets and SIM cards that 41-year-old Deepak Shirsat was using to allegedly keep in touch with ISI operatives.

Mr Shirsat has been working with HAL for over a decade. Preliminary probe revealed that he passed on information about the air base and prohibited area where he worked.

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
*with agency inputs*  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Tamil Nadu on Friday reported 5,185 new coronavirus cases, taking the tally to 6,46,128, while the death toll mounted 10,120 with 68 fatalities. Testing of samples inched towards the one lakh mark with 97,087 being done, aggregating to 81,41,534 so far. The number of recoveries outnumbered new infections.

The active cases stood at 44,197, with 5,357 patients getting discharged from various hospitals and cumulatively 5,91,811 people have got cured, the health department said in a bulletin.

Of the fresh infections, the city had 1,288, Coimbatore 397, Chengalppet 343, Salem 295, Thanjavur 240 and Tiruvallur 226, followed by others all over the state, the bulletin said. Of the total of 6.46 lakh cases, Chennai's tally was the most at 1,79,424, while eight districts saw the number of infections going up by 100 cases each.

Among the 68 fatalities reported today, four had no comorbidities.

The death toll at 10,120 till date includes Chennai's 3,373.

Nineteen of those who tested positive today were returnees from other states, the health bulletin said.

## Coronavirus can survive on skin for 9 hours: Study

**New Delhi, Oct. 9:** The SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, may linger on human skin for nine hours, much longer than the flu viruses can, according to a study.

The influenza A virus (IAV), in contrast, remained viable on human skin for nearly two hours, said the researchers including those from Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine in Japan.

The study, published in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases, found that both the viruses were rapidly inactivated on skin with a hand sanitiser. The finding underscores the importance of hand washing or using a sanitiser to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The researchers noted that the stability of SARS-CoV-2 on human skin remains unknown, considering the hazards of viral exposure to humans. "We generated a model that allows the safe reproduction of clinical studies on the application of pathogens to human skin and elucidated the stability of SARS-CoV-2 on the human skin," the researchers wrote in the journal.

— PTI

reacted to the case against his father and released a press statement that read: "It is so shocking and painful to read such false allegations against me and my father. Obviously vested interests are working. In fact Mr Suri has to refund Vishnu Vishal Studioz the advance paid to him in 2017 for a film *Kavarimaan Parambarai* which eventually was dropped. We have complete faith in law and judiciary system. It may not be appropriate to elaborate further at this point in

time and we will strictly go by what law permits. Fans and wellwishers are requested to wait till the moment of truth emerges. Also request media to report on this with correct facts. Once things are clear I will take proper action within the limits of law." It may be noted that Soori and Vishnu Vishal shared screen space in several hit movies in the last few years. Soori's complaint against the latter's father came as a huge shock to the cine fraternity.

**4%** Benchmark lending rate kept unchanged

**9.5%** Indian economy expected to contract this fiscal with downside risks

**20.6%** Fiscal projected GDP growth for April-June quarter 2021-22

► Inflation to remain elevated in September quarter, but ease gradually towards the target over December and March quarters

► RTGS fund transfer system for real-time fund transfer to become 24x7 from December

Comfortable liquidity position to be maintained; ₹20,000 crore-OMO auction next week

Das said the country's economy is likely to contract 9.5 per cent in the current financial year, "with risks tilted to the downside".

Mr Das said the economic growth, which slumped to a negative 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter, will turn positive only in the final January-March quarter.

"By all indications, the deep contractions of Q1

2020-21 (April-June) are behind us; silver linings are visible in the flattening of the active case load curve across the country," he said.

Barring the risk of a second wave of infections, the economy appeared poised to begin a recovery, he said, noting food grain production was set for record highs and factories and cities were coming back to life.

# TN: Testing of daily samples nears 1L mark

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
*with agency inputs*  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

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## Priest set on fire in Rajasthan

**Jaipur, Oct. 9:** A priest died after being set on fire allegedly by five people who wanted to encroach on temple land in Rajasthan's Karauli district, police said on Friday.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot condemned the incident and said that the main accused has been arrested, while the opposition BJP attacked the government saying the law and order has deteriorated and people are under fear in the state.

The incident occurred on Wednesday in Bukna village where five accused caught the priest Babu Lal Vashnav near an agriculture farm and set him on fire after pouring petrol on him.

He was admitted in a crucial condition to SMS hospital in Jaipur where he died Thursday night. "The main accused, Kailash Meena, has been arrested, while another accused was rounded up," SP Karauli, Mridul Kachhawa, said.

— PTI

## UN World Food Programme wins Nobel Peace Prize

**Niamey (Niger), Oct. 9:** The World Food Programme won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for its efforts to combat hunger in regions facing conflict and hardship and at a time when the coronavirus pandemic has driven millions more people to the brink of starvation.

The Rome-based United Nations agency has long specialised in getting assistance to some of the world's most dangerous and precarious places, from air-dropping food in South Sudan and Syria to creating an emergency delivery service that kept aid flowing even as antivirus restrictions grounded commercial flights.

It provided assistance to almost 100 million people in 88 countries last year. "With this year's award, the (committee) wishes to turn the eyes of the world to the millions of people who suffer from or face the threat of hunger," said Berit Reiss-Andersen, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

— AP

■ PS



## SHORT TAKES

## Cop succumbs to head injuries

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

A 27-year-old police officer, attached to the Tamil Nadu Special Force (TNSF), who was injured in a road accident near Oragadam in September, succumbed to injuries on Friday morning.

The deceased, identified as T. Siva Kumar (27), lived in Vadakupatti village near Oragadam in Kanchipuram district. He joined the TN police in 2016.

According to the police, the accident happened when the victim was riding his two-wheeler from his village to Oragadam on September 5. A car coming in the wrong direction collided head-on with the cop's motorbike. Siva was thrown off from the vehicle and sustained serious head injuries. Though Oragadam Police rushed to the spot, the car fled the spot.

The injured was admitted to the Sriperumbudur government hospital and was later shifted to the Rajiv Gandhi government hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on Friday.

The Oragadam Police registered a case and launched a hunt for the driver who hit and ran.

## 'Centre encroaching upon Pondy govt's fiscal, admin powers'

**Puducherry, Oct 9:** Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy on Friday accused the Centre of encroaching upon the fiscal and administrative powers of the elected government here with an 'intention' to dismantle the separate identity of the union territory and merge it with neighbouring states.

The Narendra Modi government was acting upon whatever recommendation Lt Governor Kiran Bedi was submitting to it on modalities of implementing welfare schemes evolved by the elected government and "this is a clear case of the Centre encroaching upon the administrative powers of the government," he told a press meet here.

It had been encroaching upon the financial powers of the Puducherry government and its administrative independence as "no sufficient funds are earmarked," Narayanasamy said.

By such 'intrusion' into the rights of the elected government on various issues "the Centre exposes its intention to dismantle the separate identity of Puducherry and merge the Union Territory with neighbouring states," he alleged, repeating a charge he made a few days ago.

Puducherry has regions spread over three states. While Karaikal is located in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, Mahe in Kerala and Yanam in Andhra Pradesh. He claimed the local unit of the BJP was seeking action against him for the merger charge and said neither he nor his cabinet colleagues or the ruling Congress leaders were afraid of the BJP's "witch hunt". —PTI

## From Travancore to Chennai



B. Selvakumar, Chief Postmaster General of TN circle, dedicated the Travancore Anchal letter box to Philately Bureau, Anna Salai, on the occasion of World Post Day, Travancore Anchal was started in Travancore in 1729 by Anizham Thirunal Marthandavarma. Later it was merged with the India Post & Telegraph on 1951. — DC

## Minor raped, killed: Opposition demands justice, government assures steps 3 lakh barber shops shut over acquittal of rape, murder accused

**Chennai, Oct 9:** Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu on Friday demanded justice for a minor girl, allegedly raped and killed in Dindigul district last year, following the acquittal of the accused, as the government assured it will take steps to appeal against a lower court verdict.

The girl was allegedly sexually assaulted and electrocuted last year at her home in Kurumbapatti village in Dindigul, police said, adding, one person had been arrested in connection with the incident. He was acquitted recently. Law minister C Ve Shanmugam described the alleged sexual assault and killing of the girl as "heinous", even as opposition DMK, PMK and the Congress demanded action. With the victim being the daughter of a hair-dresser,

**"A minor girl has been sexually assaulted and brutally murdered. This is a heinous crime. The government will look into the matter and take all immediate steps to go for an appeal"**

nearly three lakh barber shops across the state downed shutters demanding justice for the 12-year-old victim. Shanmugam said there were reports that the accused has been acquitted (by a local Mahila court). "A minor girl has been sexually assaulted and brutally murdered. This is a heinous crime. The government will look into the matter and take all immediate steps to go for an appeal," he told

reporters at Gingee in Villupuram. DMK president M. K. Stalin, in a tweet, accused the prosecution of not properly placing the evidence in the case, leading to the acquittal of the accused. "Appeal (in the interest of) justice" for the victim, he tweeted. Congress MPs from Dindigul and Karur, P Velusamy and S Jothimani, respectively, and DMK legislator R. Sakkarapani submitted a petition with Dindigul Collector M Vijayalakshmi, urging the government to file an appeal in the case.

PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss, whose party is an ally of the ruling AIADMK in the state, expressed shock over the acquittal and demanded that the state government file an appeal and ensure stringent punishment for the culprit. —PTI

## Aspire high on widening knowledge, Kasturirangan urges students

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Dr K. Kasturirangan, former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation and National Education Policy Committee, has urged students to aspire for widening their knowledge, learn to experience the power of collective teamwork and always be guided by higher values.

He was delivering the convocation address virtually at the Vellore Institute of Technology's (VIT) 35th annual convocation on Friday.

Quoting the American writer and futurist Alvin Toffler, Dr Kasturirangan said the illiterates of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.

He noted that as India aspires to grow and sustain a large and vibrant econo-



K. Kasturirangan speaks at VIT 35th annual convocation.

my and uplifting its society, one of the key elements to its successful realisation is to have a robust ecosystem of research and innovation.

Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT, in his presidential address thanked the Union Government for selecting VIT as one among the 10 public and 10 private institutions of institution

of eminence.

"We have students from all over India and more than 50 countries in the world studying various courses at VIT. The Kasturirangan Education Policy Committee also speaks about internationalisation as India needs to attract more students from foreign countries to its higher education

## National suicide prevention plan need of hour in India

T. SUDHEESH | DC  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

As the world observed Mental Health Day amid Covid-19, the country still lacks an effective national suicide prevention plan to curb rising suicides.

Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar, founder of Sneha Foundation Trust, Chennai, said the plan was the need of the hour by the government.

"Last December we submitted a plan to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. We suggested a slew of measures including banning of pesticides in rural areas, preventing women from domestic violence and impact of alcohol among men as both are related to suicides of women. It also suggested providing education and employment to

**■ In terms of metro cities, the data show, Chennai registered the highest number of 2,461 suicides last year. While 6,843 people decided to end their lives due to family problems, the state had highest number of 219 suicides by people who could not endure the death of their dear ones**

women and farmers. We found that students are one of the vulnerable communities in India, because their expectation level is very high', she said.

According to mental health activists, it's important to understand the mental status of your dear ones as it can save precious lives. Usually people who show an attitude of reclusiveness, despair in life and helplessness have a high chance of committing suicides. Excessive use of drugs and sudden change in

behaviour should be noted. Suicides can be prevented with timely action.

So there must be a centrally-driven effective suicide prevention plan in association with state governments, NGOs and influential people.

"It's a misconception that mental illness among the elderly is mostly about Dementia and Alzheimer's. A large number of seniors suffer from depression, anxiety and other mental disorders. Yet, a majority of them are hesitant to talk

about it or seek help, owing to lack of awareness and a long-standing stigma attached to mental illness. It's imperative to encourage them to talk about their struggles, thereby normalising conversations around mental illness," said Piali Dasgupta, senior vice-president, Columbia Pacific Communities.

The National Crime Records Bureau data on 'Suicides in India' for the year 2019 reveals that at least 1,39,133 people committed suicide last year across the country.

Tamil Nadu, which took the second place for straight three years, registered 13,439 cases of suicides, including 4,250 women and eight members of transgender community. Majority of victims were in the age group of 18-45 and educated.

## Pondy docks 371 new cases of corona, aggregate touches 30,904

**Puducherry, Oct. 9:** The Covid-19 tally in Puducherry shot up to 30,904 on Friday after the addition of 371 new cases, while two more people died of the virus.

Health Minister Malladi Krishna Rao told reporters through video mode that two persons succumbed to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours ending 10 am on Friday.

The total fatalities consequently rose to 558.

Often total number of cases, 4,803 were active, 25,543 patients recovered and were discharged.

The Health Minister said the 372 fresh cases were identified after examination of 5,006 samples during the last 24 hours. He said 282 patients were discharged. The fatality and recovery rates were 1.81 percent and 82.65 percent respectively.

The Ministersaid 2.25 lakh samples were tested so far and 1.90 lakh out of them were found to be negative and result of examination of the remaining samples was awaited. —PTI



The Madras HC on Friday allowed Kallakurichi AIADMK MLA Prabhu to leave with his wife Soundharya (in pic above), after she was produced before the bench. The court ruled that the 19-year-old woman is an adult who willingly chose to marry the MLA and so the case of abduction filed by her father will not hold. — DC

## Three robbers arrested from Mumbai flight in Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Three men, fleeing to Mumbai to evade arrest in a robbery case which happened on the city outskirts, were arrested by the Kanchipuram district special police team at the Chennai domestic airport on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Lakshman (30), Ayup Khan (30) and Amir Mohammed (35) were arrested when they boarded a flight to Mumbai.

According to the police, based on a tip-off that three accused persons in a robbery case in Kanchi dis-

trict were scheduled to board a flight and flee Chennai, a special police team arrived at the airport on Thursday evening. After getting permission from the Chennai airport manager, the officials requested the airport authorities to stop the Mumbai-bound Indigo flight, with the accused on

board, that was readying to depart from the airport.

The special team searched the flight and nabbed the three accused. Police said that the accused broke into a gold jewels manufacturing unit in Kanchipuram district, that was shut down by the IT and enforcement wing. They reportedly stole gold dust and several Important documents from the factory.

Three other accomplices Gulam Kaush (25), Sunil Ram (28) and Agnes Gupta (20) were also nabbed by the police near Chengalpet. Police are interrogating the arrested persons.

## Why demand bribe for doing your duty, HC asks officials

J. STALIN | DC  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Expressing its deep concern over the officials demanding bribes even for doing their duties in the revenue department, the Madras high court has said, "It is very unfortunate that officials are demanding bribes even for doing their duties, forgetting the fact that they are paid salary by the government for the said works and some of the surveyors think that they are inducted into the revenue department to accumulate wealth for themselves and not to generate revenue for the government. In olden days, Tamil Nadu was regarded as a best state in administration and due to the act of some of the corrupt officials the said laurel has now disappeared and vanished".

Justice S.Vaidyanathan made the above observations while framing certain

guidelines to be followed in respect of survey of the properties in future by the authorities concerned.

Dealing with a case relating to survey of a property allegedly involved in a dispute, the judge framed the guidelines. The judge was disposing of a petition filed by Asaithambi, which sought to restrain the Village Administrative Officer from surveying the petitioner's property in T.S.No.62 and Survey No.66/7 in Patta No.R.T.R.676 (a), 94-95, dated December 23, 1994 at Ponnmeni village, bypass road, Madurai, by advertising to the orders passed by the Revenue Divisional Officer, dated December 31, 2015.

The judge said, "Though the petitioner seeks a direction to the VAO not to conduct survey of the property in question, considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of view that unless and until

survey is conducted, there is every possibility of the issue prolonged for years together instead of attaining its finality. We are now in the era of global digitalization and by use of advanced technology/

machinery, the survey could be easily done, so as to bring the issue to a logical end with the satisfaction of both parties. Therefore, a direction is issued to the tahsildar, Madurai district, to depute a devoted and honest surveyor for survey of the property in question in the presence of both parties and after survey, the surveyor, while sending the report to the authorities concerned, shall ensure that a copy of the recorded version is also forwarded along with it, so that the issue between the parties can be decided in one way or the other. The entire exercise shall be completed within 2 months".

## Court frames 11 guidelines for revenue department work

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Justice S. Vaidyanathan of the Madras high court has framed 11 guidelines in order to streamline the functioning of the revenue department, particularly the survey of properties.

The guidelines are:

(1) On receipt of charges towards survey or resurvey, it should be conducted within 30 days from the date of such receipt and in case of failure on the part of the authorities to do so, the cost of application shall be returned to the parties, apart from recovery of a sum of Rs 2,500 from the salary of the officials concerned and also initiation of departmental proceedings against them and those errant officers must be



identified and placed under suspension and even dismissed from service, so as to deprive their entire gratuity and terminal benefits under the head "moral turpitude. The details of such officers with his/her Aadhar number shall be incorporated and adverse remarks shall be entered in the service register, so as to deprive their further promotion.

(2) A register should be maintained in which details

like name of the person who has gone for survey, area of survey, date of survey, completion of survey, reason for not surveying the property etc., should be entered periodically and verified by the superior officer.

(3) The authorities should make use of drone technology to conduct an accurate survey of the property, which will throw light on encroachment of government lands.

(4) Pendency of litigation before courts is not a bar for the authorities to conduct survey or resurvey in the absence of any stay/interim order/interim injunction from proceeding further.

(5) In cases relating to pending civil dispute, the parties are at liberty to

approach the appropriate forum for conducting survey or resurvey by making necessary application and the same shall be considered by the appropriate forum.

(6) The entire process of survey or resurvey shall be photographed and video-graphed and the copies of documents shall be given to the parties concerned.

(7) In the event of any public documents sought for by any of the parties in question, duly certified copies should be provided to such parties and it should not be denied by merely quoting some provisions of the RTI Act.

(8) Entire charges for survey or resurvey of the property should be paid by the parties concerned or it

should be equally borne by them. In case of delay on the side of the authorities, the costs should be borne by them from their personal funds.

(9) A constant vigil of the officials of every revenue department is necessary to regulate the revenue-related works and the vigilance department shall be brought into action to curb the demand of bribe, especially by surveyors.

(10) In case of request for issuance of patta after survey, the directions issued by the Madras high court on a batch of petitions on September 23, 2020 should be adhered to.

(11) The government should issue a circular, incorporating the above 10 guidelines within one month.



## SHORT TAKES

## Two siblings drown

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUCHY, OCT. 9

Two siblings aged 6 and 4 years (sister and brother) drowned in the Peruvilai canal as they accidentally fell into it at Pallividai village, on Thursday. Police said that fire service personnel recovered the bodies 10 kms away from the accident site, on Friday morning. The deceased were identified as Darshini and her brother Naren. While their parents were away at work, the siblings were left in the custody of their grandmother. They had gone to the canal bank and accidentally fell into the waters.

## DMK worker murdered

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUCHY, OCT. 9

Four accused persons in connection with the murder of Ganesan, a DMK functionary and president of Manavalanallur village panchayat, in Tiruvur district, surrendered before a lower court at Lalgudi near here on Friday. Police identified them as Mubin Hussain (23), Thennarasu (32) Jagan (30) and Kaaleeswaran (23). All were remanded to judicial custody by Judicial Magistrate, Lalgudi. The deceased was murdered by a gang as he was moving towards Manavalanallur on his two-wheeler on Thursday. The gang came in a car and intercepted him and attacked with deadly weapons. Ganesan died at the government hospital, Kumbakonam, late on Friday night. The reason behind the murder is said to be previous enmity, police added.

## Plea for service road

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUCHY, OCT. 9

Members of the Confederation of Service Road led by Tiruverumbur DMK MLA, Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, staged a demonstration at suburb Ariyamangalam here on Friday, demanding officials to start work on a service road between Paalpannai to Thuvakkudi on the Tiruchy — Thanjavur national highway, as per the Madurai bench of the Madras high court direction.

Speaking on the occasion, Poyyamozhi said, due to lack of a service road, there were a number of accidents taking place every day, and hence, the government has to allocate adequate funds and form the service road. Former DMK MLA of Thiruverumbur, K N Sekaran, and representatives of various other political parties spoke.

## Homage paid to poet

**Thanjavur:** Homage was paid to poet Pattukottai Kalyanasundaram at Pattukottai on his death anniversary on Thursday. Led by N P Parthibhan of DMK, Communist party leaders garlanded poet.

## BJP state prez meets CM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

BJP state president L. Murugan called on Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami at his residence on Friday evening and appraised him of his proposed month-long 'Vetrivel Yatra' from November 6, besides congratulating him for his selection as AIADMK's chief ministerial candidate for the 2021 Assembly elections.

The yatra, starting from Tiruttani, will touch on the six abodes of Lord Muruga (known as the Arupadi Veedu) in Tamil Nadu, concluding at Thiruchendur on December 6, about which Murugan explained to media persons at the party office earlier in the morning.

Describing the meeting



Hindu Makkal Katchi leader Arjun Sampath calls on CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Friday and congratulates him for being named the CM candidate for the 2021 Assembly elections. — DC

with the Chief Minister as a 'courtesy call,' Murugan said he thanked Palaniswami for supporting the three Farmers Bills that were passed in Parliament and urged him to take action against those who were behind the Karupar Kootam and also those involved in the scam relating to the distribution of money under the PM's Kisan Fund.

Earlier, Murugan exuded confidence in the BJP winning a few seats in the next

elections. He said that when the BJP contested the 2016 Assembly elections on its own, it decided the winning candidate in 90 constituen-

cies, besides taking the second or third position in another 35 constituencies.

Now that the party had grown considerably in the State, he was sure that the BJP coalition would win the elections. 'Only the person identified by us would be the Chief Minister,' he made it clear.

Asked about the fate of the coalition, he said that the AIADMK was still part of the NDA and that the arrangement would continue. However, he said that no talks had been held with the alliance partners on the issue.

To a question on the by-election to the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha constituency, Murugan said BJP will win the election but said the party's candidate would be decided by the party high command.

## Back home for 30 days



Perarivalan, a convict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, is granted 30 days of parole. He is being brought to his native place Tirupattur under police protection, on Friday morning. A sitting bench of Justice Kirubakaran and Justice Velmurugan ordered Perarivalan's parole, even as the police and jail authorities opposed it. Perarivalan's mom Arputhammal, received her son home with tears of joy. Due to the pandemic, others were not allowed to visit Perarivalan. This is the third time Perarivalan is out on parole.

— K. Senthil Nathan

## Bypassing of rights laws by NCPDR puts kids at risk

T. SUDHEESH | DC  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

More than 100 civil society organisations, groups and individuals, working for upholding rights of children, and national human rights Institutions from Tamil Nadu have led a protest against the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) over alleged bypassing of child rights laws.

This comes following a letter issued by the NCPDR to all district magistrates in seven states including Tamil Nadu to restore and repatriate all children living in child care institutions (CCIs), except specialised adoption agencies (SAA) and observation homes.

Tamil Nadu activists along with almost 600 colleagues from states including Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya and Mizoram rejected the recommendation of the NCPDR to take control of child care by the district authorities.

The activists who registered protest said that

**Tamil Nadu activists along with almost 600 colleagues from states including Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, AP, Kerala, Meghalaya and Mizoram rejected the recommendation of the NCPDR to take control of child care by the district authorities**

removal of children from institutional care by bypassing the due process will eventually put many children at the risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

It is a known fact that children come back into the juvenile justice system with increased vulnerabilities. If they are restored to an abusive family, which is unable to provide due care and protection, they will be put to suffering again. Unfortunately, the letter comes at a time when the Covid-19 has made children and families even more vulnerable. The poor families have been pushed beyond the margins - from

food security to housing and livelihood, their problems, including mental health challenges. Restoring children to such a situation without considering the views of children and their families and without an assessment cannot be in their best interest', the activists say. They also point out that NCPDR's recommendations are contrary to the purpose, principles and spirit of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. De-institutionalisation is an important intervention for children living in CCIs. It must be taken with care and planning through an individualised approach.

By selectively citing the principles of institutionalisation as a last resort and repatriation and restoration in support of its exercise of suo motu cognizance, the NCPDR violates the objectives of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and fails to consider the other fundamental principles of best interest of children, safety and participation, they say.

## Ex-MLA Markendeyan joins DMK

ARULOLI M | DC  
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT. 9

Former Vilathikulam MLA G V Markendeyan joining the DMK may give an edge for the DMK in the constituency, where the DMK has lost five elections consecutively till the by-election in 2019.

Despite being a popular face of the AIADMK in Vilathikulam constituency in Thoothukudi district, Markendeyan, remained a staunch loyalist of Jayalithaa, but felt to have been sidelined by the party, which promoted Information and publicity minister, Kadambur C Raju.

His rift with Kadambur Raju, came to light in the 2019 by-election, when P Chinnappan was fielded as

AIADMK candidate in Vilathikulam constituency and Markendeyan was forced to contest as an independent candidate.

Though Chinnappan won the 2019 by-election, the AIADMK's vote share was eroded by 2.47 percent. The key reason according to local AIADMK men was G V Markendeyan, who individually scored 17.35 percent votes.

"He could have joined the AMMK of TTV Dhina-karan then, but he chose to contest the election as an Independent primarily to prove his individual popularity against the two leaves symbol in the constituency," said one of Markendeyan's supporters, who also added that it was of his proven popularity

that he has been taken into the DMK.

Among the six assembly constituencies in the district, DMK now has Thoothukudi, Tiruchendur and the Ottapidaram (reserved) constituencies, leaving the other three constituencies to the AIADMK.

However, Thoothukudi district DMK functionaries now are confident that party president M K Stalin's move of absorbing Markendeyan would add to the party's strength, and ensure the fall of Vilathikulam constituency into the DMK's hands. Markendeyan is said to have joined the DMK on assurance that he would be party's candidate at Vilathikulam in the 2021 poll.

## Held for hoarding PDS rice

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THANJAVUR, OCT 9

Police here on Friday arrested one Karuppalan (60) of Sarabojirajapuram main road at Papanasam, for hoarding 500 bags of rice meant for PDS and selling them.

Police said, Karuppalan

On a tip off, revenue and supply department officials raided the house and seized the rice and load auto, and arrested Karuppalan

used a load auto and moved 500 bags of rice meant for free distribution from three ration shops in

Sarabojirajapuram area and kept them in a house. On a tip off, revenue and supply department officials raided the house and seized the rice and load auto, and arrested Karuppalan. Police are trying to find out how he got the PDS rice and to whom he was selling it.

## Paswan had many admirers in TN

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR | DC  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Copious condolences poured in from all over the state for Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, who passed away on Thursday night, as the Dalit leader from Bihar had endeared himself to many political leaders and activists as a champion of social justice and an ardent supporter of the Sri Lankan Tamil cause.

Apart from Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam and DMK president M. K. Stalin, who paid their tributes to Lok Janshakti leader, scores of ordinary people condoled his death through social media posts and tweets, though some of them did criticize him for joining the BJP coalition in his later years.

Though Paswan created a



record in 1977 by winning a Lok Sabha election with a margin of 4.24 lakh votes, his emergence as a prominent political leader from Bihar in the late 1980s coincided with the Mandal evoked OBC movement that began with the then Prime Minister V. P. Singh tabling the old Mandal Commission recommendations in Parliament.

Since Tamil Nadu, the state that pioneered Backward Classes reservation in the country, latched on the Mandal evoked movement automatically, Paswan, who supported the OBC cause, was identified by the acolytes of Periyar E

V Ramasamy as a leader of the oppressed classes. Paswan, too, lived up to the image by making several visits to the State and attending many rallies and meetings organized to press for the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations.

Later on he changed his political loyalties several times, which ensured that he served as Minister under six Prime Ministers including Narendra Modi. But all through his life he remained committed to his basic ideals like social justice, eradication of caste and self-respect, said DK President K Veeramani, in his condolence message.

He was a regular visitor to Tamil Nadu since the late 1980s attending various meetings and rallies that Prince Ennares Periyar posted a longish message in Facebook, recalling Paswan attending an anti-Ramayana conference at

Karaikudi in 1989.

Similarly, Thirumurugan Gandhi of May 17 Movement recalled Paswan attending a memorial meeting for Sri Lankan Tamils on the Marina sands in 2012. Paswan had also spoken for the Sri Lankan Tamil cause in Parliament, too, besides attending the TESCO meeting called by M. Karunanidhi in Chennai.

Describing him as a close friend of Karunanidhi, DMK president M K Stalin called Paswan a pillar of social justice. DMK youth wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin, too, mourned his death and conveyed his condolences to his friend and late leader's son, Chirag Paswan, through Twitter.

The VCK general secretary described his death as a loss to social justice politics and said he fought for the welfare of the oppressed people till the end.

## Musical prayer to kill Covid



Members of the Tamil Nadu Nadaswaram and Thavil Artistes Sangam hosted a musical performance on Friday at the Swagath Kalyana Mandapam, Royapettah, Chennai, in which 54 nadaswaram and 54 thavil artistes participated, as a prayer to ward off the evil impact of Covid-19 in the state and seeking divine blessings on the government and the people.

— DC

## Verdict cancelling tenders welcomed

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Welcoming the Madras high court verdict cancelling the tenders issued for development of village roads without the permission of the elected local bodies, DMK President M K Stalin warned district collectors that they would not be able to escape the clutches of law if they connive with the State government in its alleged corrupt practices.

The government should do away with the practice of issuing e-tenders by using the Collectors to do the job and entrust the responsibility with the local bodies, Stalin said in a statement on Friday.

He said the order by Justice Anand Venkatesh was a knock on the knuckles of the government that tried to usurp the power of the local bodies and made a bid to indulge in the loot by using the district collectors as its handmaidens.

It was totally unfair on the part of the government to make a bid to usurp all the powers of the local bodies in fixing electricity lights and laying of drinking water pipelines, Stalin added.



Water from nearby Kodapamund channel, entered a few houses in Greenfields area.

## Showers inundate low-lying areas in Nilgiris

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC  
OOTY, OCT. 9

The North-East monsoon rains arrived here with a bang as storm water inundated low-lying areas in the town on Thursday night. Rains continued for an hour on Friday evening also.

The NE monsoon stretches between October and December-end, and brings copious rains to the eastern, southern and central parts of the Nilgiris. It is generally known to wreak havoc in Kotagiri and Coonoor and Kundah taluks, as these three taluks would generally witness landslides during this season.

Overnight rains on Thursday inundated low-lying areas in the town, especially in Greenfields area. Storm water gushing down the hill slopes and also spill over water from

The NE monsoon stretches between October and December-end, and brings copious rains to the eastern, southern and central parts of the Nilgiris

nearby Kodapamund channel, entered a few houses in Greenfields area. The rainfall (in mm) recorded in various places on Friday morning is as follows: Ooty - 62, Kundah - 46, Balacola - 30, Kodanad - 25, Devala - 11 and Coonoor rural - 10.

The Nilgiris district administration has swung into action and alerted disaster management teams. While the control rooms have started functioning in all the taluk headquarters for round-the-clock monitoring of the rain situation, special teams have been formed to monitor landslides in vulnerable areas.

## Monsoon safety measures for public

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 9

Even as the entire country is gearing up to face the North East monsoon, the Electrical Inspectorate, Government of Tamil Nadu, in a released on Friday had listed out the measures to be adopted in advance by all, including the public, to stay safe from natural calamities arising out of floods and cyclones that is likely to be witnessed during the period.

Consumers are advised to adopt electrical safety practices like using only ISI marked electrical appliances, getting electrical works done only through licensed contractors, using three-pin plug points with proper earthing for use of wet grinders, refrigerators and washing machines,

immediately replace damaged switches, plug sockets and other electrical components, install 'Life Saver' switch at the main supply point, keep children away from power appliances and power points.

In addition, consumers are cautioned about some of the don'ts listed by the department. It is advised not to drive nails into walls in rooms with concealed wiring, not to install switches inside bathrooms, toilets and other wet places, avoid carrying cable TV wires near the overhead power lines, not to use electric poles as support for pandals and advertisement boards, not to secure livestock to electric poles or stay wires, keep off fencing of transformers and structure yards on streets, avoid construction of buildings

near electric lines and never go near electric installations to answer nature's call.

It would also be pertinent never to use a water extinguisher in case of a fire, but use sand and blankets. In case of an electricity leak or short-circuit, people are advised to immediately switch off the mains and inform the TNEB office.

In case of lightning and thunder, consumers are advised to take shelter inside a large building or inside any metal-topped shelter like a bus or car. Taking shelter under isolated large trees is not advisable, instead stay in a low spot away from tents, trees and huts.

Use of electric appliances like mobile phones during lightning and thunder is likely to be disastrous.



## SHORT TAKES

## HATHRAS: COPS DEPLOYED FOR FAMILY SECURITY

Hathras, Oct. 9: 60 security personnel have been deployed and eight closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed at the house of a Dalit woman, who was allegedly gangraped and killed, in her village in Bulgarhi area here to ensure the safety of her family members, police said on Friday.

DIG Shalabh Mathur, who has been sent to Hathras from Lucknow as a nodal officer, said that if needed a control room will also be established there.

“60 personnel, including women, have been deployed on 12 hours shifts for the security of the victim’s family. A gazetted officer will also be deployed to monitor these personnel. With the help of CCTV cameras, the house of the victim will be monitored round-the-clock,” he said.

Hathras superintendent of police Vineet Jaiswal said that a register of visitors is being maintained by policemen at the entry of the house.

Two security personnel have been provided to each family member and witness for their personal security, Mr Jaiswal said.

## ASSAM TO CLOSE DOWN GOVT-RUN MADRASAS

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, OCT. 9

After dissolving the State Madrasa Education Board in 2018, Assam education minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Friday announced that the state government is going to close down all government-run madrasas.

Stating that they can’t allow religious education with public money, the minister said that a notification to this effect would be issued next month.

In February, Sarma had announced that the government has decided to close down not just government-run madrasas but also government-run Sanskrit ‘tols’. Asserting that religious teachings cannot be carried out with government funds in a secular country the minister said, “No religious educational institutes will be allowed to function with government funds. We will bring out a notification in November to this effect.”

## BHIMA-KOREGAON: STAN SWAMY ARRESTED

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 9

The NIA on Friday filed a charge-sheet against eight people, including activists Gautam Navlakha and 82-year-old Father Stan Swamy, for their alleged involvement in inciting a mob to violence at Bhima-Koregaon.

The NIA arrested Swamy on Thursday from his home in Ranchi, brought him to Mumbai and produced him before a court which remanded him to judicial custody till October 23. The agency filed the second supplementary charge sheet when Swamy was produced before the court. Since the beginning Swamy has claimed that he has never been to Bhima-Koregaon. Those who have been chargesheeted include Fr Swamy (83), Prof Anand Teltumbde (70), Gautam Navlakha (67), Prof Hany Babu (54), members of cultural group Kabir Kala Manch — Sagar Gorkhe (32), Ramesh Gaichor (38) and Jyoti Jagtap.

## RAJ PRIEST SET ON FIRE BY LAND GRABBERS, DIES

Jaipur, Oct. 9: A priest died after being set on fire allegedly by five people who wanted to encroach on temple land in Rajasthan’s Karauli district, police said on Friday.

The five accused allegedly poured petrol on Babu Lal Vaishnav and set him on fire in Bukna village on Wednesday. He was referred to the SMS hospital in Jaipur in a critical condition. Vaishnav succumbed to injuries on Thursday night.

Two accused have been rounded up and are being interrogated, SP, Karauli, Mridul Kachhawa, said.

Police said the accused wanted to encroach upon the land of the temple. A case of attempt to murder was registered on Thursday and now it will be converted into a murder case after the death of the priest, the SP said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tribute to Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Ram Vilas Paswan after his demise on Thursday evening, at his Janpath residence in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

## JD(U) list bears stamp of Nitish’s social engineering

Nitish has made a sagacious attempt to consolidate his EBC support base

Patna, Oct. 9: The list of JD(U) candidates for the Bihar Assembly elections bears the unmistakable stamp of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has made a sagacious attempt to consolidate his extremely backward castes (EBC) support base while trying to make a dent into RJD’s Muslim-Yadav combine.

In accordance with the seat-sharing formula for the 243-member Assembly, the JD(U) has got 122 seats but is contesting only 115, leaving the remaining seven for the Hindustani Awam Morcha of former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, who is back in the NDA.

The EBCs, numerically large but disorganised, have found a pride of place in the list, with 19 candidates drawn from this social segment, nurtured over the years by Kumar as a bulwark against the RJD.

Kumar, as part of his social engineering, zealously courted them through welfare measures like sub-quotas for them in government jobs in an attempt to make inroads into RJD supremo Lalu Prasad’s once solid OBC support base. For years the OBCs had almost voted for the RJD en bloc before Kumar parted ways with the

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday granted bail to RJD chief Lalu Yadav in a fodder scam case involving the illegal withdrawal of funds from the Chaibasa treasury. The case pertains to fraudulent withdrawal of ₹33.67 crore from Chaibasa treasury in Jharkhand during 1992-93 when he was the chief minister of undivided Bihar.

While granting bail, the court asked him to submit two personal bonds of ₹50,000 each and deposit ₹2 lakh. According to

Yadav chieftain.

Even more conspicuous is the candidature of 19 Yadavs, numerically the largest caste group in Bihar who have, by and large, stood rock solid behind the RJD.

Yadav candidates like sitting MLAs Bijendra Prasad Yadav and Poonam Yadav are old JD(U) hands.

However, new entrants

Lalu Yadav’s counsel “the bail was granted after he completed half of the punishment of five years in the particular case”.

They, however, added that “Lalu Yadav will remain in prison as he has been convicted in other fodder scam cases”. Sources said that the court on Friday heard only the petition related to Chaibasa treasury while another case related to Dumka treasury is to come up for hearing on November 9.

Lalu Yadav has been languishing in jail since December 2017. He was shifted to Rajendra Institute of Medical

Sciences (RIMS) Ranchi in March 2018 after his health condition deteriorated. However, recently he was shifted to Kelly bungalow on the hospital premises due to Covid-19. The court’s verdict has come as a huge relief for the RJD ahead of Assembly elections scheduled to begin from October 28. Talking to reporters in Patna RJD spokesperson Shakti Yadav said that, “the party has welcomed the court’s verdict and hopes to see him out of jail soon. Lalu Yadav is a mass leader and always raised his voice for poor and deprived”.

returning to the NDA.

Roy, who has been fielded from his pocket borough Parsa, is the father of Aishwarya Roy, who got married to the RJD supremo’s elder son Tej Pratap Yadav in 2018 but was abandoned by her husband barely six months after tying the knot.

Jaivardhan, who won Paliganj for the RJD in

2015, walked into the JD(U) camp a couple of months ago. His exit seems to have made things too hot to handle for the RJD which has handed over Paliganj to the CPI(ML) as part of a hurriedly cobbled alliance.

Jaivardhan Yadav is the grandson of Congress veteran late Ram Lakhman Singh Yadav, a former union minister and the most formidable Yadav leader in Bihar of the pre-Mandal era.

With 18 Yadav and 11 Muslim nominees, the JD(U) also seems to have sought to make a dent into the RJDs famed MY combination, the bedrock of the party’s support base.

The candidature of 12 Kurmis, who are numerically small, is hardly surprising. The community takes pride in the fact that the chief minister is from amongst them. Of strategic importance, though, is party tickets to 15 Kushwahas, numerically the largest among OBCs after the Yadavs. Kurmis and Koeris, the caste name by which Kushwahas are more popularly known, have been seen as political comrades in arms. Their camaraderie have earned them the sobriquet Luv-Kush in the political parlance of Bihar. — PTI

## Face recognition app helps UP boy return to family

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 9

A family in Uttar Pradesh’s Handia was reunited with their lost child on Friday, thanks to the Telangana police’s special facial recognition software called Darpan.

The 13-year-old boy went missing five years ago and was traced to a child welfare centre in Assam’s Goalpara.

The Telangana state police, upon identifying the child, informed the station house officer of the Handia police station, who then informed the parents of the missing child. They immediately rushed to the child welfare centre and identified him.

Swati Lakra, additional DGP (Women’s safety), Telangana state police, told Deccan Chronicle that the boy, Som Soni, was missing from his home since July 14, 2015. A case of a missing person was registered at the local police station. A few days later, on July 23, the boy was spotted roaming around by the Goalpara

police who admitted him into a local child welfare centre.

Explaining the role of the Darpan software in bringing back the child, Lakra said, “We collect photographs of missing children from FIRs registered across the country and from CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems), and we get photographs of traced children from the track the child portal (<https://trackthemissingchild.gov.in/trackchild/index.php>), from child care institutions across the country and the women and child welfare department. The software runs and matches missing and traced children. The speciality of this software is that even if the child is traced 50 years later, the matrix of the face matches it to the photograph in the system.”

The Telangana state police are trying to get as much data as possible now so that as more missing children across India can be traced and brought back to their families, said Lakra.

## Covid-19 doubling time increases to 41 days

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 9

The doubling time of the SARS CoV-2 virus, that causes Covid-19, has increased to 41 days from 15 days recorded in June. The active cases are 8,94,084, which is about a third of the 25,90,832 cases in the US.

With more than 10 lakh tests being carried out in the country, control of the infection’s spread is possible as more people are getting quarantined for asymptomatic cases, opting for home treatment in mild cases and approaching hospitals in case of severe infection.

The bending of the curve in India will mean that the cases in the world will also decline. Researchers from the department of mathematics of the Assam Royal Global University have compared the data of September and October of India, US and the world and found that the global situation is improving. India’s reduction in new cases will mark the retardation of cases globally.

This retardation phase is expected speed up as doubling time increases

but presently it is still in the exponential phase. Increases in new cases had been observed from August 28 when 76,665 new cases were recorded. September saw a major high with more than 90,000 days being recorded in 12 days. Since then, the number of daily cases is falling.

Meanwhile the Union health ministry on Friday said India registered 8.93 lakh active cases on Friday after registering 8.97 lakh on September 9. India had 69.06 lakh cases out of which 70,496 were detected in the last 24 hours.

**K’taka tally crosses 10K:** Karnataka on Friday recorded 10,913 new cases of Covid-19, the third consecutive day that the state has reported over 10,000 new infections. With this, the state’s cumulative tally is 6,90,269. The state also saw 114 related fatalities, and the death toll to 9,789, the health department said. The day also saw 9,091 patients getting discharged. Of the new cases, Bengaluru urban alone accounted for 5009 cases.

**Kerala numbers spurt again:** Kerala on Friday

reported 9,250 new cases of Covid 19 even as 8084 persons recovered from the disease, the highest single day recovery so far in the state. The state reported 25 deaths taking the official death toll to 955. At present 2.73 lakh persons are under surveillance across the state of which 2.45 lakh are under quarantine.

**Telangana reports 1,891 new cases:** There were 1,891 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday, taking the total to 2,08,535 in the state, according to the state health department bulletin. Seven deaths were recorded, and the toll stands at 1,208.

The number of active cases is 26,374 and 21,801 are undergoing treatment at home.

**5,145 cases in AP:** Corona positive cases continued their decreasing trend on Friday in AP with 5,145 instances of virus reported as against the earlier average of 10,000 cases per day.

(With inputs from New Delhi, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad and Vijawada bureaus)

## Mumbai Police summons CFO of Republic TV

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS MUMBAI, OCT. 9

Continuing with the investigation into the alleged manipulation of the Television Rating Points (TRP), the Mumbai on Friday issued a summons to Republic TV’s chief financial officer (CFO).

An official of the Mumbai police said Shiva Subramaniyam Sundaram, CFO of Republic TV, was asked to join the investigation on Saturday by around 11 am. The police has also summoned accountants of Marathi channels ‘Fakt Marathi’ and ‘Box Cinema’ and those of a couple of advertising agencies, the official said.

Milind Bharambe, joint commissioner of police (Crime), confirmed that Republic TV’s CFO has been called.

The summons to Mr Sundaram said there are reasonable grounds to believe that he is “acquainted with certain facts and circumstances of the matter and the same are required to be ascertained”. The police is likely to carry out a forensic audit of the channel’s accounts.

The crime intelligence unit (CIU) of Mumbai crime branch is investigating the fake TRP racket.

On Thursday, the police arrested four persons

● The police is likely to carry out a forensic audit of the Republic TV’s accounts.

● The channel has denied the allegation of rigging the TRP ratings.

including owners of ‘Fakt Marathi’ and ‘Box Cinema’ in the case.

Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh claimed that three channels including Republic TV manipulated the TRP.

The racket came to light when BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council), an organisation which measures TRP, filed a complaint in this regard through Hansa Research Group Pvt Ltd, the police said.

The police is likely to ask for a freeze on the accounts of Republic TV and the others if it is established that rigged ratings have helped them make advertising money.

Republic TV has, on its part, denied the allegation of rigging the TRP ratings and charged the Mumbai Police with vendetta because it questioned its investigation into actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s death. The channel alleged that its reports critical of the state’s Shiv Sena-led coalition government were also behind the crackdown.

## Rahul hits out at Modi over wind turbines suggestion

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his suggestion that wind turbines can be used to generate clean drinking water, oxygen and energy, evoking sharp reactions from BJP leaders who said he needs to read scientific papers.

Gandhi tweeted, “The real danger to India isn’t that our PM doesn’t understand. It’s the fact that nobody around him has the guts to tell him,” he also posted a video of the Prime Minister’s views on wind turbines expressed a few days ago during an interaction with Henrik Andersen, head of Danish wind turbine-maker Vestas.

In the video, the Prime Minister is heard saying that if wind turbines could collect moisture from air, besides producing power, it could help tackle drinking water shortage.

Modi said, “The other suggestion I have is that we can separate oxygen from the air using this same tur-

bine...If this can be done, one wind turbine can then provide drinking water, oxygen, and energy...Can your scientists do something to innovate in that direction?”

Hitting back at Gandhi, Union minister Piyush Goyal said, “Nobody around Rahul Gandhi has the guts to tell him that he doesn’t understand. He mocks Narendra Modi’s ideas when the CEO of the world’s leading company endorses them.”

He also tagged a news report with his tweet that says wind turbines create water from thin air.

Textile minister Smriti Irani also took on Gandhi on Twitter, referring to him as ‘Yuvraj’, and saying that he was ignorant and doesn’t understand.

She tweeted, “They say ignorance is bliss, but rarely in Indian politics has an individual made a conscious effort to sustain his ignorance. It seems the real danger to the Congress flourishes unabashedly and no one seems to have the guts to tell the Yuvraj otherwise”.

## 25 civilians killed in kangaroo court, say Maoists

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 9

Maoists have owned up the responsibility of killing 25 people, executed in their kangaroo court, in Chhattisgarh’s south Bastar district of Bijapur in the last one month.

A press release issued by Dandakaranya special zonal committee of outlawed CPI (Maoist) said the 25 people were executed after being convicted in the ‘jan adalat’ or kangaroo court of Maoists, for spying for police and sabotaging the Naxal movement.

The press release was signed by the spokesman of the Dandakaranya special zonal committee under his Maoist name, Vikalpa.

Of those executed in the kangaroo court, 12 were ‘gopaniya sainiks’ or secret soldiers, appointed unofficially by Chhattisgarh police, five

● OF THOSE executed in the kangaroo court, 12 were ‘gopaniya sainiks’ or secret soldiers, appointed unofficially by Chhattisgarh police, five

were saboteurs of the Maoist movement, and eight were police informers, the release said.

The press release said the divisional committee member and in-charge of Gangaloor area committee of Maoists Vijja Modium alias Badru was killed after being convicted by ‘jan adalat’ for spying for police.

Chhattisgarh police had earlier claimed that Badru, carrying a bounty of ₹8 lakh on his head was killed in fratricidal killing among Naxal cadres on October 1 over killing of civilians in Bijapur district by Maoists.



## IN BRIEF

## Japan gears up for typhoon

**Tokyo:** A slow-moving typhoon off Japan's southern coast has triggered gusts and rain across a large part of the country and could bring heavy rains to the Tokyo region early next week, though it was not expected to make landfall, officials said on Friday. Disaster officials, nevertheless, urged residents to take precautions early. Typhoon Chan-hom was south of Japan's Shikoku island on Friday afternoon with maximum winds of 126 kilometres (78 miles) per hour, the Meteorological Agency said. The agency said Chan-hom took a route farther from the Japanese coast than expected and was not expected to make a landfall.

## Another hurricane to hit Louisiana

**Abbeville:** Boarded windows and empty sidewalks made parts of Louisiana's Acadiana region look like empty movie sets as major Hurricane Delta roared ever closer to the US Gulf coast, apparently on track to smash into the same southwestern part of the state where Hurricane Laura blasted ashore six weeks ago. Forecasters said Delta — the 25th named storm of an unprecedented Atlantic hurricane season — would likely crash ashore on Friday evening somewhere on southwest Louisiana's coast. The question was whether it would remain at devastating Category 3 strength or drop just before landfall to a still extremely dangerous Category 2 storm — with winds falling below 110 miles per hour (177 kph).

## Venezuelans flee on foot as troubles rise

**Pamplona:** Eleazar Hernández slept on a sidewalk amid a light drizzle, temperatures that dipped close to freezing and the roar of passing trucks. The 23-year-old Venezuelan migrant was trying to make it to the Colombian city of Medellín with his wife, who is seven months pregnant. But the couple had run out of money for transportation by the time they reached Pamplona, a small mountain town over 300 miles (482 km) away from their final destination. Unable to buy a bus ticket, Hernández pinned his hopes on catching a ride on the back of a truck. It was the safest way to cross the Paramo de Berlin, a freezing plateau located at 13,000 feet (4,000 meters). "My wife can barely walk," said Hernández, who had spent four days sleeping on Pamplona's sidewalks. "We need transport to get us out of here." After months of Covid-19 lockdowns that halted one of the world's biggest migration movements in recent years, Venezuelans are once again fleeing their nation's economic and humanitarian crisis.

## ANTIBODIES FOUND IN BLOOD, SALIVA OF COVID PATIENTS

**Boston, Oct. 9:** Scientists, including one of Indian-origin, have documented the persistence of antibodies that target the Coronavirus in the blood and saliva of patients with Covid-19 at least three months after symptom onset, a finding that may lead to alternative methods of testing for the viral infection.

The study, published in the journal Science, points to the IgG class of antibodies as the longest-lasting antibodies detectable in the patients during this time frame, and may serve as promising targets to detect and evaluate immune responses against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. According to the researchers, including those from the Harvard Medical School in the US, these antibodies could be detected at similar levels in both blood and saliva, suggesting that saliva could be used as an alternative biofluid for antibody testing. In the research, Anita Iyer and her team measured antibody responses in the blood of 343 patients with Covid-19 for up to 122 days after symptom onset, and compared these responses to those of 1,548 control individuals sampled before the pandemic.

The scientists focused only on antibodies specific to the receptor binding domain of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein which it uses to enter host cells. They estimated sensitivities of the antibody types IgG, IgA, and IgM at 95 per cent, 90 per cent and 81 per cent, respectively, for detecting infected individuals between 15 to 28 weeks after symptom onset.

## RIVALS RALLY IN KYRGYZSTAN AS PRESIDENT AGREES TO QUIT

**Bishkek:** Thousands were out in the streets of Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek on Friday as rival factions made grabs for power and embattled pro-Russian President Sooronbay Jeenbekov said he was ready to resign to end days of post-election chaos.

There has been little evidence of central government in Bishkek since a parliamentary vote in the ex-Soviet republic on Sunday sparked protests that morphed into violent unrest.

One person has been killed and more than a thousand injured in the violence. On Friday Jeenbekov signed off on the resignation of the government in place before the election, which opposition parties say was rigged by massive vote-buying in favour of parties close to the president. — *AFP*

## PAK BANS TIKTOK CITING 'IMMORAL' CONTENT ON APP

**Islamabad, Oct. 9:** Pakistan's telecom watchdog on Friday banned the popular Chinese video-sharing app TikTok after getting numerous complaints against its "immoral" content.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said in a statement that a "number of complaints from different segments of the society" were made "against immoral/indecent content" on TikTok.

The regulator took the step after a "final notice" was given to TikTok to comply with the instructions for development of an effective mechanism for a proactive moderation of its unlawful online contents, it said. — *PTI*

## CHINA JOINS COVAX PACT FOR GLOBAL SUPPLY OF VIRUS VACCINES

**Beijing, Oct. 9:** China has officially joined the World Health Organisation's (WHO) COVAX alliance to equitably distribute Covid-19 vaccines around the globe, ending speculation that it plans to supply them on its own to developing countries to improve its image since it emerged in Wuhan in December last year.

According to the WHO, countries should join the Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) by September 18 but not later than October 9 with upfront payments.

"On October 8, China and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, signed an agreement, officially joining COVAX," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a statement on Friday.

"This is an important step China has taken to uphold the concept of a shared community of health for all and to honour its commitment to turn Covid-19 vaccines into a global public good," she said, apparently refuting reports that China plans to distribute the vaccines to developing countries on its own ahead of developed countries. — *PTI*

## Germany empties squatters



A policeman stands inside the squatted building at Liebig Street 34 after the eviction of squatters in the east Berlin neighbourhood of Friedrichshain on Friday. — *AFP*

## UN World Food Programme wins Nobel Prize for Peace

**Rome, Oct. 9:** The United Nations' World Food Programme won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for its efforts to fight hunger in regions of conflict and hardship around the globe. From air-dropping food in South Sudan to creating an emergency delivery service to keep aid flowing despite Coronavirus travel restrictions, the Rome-based organisation has long specialised in getting assistance to some of the world's most dangerous and precarious places.

It provided assistance to almost 100 million people in 88 countries last year.

● **IT PROVIDED assistance to almost 100 million people in 88 countries last year.**

"With this year's award, the (committee) wishes to turn the eyes of the world to the millions of people who suffer from or face the threat of hunger," said Berit Reiss-Andersen, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, announcing the award in Oslo. "The World Food Programme plays a key role in multilateral cooperation on making food security an instrument of peace."

The head of the organi-

sation said his entire team deserved the award. "I know I'm not deserving of an award like this, but all the men and women around the world in the World Food Programme and our partners who put their lives on the line every day," David Beasley said.

Beasley said he found out about the award from a WFP media officer. The organisation has long been headed by an American, and US President Donald Trump nominated the former Republican governor of South Carolina for the post in 2017. — *AP*

## FB deletes fake profiles backing Trump

**Menlo Park (US), Oct. 9:** Facebook has removed 276 accounts that used fake profiles to pose as right-leaning Americans and comment on news articles, often in favour of President Donald Trump, the company announced on Thursday. The platform also permanently banned an Arizona-based digital communications firm that it said was behind the fake accounts.

The move was prompted by reporting last month in The Washington Post that a

pro-Trump group known as Turning Point Action was paying teenagers to post coordinated, supportive messages, a violation of Facebook's rules.

Facebook and Twitter have been regularly removing fake accounts — both domestic and foreign — that try to insert themselves in the US political discourse and influence the election. But social media companies face broader threats around misinformation and voter suppression that at times come

from President Donald Trump himself. The latest network Facebook removed became active before the 2018 midterm elections and went dormant until June, when the accounts began posting on topics including the Coronavirus pandemic, criticism of the Democratic Party and its nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, as well as praise for Trump and other Republicans.

"So sick of democrats continuing to make republicans look bad! It makes me tired of politics and I just believe Republicans are much more humble when it comes to money because Democrats will do anything to screw over Americans," read one post Facebook cited as an example.

Individuals behind the accounts used stock photos to create fake profiles, many of which were removed by Facebook's automated detection software. Facebook determined that the accounts were being coordinated by

Rally Forge, an Arizona-based firm. "Although the people behind this network attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation linked this activity to Rally Forge," Facebook said.

While Facebook's investigation cited Rally Forge's work for Turning Point USA, the work was actually performed on behalf of Turning Point Action, an independent political action committee, according to a statement from the organisation. — *AP*

## Biden slams Don over remarks on Harris

**Washington, Oct. 9:** Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has described President Donald Trump's remarks about Kamala Harris after a debate between her and Vice President Mike Pence as "despicable" and "beneath the office of the presidency".

Pence and Biden's running mate Harris came face to face in the vice presidential debate on Wednesday, which saw sparring over Trump's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, jobs,

China, racial tensions and climate change. Trump and Biden have separately lauded their deputies. In an interview on Thursday, Trump hit out at Harris saying, if Biden wins the November 3 US Elections, Harris will take over as president in a month's time. "She is a communist. She's not a socialist. She's well beyond a socialist. Take a look at her views. She wants to open up the borders to allow killers and murderers and rapists to pour into our country," he said.

Hours later, Biden hit out Trump for his remarks, saying the American people are sick and tired of it. "It's despicable, so beneath the office of the presidency and the American people are sick and tired of it. They know who this man is, it's got to stop," Biden said in the battle ground of State of Arizona with Harris by his side.

"This (Harris) is a person who is ready on day one to be president of the United States of America. This is a person who has more

integrity in her little finger than most people have in their whole body... He (Trump) has great difficulty dealing with strong women," the Democratic presidential candidate said. "You did a great job," he told Harris.

Responding to a query, Biden said there is no place for hate in America. "Both of us have been talking about this for some time, about how white supremacists and these militias are a genuine threat," he said. — *PTI*

## PANDEMIC | DEFYING

**Government data says more than 45% of population took inter-country trips**

## 637mn Chinese travel on Golden Week holiday

**Hong Kong, Oct. 9:** Some 637 million Chinese tourists took domestic trips during the eight-day Golden Week holiday, spending the equivalent of tens of billions of dollars at a time when China is seeking to boost consumer spending to stimulate the economy.

The holiday, which began on October 1, saw more than 45% of China's population take trips within the country and spend 466.6 billion yuan (\$69.5 billion), according to data from China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. That marked a decline of 21% for domestic tourists from last year's Golden Week and a 30% decline for spending. Still the numbers show consumption is beginning to bounce back following the

● **THE GOLDEN Week tourism and spending figures indicated domestic consumption was recovering well, especially as consumers engaged in "revenge buying".**

battering it took earlier in the year from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Travel within the country, and sometimes even within cities, was restricted beginning with the Lunar New Year in January as China fought the spread of the Coronavirus that emerged in the central city of Wuhan. During the five-day Labour Day holiday in May, domestic tourism revenue was down nearly 60% from the previous year.

"Chinese consumer confi-

dence has been significantly recovered due to the proper control of pandemic, government pro-consumption policies and stimulus and faster than expected resumption of business activities," said Jennifer Ye, PwC's China consumer markets leader. The Golden Week tourism and spending figures indicated domestic consumption was recovering well, especially as consumers engaged in "revenge buying" to make up for the previous months when they were unable to travel, she said.

With many Chinese tourists unable to travel abroad due to global travel restrictions, those who previously travelled to Hong Kong and South Korea for duty-free shopping turned

## Bid to kidnap Michigan Gov.

**13 charged in plotting abduction, says police**

**Detroit, Oct. 9:** Agents foiled a stunning plot to kidnap Michigan Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, authorities said on Thursday in announcing charges in an alleged scheme that involved months of planning and even rehearsals to snatch Whitmer from her vacation home.

Six men were charged in federal court with conspiring to kidnap the governor in reaction to what they viewed as her "uncontrolled power," according to a federal complaint. Separately, seven others were charged under the state's anti-terrorism laws for allegedly targeting police and the state Capitol.

"All of us in Michigan can disagree about politics, but those disagreements should never, ever amount to violence. Violence has been prevented today," Detroit U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider said.

The six men charged in federal court plotted for months, consulting and training with members of a group that federal authorities described as a militia, and undertaking rehearsals in August and September, according to an FBI affidavit. They were arrested on Wednesday night and face up to life in prison if convicted. Four planned to meet on Wednesday to "make a payment on explosives and exchange tactical gear," the FBI said in the court filing.

The FBI quoted one of the accused as saying Whitmer "has no checks and balances at all. She has uncontrolled power right now. All good things must come to an end." Andrew Birge, the U.S. attorney in western Michigan, called them "violent extremists." — *AP*

## Amid Covid, Trump plans rally in Florida

**Washington, Oct. 9:** Donald Trump, who is still recovering from Covid-19, has suggested he might organise a rally in Florida on Saturday, while continuing to ignore questions on whether he has yet tested negative for the disease.

On Thursday night, Trump said: "I think I'm going to try doing a rally on Saturday night if we can, if we have enough time to put it together."

"But we want to do a rally in Florida, probably in Florida on Saturday night, might come back and do one in Pennsylvania, on the following night."

At least one Trump rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has been linked by a local health official to a spike in Coronavirus cases. Most supporters at recent Trump events have eschewed masks and social distancing measures to slow the spread of disease. On asking whether he had yet to test negative for Coronavirus — or whether he had been tested at all since his positive test last week — the president did not directly respond, instead touting the experimental drugs he had been treated with. He said he would be likely be tested on Friday. — *Agencies*

## Pelosi doubts Trump's fitness to serve nation

**Washington, Oct. 9:** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is questioning President Donald Trump's fitness to serve, announcing legislation on Thursday that would create a commission to allow Congress to intervene under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution and remove the president from executive duties.

Just weeks before the November 3 election, Pelosi said Trump needs to disclose more about his health after his Covid-19 diagnosis. She noted Trump's "strange tweet" halting talks on a new Coronavirus aid package — he subsequently tried to reverse course — and said Americans need to know

when, exactly, he first contracted Covid as others in the White House became infected.

On Friday, she plans to roll out the legislation that would launch the commission for review. "The public needs to know the health condition of the president," Pelosi said, later invoking the 25th Amendment, which allows a president's cabinet or Congress to intervene when a president is unable to conduct the duties of the office. Trump responded swiftly via Twitter: "Crazy Nancy is the one who should be under observation. They don't call her Crazy for nothing!" the president said. — *AP*

## US military not informed about leaving Afghan

**Washington, Oct. 9:** The US military was blindsided on Thursday by President Donald Trump's assertion that all US troops will be out of Afghanistan by the end of the year, with US officials saying they are not aware of such a plan and have gotten no actual order to accelerate the more gradual pullout they've been executing.

Trump's comments, laid out in a confusing progression of comments and a tweet, alarmed Pentagon and State officials who fear that putting a definitive date on troop withdrawal could undercut negotiations to finalise a peace deal between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

They also fear a hasty withdrawal could force the US to leave behind sensitive military equipment. And they continue to stress that the Taliban has still not met requirements to reduce

violence against the Afghans, a key element of the US withdrawal plan. The Taliban welcomed Trump's announcements, which started with a tweet on Wednesday saying "we should have the small remaining number of our BRAVE Men and Women serving in Afghanistan home by Christmas". He reinforced early withdrawal plans on Thursday morning, in an interview that understated the number of troops currently in Afghanistan.

"We're down to 4,000 troops in Afghanistan. I'll have them home by the end of the year. They're coming home, you know, as we speak. Nineteen years is enough. They're acting as policemen, OK? They're not acting as troops," Trump said.

Multiple US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they know of no plan for either new deadline. — *AP*

## China denies Covid originated in Wuhan

**Beijing, Oct. 9:** China on Friday claimed that the coronavirus broke out in the various parts of the world last year but it was the only one to have reported and acted first, refuting the widely-held view that the deadly contagion originated in Wuhan before turning out to be a pandemic.

China, besides denying the US allegations that Covid-19 has emerged from a bio-lab in Wuhan, also rejected that it emanated from a wet market in the central Chinese city

from bats or pangolins before infecting humans.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said that "the Coronavirus is a new kind of virus as more and more facts emerge as reports reveal, we all know that the epidemic broke out in various places in the world at the end of last year, while China was the first to report the outbreak, identified the pathogen and shared the genome sequence with the world." — *PTI*



# DECCAN Chronicle

10 OCTOBER 2020

## Second wave ahead; go easy on festivals

The government's decision to roll out a massive awareness campaign on containing the spread of Covid-19 ahead of the festival season, which will also see an election to the Bihar Assembly, is a welcome move. The focus of the campaign is not a new formula, rather the old one that all agencies including the World Health Organisation, have been advocating: wearing masks in public places, social distancing and hand hygiene. The government will use all media avenues, including social media, to spread the message.

India is second only to the United States in the total Covid-19 caseload and the daily spike in numbers these days vary anywhere between 70,000 and 90,000. The southern states, which in the initial days of the pandemic showed signs of resistance, have given in: Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have reported daily caseloads of 10,000 and above this week. There are experts who predict the numbers will see a further surge in the next two months, which is also the festival season in many states. There has been criticism that the government planned poorly during the national lockdown and no effective steps were taken nor massive awareness campaigns launched to contain the spread of the virus. Little effort was made to augment the healthcare infrastructure in the country, especially in the villages that have of late been bearing the brunt of the pandemic.

After four editions of the lockdown the government has been relaxing the controls that had been imposed on human and economic activity. Inter-state movement of people and vehicles, which was strictly banned during lockdown, has already been restored to the pre-lockdown days. Schools and educational institutions are on their way to return to normal functioning, albeit with precautionary measures. Recreational centres, including cinema halls are also being opened.

With the government allowing places of worship to function, the next weeks will see devotees flocking to their favourite pilgrim centres for celebrating their annual festivals. There have been indications that Kerala saw a sudden spurt in infection after Onam, the universal festival of the people of the state. If that is an indication, then the festivals across India could turn out to be super spreader events and only a massive campaign can help the country escape another disastrous bout of virus spread.

Elections to the Bihar Assembly are scheduled to be held in November. The Election Commission of India has announced restrictions on the campaigning but an effective implementation of the same must be ensured in the state, which is one of the states hit hard by the pandemic.

Experts say that the national lockdown has only postponed the peaking of the pandemic and predict that there will be a shortage of isolation beds, ventilators and intensive care units by the second week of November. The state governments and the health workers, the frontline warriors against the pandemic, are a fatigued lot, and the Union government should also design ways to strengthen them. It will only add to the impact of the awareness campaign.

## Paswan's supple politics

Ram Vilas Paswan, who passed away following serious health complications on Thursday at the age of 74, is likely to be remembered for his long innings as a Union minister in governments of many hues. His identity as a Lohia socialist, with which he embarked on his political journey as a young man, as well as his identity as one born in a dalit sub-caste of Bihar, were submerged along the way.

But he fell back on the dalit factor to negotiate his way through the thicket of Bihar and national politics and to retain a place in the council of ministers of many Prime Ministers, cutting across party and ideological lines.

Unlike in some other states, the emergence of dalit political consciousness remained relatively weak in Bihar. It did not yield a vibrant political platform woven around that fundamental idea, as exemplified by Kanshi Ram and Mayawati in the case of Uttar Pradesh. Mr Paswan was not one to put his shoulder to the wheel.

The late leader of Bihar's Passi community had resigned his Cabinet position in the Atal Behari Vajpayee government to protest the communal carnage of 2002 in Gujarat, where the government was of the BJP, the PM's own party. The then state chief minister, Narendra Modi, came close to be sacked at the PM's instance. Subsequently, the senior Bihar politician showed enough suppleness to join the Cabinet of PM Modi.

When he first came to Parliament in 1977 on the Janata Party ticket, the young Lohiaite made an impression right away with his fine debating skills and careful preparation on the subjects he spoke on. That is an attitude legislators can emulate with profit.

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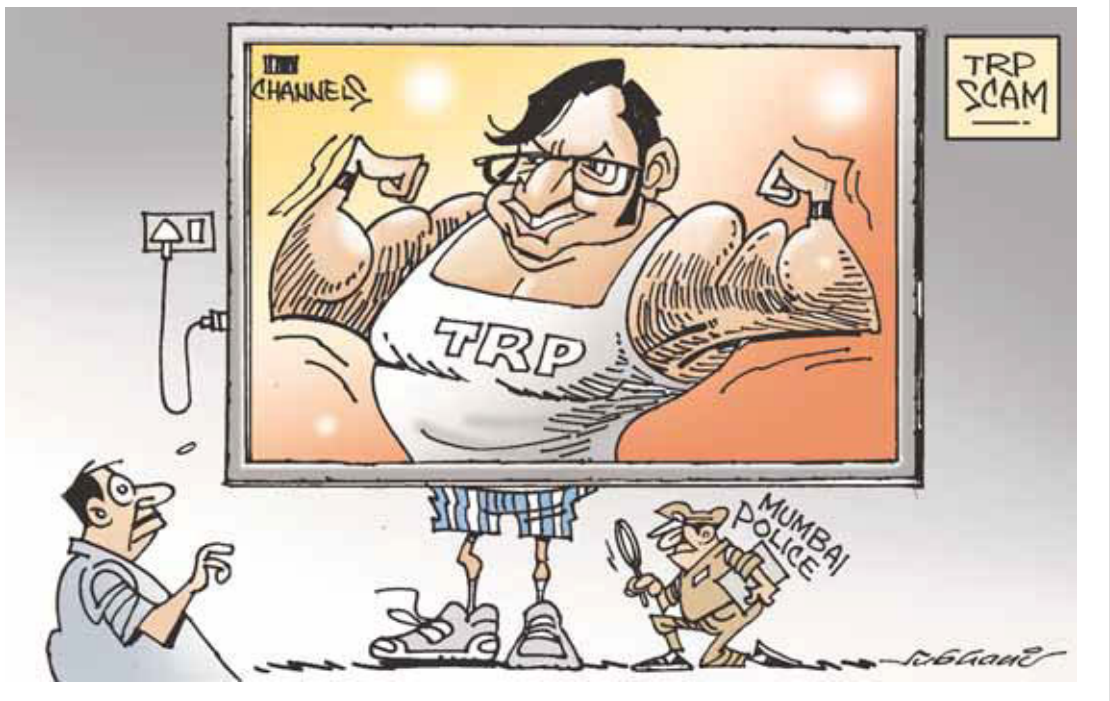
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Subhani



## India's new optics for post-US Afghanistan

Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

Using the just-ended visit of Dr Abdullah Abdullah, the senior Afghan politician who is now the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, India appears to have done its own signalling to the Afghan government, the various Afghan factions including the Taliban, and to the region at large.

Evidently, arranging the optics was deemed important since this was Dr Abdullah's first visit to New Delhi in his present capacity in which he guides Afghanistan's conversation with the Taliban (and its backer Pakistan) in all its multi-hued complexity in the Qatari capital of Doha.

As for timing, the visit took place within days of the inauguration of the negotiation process between the Afghan government and the Taliban last Saturday, 19 years after the start of the present war in Afghanistan. On this count too, the furtherance of the optics to convey intent, and long-term perspective, has been found useful since the situation and the atmospherics at the talking table, and the Afghan theatre more broadly, are likely to be fluid and carry a clear potential for regression.

The senior Afghan leader was on a briefing visit. New Delhi's well-known stance — and Kabul's just as well-known aspiration in the post-Taliban phase — were therefore reiterated for the record. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also assured the senior Afghan leader that the peace talks in Doha had India's backing. The reiteration was perhaps required in the light of certain elements in Pakistan attempting to establish the impression that India does not want the Doha talks to succeed.

India has for many years underlined the need for any reconciliation talks with the Taliban to be Afghan-owned, Afghan-led and Afghan-controlled. On the ground these conditions are not being fulfilled. It is well known that after many hiccups the talks have eventually reached the starting point, thanks to Washington's pushing, coaxing, and forcing Pakistan to let the Taliban (whom Islamabad has controlled) join meaningful negotiations, and Russia too lending its weight to the incipient process in the expectation of the possibility of peace. For the sake of the record, though, the talks are Afghan-owned in the sense that Kabul won't now disavow the present phase.

India has also sought to emphasise that any outcome acceptable to the Afghans themselves will be acceptable to it. The proviso — naturally — is that Afghanistan should remain independent, sovereign and free from foreign tutelage. Flowing from this is the sub-formulation, more recently explicated, that Afghan soil must not be permitted to be used for any anti-India terrorist activity.

Kabul accepts this readily and Dr Abdullah said so in New Delhi. To be realistic, however, the fulfilment of all, some, or none of the above objectives will depend on the shape the talks take and the texture of the final outcome whose horizon, at this stage, appears indeterminate and unfathomable.

Although the grandiloquently billed peace talks have been inaugurated, the Taliban (in reality Pakistan) have not agreed to a ceasefire or cessation of violence, believing that they will lose leverage if ordinary Afghans were not pushed to the brink and to a stage of total war-exhaustion.

Since the end of February this year, when the United States and the Taliban reached an agreement which adumbrated the peace talks, around 12,000 civilians have been killed in the Afghan violence and 15,000 injured. This week alone, attacks have taken place in 20 out of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. There have been targeted assassinations and high-profile attempts, such as the one on vice-president Amrulla Saleh.

At the political level, some in the country are trying to pre-position themselves to reach a future accommodation with the Taliban (should this be necessary), while some factions are said to be keeping the powder dry for a renewed military flareup. On the broader, more popular plane, the emerging "New Afghanistan", although not armed, is eager to hold on to the gains of democracy secured in the past two decades. This includes women, large sections of the youth and the ethnic minorities. The channelisation of the political conduct of this constituency is yet to be ascertained.

It is in this background that New Delhi has done its signalling, which is of a kind it has not done before, although India and Afghanistan are "strategic" partners (to which Dr Abdullah alluded during his visit). When the senior Afghan figure sat in discussion with national security adviser Ajit Doval on Wednesday, there were also present on the Indian side the Chief of Defence Staff and the Army Chief, besides the diplomacy complement.

The new kind of well-advertised lineup at the discussion on the Indian

The new kind of well-advertised lineup at the discussion on the Indian side appears to semaphoring that India is likely to keep the military dimension of things in full view

side appears to semaphoring that India is likely to keep the military dimension of things in full view as it unrolls its diplomacy, continued development and capacity-building aid, and political goodwill, in the unfolding scenario as dictated by the state of the Doha talks. When a month ago external affairs minister S. Jaishankar virtually addressed the opening ceremony at Doha, it became clear India had gone past its earlier catechism of keeping the Taliban at arm's length and navigating a new path.

This does signify the possible start of a full-spectrum approach in light of the inability of the Taliban or the Afghan security forces to prevail, leading to the current military stalemate. However, Indian diplomacy is typically long on promise. There was no further talk of Balochistan in policy circles after Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to it in his Independence Day speech in 2016, but the Baloch factions, energised by it, found their cadres killed. In order to carry credibility with interlocutors — seen and unseen — the signalling seen this week is apt to need refurbishment.

Dr Abdullah came to New Delhi via Pakistan, where he urged reduction of violence to be taken seriously by the Taliban, and for flexibility to be shown in the Doha negotiations (the Taliban continue to harp on an Islamic "emirate" rather than a "republic").

Last Sunday, President Ashraf Ghani visited Doha, where he met his government's negotiators and the US diplomats (but not the Taliban) and underscored the need for a ceasefire as a continuing war will cost the Afghan people "trillions of dollars" in lost development.

How we approach the Doha talks will be an indicator of how we approach the post-US Afghanistan. While we are legitimate stakeholders, our enlightened self-interest is best served in standing with resolve alongside a genuinely sovereign and democracy-seeking Afghanistan.

## LETTERS

### TRANSFER OF 3 COPS

The three policemen broke service rules when they took snapshots of themselves in front of a Periyar statue on the occasion of his birth anniversary. What is more, one of the policemen posted it as his WhatsApp status image. It is irrelevant if the three policemen were in uniform or on duty at that point in time. According to service rules, government servants can't openly display their predilections for ideologies or party affiliations. They are paid to serve people and remain neutral. Leaders like Thol Thirumavalavan must understand that just because the policemen belong to scheduled castes or backward classes that does not mean that they enjoy the freedom to break service rules.

Kangayam R. Narasimhan, Chennai

### WHY THIS OMISSION?

IT WAS intriguing to note that in the proposed post graduate course in ancient history and archaeology to be started in a Uttarakhand University, the study of Tamil language does not find a place. No historical study and research in India can become full and perfect without the students studying the ancient history and archaeological connect of South India in general and Tamil Nadu in particular. It is really surprising how the study of Tamil could be set aside for any one pursuing PG course in that line. The study of epigraphy and ancient literary works should necessarily be combined with sufficient working knowledge of Tamil. The HRD minister of the government of India should intervene in this regard and set matters right.

R. Advaita Iyer, Coimbatore

### PON'S TALK ON ALLIANCE

**BJP LEADER** Mr Pon Radhakrishnan's statement about a possible BJP-DMK alliance in the 2021 Assembly polls cannot be just laughed away, however much impossible it might seem. In politics it is not very rare to witness history repeating itself. After all, we should not forget the fact that the DMK had supported the Vajpayee led BJP government from 1999 to 2004. The well known quote that there are "no permanent friends or enemies in politics" has been the repeatedly proven and unchanged truth of Indian politics over the years. Till date, neither the DMK nor the AIADMK has officially decided on any alliance partners for the coming elections. Only time will tell if, when and how the political scenario in Tamil Nadu will take its final shape, come election time 2021.

A. Mohan, Chennai

Farruk Dhondy Cabbages & Kings



"I never believed that caterpillars Would fly on sprouted wings Or why poets hearing chirpings Could say the nightingale sings

Or that all the people born Within minutes on the same day Were destined to a certain path Along this Milky way

Or that scattered haphazard stars Make shapes in the night sky So, tell me fellow traveller, Has beauty passed me by?"

— From **The Ruins of Bachchoo** by Bachchoo

The mass protests occasioned by the killing of black citizens by the American police gave a universal and spectacular boost to the Black Lives Matter movement founded several years ago. The current phase of support has had some expected and some unexpected corollaries.

The demonstrations in the US resulted in a battlefield of verbal swordplay — and in this world of Twitters, Instagrammatic jitters and Facebook litters, that's not surprising. Everyone in the world thinks they have some

thing to say which amounts to news or wisdom.

One predictable consequence was that the BBC and national theatrical organisations announced that they would set aside funds and make space to include people of "diverse" origins and proclivities.

An unpredictable consequence was the statement from the supermarket chain Sainsbury who announced its intolerance of racism: "We proudly represent and serve our diverse society, and anyone who does not want to shop with an inclusive retailer is welcome to shop elsewhere." Now Sainsbury is 22 per cent owned by Qatar and a recent UN report said that country practices "structural racial discrimination through a de facto caste system based on national origin". Under this system, European, North American, Australian and Arab nationals "systematically enjoy greater human rights protections than South Asian and sub-Saharan nationalities".

I am the proud holder, gentle reader, of both a British passport and enjoy the status of an Overseas Citizen of my native India. The word "nationality" then is an ambivalent one. Will I enjoy full human rights in Qatar? And would

Barack and Michelle Obama? I shall keep going to Sainsbury, but Qatar? Maybe not.

One of the consequences of the public explosion that was BLM is that people in Britain who were deemed to have had a background of political activity in the cause of justice and progress for the immigrant population are in demand to speak and comment on the media.

For most of my short and happy life, from the late 1960s, gentle reader, I have been, I hope, an energetic (if nothing else) member, first of the Indian Workers' Association of Leicester, then of the British Black Panther Movement and then of the collective Race Today.

I am aware that at the time one subscribed to the ideology and vigorous activity of these organisations, which entailed demonstrating in favour of demands, propaganda and relentless agitation, pamphleteering and making a nuisance of oneself by battling the police and taking the long march through the institutions of Britain to ensure equality and progress, one didn't think of "history". Whew! (*Kamaal hein!* Did you really do all that? — Ed. *Hanh jaar*, read my autobiographical

fiction — fd. *Bathaya na toojhey*, no advertising! — Ed.)

So, the BBC and filmmakers, documentary producers and newspapers and blogwallahs have been turning up by phone or Zoom, or physically with cameras, to ask all the colleagues from those days about the determinations, events and campaigns that we undertook. They now want to call it history, but those who were in it never think it is. Or perhaps people like the Mahatma, or Napoleon or Churchill do.

In this flurry of enquiry and interviews, apart from recounting the "history" of campaigns and exploits, I've been repeatedly asked what one should make of the Black Lives Matter movement. Despite meetings with their organisers and asking them very specific questions, I still don't know that they are an organisation with a structure, a membership, clear aims and staying power. What one can see is that the upheaval they have caused, perhaps with the resources of the social media at their disposal, brings to the fore a singular fact.

America is a nation with roughly two parallel "histories", or more accurately two distinct experiences of that single history. The Africans were brought to

America as slaves and have that cruel past, however hard they had fought against it. The white nation, consisting of the descendants of refugees from European persecution and the "wretched of the earth" in search of liberty, have the inheritance, however problematic, of the master race. If the BLM movement did a single thing, it pointed to this history and made the world see that a very substantial section of the contemporary American population, black and white, want to leave this divided history as just that. A new dawn?

So too in Britain, where the new communities carry with them the histories of colonialism. Immigrants from South Asia, the Caribbean and Africa were not brought or allowed into Britain to regale it with Carnival or to feed it tandoori chicken. They came as cheap labour for the sectors of the economy abandoned by the white working class. As such, they brought with them the history of oppression and fought in several ways over the past six decades for social and political equality. The mass support, "diverse" and white for BLM, indicates that Britain too wants to leave divided histories behind.

And India?

## Will India too leave 'divided histories', like US & Britain?



quick  
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,509.49	0.81
Nifty 50	11,914.20	0.67
S&P 500*	3,474.08	0.79
Dollar (')	73.14	0.13
Pound Sterling (')	94.67	0.30
Euro (')	86.31	0.20
Gold (10gm) (')	51,558*236	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.82	-0.52
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.937	-0.002
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.769	0.002

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

Bulk transfer  
of EPFO funds  
now possible

EPFO has launched a facility for bulk transfer of funds from exempted establishments through a single payment. On change of employment of a member from exempted to unexempted establishment, his past accumulations are transferred to EPFO. Till now, exempted establishments had to approve and transfer the funds one-by-one for each member. The new facility will increase the speed of funds transfer.

■ Capital cost to come down for big-ticket lenders  
Home loans above ₹75L  
to become attractiveFALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, OCT. 9

In a bid to boost demand for high value home purchases and the housing sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday allowed banks to consider only the loan to value (LTV) ratio while setting the risk weights—capital that banks have to set aside—for new home loans.

Till now, the risk weight of home loans was determined on the basis of loan amounts and LTV ratios. Higher loan amounts led to higher risk weights, requiring banks to set aside higher capital while sanctioning the loan.

The latest announcement regarding the home loan risk weights has done away with the requirement of factoring in loan amount while setting risk weights for fresh home loans sanctioned till March 31, 2022. The move would benefit incremental housing loans in higher ticket size of over Rs 75 lakh (below 80 per cent LTV) which currently attracts 50 per cent risk weight. Experts said that the move should reduce capital cost for banks and help in transmission and improve credit uptake.

All fresh home loans with LTV ratios of 80 per cent or less will attract risk weight of 35 per cent whereas those with LTV ratios of above 80 per cent to 90 per cent will attract risk weight of 50 per cent, the RBI said.

"Recognising the criticality of real estate sector in the economic recovery,

## RTGS to go 24x7, PSOs to get perpetual validity

SANGEETHA G.  
CHENNAI, OCT. 9

The central bank has made the real time gross settlement system (RTGS) available round-the-clock. It also has given perpetual validity for the authorisation granted to new and existing Payment System Operators.

Similar to the national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) system, large-value RTGS transactions will be made available round-the-clock on all days. Currently, it is available for customers from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm on all working days except 2nd and 4th Saturdays. This facility will be made effective from December.

This, according to the RBI, will support the ongoing efforts aimed at global integration of Indian



shaktikanta das

financial markets, facilitate India's efforts to develop international financial centres and provide wider payment flexibility to domestic corporates and institutions. With this, India will be one of the very few countries globally with a 24x7x365 large value real time payment system.

Further, the payment system operators will be

issued authorisation with a perpetual validity. Currently, the RBI issues "on-tap" authorisation to non-banks issuing prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), operating white label ATMs (WLAs) or the trade receivables discounting systems (TReDS), or participating as Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs). Authorisation, including renewal of authorisation of such PSOs has been largely for specified periods up to five years.

According to the apex bank, such limited period licences were necessitated in the initial period of evolution of the payment system. However, it can lead to business uncertainty for the PSOs and involves avoidable use of regulatory resources in the process of renewal.

given its role in employment generation and the interlinkages with other industries, it has been decided, as a countercyclical measure, to rationalise the risk weights by linking them only with LTV ratios for all new housing loans sanctioned up to March 31, 2022...This measure is expected to give a fillip to bank lending to the real estate sector," said the RBI.

Raj Kiran Rai, managing director and chief executive officer of Union Bank of India, said, "From the

regulatory announcements, linking the risk weight only to Loan to Value Ratio for individual housing loans is a positive measure. Due to Covid-19 lock down, construction is a beaten down sector. Since things are getting revived, this enabling policy support will help in augmenting the credit flow to the sector.

Krishnan Sitaraman, senior director, Crisil Ratings said, "Liberalisation in risk weights for individual housing loans

by removal of ticket size criteria and linking it only to Loan to Value will provide some tailwinds to housing loan disbursements from a supply side perspective. This is because it will bring about greater capital efficiency for lenders in housing loan disbursements of more than Rs 75 lakh ticket size. At the same time, the potential for any material uptick appears subdued as that will depend upon pick up in real estate sales and demand increase for home loans from home buyers."

E-invoice  
begins for  
100-cr firms  
from January

New Delhi, Oct. 9: The GST e-invoicing system will be extended to businesses with over Rs 100 crore turnover from January 1, 2021, for B2B business transaction, a top government official said on Friday.

Finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the e-invoicing system can eventually dispense with the present system of filing GST returns for smaller businesses and micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Under goods and services tax (GST) law, e-invoice for B2B transactions have been made mandatory for companies with a turnover of over Rs 500 crore from October 1.

Pandey, who is also the revenue secretary, said by January 1, 2021, it will be available to taxpayers having turn-over of more than Rs 100 crore a year; and for all taxpayers for B2B transactions from April 1, 2021. The e-invoicing replaces the paper invoice and will soon replace the existing e-way bill system and taxpayers won't have to generate separate e-way bills.

"The e-invoicing system can also eventually dispense with the present system of filing GST returns for smaller businesses and MSMEs because e-invoice will pre-populate their returns and they have to simply pay the taxes. The returns will be automatically generated for all supplies," he said.

—PTI

Bank, NBFC  
stocks join IT  
in bull rallyRAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, OCT. 9

Stocks of banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies, made big gains on RBI's dovish policy stance and measures announced to spur lending by the banks and NBFCs.

The market surged higher to a fresh seven-month high as financials joined the IT stocks in providing more strength to the bulls as the rally stretched to the seventh session.

The Sensex gained 326.82 points to close at 40,509.49 and the Nifty-50 gained 79.60 points, closing at 11,914.

The Nifty Bank Index gained 2.83 per cent, led by PSU banks, and the top gainers included State Bank of India (3.64 per cent), Punjab National Bank (4.14 per cent), Bank of Baroda (4.11 per cent), HDFC Bank (3.64 per cent), ICICI Bank (4.06 per cent) and Axis Bank (3.74 per cent).

Stocks that gained in the non-banking finance (NBFC) and housing finance (HFC) space included M&M Finance (2.73 per cent), LIC Housing Finance (7.03 per cent), HDFC (0.86 per cent), Indiabulls Housing Finance (4.43 per cent), PNB Housing Finance (5.81 per cent) and Can Fin Homes (5.81 per cent).

"RBI policy has been very dovish without any rate cut. It strengthens focus on the yield curve and provides a helping



hand to increase credit uptake. The policy stance is very accommodative and would remain as long as necessary, even going into FY22. There are other measures that will help banks and NBFCs to accelerate lending, especially in the housing finance segment and priority sector lending," said Rusmik Oza, head-fundamental research, Kotak Securities.

"Banks, HFCs and NBFCs have grossly underperformed the Nifty-50 in the last four months with valuations for most of the leading stocks going closer to the lower end of their historic valuation band. Feel the BFSI pack can play catch-up and try to cover some of the underperformance in the next few quarters," Oza said.

After Friday's friendly policy, the market would await the final Supreme Court verdict in the moratorium matter. There are enough green shoots emerging in the economy as many high frequency indicators show improvement, Oza added.

## COFFEE-BREAK

## Your day today

By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



**Aries:** Your poor academic performance may disappoint your parents. Government employees may have reduced income and need to draw money from other sources.



**Taurus:** Expect popularity in your new set-up. Some who've received travel documents for a job outside lose the job. Problems with your love affair aren't over yet.



**Gemini:** Your business trips may lose money. Health expenditure goes up. You'll feel negative. Those trying to sell their property may find expected results.



**Cancer:** Those who've taken up new responsibilities find work encouraging. You'll get expected funds and keep up your commitments.



**Leo:** Someone you love upsets you. Rest up and keep off those who take without giving anything in return. Work's discouraging. Personal relationship is fulfilling.



**Virgo:** Some jobseekers find success. Think calmly about what's troubling you so much; then, find a solution. Talks with a colleague indicate you'd get a raise. You may have to help an ill friend.

## You share your b'day with

Rekha, actress. She is best known for her roles in Muqaddar Ka Sikandar, Khubsoorat, Umrao Jaan, Silsila, Mr. Natwarlal, Utsav, Khoon Bhari Mang, Biwi Ho To Aisi, Phool Bane Angary, Khiladiyon Ka Khiladi and Lajja amongst others.



**Libra:** Bosses should carefully examine the credentials of potential employees. Don't get exploited in trade. Take time for yourself tonight. Act moderately with misbehaving children.



**Scorpio:** Your concentration wanders. Courageous, patient and sustained efforts yield success. You'll do well if you avoid over-optimism and unnecessary haste.



**Sagittarius:** Partnership business may yield better profits. Analyse the pros and cons of tasks before committing. You'll break away from work for something more pleasurable.



**Capricorn:** You'll be happy and will share your love, happiness and goodwill with everyone. You'll handle your affairs skilfully and complete projects.



**Aquarius:** A severe shortage seems likely. You may succeed in owning a house with the help of a loan. Good news for those trying to go abroad.



**Pisces:** Your socialising group will be unlike those you've had before. Business ventures bring rewards. Attend to pressing personal matters. Spend time with near and dear ones. Travelling is on the cards.

bridge  
PHILLIP  
ALDERERRORS  
CAN  
SECRETE  
PEARLS OF  
WISDOM

John Dryden, who was appointed England's first poet laureate in 1668, wrote, "Errors, like straws, upon the surface flow: / He who would search for pearls must dive below."

Bridge deals, especially in the hands of the inexperienced, can be like that. Errors are made that the players do not realize are mistakes. But if a more experienced player can offer instruction, the players will gain pearls to add to

their knowledge chain. In the auction, West's two-club overall was Cappelletti, showing a long suit somewhere; and two hearts was the heart to spades.

West led the heart ace and continued with the heart three, which East ruffed. East shifted to the diamond six, which West ruffed. West exited with a club. After declarer played a spade to the queen and king, West still had the

North			
♠	10 9 5 2		
♥	K 10		
♦	K 5		
♣	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
East			
♠			
♥	Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♦	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♣	A K		
Declarer: South			
♠	2 3		
♥	Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♦	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♣	A K		
Opposing lead: ♠A			

West			
♠			
♥	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♦	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♣	A K		
East			
♠			
♥	Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♦	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♣	A K		
Declarer: South			
♠	2 3		
♥	Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♦	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♣	A K		
Opposing lead: ♠A			

North			
♠	10 9 5 2		
♥	K 10		
♦	K 5		
♣	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
East			
♠			
♥	Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♦	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♣	A K		
Declarer: South			
♠	2 3		
♥	Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♦	A 8 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♣	A K		
Opposing lead: ♠A			

spade ace to come, so four spades went down two.

I dislike Cappelletti because one cannot immediately show one's long suit, which is particularly galling when it is a major. Here, I would have jumped to four hearts, been doubled by North and gone down two, minus 500.

South might have passed out three no-trump because partner's bid ought to have included heart help. Without any, North would have dou-



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday's Jumble: PHOTO HURRY INVENT SAFELY

Answer: The company went public, which allowed investors to — SHARE THE PROFIT

(Answers tomorrow)

## CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



## THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



## ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli &amp; craig boldman



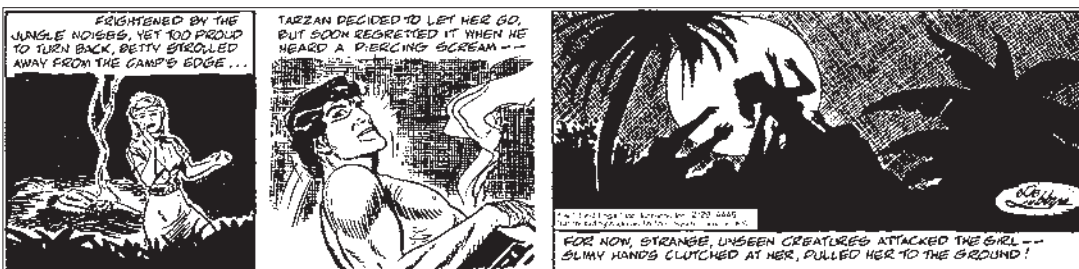
## BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



## ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



## TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs





## SHORT TAKES

## BCCI ponders hosting England

**New Delhi:** India's home series against England will be up for discussion alongside the scheduling of the upcoming tour of Australia and the domestic season when the BCCI's apex council holds an online meeting on October 17.

Board president Sourav Ganguly had said that the BCCI will do all it can to ensure that the home series against England remains in the country and domestic tournaments kick off at some point despite the fluid Covid-19 situation. England is scheduled to tour India next year between January and March for five Tests, three ODIs and three T20 Internationals. In view of the rising Covid cases in India, the UAE, which is currently hosting the IPL, had emerged as an alternative for the home series against England. — *PTI*

## Russian lifters banned for doping

**Geneva:** Six Russian weightlifters were on Thursday handed doping bans of up to eight years, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) announced.

The group includes Dmitry Lapikov, bronze medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2009 world silver medalist and 2011 European champion.

The 38-year-old received the heaviest sanction, a competition ban until August, 2026. Maksim Sheiko, European silver medalist in 2012 and 2013, was banned for six years, with Ruslan Albegov (bronze medalist at London 2012 and a two-time world champion), Egor Klimonov, Yuliya Kononova, and Tima Turieva all receiving four year bans. — *AFP*

## India's Dev in Jr French Open draw

**Paris:** India's Dev Javia has qualified for the boys' singles main draw of the Junior French Open after winning both his qualifying league matches here. The 18-year-old from Vadodara beat Emiliano Aguilera Guerrero of Mexico 6-2, 3-6, 10-8 in the final group match to make it to the junior singles main draw. Javia had earlier beaten Brazil's Nicolas Marcondes Zanellato 0-6, 6-1, 10-4 in his first group match held at the Roland-Garros. His coach Shrimal Bhatt, who had accompanied Javia to Paris, was extremely satisfied with his ward's performance. Javia had earlier won the qualifying tournament of the 'Roland-Garros Junior Wild Card Series by OPPO' which was held in New Delhi in February 2020. Javia is now the second Indian player to qualify for the Roland Garros Junior Singles in Paris. — *PTI*

## Formula 1 practice session called off

**Nurburg, Germany:** The first practice session for the Eifel Grand Prix was cancelled Friday because of bad weather, keeping Michael Schumacher's son Mick from his first official drive as part of a Formula One race weekend.

Low cloud and mist made for poor visibility around the Nrburg track and it was declared unsafe for the medical helicopter to take off before time ran out for the 90-minute session. The helicopter is required under F1 safety rules and must be able to fly any casualties to the hospital at high speed. Lewis Hamilton is aiming to win his 91st career F1 race on Sunday. That would put him equal with Michael Schumacher's record. — *AP*

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Kings XI Punjab vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 3.30 pm; Chennai Super Kings vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## FORMULA ONE

**German Grand Prix:** Practice 3 from 3.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD; Qualifying from 6.25 pm on Star Sports 3

## TENNIS

**French Open:** Women's singles final from 6.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2

## FOOTBALL

**UEFA Nations League:** Luxembourg vs Cyprus from 6.30 pm; Faroe Islands vs Latvia from 9.30 pm; Spain vs Switzerland from 12.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Ukraine vs Germany from 12.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

## UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Marlon Moraes vs Cory Sandhagen and other bouts from 4.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

## Hetmyer shimmers

## Dominant Delhi extend winning streak with Royal drub

**Sharjah, Oct. 9:** Delhi Capitals defeated Rajasthan Royals by 46 runs in an IPL match here on Friday.

Riding on Shimron Hetmyer's 45, they first made 184/8 in 20 overs and then bowled out the Royals for 138 in 19.4 overs. Yashasvi Jaiswal (34) and Rahul Tewatia (38) were the only ones who made decent scores for RR.

Earlier, desperate to snap their three-match losing streak, RR opted to field and the bowling unit delivered with Jofra Archer (3/24) taking three wickets and spinner Rahul Tewatia (1/20) and Kartik Tyagi (1/35) capturing one each.

The two run outs of the dangerous Shreyas Iyer (22 off 18) and Rishabh Pant (5) also proved crucial. Shimron Hetmyer smashed a 24-ball 45, studded with five sixes and a four to emerge as the top-scorer for Delhi. Marcus Stoinis (39 off 30) too chipped in.

Archer was the pick of the bowlers as he dismissed opener Shikhar Dhawan (5) in the second over for his first wicket in the Powerplay this year.

Skipper Iyer then smashed two fours off pacer Varun Aaron (0/25 in 2 overs) and then Prithvi Shaw (19 off 10) deposited him into the stands. — *PTI*



Shimron Hetmyer of Delhi Capitals plays a shot against Rajasthan Royals during their Indian Premier League match held at Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Friday. — *BCCI*

## SCORECARD

**Delhi Capitals:** Prithvi Shaw c and b Jofra Archer 19, Shikhar Dhawan c Jaiswal b Jofra Archer 5, Shreyas Iyer run out 22, Rishabh Pant run out 5, Marcus Stoinis c Steven Smith b Rahul Tewatia 39, Shimron Hetmyer c Rahul Tewatia b Kartik Tyagi 45, Harshal Patel c Rahul Tewatia b Jofra Archer 16, Axar Patel c Jos Buttler b Andrew Tye 17, Kagiso Rabada not out 2, Ravichandran Ashwin not out 0. **Extras:** (B-4, LB-3, W-5, NB-2) 14. **Total:** (for 8 wks in 20 Overs) 184.

**RR:** 12-1, 42-2, 50-3, 79-4, 109-5, 149-6, 181-7, 183-8. **Bowler:** V. Aaron 2-0-25-0, J. Archer 4-0-24-3, K. Tyagi 4-0-35-1, A. Tye 4-0-50-1, S. Gopal 2-0-23-0, R. Tewatia 4-0-20-1.

**Rajasthan Royals:** Y. Jaiswal b Stoinis 34, Jos Buttler c Dhawan b Ashwin 13, Steve Smith c Hetmyer b Nortje 24, Sanju Samson c Hetmyer b Stoinis 5, M. Lomror c A. Patel b Ashwin 1, R. Tewatia b Rabada 38, A. Tye c Rabada b A. Patel 6, J. Archer c Iyer b Rabada 2, S. Gopal c Hetmyer b H. Patel 2, K. Tyagi not out 2, V. Aaron c Pant b Rabada 1. **Extras:** (LB-2, NB-1, W-7) 10. **Total:** (all out in 20 Overs) 138. **FW:** 1-15, 2-56, 3-72, 4-76, 5-82, 6-90, 7-100, 8-121, 9-136, 10-138.

**Bowler:** Kagiso Rabada 3.4-0-35-3, Anrich Nortje 4-0-25-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-22-2, H. Patel 4-0-29-1, A. Patel 2-0-8-1, Marcus Stoinis 2-0-17-2.

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	6	5	1	0	10	+1.267
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	+0.232
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	3	2	0	6	+0.002
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	3	2	0	6	-1.355
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.371
Rajasthan Royals	6	2	4	0	4	-1.073
Kings XI Punjab	6	1	5	0	2	-0.431

Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

## Rahul rates run Some CSK batsmen think it's a government job: Viru

**Dubai, Oct. 9:** Strike rates are over-rated, said Kings XI Punjab captain K. L. Rahul, brushing aside criticism of his bottom-placed team which lost its fourth match on the trot here, failing miserably in a chase of 202 against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

KKXP lost by 69 runs and Rahul could manage only 11 off 14 balls at a strike rate of 68.75. His innings featured no boundaries despite the power-play. "I think strike rate is very, very overrated. For me, it is only about how I can win games for my team and on a certain day if 120 can win a game for my team then I will do that. This is how I bat and I like to take responsibility," Rahul said at the post-match press conference.

The skipper, who has 313 runs in the six games so far including a century

and two fifties and is the leading run-scorer of the tournament, was eventually dismissed by Abhishek Sharma in the seventh over.

Later, Rahul also rued the early run-out of Mayank Agarwal, saying it was a disaster for his side in its pursuit of a stiff 202-run target.

"When we lose wickets in the powerplay, it's going to be tough, especially when we're playing only six batters. Getting Mayank run-out wasn't the ideal start, it was a disaster," Rahul said.

Rahul was full of praise for his bowlers, saying: "The last five games we struggled with our death bowling, but that was a positive today. The boys showed courage and pulled things back, you expect them to score 230-plus after that start."

— *PTI*

**New Delhi, Oct. 9:** Former India opener Virender Sehwag has taken a dig at Chennai Super Kings' faltering IPL campaign, saying that some of their batsmen think of the franchise as a "government job" in which remuneration is assured irrespective of performance.

Chasing 168, veteran opener Shane Watson struck his second successive fifty to give CSK a perfect start on Wednesday, but the team choked at the back end of the innings and was restricted to 157 for five to suffer its fourth defeat in five matches.

"It should have been chased down. But the dot balls played by Kedar Jadhav and Ravindra Jadeja didn't help," Sehwag told *Cricbuzz*.

"And, in my view, some of the Chennai Super



**It should have been chased down. But the dot balls played by Kedar Jadhav and Jadeja didn't help. In my view, some of the Chennai Super Kings batsmen think of CSK as a government job, whether you perform or not, they know they'll get their salary anyway.**

— **VIRENDER SEHWAG**  
former India player

Kings batsmen think of CSK as a government job, whether you perform or not, they know they'll get their salary anyway," he added.

CSK added just 14 runs from 11-14 overs, a period when they lost both Watson and an in-form Ambati Rayudu. Sent ahead of West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo,

Kedar Jadhav laboured to seven off 12 balls as KKR won the game by 10 runs.

This is not the first instance of batsmen letting the team down. Last week, the MS Dhoni-led side had lost a closely fought match to SRH by seven runs. Chennai Super Kings are placed sixth in the eight-team standings. — *PTI*

## Tired CSK take on hapless RCB

**Dubai, Oct. 9:** Chennai Super Kings will take on Royal Challengers Bangalore in an intriguing mid-table Indian Premier League clash here on Saturday with both teams battling inconsistency.

CSK all-rounder Kedar Jadhav's selection will be under the scanner after his failure in the defeat to Kolkata Knight Riders.

Despite Shane Watson finding his range in a 10-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab and Faf du Plessis's consistency at the top, the middle-order continues to remain a concern for CSK with skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni himself not being at his best.

While worries remain on the batting front, the CSK bowling has got better and they did well to restrict KKR in the previous game with influential all-rounder Dwayne Bravo returning to his wicket-taking ways.

However, the CSK bowling will be up against a strong RCB batting line-up led by captain Virat Kohli, who returned to form with a fine knock against Rajasthan Royals.

Kohli aside, young Devdutt Padikkal has looked in good touch, while

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 24
- Chennai: 15
- Bangalore: 8
- No Results: 1

## MEETING IN 2019

- Chennai Super Kings beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 7 wickets at Chennai.
- Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Chennai Super Kings by 1 run at Bangalore.

## FOR THE RECORD

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni who scored 3960 runs at an average of 44.49 in 148 innings of 166 matches, needs 40 runs to become second Chennai Super Kings batsman to score 4000 runs in IPL.

- Virat Kohli became the first Indian and seventh batsman overall to score over 9000 runs in Twenty-20 cricket during his 43-run knock in the previous match against Delhi Capitals.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

AB de Villiers has been a key player for RCB over the years. It is the bowling which would worry Kohli except Yuzvendra Chahal. The pacers have not lived up to their reputation, with the likes of Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Navdeep Saini leaking runs. — *PTI*

## Knights look to bruise Kings XI

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 9:** Kings XI Punjab will have to play out of their skins to get their stuttering campaign back on track when they face fancied Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

Smarting from a 69-run drubbing at the hands of Sunrisers Hyderabad, it will not be an easy task for a struggling KXIP side to stand up to the challenge thrown by an all-round KKR team.

Shubman Gill has already created an impression as an opener and now KKR have found another option at the top in Rahul Tripathi, who will enter the game with some confidence after his swashbuckling innings of 81 against CSK two days ago.

The experienced Eoin Morgan is a huge presence in the middle-order which also has Nitish Rana, always on the lookout to impress the team management with his performances with the bat.

On the other hand, Kings XI Punjab will again rely on their trusted opening pair of captain KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal.

The mis-firing Glenn Maxwell is likely to make

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 25
- Kolkata: 17
- Punjab: 8

## MEETING IN 2019

- Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Kings XI Punjab by 28 runs at Kolkata.
- Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Kings XI Punjab by 7 wickets at Mohali.

## FOR THE RECORD

- Mandeeep Singh who scored 961 runs at an average of 22.88 in 52 innings of 56 matches, needs 39 runs to become seventh batsman to score over 1000 runs for Kings XI Punjab in IPL.

- Sunil Narine took only three wickets at an average of 50.00 off 18 overs in five innings of as many matches in this edition so far.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

way for Gayle. Nicholas Pooran's exploits with the bat is a positive for Kings XI Punjab and he will again look to play his shots freely. Death bowling is a major concern for Kings XI Punjab and they would need to get it right against a strong KKR batting line-up. — *PTI*

## Nadal roars into 13th French final

**Paris, Oct. 9:** Twelve-time champion Rafael Nadal reached his 13th French Open final on Friday with a 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (7/0) win over Argentina's Diego Schwartzman, setting up a potential blockbuster title clash against Novak Djokovic.

For 34-year-old Nadal, it was a 99th win at Roland Garros since his 2005 debut and put him just one victory away from equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles.

He is also into his 28th final at the majors and has not dropped a set in the tournament this year.

Djokovic, the 2016 champion in Paris and chasing an 18th Grand Slam title, takes on Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the second semi-final.

The world number one has his own date with destiny should he make Sunday's final as he bids to become the first man in half a century to win all four Slams twice.

"It's always incredible to play here and this is a very special moment," said Nadal after a 10th win in 11 matches against Schwartzman who had shocked him in Rome last month.

Nadal fought off two break points in a marathon



Rafael Nadal

14-minute opening game. The world number two then broke for 2-0 but Schwartzman retrieved it immediately. — *AFP*

## Messi leads Argentina in qualies

**Sao Paulo, Oct. 9:** In their first matches in almost a year, Argentina and Uruguay won their South American World Cup qualifying openers without doing much to impress their fans watching from home.

Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez each scored from the spot, but did little else to energise the empty stadiums of a region still hard hit by the Covid-19. Messi netted the only goal of Argentina's victory over Ecuador at the La Bombonera stadium, while Suarez opened the scoring in Uruguay's 2-1 last-minute win over Chile in Montevideo, thanx to Gomez Gonzalez last minute curl. Paraguay was held to a 2-2 draw by Peru on Thursday.

Elsewhere, Georgia became the first team to advance to the European Championship playoff

finals by beating Belarus 1-0. A seventh-minute penalty kick earned and scored by Tornike Okriashvili settled the game played without fans in the stadium in Tbilisi on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic scored twice to lift Serbia into the European Championship playoff finals with a 2-1 extra-time win over Norway. Serbia kept Norway's feared forward Erling Haaland quiet and found its own unlikely threat in the Lazio midfielder who had not previously scored for the national team.

In another match, Scotland won their first ever penalty shootout to beat Israel in the Euro 2020 semifinal playoffs, but there was spot-kick heartbreak for the Republic of Ireland as they lost out to Slovakia. — *Agencies*



Lionel Messi (left) of Argentina dodges Ecuador's Angel Mena during their 2022 FIFA World Cup South American qualifier match at La Bombonera stadium in Buenos Aires on Thursday. Argentina won 1-0. — *AFP*

Regd. No.  
TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by  
**K. Sudhakar** on behalf of  
Deccan Chronicle Holdings  
Limited and Printed at  
Deccan Chronicle Press situated at  
No 2/22, Sengalipalayam Road,  
N.G.O Colony Post,  
Kurudampalayam Village,  
Coimbatore - 641 022, RNI  
Registration No: TNENG/2010/35692  
Ph No : 2231252, 253, 255, 257 & 358  
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