

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | TUESDAY 13 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 33°C
Min: 25°C
Rainfall: 1 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 27
Tithi: Ekadashi/ Dwadashi
Star: Magam
Rahukalam:
3 pm to 4.30 pm
Yamagandam:
9 am to 10.30 am

PRAYERS

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

SUNSET TODAY 5.51 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 2.22 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 3.20 PM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+53,769)	(+708)
71,73,069	1,09,892

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+4,879)
TN: 6,60,264 10,314

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3,79,57,073

DEATHS

10,83,988

COUNTRIES,
AREAS WITH
CASES 214

worldometers.info

Ex-Hansa employee held in TRP scam from Uttar Pradesh

Mumbai: The Mumbai police on Monday arrested one more person in connection with the TRP manipulation racket, taking the number of those in custody in the case to five, official said. Vinay Tripathi, a former employee of Hansa Research agency, was arrested from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh by the Mumbai police's Crime Branch, they said.

Education must be left to educationists, says SC

New Delhi: "Education must be left to educationists", the Supreme Court said on Monday while setting aside an Allahabad High Court's 2018 verdict which had held that an M. Ed. qualified person could not be appointed as an Assistant Professor for the subject of Education.

COUNTER POINT



His body doubles are wearing masks and out campaigning!



STATE | 3

Govt machinery ready to face NE monsoon: CM



WORLD | 5

Ex-Pak President Asif Ali Zardari hospitalised

SPORT | 8

Ishant out of IPL with rib cage injury



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₹73,000 CRORE REVIVAL PUSH

In booster shots to economy, Centre spurs spending by babus

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

In a fresh economic revival push, the Centre, on Monday, announced a slew of booster shots for both babus and states to pop up demand, in terms of consumer spending and capital expenditure. It said the demand boost is estimated to be a total of ₹73,000 crore and it should be spent till March 31 next year. The Centre, however, expects that the demand would go up by ₹1 lakh crore if states join in this spending exercises.

As part of increasing consumer spending for states, the Centre also announced two schemes — LTC Cash Voucher Scheme and Special Festival Advance Scheme — to primarily benefit central government employees. "The proposals being presented are designed in a way that they can stimulate demand by front-loading/ advancing some of the expenditure



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a press conference, in New Delhi, Monday. MoS finance Anurag Thakur is also seen. — PTI

with some offsetting changes. Others are directly linked to an increase in the GDP," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said while briefing the media here.

"The consumers' demand needs to be boosted. We estimate that the measures announced today, for boosting consumer spending and

capital expenditure, will boost demand by ₹73,000 crore, to be spent by March 31, 2021. Given that private sector spending through LTC tax benefit would be at least ₹28,000 crore, we estimate total demand boost due to today's measures to be more than ₹1 lakh crore," she said, adding that if demand goes up based on the stimulus measures announced, it will have an impact on those people who have been affected by Covid 19.

Besides, an additional budget of ₹25,000 crore (in addition to ₹4.13 lakh crore given in Budget 2020-'21) is being provided for capital expenditure on roads, defence, water supply, urban development and domestically produced capital equipment. Giving ₹73,000 crore demand booster breakup, she said,

"The total estimate of demand boost as follows: ₹36,000 crore additional consumer demand (₹28,000 crore through LTC, ₹8,000

crore through festival advance) plus ₹37,000 crore central, state capex (₹25,000 crore additional budget spend and ₹12,000 crore special interest free 50-year loan to states). The proposals to stimulate demand in a fiscally prudent way — some of them involve advancing of expenditure, with offsetting changes later — others are directly linked to increasing GDP."

As far as capex boost to states is concerned, the Centre has decided to offer special interest-free 50-year loans to states to the tune of ₹12,000 crore. The loans will consist of three components.

"The first part is ₹2,500 crore for North East (₹1,600 crore), and ₹900 crore for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. The second part involves ₹7,500 crore for other states in proportion to share in Finance Commission devolution," she said.

Neet results on Oct. 16, fresh exam on Oct. 14 for those who missed it

New Delhi, Oct. 12: The result of medical entrance exam Neet will be announced on October 16, Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said Monday.

Students who could not appear for the exam due to Covid-19 infection or because of containment zone restrictions will get a chance to appear for it on October 14.

"DG NTA will be declaring the results of #NEETUG 2020 on 16th October 2020. Exact timing of the results will be intimated later. I wish all the best to the candidates," Nishank tweeted.

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test was conducted on September 13 amid strict precautions in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. From this year, the admissions to MBBS course in the 13 All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, will also be made through Neet following the amendment in National Medical Commission Act, 2019, passed by Parliament last year. The test was offered in 11 languages - English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu this year.

Based on the initial report, more than 77 per cent aspirants took the test in English, around 12 per cent in Hindi and 11 per cent in other languages.

The exam was earlier postponed twice due to the pandemic and the government decided to go ahead with it, despite opposition by a section, to mitigate any further academic loss. — PTI

Actor Kushboo changes party again, joins BJP now

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

Hours after quitting the Congress Party over "few elements seated at a higher level with no connectivity with ground reality dictating terms" and "suppressing" people like her, one of the most prominent names in Tamil cinema, Kushboo Sundar, on Monday joined the BJP and said she had realised over some time that if India has to move forward "then someone like Prime Minister Narendra Modi is needed to take the country in the right direction and to its glory".



The actor-politician, who joined theDMK in 2010 when it was in power in the state and then the

Congress in 2014, said she is not expecting anything from the BJP, but her entry comes as Tamil Nadu heads for Assembly polls next year.

Speculation is rife that she could be fielded by the BJP or accommodated in the Rajya Sabha. There were rumours Ms Sundar Kushboo was miffed with the Congress leadership for not considering her in the last Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress has accused its former national spokesperson of lacking "ideological commitment" and claimed her departure would have no impact on Tamil Nadu politics. ■ P2

State gets ₹10K cr fresh investments

A. ARUL PALANI | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 12

The State government on Monday signed 14 Memoranda of Understanding envisaging new investments of more than ₹10,000 crore in nine districts.

The Government aims to create 7,000 jobs in sectors including renewable energy and data centre with the help of the investment.

In the presence of Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami the officials signed agreements Secretariat in Chennai. Among others industries

minister M C Sampath, chief secretary K. Shanmugam and senior officials attended the meeting.

The government has inked 56 investment pacts totally worth ₹1,519 crore till date from April, an official release said. And the state had signed 42 MoUs for an investment of ₹31,464 crore till September.

An official release said while ten MoUs were signed at the secretariat, four other agreements were inked through video conference for a total of ₹10,055 crore investments. ■ P3

US PRESIDENT



Trump starts on election trail again

Washington: US President Donald Trump will launch a campaign marathon on Monday, holding rallies in three key swing states over the next few days as his White House race against surging rival Joe Biden enters its critical final weeks. ■ P5

Stanford economists win Nobel for auction theory

Stockholm, Oct. 12: wo American economists won the Nobel Prize for improving how auctions work, research that underlies much of today's economy — from the way Google sells advertising to the way telecoms companies acquire airwaves from the government.

The discoveries of Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson, both of Stanford University, "have benefited sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world," the Nobel Committee said.

Wilson was once Milgrom's Ph.D. adviser, and the two

also happen to be neighbors. Reached by phone at his home in California, Milgrom said he received news of their win "in a strange way."

"I got a knock at my door from Bob Wilson," he told The Associated Press.

Milgrom, 72, said students, friends and colleagues had long suggested he and Wilson, 83, might be due for the prize.

"It's nice to have their respect but their affection as well," he said.

Technically known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in

Memory of Alfred Nobel, the award was established in 1969 and is now widely considered one of the Nobel prizes.

The two men tackled the tricky problem of making auctions work efficiently. The committee said Wilson's work showed "why rational bidders tend to place bids below their own best estimate of the common value."

The effects of their work can be seen all around. "Online advertising is sold at auction," said David Warsh, who tracks econom-

ic research at his blog Economic Principals. "That Google was able to adopt the method so quickly and seamlessly depended entirely on theory developed by Milgrom and his competitors and their students."

The work is about more than money. Some governments, for example, auction off the right to pollute in hopes of reducing emissions; cleaner companies can resell unneeded rights to dirtier ones, creating a financial incentive for companies to make their operations greener. — AP



Americans Paul R. Milgrom (left on screen) and Robert B. Wilson have won the Nobel Prize in economics for "improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats." — AP

India, China generals in marathon LAC meeting

■ Statement expected today

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

India and China on Monday held the seventh round of their corps commander-level talks to ease tensions in eastern Ladakh where both armies are involved in a tense five-month-long military standoff. The meeting started at around 12 noon at Chushul, on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control and went on till late in the night for more than 10 hours at least.

India has again insisted that China withdraw its troops from all friction points in eastern Ladakh and restore the status quo ante of April 2020 in Pangong Tso and Gogra Post-Hot Springs.

The Chinese Army has also been preventing Indian patrols in the Depsang sector. India has made it clear that since it was China which had first transgressed, the People's Liberation Army has to make the first move towards disengagement.

There was no official word yet on the corps commanders' meeting. An official statement may be released on Tuesday or Wednesday. The Indian and Chinese armies had issued a joint press release after the sixth round of the corps commanders' meeting. This was the first corps commanders'

● **India again insisted that China withdraw its troops from all friction points in Eastern Ladakh and restore status quo ante of April 2020 in Pangong Tso and Gogra Post-Hot Springs**

● **This was the first Corps Commanders meeting after China said that it has "not recognised" the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh**

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The meetings with the Chinese military tend to be lengthy as discussions usually need to be translated.

This was the last meeting under Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh as commander of 14 Corps. He is all set to take charge as the commandant of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, later this month after completing his one-year tenure.

Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon, who will be the new 14 Corps chief, also took part in Monday's meeting.

The representative from the external affairs ministry, joint secretary (East Asia) Naveen Srivastava, too attended the corps commanders' meeting for the second time.

There were reports that some Chinese foreign ministry officials also attended the meeting for the first time.

In the last corps commanders' meeting, both sides had agreed to stop sending more troops to the front line, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any action that may further complicate the situation.

Since the sixth corps commanders' meeting, some type of uneasy peace has been maintained at the LAC in Ladakh, which had seen a number of firing incidents for the first time in over four decades.

However, tension remains high in the area, with both sides having deployed troops, tanks, artillery, missiles and fighter aircraft at advanced bases.

The Army and the Indian Air Force are still on high alert. Both sides are prepared to keep their armies at these high altitude bases in the mountains during winter, when temperatures dip way below zero degrees and bone-chilling winds make survival extremely difficult.

ABD comes to the party against KKR



AB de Villiers' blitzkrieg (73 not out off 33 balls) powered RCB to an emphatic 82-run win over KKR in an IPL game at Sharjah on Monday. ■ **Report on P8** — BCCI

Grid failure brings Mumbai to a halt

● **Both the Western Railway and Central Railway blamed the power cut from Tata Power (their power supplier) for the disruption in services**

Mumbai, Oct. 12: A rare citywide power outage paralysed Mumbai on Monday, halting local train services, trapping people in lifts and disrupting work from home adopted by millions during the ongoing pandemic. Power restoration efforts began on "war footing" and pocket-wise resumption in supply was started around 12 noon onwards, nearly two hours after the outage.

Train services took two and half hours to resume operations, beginning with CR's Harbour Line. The trains are carrying only essential services workers at present, which helped minimise the passenger inconvenience. Both the Western Railway and Central Railway blamed the power cut from Tata Power (their power supplier) for the disruption in services.

With work-from-home

becoming the norm across the services sector, employee output was impacted as the homes do not have power back-ups like institutional bodies.

However, a few were not so lucky, like the employees working in an upscale business complex in central Mumbai who found themselves stuck in an elevator during times of social distancing.

After a few jittery minutes, they were evacuated. In June 2018, there was a widespread power outage in the city and adjoining areas due to a technical glitch and also led to sustained period of load-shedding for some consumers. — PTI

OTHER STORIES

IIT-M develops food wrap to tackle bacteria

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 12

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has developed a sustainable anti-microbial wrapping material that can tackle bacterial attack on packaged food items. This biodegradable food wrapper has an in-built anti-bacterial compound and is safe for consumption.

The IIT-M team, which developed the cover, was recently awarded the 'SITARE-Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Appreciation 2020' for their project. The researchers have also filed for an Indian patent. The research was led by Prof. Mukesh Doble, department of biotechnology, and Puja Kumari, research scholar, department of biotechnology.

Prof Doble said the food wrap would address issues like solid waste and food contamination during storage due to bacterial growth. "We have developed a biodegradable wrapping material with in-built antibacterial activity to prevent bacterial growth in stored food. The anti-bacterial compound is safe for consumption and has been approved by the authorities."

The films developed by the team were made with polymeric blends containing starch, polyvinyl alcohol and cyclic beta glycans. The composition was optimised to achieve the best film with a smooth texture, flexibility, uniform thickness and good clarity. The polymers used are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

Puja Kumari explained that anti-bacterial-coated polymer wrapper was experimented with paneer and meat. Samples were placed in 40C and 300C for 10 days and tested for the effect of the coating on reducing the bacterial growth with respect to the uncoated wrapper. It was found that 99.999 per cent reduction in the bacterial colonies was observed in food samples wrapped with our anti-bacterial wrap and stored at 300C for 10 days when compared with a plain wrapper. "This study also suggests that our anti-microbial wrapper can reduce availability of cold storage units. Paneer is known to have a very low shelf life (less than 7 days) and hence extending its shelf life is a major advantage," she said.

Gold worth ₹1.32 cr seized at Chennai airport

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 12

The Customs officials at Chennai airport seized 2.88 kg of gold worth ₹1.32 crore from three passengers, who arrived from Dubai on Saturday, and arrested them.

The officials said based on a tip-off that gold was likely to be smuggled from Dubai, three passengers, natives of Chennai and Ramanathapuram who had arrived from Dubai, were intercepted at exit. They confessed to be carrying gold paste bundles concealed in rectum. Twelve bundles of gold paste were recovered from their rectum from which 2.77 kg gold was recovered after extraction. Three gold bits weighing 116 grams were also recovered from their pant pockets.

No loss for Cong, no gain for BJP

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR |
DC
CHENNAI, OCT 12

Actress-turned-politician Kushboo Sundar joining the BJP in New Delhi on Monday was marked by a buzz on social media with common people in Tamil Nadu reproducing her old tweets and posting videos of her speeches as Congress spokesperson and circulating clips from her old films showing her gyrating to music.

TNCC president K S Alagiri tweeted that her leaving the party was not a loss and that she had been functioning in the Congress without any ideological moorings. But other tweekers were not that kind. One of them said, 'From tomorrow she will be defending the accused and Yogi rule! What a shame!'

Quoting one of Kushboo's old tweets, another one said, 'Such a cheap sewage politics is. These politicians never live to their words or policy.' Another Twitter user from Kerala said: "Good for Congress but she is insulting Tamil Nadu, bcoz BJP leaders speak against Tamil Nadu and she is joining them".

But for most people in the state the switch over was just another spectacle. In fact, in all these years, perhaps since 1988 when she featured in the Rajinikanth-starrer Dharmathin Thalaivan, she has been hitting the headlines periodically for a variety of reasons.

A popular Tamil daily once carried a lead story of her marriage with actor Prabhu. Of course she confirmed that news in an interview to an English film magazine later on, explaining how that relationship broke.

Another time, when she was in the peak of her acting career, a news report about fans building a temple for her near Tiruchy created a sensation. Reporters in Tiruchy recall the fans themselves removing the ramshackle structure after she landed in another controversy in 2005 by asking girls indulging in pre-marital sex to be careful.

In the same interview she also said that no edu-



Actress and former Congress spokesperson Kushboo while joining the BJP, in New Delhi, Monday.

— PTI

cated man would expect his future wife to be a 'virgin,' which provoked wide protests and debates. She was accused of defaming Tamil womanhood and chastity and 22 complaints were filed against her. The cases dragged on in various courts till 2010.

Then the film actress who had started making appearances on the small screen turned into a politician, again triggering speculations. When she joined the DMK in 2010 with the then party president M. Karunanidhi welcoming her, she was seen as a future leader of the party.

But in 2014 she switched over to the Congress with the then president Sonia Gandhi and vice president Rahul Gandhi honouring her with a spokesperson's post. In fact she held the post till Monday when the party 'dropped' her after she resigned from the party with an allegation that the leaders of

Congress had 'no connectivity with the ground reality or public recognition.'

Even a week before that she addressed a meeting organised by the Congress against the Farmers' Bills and had been tweeting almost till the end she was attacking the BJP. Just four days prior to that she was on CNNNews18 discussing the Hathras rape incident. The day prior to that, she was retweeting Rahul Gandhi's tweets.

On Sunday night she took a flight to Delhi, saying 'no comments' to the media persons who confronted her with the question on the rumours about her joining BJP, and walked straight into the party fold the next afternoon.

But for articulating the party's view on television debates and also speaking at the functions she attended, she had been of no big use to the Congress, said a party senior. She

was not a crowd puller and definitely not a vote-getter, he added.

So what does the BJP expect to gain from her entry? Whatever it is, for Kushboo joining the party could at least put an end to the virulent attacks from the Hindutva brigade that she is used to.

In 2007, the Hindu Munnani and the Hindu Makkal Katchi had filed cases against her for 'disrespecting Hindi Gods' by sitting cross legged with footwear in front of idols at the film pooja.

In 2012, she was targeted by Hindu Makkal Katchi for wearing a saree with images of Hindu Gods like Ram, Krishna and Hanuman. Now she may be able to canvass for the BJP without such irritants. But will the popularity of the person - with no ideological mooring or principles or political commitment - alone help the party increase its vote count?

AIADMK welcomes Kushboo joining BJP

She lacks ideological commitment: Cong

Chennai, Oct 12: The ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu on Monday welcomed actor-politician Kushboo Sundar joining its ally BJP, saying it is "a good and happy" move by her.

Senior party leader and fisheries minister D. Jayakumar extended the AIADMK's best wishes and greetings to her.

"It is a good thing. Kushboo joining our ally, the BJP is a good and happy step," the minister told reporters here, reacting to the popular actor joining the BJP.

Kushboo quit the Congress after a six-year long association with it and joined the BJP at the party headquarters in New Delhi in the presence of its leaders, including state unit chief L Murugan.

On BJP leader Pon Radhakrishnan saying that his party welcomed AIADMK naming Chief Minister K. Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial candidate of the ruling combine for 2021 assembly elections, Jayakumar said: "They are part of the

Bengaluru, Oct 12: Accusing actor Kushboo Sundar of lacking "ideological commitment", the Congress said on Monday her quitting the organisation would have no impact on Tamil Nadu politics. AICC in-charge of Tamil Nadu, Dinesh Gundu Rao, said she has been criticising the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi till a week ago. Joining BJP which she had been criticising, for some positions suggests that Kushboo has no ideological commitment, he said amid reports that she would embrace the J P Nadda-led party. "It is unfortunate that she is doing this. It will not have any impact on Tamil Nadu politics," Rao said. The Congress is reorganising and overhauling the outfit

in Tamil Nadu and preparing for Assembly elections, slated next year, he said. "We will not be side-tracked from that, by all these issues (Kushboo leaving the party)," Rao said. Kushboo's decision would have no impact on the ground in Tamil Nadu, he said, adding, media may play up the issue for a couple of days since she is an actor and the matter would then die down. "It will have no impact, zero impact", he said. The BJP would not gain by her entry as there is a "big anti-BJP feeling" in Tamil Nadu, Rao alleged. Kushboo could be joining the BJP for "some other reasons, not just politics", he said, adding, he does not want to elaborate on this comment.

— PTI

AIADMK-led alliance (in Tamil Nadu) and they should accept it." The

assembly elections are due during April-May next year in the state. PTI

BJP aims to strengthen its star power in the South

New Delhi, Oct. 12: Actor-turned-politician Kushboo Sundar is the latest entrant in the star-studded BJP which has more than half a dozen parliamentarians who were household names for their silver screen presence before entering the political arena. Prominent Bollywood stars Sunny Deol, Hema Malini, Kirron Kher, Bengali actresses Rupa Ganguli and Locket Chatterjee, and the Bhojpuri film industry's Ravi Kishan and Manoj Tiwari are MPs who got

elected on BJP tickets. There are many others, such as actor Paresh Rawal, who may not be active in the party's day to day affairs but are its members and never hesitate in hitting the ground for its cause. As many as 12 film and television stars from West Bengal had joined the BJP in July last year. The development was significant as the party has left no stone unturned to dethrone the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC in the eastern state. BJP had won 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West

Bengal in the general elections last year. Political observers feel it is the strategy of the BJP to get film personalities on board from the regions and states where it has not been a force to reckon with and Kushboo's entry also suggests the same. With the South Indian actress now becoming a party member, the BJP is aiming to use the popularity of film stars to strengthen its position in Tamil Nadu where it is still to make any mark electorally.

— PTI

JOY OF BIRDWATCHING

No lockdown in avian havens

There are plenty of wetlands in the suburbs of Chennai like Pallikarai, Perumbakkam, Nanmangalam that attract birds, including migratory avians. For some months now, a major improvement in the water level due to intermittent showers, reduction in traffic and movement of people due to lockdown have also helped in the nesting of these birds.

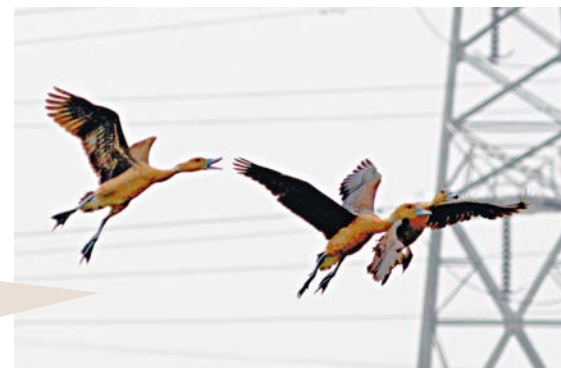
The normally spotted birds in the vicinity include flamingos, purple moorhen, egrets, pelicans, teal ducks, yellow ash prinas, brown headed gulls and stilts

among others. Ornithologists and nature lovers make a beeline to these waterbodies in the early morning hours. Some voluntary organisations also conduct proper bird census and, over the years, the increase in the arrival of some migratory birds from even outside the Indian sub-continent has spelt good news to them. Students are also taken on study tours to these places to teach them about the unique habitat of the birds and also the importance of these wetlands in the landscape of Chennai.

— E. K. Sanjay



Yellow ash prinia, purple moorhens, flamingoes and egrets, teal ducks, and grey headed gull found in Perumbakkam.



SC dismisses Shankar's petition over Endhiran copyright violation

ARUL PALANI | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 12

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition filed by ace director Shankar challenging an order of the Madras high court in connection with a copyright violation case against him over the movie *Endhiran*.

When the special leave appeal petition filed by Shankar came up for hearing, the bench comprising Justices Rohinton Fali Nariman, Navin Sinha and K.M. Joseph dismissed the plea stating that the finding made only prima facie by the Madras HC will not in any manner influence the trial.

Aarur Tamilnadan penned a story *Jiguba*, which was published in a Tamil magazine 'Iniya Udhayam' in 1996. It was re-published as a novel - *Dhik Dhik Dheepika* in 2007. In 2010 after the release of *Endhiran* starring Rajinikanth and Aishwarya Rai, under the direction of Shankar, it was found that the story of 'Endhiran' was copied from 'Jiguba'.



Tamilnadan sent a notice to Kalanidhi Maran, the film producer, and Shankar. He also filed a complaint of copyright violation to the commissioner of police, Chennai against both of them. In the complaint Tamilnadan stated that the director and producer had copied his story to create *Endhiran* which was a violation of Copyright Act, 1957.

Later, he filed a criminal complaint against Maran and Shankar before the XIII Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Egmore. The trial court asked both of them to appear before the court in 2011. Following this, Maran and Shankar filed a petition before the Madras HC seeking

an order to quash the proceedings of the Egmore magistrate stating that the story was not copied from Tamilnadan's story and his complaint was declared invalid.

Meanwhile, the Madras HC granted a stay order for the case before the Egmore magistrate. On June 6, 2019, Justice Pugazhendhi, in a judgment, held that the complaint of Tamilnadan against Maran was invalid. However, the court admitted the case against Shankar and stated that there were 16 similarities between the story and the film.

The court held that copyright violation was proved and therefore directed the Egmore magistrate court to resume the proceedings against Shankar.

After a year Shankar approached the Supreme Court and filed an appeal against the judgment passed by the Madras HC. As the apex court dismissed the plea, the proceedings in the magistrate court is all set to commence shortly.



OTHER STORY

Advanced health facility coming up

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 12

Dr Rela Institute & Medical Centre (RIMC), a multi-speciality quaternary care hospital at Chrompet, signed a memorandum of understanding with Krishna Institute of Medical Science (KIMS) Hospital, on Monday to launch the Comprehensive Centre of Excellence for Heart and Lung Transplant. The facility will support patients with very complex and chronic heart and lung ailments and to establish and support ExtraCororeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) services to support patients as a bridge for a lung transplant.

Neyveli Lignite Corpn gets new CVO

DC CORRESPONDENT
CUDDALORE, OCT 12

A.L. Prabhakar, belonging to Indian Railways Stores Service (IRSS), assumed office as the Chief Vigilance Officer of NLC India Limited on Monday in Neyveli. Prabhakar, currently holding the charge as CVO of Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Chennai, has been entrusted with additional charge of the post of CVO, NLC India Limited. Possessing more than three decades of experience, Prabhakar held posts in various fields including Material Management, Information Technology, Head of Training Institute, Vigilance.

Dispute leads to murder of farmer

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 12

A minor dispute between two farmers spiralled out of control on Sunday, leading to the brutal murder of a 45-year-old man in Chengalpet district.

The deceased has been identified as Rajagopal, (45), a resident of Kodamangalam near Singaperumal Kovil in Chengalpet.

Police sources said Rajagopal rented a rice harvester machine from another farmer, Perumal (48), before the lockdown. He owed Perumal Rs 17,500. However, he was unable to pay the rent due to joblessness during lockdown.

Meanwhile, on Sunday Perumal arrived at the latter's house on a tractor and demanded money. However, Rajagopal sought time to pay the rent. Irrked by this, Perumal drove away with Rajagopal's power dealer machine kept in his field. When Rajagopal attempted to stop him, he allegedly rammed his tractor into him. He collapsed and died on the spot. Maraimalai Nagar police rushed to the spot and sent the body o for post-mortem.

Govt machinery ready to face NE monsoon: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 12

Chief Minister K. Palaniswami on Monday reviewed the government's preparations ahead of the northeast monsoon in the state and said it was fully geared to ensure the safety of people. He issued a series of directives to officials on measures to be taken during monsoon. In the review meeting attended by Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam and Chief Secretary K. Shanmugam and others, Palaniswami directed the officials to ensure adequate stocks of medicines in public and private hospitals.

Palaniswami said, "During any disaster time, fair price shops should have two months' stocks of essential commodities." The IAS officers designated with supervising rain-related preparations should monitor the situation in the respective districts and in Chennai. He said mock drills following the Covid-19 protocol of social distancing should be held in vulnerable places.

More than 4,100 vulnerable areas have been identified and multi-department zonal-level teams have been formed to handle any eventuality. Nearly 43,500 first responders, including 14,232 women, trained responders geared up to remove fallen trees and rescue cattle were on standby. Various facilities including marriage halls have been identified to accommodate people if required.

● **More than 4,100 vulnerable areas have been identified and multi-department zonal-level teams have been formed to handle any eventuality.**



Private sector power generation company, JSW Energy to invest ₹6,300 crore for its renewable energy projects in Thoothukudi, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Tirupur districts bringing jobs to more than 2,400 people.

Call to launch projects foreseen by Jaya

ARULOLI M | DC
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT 12

Residents in the district still yearn for the launch of developmental projects announced by late chief minister J. Jayalalithaa, in her 2011 election campaign.

During her campaign in 2011, then AIADMK general secretary, J. Jayalalithaa, promised a mega flyover in the most congested VVD junction in front of the government medical college hospital here, with service roads on both sides. To ensure free flow of traffic at the first and second gate areas, Jayalalithaa promised to build an underpass and a rail over-bridge, besides an integrated new bus stand on the Tiruchendur road near the fisheries college.

After she became the chief minister, she also officially declared launch of these road projects. But due to the intervention of a few local traders, these projects were dumped by successive administrators of her own party, said an AIADMK cadre, who also complained that the ruling party leaders colluded with a jewellery trader, who is now with the AMMK, and cancelled the integrated bus stand project promised by 'Amma government'.

The state government has also not taken adequate measures to bring in investments for which late chief minister J

CM VISITING THOOTHUKUDI TODAY, TO LAUNCH 28 SCHEMES

DC CORRESPONDENT
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT 12

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanisami is likely to lay the foundation for 28 new projects worth ₹328.40 crore in the district on Tuesday.

The chief minister will reach the city by air, and as his first programme, inaugurate the 'Linear Accelerator' worth Rs 16 crore installed at the Thoothukudi medical college hospital. This would provide advanced treatment for cancer patients as part of radiation therapy.

Thoothukudi police have made elaborate security arrangements with around 1,200 personnel deployed for the chief minister visit, said SP Jeyakumar.

Jayalalithaa had signed MoUs with investors in the global investors meet organised in 2015.

"Of the 98 MoUs signed for a total investment of ₹ 2.42 lakh crore, Thoothukudi district was promised a huge investment of around Rs 60,000 crore in the 2015 'Global Investors Meet' held by

The chief minister would then review the corona control measures in the district, and then inaugurate completed government projects to the tune of ₹21.34 crore. He will lay the foundation for 28 new projects worth ₹328.40 crore, and meet representatives from the industrial sector, fishermen and self-help groups.

Thoothukudi police have made elaborate security arrangements with around 1,200 personnel deployed for the chief minister visit, said SP Jeyakumar.

Jayalalithaa had signed MoUs with investors in the global investors meet organised in 2015.

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Vans Chemistry's ₹50 crore e-waste management and recycling project were among the other pacts have been signed on the occasion.

As per the MoU Hiranandani group's Greenbase Industrial

Jayalalithaa," recalled an industrialist, who also added that among the 98 MoUs signed in 2015 by late chief minister Jayalalithaa, the highest single investment to the tune of ₹30,000 crore was promised to Thoothukudi by a middle-east-based oil refinery and petrochemical company 'Al Kharafi', which again signed a similar MoU with the present government for a higher volume of around ₹42,000 crore.

Further, in the aftermath of the Sterlite riots, Thoothukudi has become one of the most unfriendly destinations for investors, and hence, no single investor participated in the 2019 global investors meet intended to invest in Thoothukudi, added the industrialist.

"We have made several representations to the state government to take measures to regain the faith global investors had on Thoothukudi as an industrial hub. Now, it is up to the chief minister to choose between playing local politics or focus on development," felt the industrialist.

Parks would setup an industrial logistics park at Oragadam at an estimated of about ₹750 crore and the 14 MoUs shall generate 7,000 jobs in districts including Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tirunelveli.

DMK wants Surappa to be sacked as VC

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 12

DMK's youth wing and students' wing would launch a massive agitation if Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami did not recommend the sacking of Anna University vice chancellor M. K. Surappa to Governor Banwarilal Purohit in view of the controversy relating to the seeking of Institute Of Eminence (IOE) status to Anna University on his own.

Coming down heavily on the Vice Chancellor for his audacity to write to the Centre independently, seeking the IOE status by claiming that the university would be able to mobilise Rs 1,500 crore in five years and that it would not require to depend on the state government for funds to support itself, Stalin wondered how a vice chancellor could do it without the knowledge of the Chief Minister.

Mobilising funds for the university would only tantamount to adding to be financial burden of the students and their parents, he said, adding Surappa was doing it since his term as vice chancellor was coming to an end. He wondered how

the vice chancellor could work against the interest of the State by saffronising education with the Governor watching over it.

Suspecting a conspiracy by the Governor, Chief Minister and vice chancellor to give up on the 69 per cent reservation followed by the university by obtaining the IOE status, Stalin pointed out that the Centre was not giving a definitive answer on continuing with the same reservation policy and said the vice chancellor cannot be allowed to strike at the roots of the reservation policy.

He wanted to know if the recent visit to the Raj Bhavan by the Chief Minister, higher education minister and others, purportedly to discuss Neet, was to actually allow the vice chancellor to write the letter to the Centre. "Did the Chief Minister secretly give the vice chancellor permission?" he asked.

The DMK had opposed the bill to bifurcate the Anna University in the State Assembly because it was aware of the AIADMK's evil designs and its penchant for acting with ulterior motives, he said and urged the Governor to reject the Bill.

Fake e-mail created in collector's name

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT 12

A fake e-mail found to have been generated in the name of the District Collector here, and a link attached to it asking e-mail users to click the particular link to receive Amazon gift cards sent by the collector, has created a flutter in this hill town.

Nilgiris Collector Innocent Divya has lodged a complaint with the police and appealed to the public not to believe the fake e-mail which is doing its rounds on social media and e-mail domains.

Addressing the media here, Divya said that some officials received a fake e-mail generated in her name, and a link attached to it.

"As it was immediately brought to my notice, I lodged a complaint with the Nilgiris district police and urged them to trace and book the offenders. It



is a cyber-crime purported to deceive the public. If anyone receives such an e-mail, they should not open the link. Police have already begun investigations," she said.

On Corona prevention measures, the collector said that special teams have been formed across the Nilgiris to monitor if SOPs laid down by the government were being followed in the district by commercial establishments. Violators are being fined by concerned officials, and the e-pass system will continue for tourists and other outsiders, she added.

Stir for paddy procurement

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, OCT 12

Farmers of Thennankudi village near here staged a road roko on Monday demanding procurement of paddy from them at the direct purchase centre in the village. They said that procurement has been stopped for the past couple

of days and paddy bags have stagnated. TNCSO officials rushed gunny bags and started procurement after the agitation. Following this, farmers withdrew the agitation on assurance that procurement will continue. Officials said that they wanted time to clear the glut, and hence stopped procurement.

Health hazard



Vegetables thrown away by traders in Koyambedu area collected by these women who are likely to sell them in their area on Monday.

— DC

Two docs move HC over super specialty courses

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 12

Two doctors have approached the Madras high court to direct the Tamil Nadu and Central governments to notify 50 per cent of vacancies for in-service candidates for admission to super specialty DM/MCh courses in academic session 2020-2021 in the medical institutions in the state of Tamil Nadu. Justice N.Anand Venkatesh before whom the petitions filed by Dr.M.Syed Fahrudeen and Dr.G.Kumaravel, assistants professors, department of general medicine, Government Royapettah Hospital, Chennai, came up for hearing, adjourned it to October 16, 2020, to enable the state and Central governments to file their replies.

When the matter came up for hearing, advocate G.Sankaran, appearing for the petitioners referred to the orders of the

Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court in the case of Tamil Nadu Medical Officers Association Vs. Union of India, dated August 31, 2020, by which it was held that the State was having legislative competence and authority to provide a separate source of entry for in-service candidates seeking admission to PG degree courses, in exercise of powers conferred under Entry 25 List-III. Hence, the state of Tamil Nadu was requested to revive the allotment of 50 per cent seats in PG medical courses/super specialty courses for in-service candidates in order to enable government doctors in Tamil Nadu to acquire higher qualification by getting admission under in-service quota, he added.

Advocate general Vijay Narayan submitted that a decision will be taken by the state government at the earliest.

Without hurting him further. On receiving information from the brick kiln owner, 108 ambulances rushed to the spot and took him to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) after providing him first aid. Despite all efforts, the youth died within a few hours of hospitalisation.

Information was passed on to police officials and a post-mortem was conducted. Investigations are on.

WADHAWAN BROTHERS GRANTED BAIL

Chennai, Oct 12: A city court on Monday granted conditional bail to Mumbai-based Wadhawan brothers of DHFL, arrested by the police for allegedly defrauding depositors of crores of rupees.

S Sathi Kumar, judge, Special Court constituted under the Tamil Nadu Protection of Interest of Depositors (TNPID) Act, granted the relief to DHFL promoters Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan, while passing orders on their applications seeking bail. According to the prosecution, an FIR was registered following a direction from the Madras High Court earlier against Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited and others on the charge of defrauding investors, allegedly by floating bogus schemes and failing to return about Rs 218 crore to depositors. The two were arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the police on October 7. The judge granted the bail subject to the conditions that the duo shall deposit ₹ 50 lakh each with the court and execute a personal bond for a similar sum for both with two sureties each. One of the sureties shall be a blood relative of the petitioners. On release on bail, they shall report before the Deputy Superintendent of Police, EOW. —PTI



Under instructions of SP S Selvakumar, police personnel in Vellore district for the past two days have been distributing face masks and sanitiser along with roses at the doorstep of all houses, to create an awareness on the importance of wearing face masks and observe social distancing, to thwart the Covid-19 threat. Seen in photo is Vellore south station Inspector Latha and police personnel, Kaspa, doing their rounds in RSK Nagar.

— K. Senthil Nathan

Youth stabs 16-year-old girl, commits suicide

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC
SALEM, OCT 12

A 16-year-old girl was stabbed by her alleged lover from Chennai, who subsequently committed suicide by hanging, in Salem.

Sources said Satish (30) hailed from Thotiyam village near Chinnasalem in Kallakurichi district, and worked as a driver in a church in Velachery, Chennai. He and a 16-year-old girl from Chinnasalem had been in an affair for the past three years. Learning about the girl's affair last January, her parents and villagers summoned Satish and the girl before a local panchayat, and warned them to stay separated, and

Satish had gone to Chennai. But the girl had kept contact with Satish over the mobile.

In due course, the marriage of Satish was fixed and invitation for the wedding printed, which he sent to the girl. Shocked by this, the girl had asked Satish to meet her once in person before his marriage. On Sunday, Satish had come to Chinnasalem on his two-wheeler from Chennai and was talking to the girl when a dispute arose between them. Infuriated, Satish took a concealed knife he had and stabbed the girl, and fled.

Seeing this, passersby rescued the girl and rushed her to the Kallakurichi government

hospital. Police began a hunt for Satish based on information given by the girl. Meanwhile, Satish committed suicide by hanging himself in a dense bush near Perumal temple near the Salem Udayappatti bypass.

Ammappettai police recovered the body and sent it to the government hospital here for autopsy. Police also retrieved a letter from the shirt pocket of Satish, which stated that the girl kept torturing him, and hence, he had stabbed the girl and fled.

On realising that the police were behind him, he committed suicide. Ammapettai police have registered a case and are investigating.

Migrant worker dies in elephant attack

ANANTH MATHIVANAN | DC
COIMBATORE, OCT 12

A migrant labourer admitted to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) with serious injuries sustained in a wild elephant attack, died without responding to treatment late on Sunday night.

According to DFO D Venkatesh, despite alerting brick kiln owners to construct toilets for labourers

instead of encouraging them to opt for open defecation in the forest fringe areas of Thadagam valley, they have not done so, which results in continuous man-elephant conflict.

This 20-year-old migrant labourer, Saridul Islam from Assam, was working in a private brick kiln and had entered a patta land outside the Thadagam south beat in Coimbatore forest range close to ARS Brick Chamber

to answer nature's call around 8:45 pm on Sunday. Unaware of the lone elephant standing in the nearby bush, the youth had gone very close to the jumbo in the dark. The animal had seized him in its trunk and flung him off in which Saridul suffered a fracture below the left knee.

On hearing his screams, co-workers ran to rescue him. Fortunately, the elephant had moved from the spot

without hurting him further.

SHORT TAKES

BJD NAMES CANDIDATES FOR BYPOLLS

VINAY MADHAV | DC
BENGALURU, OCT. 12

Failure to handle Covid-19 spike in Karnataka cost Health and Family Welfare Minister B. Sriramulu, who has turned rebellious against Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa.

Sriramulu, who has been deputy chief minister aspirant since the BJP government came to power, has been relieved of his two portfolios — health and family welfare, backward class development. The portfolios have been given social welfare department.

Soon after the order came, Sriramulu rushed to Chief Minister's residence and held an one hour meeting with him. Later, Sriramulu went to his residence and held another meeting with his close associates. He has sought appointment with BJP leaders in Delhi to air his grievance and get a better deal. When he failed to get an appointment, Sriramulu also spoke of resigning from the cabinet and staying as just MLA.

The daily average spike in Covid-19 positive cases in the state has crossed 10,500 and the daily average of Bengaluru city alone has crossed the 5,000-mark. Even the total number of deaths in the state is touching the 9,000-mark, which forced Yeddyurappa to shift Sriramulu away from health and family welfare department.

'CHINA CREATES BORDER ISSUES AS IF A MISSION'

DC CORRESPONDENT with
agency inputs
NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

After Pakistan, China is also creating a dispute at the border with India as if it was part of a "mission", defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, as Indian and Chinese troops remain locked in a standoff in eastern Ladakh for over five months.

The defence minister, speaking at an online event after inaugurating 44 bridges, said India is not only facing the situations along the frontiers resolutely, but it is also bringing in major development including in border areas.

"You are well aware of the conditions created along our northern and eastern borders. First it was Pakistan, and now also by China, as if a border dispute is being created under a mission. We have a border of about 7,000 km with these countries where the tension continues," Singh said.

The defence minister on Monday virtually inaugurated 44 major permanent bridges in the border areas including 10 strategic bridges in Jammu and Kashmir and eight in Ladakh. These bridges were constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

HATHRAS VICTIM'S KIN APPEAR BEFORE HC

Lucknow, Oct. 12: Family members of the 19-year-old Dalit woman who died after allegedly being raped by four upper caste men in Hathras appeared before the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, which fixed November 2 as the next date of hearing.

They were heard by the Bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Rajan Roy on Monday. The UP Additional Chief Secretary, DGP, and the ADG (Law and Order) also deposed before the court, along with the Hathras DM and SP.

The DM told the court that the decision to cremate the body in the night was taken due to the law and order considerations and there was no pressure from the state authorities.

Additional Advocate General V.K. Shahi, who represented the state authorities in the court, said the next date of hearing has been fixed for November 2.

The woman's father, mother and three brothers were brought to the court amid tight security from Hathras earlier in the day.

The court had summoned the Additional Chief Secretary, Home; the Director General of Police; ADG, Law and Order; and the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police of Hathras to furnish the status report of investigation into the case.

The woman was allegedly raped by four upper caste men on September 14.

Power outage rocks Mumbai



A doctor treats a child with the help of a torch in Sion Hospital in Mumbai on Monday. A rare citywide power outage paralysed Mumbai, halting local train services, trapping people in lifts and disrupting work from home adopted by millions during the ongoing pandemic. Power restoration efforts began on war footing and pocket-wise resumption in supply was started around 12 noon onwards, nearly two hours after the outage.

— RAJESH JADHAV

Upper castes make up half of BJP's Bihar phase-II list

Party seeks to maintain sway over upper castes while wooing OBCs, Dalits

Patna, Oct. 12: A strategy of keeping its upper caste support base intact while making inroads in the sizeable OBC and Dalit vote bank meets the eye upon perusal of the BJP's list of 46 candidates for the second phase of assembly elections in Bihar.

Altogether 94 seats go to polls in the phase, for which voting will take place on November 3.

The BJP had got more than half of these under the seat-sharing arrangement with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U).

The saffron party's list of candidates for the second round of voting was released on Sunday.

Nearly half of the BJP's 46 candidates for the second phase of voting belong to the upper castes Rajputs, Bhumihars, Brahmins, Kayasthas and Vaishyas which constitute the core base of the saffron party in the state.

The party has also given tickets to eight Yadavs, seeking to make a dent into the opposition RJD's unquestionable sway over the most sizeable OBC group in the state.

The JD(U), which has announced its candidates for all the 115 seats it will

be contesting, has also fielded a substantial number of Yadavs.

Yadavs form nearly 15 per cent of the electorate in the state and the NDA parties are trying to cash in absence of Prasad from the poll scene to wean away the core support base of the RJD.

The RJD supremo is in jail after conviction in four cases of multi-crore fodder scam.

Candidates from other OBC groups also figure in the BJP's list while seven Dalits will be seeking votes for the party in as many reserved constituencies.

Out of the 46 seats in the second phase, the BJP has set aside five from its quota for the Vikasheel Insaan Party, headed by former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni who left the Opposition camp and joined the NDA nearly a week ago.

The VIP has been allocated total 11 seats for all three phases of the polls by the saffron party from its share of 121 seats in the NDA.

Bihar has a 243-member assembly.

Rest 122 seats in the NDA camp have gone to the JD(U) out of which it has

provided seven to Hindustani Awam Morcha of the former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi.

The BJP had won 20 out of the seats going to polls in the second phase.

Its sitting members in four of these Sugaali, Chanpatiya, Siwan and Amnour have been deprived of tickets this time.

While Sugaali has gone to JD(U), the BJP has placed its trust in new faces in the remaining three.

Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey's reported lobbying for his son Arijit Shashwat seems to have paid no dividend in Bhagalpur where the party has placed its trust in district unit chief Rahul Pandey. Another candidate, who has risen from the ranks and made it to the list is Nikhil Anand, one of the most prominent spokesmen in the state unit who will be challenging RJD strongman Bhairavendra in Maner. Former MP Om Prakash Yadav who had won Siwan for the party in 2014 but was denied tickets last year as the seat went to the JD(U), has been fielded from the assembly segment.

Cong targets MP CM's background

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 12

The campaigning for the November 3 by-elections in 28 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh has reached a new low with a senior Congress leader trying to belittle chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan citing his humble family background.

State unit president of farmers' wing of Congress Dinesh Gurjar said Mr Chouhan was no match to former chief minister Kamal Nath while drawing a comparison of their financial backgrounds.

"Mr Chouhan hails from a family of 'nange, bhokhe', loosely translated in English as extremely poor, while Mr Nath was the second biggest industrialist in India", the Congress leader said while addressing an

election meeting in Ashok Nagar late on Sunday.

The ruling BJP has seized the opportunity to portray it as a battle between 'rich vs poor' in the assembly by-polls to target Mr Nath, who is leading Congress in the crucial by-elections.

"Yes, I come from a poor family. That's why I understand the pangs of hunger. That's why my focus has always been to uplift the poor and the farmers. I have transferred ₹1000 to the bank accounts of each farmer as soon as I assumed office. I have undertaken many welfare measures for the poor and the farmer after I assumed power in March", he said while addressing a poll meeting in Guna in the state on Monday. He attacked Mr Nath saying the latter never visited villages and was hardly aware of conditions of the poor.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area recorded 228 new cases, Medchal Malkajgiri, 84 and Ranga Reddy, 68. The other districts too had very little testing due to which the numbers are low.

Government officials state that the disease is on a decline but the guard must not be let down. It is very important to not travel unnecessarily and senior citizens and children must continue to exercise caution.

AP tally low: Andhra Pradesh reported only 3,000-plus new daily cases of Covid-19, for the first time in about three months. From 61,112 sample tests in 24 hours ending 9 am on Monday, 3,224 positive cases emerged, taking the gross to 7,58,951, the latest bulletin said. It said the total recoveries

Cases go below 70,000; deaths less than 900

DC CORRESPONDENT
WITH AGENCY INPUTS
NEW DELHI, OCT. 12

With 66,732 fresh cases, India on Monday registered a total of 71.21 lakh cases of coronavirus while its death toll climbed to 1,09,150 with 816 new fatalities in the last 24 hours.

However, despite significantly high number of fresh cases being detected, the virus spread seems to have slowed down a bit in India though the coming festive season will make it clear if India has crossed the "peak".

The gap between India and the United States of America in terms of overall cases is narrowing down and on Monday it has further come down to 8.70 lakh.

Union health ministry officials said that the trend of steady decline in active cases is continuing and the active caseload is now only 12.10% of the total positive cases, which is 8.62 lakh.

"For the fourth day after the active cases dropped below the 9 lakh mark after a month, the decline continues unabated," officials said.

India is also reporting a high number of recoveries and the total recovered cases are close to 61.50 lakhs.

5,930 cases in Kerala: Kerala reported 5,930 Covid-19 cases on Monday, taking the infection tally to 2,99,132, while the death toll climbed to 1,025 with 22 fatalities. The state had recorded its highest single day spike on October 10 when it had reported 11,755 cases and on Sunday, 9,347 new cases were detected.

While houseboats and tourist boats have been allowed in backwaters and lakes, the beaches will be opened for tourists only after November 1 in the second phase.

The decision to open tourism sector has been taken in view of the huge crisis being faced by the sector and the people who are dependent on it, due to the lockdown.

While many other states had opened up tourism sector earlier, the government in Kerala was cautious as it did not want to trigger a spike in the Covid cases, especially in the densely populated areas.

Therefore, the government decided to open up the sector in a phased manner.

Since the union home ministry in its Unlock 4 order has not mentioned tourism in the prohibited category, the sector can be opened with adequate measures. The government's decision has brought some relief to the people engaged in tourism sector.

The government had earlier announced that those coming to Kerala from outside the state for business purposes, would be exempted from 7 days mandatory quarantine. The same norm is going to be applied to the tourists as well. They can come to the state on a short visit for a week.

All tourists coming from outside should register with the state government's Jagratha portal. If the tourists don't return after seven days, they will be subjected to Covid-19 test and they will have to bear the expenses for the same.

Those who are interested to stay for more than seven days should either come with a Covid negative certificate or on reaching Kerala, undergo a Covid test. If the tourists don't comply with the norm, they will have to undergo seven days quarantine.

went up to 7,08,712 after 5,504 had recovered in 24 hours. The overall toll increased to 6,256 after 32 fresh fatalities were reported, the bulletin added.

KERALA OPENS UP TOURISM SECTOR IN A PHASED MANNER

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCT. 12

The Kerala government has opened up tourism sector partially by allowing tourists in hill destinations, adventure tourism spots and backwaters from Monday.

The Covid-19 safety norms will be adhered to strictly at these tourist destinations.

The tourist centres will be opened up in two phases complying with the safety protocols, said tourism minister Mr K a d k a m p a l l y Surendran.

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SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE STILL CRITICAL

Kolkata, Oct. 12: Legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee is still in a "high risk zone" though his parameters are stable, doctors attending to the thespian said on Monday.

The 85-year-old Dadasaheb Phalke awardee has fever and continues to be in a "drowsy, confusional state", which is a matter of concern, they said. Chatterjee might have to undergo an MRI later on Monday, doctors at the private hospital, where he is being treated for Covid-19, said.

"He is stable, had good sleep last night, but is still in a high risk zone. His oxygen saturation level has improved," a doctor said.

—PTI

HARD | LESSONS

Five to six other teachers of the school were under surveillance of police

PSA on 3 teachers as 13 students join ultra ranks

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 12

Three teachers of a private school in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Shopian district have been booked under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) after the discovery that 13 of its students joined militants' ranks over a period of time.

One of them is Sajjad Bhat, an accused in the February 2019 bombing of a convoy of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in neighbouring Pulwama in which 40 jawans were killed and eight others wounded.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range), Vijay Kumar, told reporters here that during

the investigation by it and other security and law enforcing agencies it was found that 13 of the alumni of Siraj-ul-Uloom schools situated in Shopian's Imam Sahib area and affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), had joined various militant outfits. The three teachers who have been detained under the PSA are Abdul Ahad Bhat, Rouf Bhat and Mohammad Yusuf Wani, he said.

However, the sources said that the school is run by a local trust called Siraj-ul-Uloom Educational Trust which incidentally is, at present, being headed by a JI member Muhammad Yusuf Mantu.

A JI official claimed that

the school has nothing to do with the organisation or its subsidiary Falah-e-Aam Trust which runs a chain of schools across J&K.

Under the PSA, introduced in J&K in 1978 initially to deal with timber smuggling but later used by successive governments often against their political opponents, a person can be detained for a

period of six months to two years without the authorities seeking a formal trial.

The Centre had in February 2019 through a notification declared JI, Jammu and Kashmir as "unlawful association" for five years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Also, the rightwing party's almost entire leadership and hundreds of members were arrested and subsequently many of them booked under the PSA.

The police sources said that the students enrolled at the school were mainly from Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag districts of Kashmir Valley which with Shopian have been

the hotbed of insurgency over a period of time and witnessed spurt in recruitment of local youths by various militant outfits after the killing of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen's internet savvy commander Burhan Muzaffar Wani in July 2016.

The sources said that the schools had outstation students from Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana, but their number dropped to almost nil after the Centre stripped J&K of its special status and split it up into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

IG Kumar said, "The school's name is Siraj-ul-Uloom, Imam Sahib. It is not that this school has not been under observation. We have already booked

three teachers of the school under the PSA."

He added that five to six other teachers of the school were under surveillance of the police under Section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and that the police are taking action against individuals and "if need arises, we will take action against the school as well." The Section 107 of the CrPC deals with any likely breach of peace or public tranquility.

The other alumni of the school who, according to the police, joined militants' ranks included Zubair Nengroo, a commander of the proscribed Al-Badr outfit killed in a clash with security forces in August.

IN BRIEF

Lanka suspends expatriates rescue

Colombo: Sri Lankan officials say they have suspended bringing back expatriates stranded overseas due to the Coronavirus because the country's quarantine facilities are full. Army Commander Shavendra Silva, who heads the task force to control the pandemic, says Sri Lanka's quarantine facilities have filled up amid a steep rise in Covid-19 patients in the past week. Sri Lanka had earlier announced that it successfully contained the spread of the virus, and no local clusters were reported for two months.

Death penalty for rape in B'desh

Dhaka: Bangladesh's Cabinet on Monday approved an increase in the maximum punishment in rape cases to death from life imprisonment after a series of recent sexual assaults triggered protests on streets and in social media. Cabinet spokesman Khandaker Anwarul Islam said President Abdul Hamid is likely to issue an ordinance amending the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act because Parliament is not in session. Details of the amendment were not immediately available, but Islam said the Cabinet agreed to a proposal that trials in rape cases be completed in a speedy manner. Under the current law, the maximum punishment in rape cases is life imprisonment, except for cases in which the victim dies, when capital punishment is allowed.

Protesters raze statues in Portland

Portland: Protesters overturned statues of former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln in Portland, Oregon, in a declaration of "rage" toward Columbus Day. Protest organisers on Sunday night dubbed the event "Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage," in response to Monday's federal holiday named after 15th-century Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, a polarising figure who Native American advocates have said spurred centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas. The group threw chains around Roosevelt's statue, officially titled "Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider."

Poland defuses WW bomb, shifts 750

Warsaw: Hundreds of people in northwest Poland have been evacuated for a few days to allow Navy sappers to neutralise a British World War II giant Tallboy bomb resting under a waterway leading to the port of Szczecin. The 5.4 tonne bomb was found in Sept. 2019 during work to deepen the waterway. It's located on the southern edge of a popular Baltic Sea resort of Swinoujscie, that, like Szczecin, was a busy Nazi Germany military port during the war. In a defusing project that began on Monday and is expected to last for five days, experts will be seeking to neutralize the Tallboy underwater by causing its explosives to burn out in a controlled way.

CLOTH MASKS NEED DAILY WASH TO CUT VIRUS RISK

Melbourne, Oct. 12: Cloth masks may reduce the transmission of viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19, only if they are washed daily at high temperatures, according to a study.

"Both cloth masks and surgical masks should be considered 'contaminated' after use," said Professor Raina MacIntyre, from the University of New South Wales in Australia. "Unlike surgical masks, which are disposed of after use, cloth masks are re-used. While it can be tempting to use the same mask for multiple days in a row, or to give it a quick hand-wash or wipe-over, our research suggests that this increases the risk of contamination," MacIntyre said. The researchers analysed data from a randomised controlled trial (RCT) they published in 2015. The latest study, published in the journal BMJ Open, is still the only RCT ever conducted on the efficacy of cloth masks in preventing viral infections, they said. The researchers did a deep dive into the 2011 data on whether the health workers in their study washed their masks daily, and if so, how they washed their masks. The team found that if cloth masks were washed in the hospital laundry, they were as effective as a surgical mask.

US Supreme Court confirmation hearing



White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows (left) looks on as Judge Amy Coney Barrett arrives to testify at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on her nomination to serve as an associate justice on the US Supreme Court on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday. — AFP

Don's task: Resetting campaign that GOP fears is slipping away

Washington, Oct. 12: President Donald Trump is running out of time to recover from a series of self-inflicted setbacks that have rattled his base of support and triggered alarm among Republicans who fear the White House is on the verge of being lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

The one-two punch of Trump's Coronavirus diagnosis and his widely panned debate performance also has Republicans worried they could lose control of the Senate. With just over three weeks until Election Day, Senate races in some reliably red states, including South Carolina and Kansas, are competitive, aided by a surge in Democratic fundraising that has put both the Republican Party and Trump's own campaign at an unexpected financial disadvantage.

The president will aim for a reset this week, hoping an aggressive travel schedule and Judge Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court confirmation hearings will energise his most loyal supporters and shift attention away from a virus that has killed more than 214,000 Americans on his watch. Optimists in the president's inner circle point to his unique ability to command attention and to his 2016 campaign, which also seemed destined for defeat before a late shift. But that comeback was aided by outside forces

Trump begins the election trail again

Washington, Oct. 12: US President Donald Trump will launch a campaign marathon on Monday, holding rallies in three key swing states over the next few days as his White House race against surging rival Joe Biden enters its critical final weeks.

The Republican leader will hold a rally in Florida, followed by Pennsylvania and Iowa — states all crucial to clinching a victory on November 3. Trump will likely try to galvanise his electoral base by touting his nominee for Supreme Court justice, Amy Coney Barrett.

The Republican-controlled Senate will begin hearings for the 48-year-old judge, whose confirmation — of which there is little doubt — will shift the nation's highest court firmly to the right for generations. Trump's doctors gave

him the all-clear Saturday to return to the campaign trail after he was ruled no longer a Coronavirus transmission risk, and on Sunday he said while calling in to a campaign event that he tested "totally negative." But he has yet to be declared virus-free, and his immunity claim is unproven.

"It looks like I'm immune for, I don't know, maybe a long time and maybe a short time, it could be a lifetime, nobody really knows, but I'm immune," Trump said. The word 'immunity' means something, having really a protective glow.

"So now you have a president who doesn't have to hide in a basement like his opponent," Trump added — in a jab at Democratic challenger Biden, who has taken a far more cautious approach to campaigning during the pandemic. —AFP

against an unpopular opponent.

This year's campaign, other Republicans worry, may instead resemble 1980 or 2008: a close race until, at the end, it decidedly wasn't. "It's not good for my side," said veteran

read of chemical weapons.

Navalny, an anti-corruption investigator and major political opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, fell ill on August 20 during a domestic flight in Russia. He was flown to Germany for treatment two days later and is still recovering there.

Last week, tests conducted at labs designated by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed that Navalny was the victim of a Novichok nerve agent. German Foreign Minister

GOP pollster Whit Ayres. "Pretty obviously in many ways down-ballot Republicans are in the boat with Donald Trump. That's good for Republicans in deep-red states, but more problematic for those in swing states." — AP

Heiko Maas said on Monday that given the OPCW's findings, it is now "objectively clear that this is a breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention, one that cannot remain without consequences."

In a statement on Friday, France and Germany said that despite repeated calls Russia has provided "no credible explanation" for what happened and that "there is no other plausible explanation for Navalny's poisoning than a Russian involvement and responsibility." — AP

Zardari, who is facing multiple corruption cases, was released from jail in December last year after the Islamabad High Court approved his bail on medical grounds. He had been suffering from ischemic heart disease, which means his heart may have an inadequate supply of blood and oxygen. — PTI

IRAQI MILITIAS OFFER TRUCE FOR U.S. PULLOUT

Baghdad, Oct. 12: Iraqi militias backed by Iran have agreed to temporarily halt attacks targeting the American presence in Iraq, on the condition that US-led coalition troops withdraw from the country in line with a parliamentary resolution, three militia officials have said.

The militia officials said after a roadside bomb targeted a convoy that was transporting equipment for the US-led coalition, damaging one vehicle, an Iraqi army statement said. The attack on a highway south of Baghdad prompted questions over whether such a truce could hold across all militia factions.

Roadside bombs and in particular rocket attacks targeting the US Embassy in Baghdad — located inside the heavily fortified Green Zone — have become a frequent occurrence and have strained ties between Washington and Baghdad. The militia factions offered a truce and will refrain from targeting the US in Iraq, including the embassy, on the condition that all American-led forces withdraw within an "acceptable timeframe", said Mohammod Mohie, a spokesman for the powerful Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah. — AP

China to test 9mn for Covid in 5 days

Quingdao city begins nucleic acid test campaign

Beijing, Oct. 12: China's Qingdao city has launched a citywide nucleic acid test campaign that will cover its nine million residents over the next five days, amid apprehensions of a second wave after the coastal city reported 12 Covid-19 cases. The cases were connected to Qingdao Chest Hospital which is a designated medical institution for the Covid-19 patients from overseas.

In May, China tested 11 million people in Wuhan — the epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Qingdao health authority has said that a citywide testing program has been launched. The five districts — home to about six million people — will be fully covered in the next three days. The whole city will be tested within five days, covering roughly nine million people, state-run *Global Times* reported.

So far, all medical staff, new hospitalised patients and nurses in hospitals at Qingdao have been given nucleic acid tests, with all 114,862 results coming back negative. As of Saturday, the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases on the Chinese mainland had reached 85,557, including the 218

● **ONE OF** the ways they sped up the process was to use batch- or pool-testing.

● **IN THIS** process, a batch of between five and 10 samples was tested. Only if a sample tested positive would the team go back to carry out individual tests to see who was

patients still being treated. Altogether 80,705 patients have recovered, according to China's National Health Commission's report released on Monday. It said 4,634 people have died to Coronavirus on the mainland.

They also mobilised teams to test disabled people, the elderly and those vulnerable in their own homes.

One of the ways they sped up the process was to use batch- or pool-testing. In this process, a batch of between five and 10 samples was tested. Only if a sample tested positive would the team go back to carry out individual tests to see who was positive within the batch.

Videos circulating online showed residents

lining up late on Sunday to get tested, said the *Global Times*, adding that some of these test points were open from 07:00 to 23:00.

The new cases come a week after China's Golden Week holiday — which saw millions travel across the country.

A *Global Times* report quoting the Qingdao Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism said the coastal city had received 4.47 million passenger trips over this period.

The nearby city of Jinan, in the same province as Qingdao, called for anyone who had visited the city since 23 September to get tested, according to a report by *The Paper*.

Earlier last month, Qingdao announced that two port workers who handled imported seafood had tested positive. They were not known to have infected anyone else.

Daily Coronavirus infections have fallen drastically in China, and for the most part the country appears to have recovered from the worst.

China currently has 91,305 virus cases and the death toll stands at 4,746, according to WHO data.

— Agencies

Imran's top aide resigns, facing graft charges

Islamabad, Oct. 12: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's Special Assistant on Information and Broadcasting Lt. Gen. (ret'd.) Asim Saleem Bajwa resigned on Monday, amid allegations that he used his offices to help family set up several off-shore businesses.

"I requested the honourable prime minister to relinquish me from the additional portfolio of SAPM on Info & broadcasting. He very kindly approved my request," Bajwa, the former Pakistan Army spokesman who also served as Commander of the Southern Command, tweeted. However, he would continue working as chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority.

The development comes more than a month after Bajwa submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Khan following a report on a website that alleged that he had used his offices in setting up off-shore businesses of his wife, sons and brothers. However, Khan rejected his resignation at the time and asked him to continue working as his special assistant.

The report alleged that Bajwa's younger brothers opened their first Papa John's pizza restaurant in 2002, the year he started working as a Lieutenant Colonel on the General Pervez Musharraf's staff. It claimed that his brother Nadeem Bajwa, 53, who started as a delivery driver for the pizza restaurant franchise, another three brothers,

FATF'S REGIONAL GROUP KEEPS PAKISTAN ON FOLLOW-UP LIST

Islamabad, Oct. 12: Noting that Pakistan's measures against money laundering and terror financing "is not yet sufficient to justify a re-rating", a regional affiliate of the Financial Action Task Force on Monday retained the country on its 'Enhanced follow-up' list, according to a media report.

The development came only a few weeks ahead of the meeting of the FATF — the Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog — to decide on Pakistan's grey list status.

his wife Farrukh Zeba and three sons now own a business empire which set up 99 companies in four countries, including a pizza franchise with 133 restaurants worth an estimated \$39.9 million. — PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that when the Board of Global Health Insurance Company Limited (GHICL) proposed to remove Mr. Badri Krishnaswamy (DIN:02654760.) from directorship, he tendered resignation on 06.10.2020@ 10.40 pm by email and his resignation stood accepted by the company through its EGM dated 07.10.2020. Mr. Badri Krishnaswamy no longer represents the company and has no authority whatsoever to transact any business or to receive any money or to act in any way for and on our behalf. If anyone deals with him, will be doing so at their own risk and the company is not liable or responsible.

For Global Health Insurance Company Ltd.
PRATHYUSHA PARUCHURI
CHAIRPERSON

LIVING | HELL

With no home remaining, Kurds have little to return to, say human rights groups

Displaced Kurds continue to long for home

Hasakeh, Syria, Oct. 12: The five-month-old baby girl of Wadha Sharmoukh has only lived in a tent because Turkish troops and their Syrian proxies captured her family's hometown in northern Syria from Kurdish forces a year ago.

She was a born in a dusty camp crowded with Kurdish civilians who fled their towns and villages when Ankara's October 2019 offensive seized a 120-kilometre (70-mile) long strip of land on the Syrian side of its southern border.

"My five-month-old daughter Berivan was born in the camps. She has never seen a home. She has just been squeezed into a tent," the 29-year-old mother said in the settlement in the northeastern province of Hasakeh.

"What kind of life is that, of a child born and raised in a tent?" asked the woman from the town of Ras al-Ain.

Sharmoukh and her family are among tens of thousands who have been forced out of their homes and into tented settle-

● **SHARMOUKH** and her family are among tens of thousands who have been forced out of their homes and into tented settlements in areas still controlled by the Kurds.

ments in areas still controlled by the Kurds. Their homes and belongings have been seized or looted in the year since Turkey's operation ended, human rights groups say, leaving them with little to return to — if they are able to return at all.

"The future is bleak and we feel hopeless," Sharmoukh said. "I try to forget sometimes, but how can someone forget their home and the things they have worked their entire lives to build?"

The hardest part for Sharmoukh is watching her three daughters grow up in the camps. "I wonder about my daughters' future if things stay this way," she said inside their emergency shelter, her children gathered around her on a mat.

"When they grow up, how will they feel when they leave the camp and see how other people are living?"

She is most worried about her five-year-old daughter Roslyn, who is paralysed in the legs and uses a wheelchair, from which other children sometimes push her to the ground.

"I try to keep her close to me, but she doesn't like to stay in the tent," Sharmoukh said.

In a nearby tent, Shams Abdulkader, a 40-year-old mother of seven, said she cannot imagine living out the rest of her days in the camp. — AFP



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FACULTY APPOINTMENTS
The Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow invites applications on prescribed form from Indian citizens for the positions of Professors, Additional Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors in its various departments as follows.
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Last date for online payment of fees: 09th November, 2020, 17:00 hrs. IST.
For the application process. 27th November, 2020, 17:00 hrs. IST.
Last date for filling and submitting: 14th December, 2020, 17:00hrs. IST.
online application.
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DECCAN Chronicle

13 OCTOBER 2020

Judiciary must keep itself above suspicion

The move by Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to write a letter to Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde, with a “sense of pain and anguish” at the “politicisation of institutions”, monitored by N. Chandrababu Naidu, “through honourable sitting judges of Supreme Court”, is unprecedented in India’s history. True, there have been confrontations between politics and the judiciary, between Parliament and other legislative bodies over the division of powers. There were times that the judiciary was accused of “judicial overreach” and “legislating in disguise” in the course of interpreting legislation and executive orders. The relationship between judiciary and political pillars of the legislature and executive is complex, but there is little doubt, even factoring in the impeachment powers of Parliament, that the judiciary is independent and supreme in interpretation of the Constitution and legal matters.

Equally important, as much as the powers of judiciary are supreme, the dignity, honour and majesty of the courts are sacrosanct too. Indian history records that whenever Indian politics was set to compromise with the values of democracy or unhesitant to trample on the rights of citizens or let down the foundational values of our republic, it was the judiciary that time and again has saved our nation. The Indian judiciary is not just one of the four pillars of the modern Indian nation or democracy — it has also been the exemplar of the highest standards, ethical conduct and has served as a role model for the other three. Like Caesar’s wife, it stands even above suspicion or a shade of doubt, and must continue to do so.

The political rivalry between YSRC chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his arch-rival Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu is irrelevant here; it is best decided every five years in the people’s court. But when a chief minister, or even an ordinary citizen, raises issues, casts aspersions or makes allegations against a sitting Supreme Court judge, the onus shifts to the nation’s highest court and the CJI to ensure that every citizen of this country is assured that there is no need to worry about the serious allegations by ensuring transparency, fearless introspection and ensuring fairness.

One cannot completely dismiss the views of Mr Reddy’s rivals that this could be an arm-twisting tactic at a time when serious cases of financial wrongdoing are pending in the courts, including a matter on fast-tracking such hearings, in which, if found guilty and sentenced, the young CM could face disqualification from holding office and contesting elections for a considerable time.

The court will have to undertake this testing ordeal of not getting arm-twisted into weakening its resolve to rid India of political corruption but also simultaneously stand above any shred of doubt that no one in the judiciary, much less so, someone in the highest court, is possibly guilty of allegations of extra-constitutional judicial intervention at the behest of any political leader. Given its track record and the Indian people’s overriding trust and unshakable faith in the courts, one expects this is exactly what the CJI would ensure happens. Hail the judiciary!

Indefatigable Nadal

The Spaniard Rafael Nadal’s 13th triumph in the French Open is an incredible achievement. The unforgiving clay courts of Roland Garros present a challenge that can also drain the fit and tuned-to-the-minute athletes. Roger Federer acknowledged this as “one of the greatest achievements in sport” after his great rival equalled his record of 20 Grand Slam titles on Sunday. A naturally gifted champion like Federer has only one French Open in his 20 Grand Slams. A persevering Nadal adapting his baseline game to Wimbledon grass and the hard courts of the Australian and US Open championships and conquering each of them consistently enough is a saga in itself.

Not fortunate to be gifted with the dulcet touch and graceful athleticism, Nada makes up for it by his willingness to chase down each point like a man possessed. There is a tier-like determination to him on a tennis court that makes him a role model for fellow sportsmen who struggle to withstand the vicissitudes of form and, more importantly, fitness. Nadal has had his share of injuries, surgeries and endless queries in random drug tests, besides his self-doubts, in a remarkable journey of endurance in which the ability to stay motivated for years after raking in millions of dollars also counts.

In crushing Novak Djokovic, the third gladiator of modern tennis, Nadal not only emphasises that he is the king of the rectangle of clay. In this virtual monopoly of Grand Slams, broken only by Thiem’s victory at the US Open, the three greats are signalling they are in no hurry to make way for a generational change in men’s tennis. On the other hand, with Serena Williams not winning a Grand Slam since becoming a mother, the field is wide open on the distaff side. Young Iga Swiatek, the first ever Pole to win a Grand Slam, brings with her a powerful forehand and angled groundstrokes that makes her appear to be the one poised to emulate the likes of Nadal in exhibiting a metronomic thoroughness in tennis conquests.

Subhani



Tackle Xi in Myanmar; don’t forget Rohingyas



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray
Reflections

India’s foreign secretary and Chief of Army Staff may not have recently paid a joint visit to Naypyidaw, the capital of the country formerly known as Burma, if so much did not hang on the outcome of the November 8 elections. What probably influenced both Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Gen. M.M. Naravane most was the spectre of “Paukphaw”, the China-Myanmar friendship that President Xi Jinping had underscored during his state visit in January.

Although India and Myanmar are distant neighbours at present, they comprised one administrative unit from 1885 to 1937. They might have been politically one now if Jawaharlal Nehru had accepted U Nu’s 1947 proposal for a “United Nations of South Asia”. The fears, hatreds and resentments that make these elections so different from the 2015 polls when Myanmar soared on the cusp of hope may signify major changes in the road ahead.

The electoral outcome is bound to leave a heavy imprint not only on Myanmar’s place on the chequerboard of Asia’s power politics but on the social and demographic character of a country that seems incapable of accepting that it must rise above tribal and religious loyalties to claim the status of a nation. It’s not just a question of more than 37 million voters choosing their parliamentary and sub-national assembly representatives or of the all-powerful military appointing its tame legislators. Empowering the people is what matters. Under Myanmar’s 2008 constitution, the Tatmadaw — Myanmar’s all-powerful military — chooses the vice-president and the home, defence and border affairs ministers, and controls 25 per cent of all parliamen-

tary seats. The future of 1.3 million Rohingyas whom the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, calls “the world’s fastest-developing refugee emergency ... a humanitarian nightmare”, will have to be decided. So will the future of Aung San Suu Kyi, still elegantly winsome at 75, whose National League for Democracy infused the future with optimism in 2015. Today, she seems rather like a faded rose, having lost much of her shine as the global pin-up girl of Asian democracy and must justify her glory as Nobel Peace Prize laureate. For all that she is styled State Counsellor, Ms Suu Kyi seems to dance to the Tatmadaw’s tune on the Rohingyas.

Like the rest of the world, the Naypyidaw regime must also come to grips with a fast-spiralling Covid-19 crisis that may keep voters away from the polls. With nearly 24,000 infections, a meteoric rise from the 887 that were recorded on September 1, Myanmar has suddenly surged from only marginally infected to being Southeast Asia’s fourth-worst hit country. The speculation is that pressed on so many fronts, Myanmar might feel that the future would be better protected if China’s rising influence were to be checked. That might explain reports of New Delhi’s offer of a \$6-billion petroleum refinery project and the talks

The electoral outcome is bound to leave a heavy imprint not only on Myanmar’s place on the chequerboard of Asia’s power politics but on the social and demographic character of the country.

India’s national interest can never be divorced from the humanitarian cause of the Rohingya, especially not by a government that claims to go beyond ‘Look East’ to ‘Act East’

to boost connectivity, power and energy projects, as well as joint efforts to tackle the pandemic. Worthy as these initiatives may be, one cannot but wonder why they are not components of a permanent programme binding two such physically close neighbours.

When India did take an interest in Myanmar after years of neglect, it was to deny the Naga or Mizo rebels sanctuary or prevent China and Pakistan from gaining strategic advantages. These legitimate objectives were small in themselves and appeared to reduce foreign affairs to immediate petty gains, with little inkling of the broad sweep of history. Myanmar’s expulsion of Indian labourers, clerks, doctors, teachers and lawyers prompted little reaction because the victims seemed to be culturally, socially and financially remote from the mandarins of South Block.

Rightly or wrongly, it was whispered at one time that a pragmatic approach was discouraged by India’s ethnic Myanmar first lady. That was nearly two decades ago. A subsequently more sympathetic attitude was attributed to Ms Suu Kyi’s personal contacts in New Delhi during the years her mother was Myanmar’s ambassador and she a student at the city’s Lady Shri Ram College. Inevitably, the suffering Rohingyas are now seen as Muslim jihadists rather than victims of racism.

Myanmar’s 2014 census listed Rohingyas as illegal Bengali immigrants. Most were stripped of citizenship in 1982. They are denied education,

employment and the right to move about freely. This legal subjugation is nothing compared to the terrible atrocities of repeated military crackdowns, particularly in 2017-2018, when entire villages were burned down, men were murdered and women subject to gangrape.

Predictably, perhaps, some Rohingya groups responded with militancy. But the Arakan Rohingya National Organisation demands the right to “self-determination within Myanmar”, while the Rohingya-led National Democratic Party for Human Rights supported the 1988 democracy movement. It returned four members to Parliament in 1990 when the Tatmadaw cheated the victorious NLD of its right to form the government.

The former Army strongman, Shwe Mann, is now projecting his Union Betterment Party as the middle ground between the NLD and the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, while the tycoon and legislator Thet Thet Khine, who left the NLD to launch the People’s Pioneer Party, focuses mainly on the economy. Meanwhile, the NLD’s promise of imported cars has invited ridicule. Unhappily, none of the 16 major parties in the fray is campaigning to enfranchise the marginalised ethnic groups like the persecuted Rohingya.

They needn’t be India’s priority either. The political challenge of “Paukphaw” — including China-backed projects like the \$4 billion Myitsone Dam, the Belt and Road Initiative, the economic corridor stretching from China’s Yunnan province to Rakhine state, and the \$15 billion Yatai New City Project at Shwe Kokko on the Myanmar-Thai border — matters far more. However, India’s national interest can never be divorced from the humanitarian cause of the Rohingya, especially not by a government that claims to go beyond “Look East” to “Act East”.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

CURBING COVID-19

Apropos your editorial *Recovery contingent on curbing Covid-19* (Oct. 12). The economy would cross the worst phase in the near future and a full recovery would be achieved depending on how fast the world defeats the corona virus. Consumer confidence is at all-time low as people have curtailed spending and job losses and reduction in salaries also impact spending. Exports are also weakening. To revive the economy, improving consumer confidence and public investment are suitable solutions.

V.V. Suresh, Vellore

JAGAN’S LETTER TO CJI

APROPOS REPORT *Jagan letter to CJI on judge creates flutter* (Oct. 12). Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is facing 16 cases, is perhaps rattled as the CBI and ED are fast-tracking all corrupt politicians’ cases after being directed by the Supreme Court. He has declared war on the AP high court judges and the apex court judge attributing corruption, motives, bias and what not. What baffles is he issued the insinuating statement after he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi whose government is also uncomfortable with the judiciary. Is it a ploy to thwart Justice L.V.Ramana from becoming CJI and extend the tenure of one plaintiff judge? Mr Reddy may have resorted to mudslinging against the judiciary only to join NDA to escape from all his cases. Mr Modi should not admit YSRC into the NDA fold. Opportunism and expediency should have limits. Remember late Mr Vajpayee’s golden words ‘follow Raj dharma’.

A. Seshagiri Rao, Chennai

NADAL’S RECORD

THE INVINCIBILITY of Rafael Nadal in the red clay courts at Roland Garros has once again been proved beyond a doubt with his stupendous triumph against No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the final of the French Open tennis tournament. Many were expecting another epic clash in one of the sport’s greatest rivalries, but it actually ended up as one of the most one-sided Grand Slam finals in the recent times. By winning French Open tennis title for a record 13th time, Rafael Nadal has also equalled Roger Federer with 20 Grand Slam titles. Nadal has now become the oldest French Open Champion since 1972, more than 15 years between his first and latest Grand Slam titles is the longest such span for a man.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan

Mail your letters to editor@deccanmail.com

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Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patnam, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/2555287, Fax (0866) 2555234

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Anantapur: Thapovan Colony, Bangalore Bye-Pass Road, Anantapur 515004. Phones: (08554) 276903, Fax: 08554-276904

Nellore: Survey No. 527/2, Buranpur Village, Venkatchalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/82, Telefax (0861) 2348580

Karimnagar: Survey No. 1341, Vavilapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228908; Telefax (0878) 2220433

Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

Kozhikode: No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001

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Aakar Patel



If you do not admit there’s a crisis, you can’t solve it

If I do not acknowledge that I have a problem, then I cannot solve it. If the problem is a minor one, this is less consequential and does not affect me beyond a point. It is only an irritant that I can continue to ignore.

But if the problem is a major one, and if the problem affects not just me but many people around me, then ignoring it must have a sound reason. Ignoring it must in some way be more important than addressing it.

The sale of cars in India has not grown for the past five years. The number of cars bought by Indians in 2015-16 was 27 lakh units. The number of cars bought in 2019-20 was 27 lakh units. India’s middle class is either not growing or not spending.

The government says that stagnating car sales is not a problem because young people prefer to use Uber and Ola cabs. The United States sold two crore cars last year. Uber and Ola (and its various

equivalents) do not seem to affect any other nation.

The sale of two-wheelers in India has not grown for the past four years. Altogether 1.7 crore units were sold in 2016-17, and 1.7 crore units were sold in 2019-20. This is the vehicle of the lower middle class, the size and consumption of which has not grown for four years. What theory the government has for this we do not know as it has not been acknowledged that there is no growth.

Commercial vehicles have not shown any growth for the past four years. Sales were seven lakh units in 2016-17 and seven lakh units in 2019-20. This includes vehicles like trucks, heavy lorries, tankers and small tempos that carry products either to the manufacturers or to the market. The real meaning of four years of zero growth in this market can simply be imagined.

Real estate has shown no growth over the last four years. Indians

bought ₹2 lakh crores worth of real estate in 2016. They bought ₹2 lakh crores worth of real estate in 2019. India’s exports have not grown for six years. The country exports the same quantity that it did when Dr Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister. India was exporting about \$300 billion a year when the UPA-2 left office. It exported about \$300 billion in 2019-20. Why is this the case? We do not know because the government does not speak about it. When imports into India fell more than exports out of India, the government celebrated the moment as a singular achievement.

Employment has not only not grown in the past six years, it has actually gone down. A report produced by the government showed it to be at over six per cent in 2018, more than at any other time in history. Why are Indians losing employment? We do not know. The government has dismissed the issue and said that pakora sellers

and Uber drivers were replacing traditional employees.

It is true that Covid-19 has affected India’s economy deeply and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. We are unlikely to get back to the GDP figure that we achieved in January this year for another three years. This means that by the time Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s second term ends in May 2024, we will still only be economically where we were in January this year. The problem is that where we were in January this year was not a good space. All the numbers that have been referred to above are before the Covid-19 pandemic’s outbreak.

The stagnation in our economy had happened before the lockdown and has nothing to do with our current crisis. If and when we are able to overcome the Covid-19 related problem with our economy, we will go back only to the earlier problem.

India’s GDP growth declined every quarter for 10 quarters before

Covid. Why? We do not know. It could be one reason, and it could be many reasons. But if we do not acknowledge the issue at all, we will never solve it. You can only think about, discuss and then implement corrective measures if you acknowledge that corrective measures are needed. If you carry on like nothing has happened, then deep problems cannot be fixed by themselves and they won’t go away. The government went from saying that India was the one bright spot in the world’s economy and the fastest growing economy in the world, to not saying anything about the economy at all.

The problem is a major one, and it affects not just the Prime Minister but hundreds of millions of people across the country. Ignoring it must have a sound reason. Ignoring it must in some way be more important than addressing it.

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist and columnist

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40,593.80 0.21
Nifty 50	11,930.95 0.14
S&P 500*	3,538.30 1.76
Dollar (₹)	73.27 0.16
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.47 0.91
Euro (₹)	86.53 0.29
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,073.240 0.46
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.53 -1.32
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.899 -0.041
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.779 0.00

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Razorpay joins the league of unicorns in India

Payments solution provider Razorpay said it has gained the 'unicorn' status after having raised \$100 million funding from GIC, Sequoia Capital and existing investors. Witnessing a 300 per cent growth in its business during the past six months, Razorpay said it has raised a Series-D fundraising of \$100 million, giving the company more than \$1 billion in valuation. This round was co-led by GIC and Sequoia.

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Meeting ends without a decision Consensus eludes GST Council again

New Delhi, Oct. 12: The stalemate over compensating states for the shortfall in GST collections continued on Monday with a meeting of the GST Council ending without reaching any consensus. The panel, which is the highest decision-making body on indirect taxes, for the second time in a week failed to reach a consensus on the Centre's proposal of states borrowing against future GST collections to make up for the shortfall.

This was the third meeting in a row that discussed compensation shortfall without a decision.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who heads the Council, said the Centre cannot borrow and pay states for the shortfall as it would lead to rise in bond yields, resulting in rise in borrowing costs for the government and the private sector.

However, this would not be the case if states borrowed against future GST receipts, she said, adding 21 states had agreed to borrow as suggested by the Centre.

However, other states insisted on a decision to be taken by consensus, she said.

"We were not able to arrive at a consensus," Sitharaman said.

In its previous meeting last week, the council had decided to extend the surcharge on taxes on luxury goods such as cars and tobacco products beyond June 2022 but failed to reach a consensus on



STALEMATE CONTINUES

- FM said the Centre cannot borrow and pay states for the shortfall as it would lead to rise in bond yields
- However, this would not be the case if states borrowed against future GST receipts, she said
- Dissenting states insisted on consensus decision

ways to compensate states for loss of tax revenue.

The projected total compensation shortfall in the current fiscal stands at Rs 2.35 lakh crore.

The Centre had in August given two options to the states—to borrow either Rs 97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or Rs 2.35 lakh crore from the market. It had also proposed extending the compensation cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods beyond 2022 to repay the borrowing.

Following a demand by some states, the amount of Rs 97,000 crore was increased to Rs 1.10 lakh crore.

As many as 21 states -- which are BJP-ruled or

have supported it on various issues— have opted to borrow Rs 1.10 lakh crore to meet the compensation shortfall.

The Centre has released Rs 20,000 crore to the states towards compensation shortfall so far in the current fiscal.

Under the GST structure, taxes are levied under 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent slabs.

On top of the highest tax slab, a cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods, and the proceeds from the same are used to compensate states for any revenue loss. But due to a slowdown in the economy, collections have fallen short of the money needed for compensating states.

Travel industry unhappy with redirection of LTC money

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 12

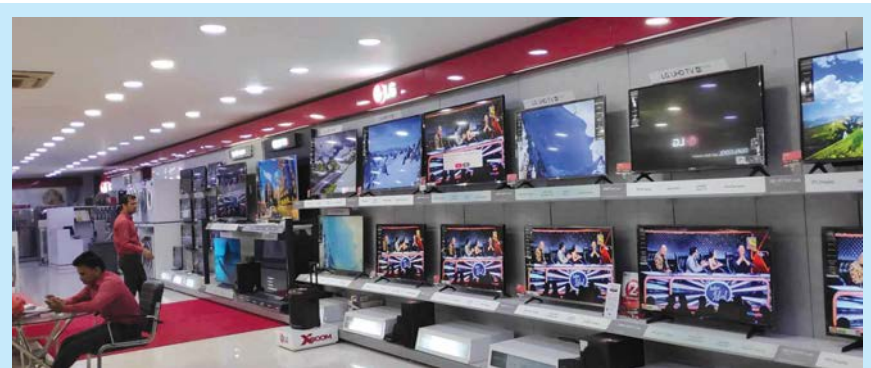
Naturally, the travel industry is unhappy with the Centre's decision to redirect the leave travel concession (LTC) allowance of government employees to purchase of consumer goods.

After the prolonged lockdown, the travel and tourism industry was expecting the festive season to boost travel demand, as people usually use the opportunity to travel to their home state.

After almost eight months of nil to very limited tourism activity, festive season was one of the few demand drivers that the travel and hospitality industry was looking forward to and the industry was hoping for more tax-based stimulus in the hands of all citizens to travel when spent against GST-rated travel agents, hotels, tour operators, tourist transporters and restaurants, said the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (Faith).

"Redirecting the LTC money of government employees to buy consumer goods would dry up those funds for the travel sector. Additionally, it would also send a vote of no-confidence to the tourism travel and hospitality industry, which was looking to get back on its feet after 'Unlock'," said Faith.

Additionally, since tax-free LTC is a four-year block scheme, it will also cut away funds for future travel demand sources for the next year when the LTC block ends in 2021. The tourism ministry was



But consumer durables are in a sweet spot

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 12

The government's leave travel concession (LTC) scheme meant to induce demand has put consumer durables and electronics in a sweet spot.

The government has put forward a few riders for those availing the LTC scheme. The employee, who wants tax-free LTC, will have to buy goods or services worth three times the fare and one-time the leave encashment.

Further, the goods and services bought under the scheme should be carrying a GST of 12 per cent and above. This will weed out all the basic amenities that have a GST of less than 12 per cent and the focus will be on dis-

cretionary items like computers, consumer durables, smartphones, home appliances, furniture and home furnishings.

"Both in terms of price point and GST, consumer durables are in a sweet spot. People who have been deferring purchase of consumer durables, electronics, mobile phones and household electronics will have a reason to buy," said Naval Seth of Emkay Global Financial Services. Even those who had not made any festive season purchase plans will find a reason to upgrade consumer appliances with the scheme.

According to Kamal Nandi, president, Consumer Electronics and

Manufacturers Association (Ceama) and business head and EVP, Godrej Appliances, the measure will augur well for the consumer durables segment in the upcoming festive season.

"Traditionally, the Indian customer makes many of his/her big-ticket purchases, such as appliances, during the festive season. Due to the current pandemic, consumers have appreciated the value appliances add to their lives as they are looking for comfort and convenience at home with the adoption of 'work from home' format and for the overall health, hygiene & safety of their family from the coronavirus," he said.

Consumer durables have been seeing a good month-on-month recovery in sales in the past couple of months. "The category has not yet made growth over the same month last year. But we expect a positive growth during the festive season," said Seth.

planning to make 2021 the year for domestic tourism. The industry wants LTC funds to be restored and

income tax benefits be offered to citizens travelling within the country, paying up to Rs 1.5 lakh to

GST-registered travel agents, hotels, tour operators, tourist transporters and restaurants.

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



Aries: Some outstanding dues may be recovered. Finances remain sound. Move quickly if you want to own a house. Colleagues and friends may look to you for guidance.



Taurus: In family matters, you will show maturity and attend to problems on priority. You could make more money than anticipated. You will become more motivated at work.



Gemini: A new business proposal will be helpful. Health-related problems and check-ups will end well. It is advisable to get some rest and plan a vacation.



Cancer: Love in greater intensity is indicated. Financial agreements will go well. Rather than stressing about health and finances, take one steady step at a time.



Leo: Love is on the cards. Good business partnerships will get stronger while weak relationships are likely to fall apart. Some of you may get a good news.



Virgo: You can expect acclaim and financial success. Keep calm. Don't accept additional work. Your hard work on the personal front pays off. You need to play your cards well in financial matters.

You share your b'day with

Pooja Hegde, actress. She is best known for her roles in *Mohenjo Daro*, *Maharshi*, *Gaddalakonda Ganesh*, *Ala Vaikunthapuramuloo* and *Housefull 4*.



Libra: It is time to make changes in yourself to find suitable partners. Innovation and bold initiatives bring progress. Financial problems are likely. Exhibit care for your family.



Scorpio: Chronic fatigue might make you irritable, but humorous relatives will reduce tension. A sudden inflow of funds is indicated. Selfless service will bring happiness.



Sagittarius: Inability to resist temptation will go badly. Maintain a distance from others' concerns. Beware of investing too much money. Don't leave your partner in the dark.



Capricorn: Professional success is indicated. Stay alert while taking business decisions. Parents are in for a surprise from a youngster. Work will be fruitful.

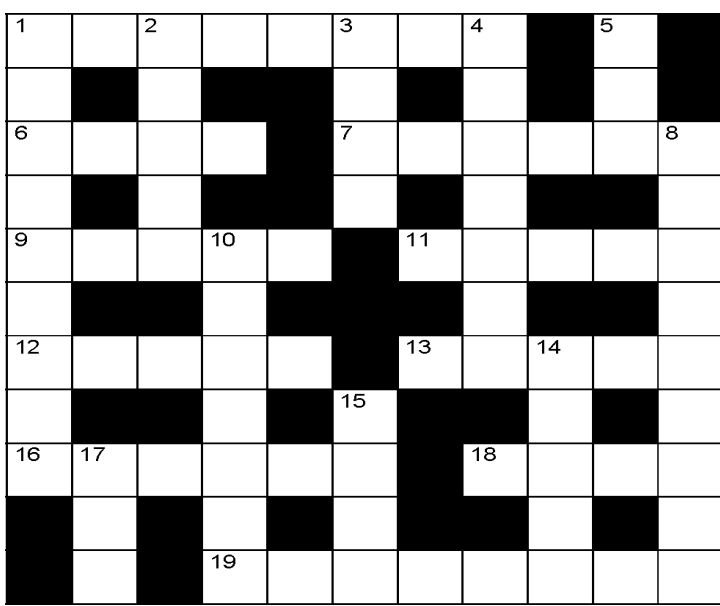


Aquarius: Influential people will be ready to help. The health of someone close may cause emotional strain. Don't take out your tensions on those around.



Pisces: Youngsters need special attention. You may be doing much soul-searching and re-evaluating. You'll feel like entertaining at home. Positive developments are likely in a relative's health. Spend time with friends.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- Gold dredge waste (8)
- Music symbol (4)
- Participle (6)
- Of birth (5)
- Municipal (5)
- Bogus doctor (5)
- Social blunder (5)
- Skin disorder (6)
- Opposed to (4)
- Young racehorse (8)

Down

- Method (9)
- Incompetent (5)
- Dark blue (4)
- Power of endurance (7)
- Companion (3)
- Over (9)
- Medieval chemistry (7)
- Mycologist's field (5)
- Male swan (4)
- No Clue

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 6. False alarm, 8. Polar, 10. Motto, 13. Cultivation, 14. Notch, 17. Dowse, 19. Reluctance.

Down: 1. Mail, 2. Tsar, 3. Calm, 4. Tact, 5. Impounded, 7. Epicentre, 11. Outdo, 12. Ivy, 15. Tilt, 16. Hock, 17. Draw, 18. Wick.

Word Mine

M
S
L
C
B
A
E
E
N

TODAY'S RATINGS: 24 AVERAGE: 27
GOOD: 29 OUTSTANDING

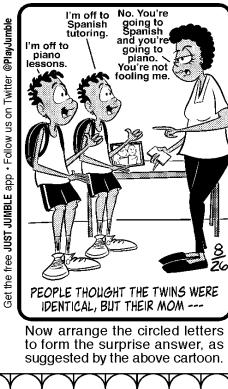
How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North-South
West: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
East: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
South: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
North: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Pass: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Opening lead: ♦ Q

jumble

YAWER
LKAEN
DOUFEN
HGRIFT

Yesterday's Jumbles: RUMMY BLUNT SPRING CENSUS
Answer: To teach addition to the students, the teacher wrote — "SUM" NUMBERS



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

CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



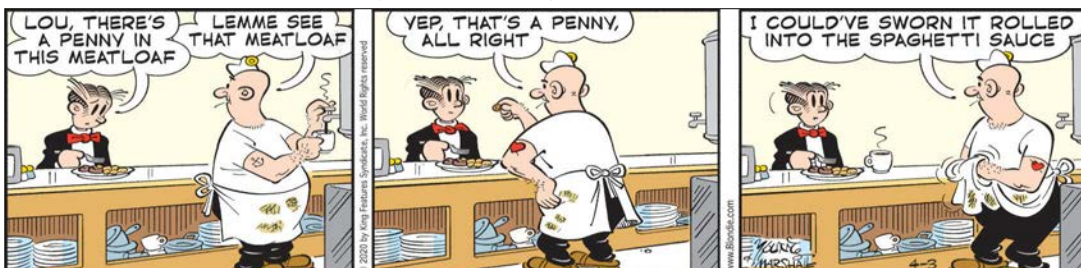
THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



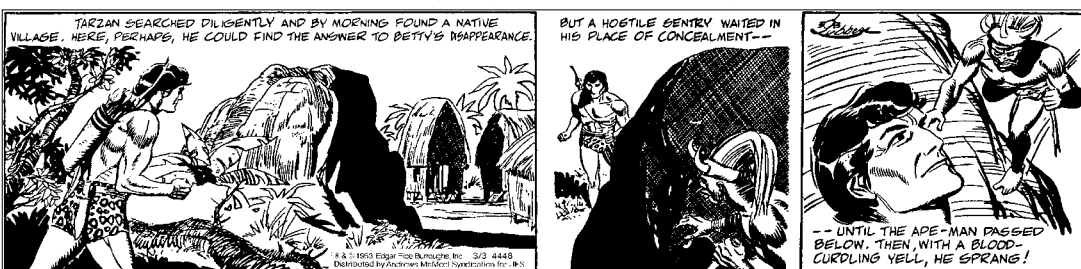
BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



bridge PHILLIP ALDER

FROM WHERE WILL TRICKS COME?

Laurence J. Peter, who was a Canadian educator, said, "If you don't know where you are going, you will probably end up somewhere else."

Some bridge players are like that, just pulling cards and hoping for success. But they often end up disappointed. In today's deal, what do you think of the given auction, and how should the defenders play to defeat four hearts after West leads the

spade queen? Since West had overcalled one spade, North should not have bid one no-trump without a spade stopper. A support double, showing three hearts, would have been perfect. But as that weapon was not in this pair's armory, North should have passed. East might have jumped to three hearts, a mixed raise showing four spades, 7-9 high-card points and a nine-loser hand. South should have doubled over two

spades. Then North would have bid three hearts, and South ought to have passed. Against four hearts, West led the spade queen and continued with the spade jack. When that also won, West shifted to a club. South won in hand and drove out the heart ace. Moments later, she claimed for a 93.3 percent board in an online duplicate.

West should have wondered from where her side might get four tricks. She should have hoped for two spades, one heart and one diamond. But to get the diamond probably required a lead of that suit from partner. West should have led a low spade at trick two. Then East would surely have shifted to a diamond. Also, yes, East should have overtaken at trick two and led a diamond.

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SHORT TAKES



Para shuttler Manasi Joshi poses with the Barbie model.

Barbie model after role model Manasi

New Delhi: Indian para athletes have been making the headlines lately. Weeks after an unprecedented nine Para athletes were honoured with the National Sports Awards 2020, para shuttler Manasi Joshi has now made every Indian proud becoming the first ever Para athlete to have featured in TIME magazine as Next Generation Leader. She is also the first Indian para-athlete to have a Barbie doll modelled to her likeness announced on the occasion of the International Day of Girl Child. Joshi joined the likes of Australian Paralympic medalist wheelchair para athlete Madison De Rozario and Para Swimming champion Sumeyye Boyaci among many others, in celebration of extraordinary women who inspire girls around the world to be anything they dream to be.

The only other Indian to have received this laurel is gymnast Dipa Karmakar in 2019. Extremely delighted with Manasi's latest recognitions, Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) President Deepa Malik said these honours will give a great boost to the Indian Paralympic Movement.

Football captain Carlton no more

New Delhi: Former India football captain and mid-fielder Carlton Chapman, who formed a deadly trio at the club level with Bhaichung Bhutia and IM Vijayan in the 1990s, died on Monday following a heart attack in Bengaluru. He was 49. Chapman was hospitalised on Sunday night at a hospital in Bengaluru and passed away early this morning. A creative midfielder, Chapman played for India between 1995 and 2001 and the country won the 1997 SAFF Cup under his captaincy. At the club level, he had two successful spells with East Bengal and one with now defunct JCT Mills. A product of the Tata Football Academy in early 1990s, Chapman joined East Bengal in 1993 and scored a hat-trick in his team's 6-2 win against Iraq club Al Zawra in a first round match at the Asian Cup Winners Cup that year.

— PTI

Akbar elected FMSCI president

New Delhi: Former racer Akbar Ebrahim was on Monday unanimously elected for a second term as the president of India's motorsports governing body, FMSCI.

The elections were held via video-conference amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Ebrahim had his first stint as FMSCI chief from 2016-2018 following which he was replaced by J. Prithviraj. "It is without doubt, going to be a very challenging and tough year given the unprecedented pandemic situation the whole world is facing. I am sure that the FMSCI will collectively rise to the occasion and manage the situation to the best of its ability," Ebrahim said in a statement.

Farooq Ahmed was unanimously elected as the vice-president. The FMSCI boasts of more than 50 affiliates across all corners of the country and there are more than 1200 registered athletes. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Chennai Super Kings from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

BADMINTON

Denmark Open: Matches from 12.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

TENNIS

St Petersburg Open: Matches from 3.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

FOOTBALL

UEFA Nations League: Azerbaijan vs Cyprus from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; Ukraine vs Spain from 12.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD; Germany vs Switzerland from 12.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

BANG ON TARGET

AB de Villiers goes great guns as RCB crush KKR

Sharjah, Oct. 12: AB de Villiers hit a power-packed 73 to help Royal Challengers Bangalore outplay Kolkata Knight Riders by 82 runs in the Indian Premier League on Monday.

The South African great smashed six sixes in his 33-ball blitz and put on an unbeaten century partnership with skipper Virat Kohli, who scored 33, as Bangalore posted 194 for 2 in 20 overs.

Proteas quick Chris Morris and spinner Washington Sundar claimed two wickets each to keep down Kolkata to 112 for 9 in 20 overs.

But the evening belonged to the 36-year-old De Villiers who scored his third IPL half-century of the season to go past 3,000 runs in the Twenty20 tournament.

"Genius. Find me another word for @ABdeVilliers17. This one will do for now! Genius,," veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle wrote on Twitter.

Opener Aaron Finch (47 from 37 balls) looked sluggish in the middle and struggled to find boundaries before being castled by Prasidh Krishna.

With boundaries drying up, De Villiers unleashed his array of shots against a disciplined Nagarkoti, smashing him for consecutive sixes, over midwicket, one of which hit a running car.

— PTI



AB de Villiers of Royal Challengers Bangalore plays a shot on way to his half-century during an IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday.

— BCCI

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Aaron Finch b Prasidh 47, D. Padikkal b Russell 32, Virat Kohli not out 33, AB de Villiers not out 73. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-6, NB-1) 9. **Total: (for two wickets in 20 overs) 194.** **FOW:** 1-67, 2-94.

Bowling: Pat Cummins 4-0-38-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1, Andre Russell 4-0-51-1, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-25-0, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 4-0-36-0.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Tom Banton b Saini 8, Shubman Gill run out 34, Nitish Rana b Washington Sundar 9, Eoin Morgan c Udana

b Washington Sundar 8, D. Karthik b Chahal 1, A. Russell c M. Siraj b Udana 16, R. Tripathi c Morris b M. Siraj 16, Pat Cummins c Padikkal b Chris Morris 1, K. Nagarkoti b Chris Morris 4, Chakravarthy not out 7, Prasidh Krishna not out 2. **Extras:** (LB-3, W-3) 6. **Total: (for 9 wickets in 20 Overs) 112.** **FOW:** 1-23, 2-51, 3-55, 4-62, 5-64, 6-85, 7-89, 8-99, 9-108.

Bowling: Chris Morris 4-0-17-2, Navdeep Saini 3-0-17-1, Mohammad Siraj 3-0-24-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-20-2, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-12-1, Isuru Udana 2-0-19-1.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	7	5	2	0	10	+1.327
Delhi Capitals	7	5	2	0	10	+1.038
Royal Challengers Bangalore	7	5	2	0	10	-0.116
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	4	3	0	8	-0.577
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	3	4	0	6	+0.153
Rajasthan Royals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.872
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	0	4	-0.588
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

Teen nabbed for threatening Ziva

Ahmedabad, Oct. 12: A 16-year-old boy was nabbed on Sunday from Mundra in Gujarat for allegedly issuing threats against cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's minor daughter, police said.

"The class 12 student from Nanna Kapaya village was detained for questioning in connection with a disgusting threat message that was posted on the Instagram account of Dhoni's wife Sakshi Dhoni a few days back," Kutch (West) superintendent of police Saurabh Singh told reporters.

The teenager "confessed" to have posted the threatening message on the Instagram account after the IPL 2020 match between KKR and CSK cricket teams, police said.

Ranchi police had shared information regarding the boy with Kutch (West) police and asked them to con-

firm if he was the one who had posted the threat message, Singh said.

"We detained him for questioning after Ranchi police informed us that the accused hails from Mundra in Kutch district.

"We have confirmed that the boy is the same who had posted the message. He will be handed over to Ranchi police as the FIR was lodged in that city," the SP said, adding that a team of Ranchi Police is likely to reach Kutch tomorrow to take custody of the teenager.

Dhoni is captaining the CSK cricket team in the ongoing Indian Premier League. The nature of the threat had caused a huge outrage on social media, with several cricketers, politicians and celebrities expressing disgust and demanding action.

— PTI

ISHANT OUT OF IPL WITH RIB CAGE INJURY

Dubai, Oct. 12: Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma has been ruled out of the Indian Premier League with a rib-cage injury, his team Delhi Capitals said on Monday.

The 32-year-old Test specialist had played only one of the seven games that the Capitals have played so far, finishing his four overs wicketless for 26 runs against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Abu Dhabi.

"Fast bowler Ishant Sharma experienced an acute episode of left rib cage pain while bowling at a team training session on October 7, 2020 in Dubai. "Subsequent investigations revealed that he sustained a left internal oblique muscle tear. This injury will unfortunately rule him out of the remainder of the IPL," Capitals said. Ishant has played 97 Tests, 80 ODIs and 14 T20Is for India and is set to spearhead the ace attack during Test matches in Australia.

— PTI

Depleted Dhoni side face SRH

Dubai, Oct. 12: Time is fast running out for the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings, a team which desperately needs its batting to click when it takes on Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Tuesday in a battle to keep its IPL hopes alive.

CSK with five defeats in seven games are currently at the penultimate position in the eight-team standings halfway into the tournament. While Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis have had decent outings so far, CSK need a stronger show from its faltering middle order to.

SRH, on the other hand, are a only a tad better-placed than CSK at the fifth spot with three wins from seven games.

But the five-wicket defeat to RR on Sunday would be hurting the Hyderabad outfit badly.

Batting has not been SRH's concern at all as the likes of Jonny Bairstow, skipper David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

- Matches: 13
- Chennai: 9
- Hyderabad: 4

MEETING IN 2019

- Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Chennai Super Kings by 6 wickets at Hyderabad
- Chennai Super Kings beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Chennai

MEETING IN CURRENT EDITION

- Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Chennai Super Kings by 7 runs at Dubai

FOR THE RECORD

- Faf du Plessis is the highest run-getter for Chennai Super Kings in the current edition. The South African batsman scored 307 runs at a strike rate of 147.59 in seven innings of as many matches.

— S. PERVEZ QAISAR

Williamson are all among runs and have the ability to shoulder the responsibility on their own. But it is the bowling unit which let Hyderabad down on Sunday.

— PTI

ICC SETS DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION OF ITS CHAIRMAN

Dubai, Oct. 12: The ICC on Monday set October 18 as the deadline for its Board of Directors to propose candidates for the chairman's post to succeed Shashank Manohar, ending a nearly three-month-long impasse on the nomination process.

"The process, which is being overseen by the Independent Chairman of the ICC Audit Committee, has commenced and the first stage is for the nominations of potential candidates to be made by current Board Directors by 18 October 2020," ICC stated in a release.

The candidate would require two thirds of the 17 ICC Board member votes, which roughly comes to 11 or 12.

— PTI

NBA | CHAMPIONSHIP

Lakers crack the whip to win title

Orlando, Oct. 12: Kobe Bryant's spirit could be felt by the Los Angeles Lakers as they finished a run to the NBA title on Sunday, nine months after Bryant's death in a helicopter crash.

The Lakers completed a championship run dedicated to the late LA legend by defeating Miami 106-93 to capture the NBA Finals four games to two in a quarantine bubble at Orlando, Florida.

"Kobe, I know he's looking down on us super proud. We miss him, and this is definitely for him," Lakers star forward Anthony Davis said.

"I think Kobe and Gianna have guided this team the entire year," Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka said.

"Kobe's voice is always in my head, always, every day, every minute... for us to be able to win this championship doesn't take away the sting of the loss, but what it does is it helps us add to their legacy.

Bryant's widow, Vanessa Bryant, posted a congratulations message on *Instagram*, saying: "Wish Kobe and Gigi were here to see this."

The Lakers captured their first NBA title since 2010, when Bryant led them to the last of his five career crowns.

"There would be times in my hotel room here — when you're in a bubble for 100 days, it's tough — there would be times in the middle of the night, I would hear his voice: 'Stay the course. Finish the task,'" said Pelinka.

Kobe, I know he's looking down on us super proud. We miss him, and this is definitely for him.

— ANTHONY DAVIS after winning the NBA title

"He said, 'I'll give you two, three years, you'll fix this. You'll get the Lakers back on top.'"

Pelinka looked to the heavens and said, "I guess you were right, man. You gave me the energy to do it."

Outside the Lakers' home arena, the Staples Center in Los Angeles, fans took to the streets chanting, "Kobe, Kobe," despite being urged to celebrate at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

JAMES SAVOURS MVP TITLE

The sight of LeBron James hoisting an NBA championship trophy as Most Valuable Player of the title series was no surprise — but the path he took to a fourth career crown was anything but usual.

"I can't sit here and say one is more challenging than the other or one is more difficult than the other," James said after capturing his fourth NBA title with a third team, and his fourth Finals MVP award.

He posted a triple-double of 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists in the title-clinching 106-93 victory over the Miami Heat in Game Six.

— AFP



LeBron James (centre) of the Los Angeles Lakers is jubilant as he holds his MVP and the NBA Championship trophy after winning the NBA title at AdventHealth Arena at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Sunday.

— AFP

No direct entry for badminton Finals

New Delhi, Oct. 12: India ace P. V. Sindhu will not get a direct entry in the rescheduled World Tour Final as the Badminton World Federation (BWF) has decided against handing automatic invitations to current world champions in the season-ending tournament.

According to the BWF rules, world champions have always enjoyed a direct qualification to the prestigious World Tour Finals but with the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting the international calendar, the world body has decided to do away with the criteria this year.

"Players will qualify for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2020 in Bangkok (Thailand) according to current regulations. The exception to that is current world champions will not get an automatic invitation (World Tour Regulations, Clause 8.2.3) and only points earned from World Tour tournaments will be taken into account," BWF said.

"The remaining Grade 2 tournaments counting

towards qualification are: DANISA Denmark Open 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 750), Asia Open I 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000), Asia Open II 2020 (HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000)," the statement added.

Sindhu, who won the World Championship gold medal last year, had pulled out of the Denmark Open and will now have to perform at the Asia legs to make it to the World Tour Finals. "We don't regret the decision to pull out of Denmark Open," Sindhu's father P. V. Ramana said.

— PTI

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