

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | MONDAY 12 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 29°C
Min: 23°C
Rainfall: 1 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 26
Tithi: Dashami/ Ekadashi
Star: Aayilyam
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
Yamagandam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.48 am
Zohar: 12.02 pm
Asar: 3.18 pm
Maghrib: 5.56 pm
Isha: 7.06 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.06 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.11 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 1.41 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 3.31 PM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+66,629)	(+755)
71,17,252	1,09,126

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+5,015)
TN: 6,55,385 10,252

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3,76,13,678
DEATHS
10,79,279

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
214
worldometers.info

Man jumps to death from Alandur flyover

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Out of a job due to the pandemic outbreak, a middle aged man ended his life by jumping off a flyover in Alandur on Sunday.

Police said Perumal (37) of Kalavai village in Thiruvannamalai district, who used to work as a labourer in Chennai had been under stress ever since he lost his job. Eyewitnesses had seen the victim sitting on the foot-over-bridge linked to the Alandur Metro station on Sunday afternoon shortly before he reportedly jumped from the 50-foot flyover and died on spot.

St. Thomas Mount Police sent the body to the Chromepet government hospital for post-mortem. "From what we have been able to gather from his family and friends, it seems that due to the pandemic outbreak, Perumal had lost his job and went back to his native place. He came back to Chennai three days ago in search of a job was upset at not getting one despite his best efforts.

COUNTER

POINT



They are planning to campaign with film actresses and news anchors!

HC comes to conductor's rescue

J.STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Coming to the rescue of a bus conductor with 33 years of service who was unable to meet out the marriage expenses of his daughter, the Madras high court directed TNSTC to calculate the eligible amount payable to him from out of his PF account for meeting the marriage expenses and disburse the same within 2

weeks. The wedding is slated for Oct. 29. Justice R.Suresh Kumar gave the directive while disposing of a petition filed by A.Duraisamy. Petitioner's counsel R.Y.George Williams said if the request was directed to be considered by the Transport Corporation for an eligible amount from the PF account to be disbursed soon and enable utilisation of the money for the mar-

riage, the petitioner would be satisfied. The TNSTC counsel, A.Sundaravadhanam, submitted that due to Covid-19 situation bus services were not operated for about 4 or 5 months and there was a severe financial crisis. However, since the petitioner seeks the indulgence of the Transport Corporation for marriage expenses, the request would be given priority and within the short-

est possible time. Justice Suresh Kumar directed the State Transport Corporation to consider the representation of the petitioner along with an annexed copy of the marriage invitation of the petitioner's daughter and calculate the eligible amount payable and so within two weeks. The judge wanted the time line to be adhered to without deviation.



STATE | 3

DMK forms panel of eight to draw up manifesto



NATION | 4

Cong demands karnataka CM's resignation

SPORT | 8

Hami equals Schumi's record with 91st win



Trump not a transmission risk now: Doc

Washington, Oct. 11: US President Donald Trump is no longer considered a transmission risk to others, the White House physician Dr Sean Conley said on Saturday, as the president held an in-person event on the White House lawns for the first time since contracting the COVID-19 disease. In a White House memorandum, Dr Conley said now, at day 10 from symptom onset, fever-free for well over 24 hours and all symptoms improved, the assortment of advances diagnostics test obtained reveal there is no longer evidence of actively replicating virus.

— AP

BJP chief kick-starts NDA's Bihar campaign

DC CORRESPONDENT
PATNA, OCT. 11

While addressing the rally at the historic Gandhi Maidan in Gaya, BJP chief JP Nadda listed the work done by the NDA government at the Centre and also praised Nitish Kumar's policies for the development of Bihar.

He also used the occasion to lash out at the opposition parties, especially the Congress and RJD for misleading people and doing caste and religion-based politics in the state.

"Modi believes in showing work to the people but the Congress has been doing politics based on caste and religion for

political gains. Remember Modi hai to Mumkin hai and Nitish hai to Pradesh agay badhega (Modi makes it possible and under the leadership of Nitish Kumar the state will progress). Future of India is secured in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it is important that we should support Nitish Kumar for the progress of Bihar", BJP National President JP Nadda said while addressing the rally.

Further, Mr Nadda appreciated Nitish Kumar led state government for extending help to people during COVID -19 pandemic. He said, "Nitish Kumar led state government took care of the peo-

ple during Covid-19. Financial assistance was also provided by the state government to those who were stuck outside Bihar".

This was the first public meeting to be organised by a political party under the shadow of Covid-19. Besides, Mr. Nadda other senior BJP leaders are also expected to address public rallies ahead of polls in Bihar.

According to a senior BJP leader in Patna, the party has prepared a list of its senior leaders which include Home Minister Amit Shah, Smriti Irani, former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and national general secretary Bhupendra Yadav. ■ P4

MUMBAI INDIANS TOP IPL TABLE



Suryakumar Yadav's 32-ball 53 helped Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets in an IPL game in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

— BCCI

■ A year since Modi-XI seashore summit

Mamallapuram spirit evaporates

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

The first anniversary of the two-day informal Sino-Indian Mamallapuram Summit falling on Sunday and Monday is a reminder to both nations on how much can change in a year. Despite already deteriorating Sino-Indian ties then and Beijing's displeasure last year over the creation of the union territory of Ladakh, Chinese President Xi Jinping made the India trip to hold the historic summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi near Chennai on October 11 and 12, 2019, much to everyone's relief.

The Summit was then hailed as yet another successful attempt to put ties between the two nations back on track, the same way that the Wuhan Summit in 2018 had done so after the Doklam military face-off the previous year. A year later, all hopes lie in tatters, with many believing bilateral ties have been irreparably and irreversibly damaged. Observers point to the bleak prospects and negligible chances of another such informal Summit

Corps Commanders to meet again today

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

India and Chinese Corps Commanders will hold 7th round of military talks on Monday on the five months stand-off between the two armies at the Eastern Ladakh. India will again press China to disengage from all friction points in Ladakh and restore the status quo of April 2020.

Last week, the high-powered China Study Group (CSG) had discussed the agenda for 7th round of Corps Commanders level meeting. The defence minister Rajnath Singh, for-

eign affairs minister S Jaishankar, national security advisor Ajit Doval and Army chief General M M Naravane among others are part of this crucial group.

This will be last meeting under 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen Harinder Singh who is all set to take charge as Commandant of the Indian Military Academy (IMA) later this month after completing his one-year tenure.

Lt Gen PGK Menon who will be the new 14 Corps Commander will also take part in the meeting on October 12.

ever taking place between the two nations at least in the next few years. The two informal Summits at Wuhan and Mamallapuram were bold experiments in diplomacy between the two Asian giants but the warmth and trust that marked these

collapsed in dramatic fashion this year.

The break-out of the pandemic at Wuhan in the weeks thereafter, disruptions in the global economy and mounting global pressure on China was the first bad news in bilateral ties.

India's coronavirus infections cross 7 million ahead of festivals

TN virus recoveries surge past six lakh mark

Chennai, Oct 11: Tamil Nadu's coronavirus recoveries crossed the six lakh mark even as the southern state added 5,015 new infections, pushing the caseload to 6.56 lakh, the health department said on Sunday.

As many as 65 people have succumbed to the virus, raising the toll to 10,252, a health department bulletin said. The recoveries stood at 5,005 today, taking the total number of those who got cured after treatment to 6.02 lakh till date. Active cases including those in isolation were 44,095.

On Sunday, 90,107 samples were tested, with 83.22 lakh specimens getting examined till date in the state. Chennai's new cases rose to 1,82,014 with 1,250 more getting infected by the virus.

Besides Chennai, Coimbatore logged 389 cases, Salem 294, Chengalpeta 258. Erode, Kancheepuram, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Theni, Thiruvallur, Tiruppur, Villupuram recorded over 100 cases each in the last 24 hours. Of the 10,252 deaths reported in the state, Chennai accounted for 3,415 till date, the bulletin said.

— PTI

Narendra Modi's government, faced with a collapsing economy after imposing a tough lockdown to try to stem the spread of the virus in late March, is pushing ahead with a full opening of the country just

before the festival season.

But India's festival season, which climaxes in October and November with the popular Hindu celebrations of Dussehra and Diwali, poses additional challenges, as offi-

cials try to dampen the usual large public celebrations and cross-country travel.

Typically the festival season brings a big increase in consumer spending, and the more sombre atmosphere this year will further dampen an economy that contracted by almost a quarter in the three months to June - the worst figure on record.

A few states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west have put restrictions on gathering during the nine-day Navratri festival due to begin on Oct. 17.

"Festival season is approaching. A little carelessness of people during festivals can worsen the situation," India's health minister Harsh Vardhan told his social media followers in a broadcast on Sunday.

"There is no need to congregate in large numbers to prove your faith or your religion. If we do this we may be heading for a big trouble," Vardhan said.

— Reuters

NADAL EQUALS FEDERER'S GRAND SLAM RECORD

Paris, Oct. 11: Rafael Nadal tied Roger Federer with 20 Grand Slam titles by producing a nearly perfect performance against Novak Djokovic in the French Open final.

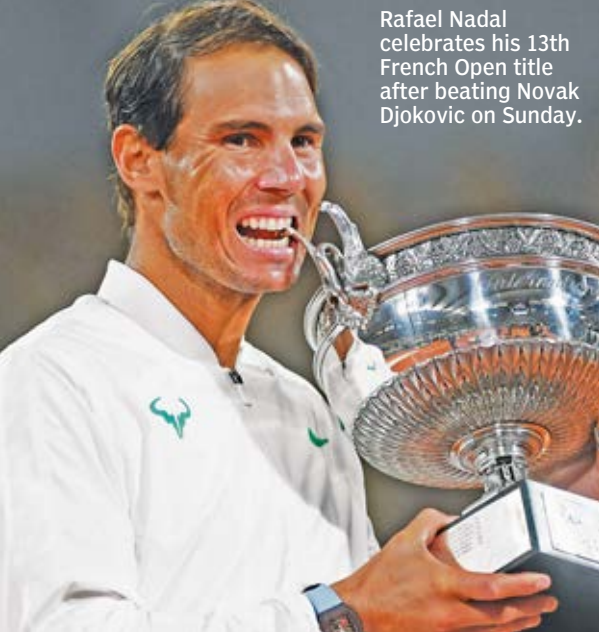
Nadal equaled long-time rival Federer for the most major singles tennis championships won by a man and added to his own record at Roland Garros with No. 13 on the red clay, courtesy of a surprisingly dominant 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 victory over the No. 1-ranked Djokovic on Sunday.

When Nadal ended it with an ace, he dropped to his knees, smiled widely and pumped his arms.

He did not cede a set in his favorite tournament this year.

"The love story that I have with this city, and with this court, is unforgettable," Nadal said.

He deflected a question during the on-court, post-



Rafael Nadal celebrates his 13th French Open title after beating Novak Djokovic on Sunday.

13 Rafael Nadal demolished Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 to win his 13th French Open on Sunday.

20 He equaled Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles.

100 Nadal, 34, claimed his 100th match win at Roland Garros against just two defeats since his 2005 debut.

OLD WARHORSE

The Spaniard, the oldest champion in Paris since Andres Gimeno in 1972, claimed the title without dropping a set.

match interview about catching Federer, saying his focus remained

squarely on the French Open. "I spent here the most important moments

— or most of the important moments — in my tennis career," Nadal said. — AP

SHORT TAKES

Single stage coronary bypass-stenting procedure

Chennai: Kauvery Hospital performed a single stage hybrid coronary revascularisation procedure on 44-year-old patient V. Ramesh from Nesapakam who had a history of heart attacks and blockages in multiple arteries and limited heart function. Blood flow in patients with multiple coronary blockages is restored by coronary artery bypass grafting surgery (CABG) through sternotomy (Opening Breast Bone) which requires longer recuperation time.

“Undertaking a complex procedure and enabling the patient to walk back home within a span of two to three days is a huge step in treatment and provides a lot of hope for patients with such conditions. We were able to perform this with the aid of the Hybrid Cath Lab thereby minimising the risks with the procedure performed in a single stage surgery and stenting. The same procedure was subsequently performed on two more patients – Mr. Sanjay, aged 54 years and Mrs. Narmadha M, aged 70,” said Dr R. Anantharaman, senior consultant interventional cardiologist.

320 new COVID-19 cases in Puducherry takes tally to 31,549

Puducherry: The COVID-19 tally in the union territory of Puducherry rose to 31,549 with the addition of 320 new cases, while the death toll rose to 563 with four more fatalities, the government said on Sunday.

A total of 336 patients were discharged from hospitals in the last 24 hours ending 10 AM on Sunday, taking the cumulative recoveries to 26,291.

There were 4,695 active cases in the union territory, Health Minister Malladi Krishna Rao said.

A total of 4,352 samples were tested during the period and so far 2.34 lakh specimens had been examined by the health department, he told a virtual press meet. —PTI

Inspiring messages on walls



A painter gives final touches to a wall painting with faces of great leaders and their quotes, on a corporation school compound at Hastinapuram, Chrompet. — DC

A value for money smartphone

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Vivo has put out a value for money phone Y20 which is well worth considering. The smartphone, to be classified as medium range in the under ₹15,000 category, is priced ₹13,990 and comes with 6GB RAM + 64GB ROM that only more expensive phones usually offer.

A class-apart camera innovation and elegant design enhance the aesthetics with best-in-class features coming at an affordable price point. The Y20 is also available in 4+64GB specs.

The phone comes with the 6.51” Halo iView display with aspect ratio of 20:9 and HD+ (1600 x 720) resolution. Despite a large display, it does not feel bulky and the device has a side-mounted fingerprint scanner which unlocks the phone in 0.22s while ‘Face Wake’ technology provides another option to unlock the phone. The screen is vibrant and colours look good text is crisp and watching videos provides an immersive viewing experience.

The eye protection mode also filters out harmful blue light, to protect eyesight throughout the day and the new design adapts to daily phone use, making unlocking instantaneous and intuitive. The screen is bright and vibrant, and colours look good, the text is crisp and watching



videos becomes enjoyable with immersive viewing experience.

With a Qualcomm Snapdragon processor and 6GB+64GB of space, Y20 handles large-scale games with ease and it also lets you install and run as many apps as you like and the triple card slot supports memory expansion of up to 256GB. In OS, Vivo has its own skin called FunTouch OS on top of Android 10.5 and the OS is good enough to can run multiple apps at the same time.

A 5,000mAh battery is

handy with life after a full day usage offering 4 to 6 hours of screen-on-time and with AI power saving technology a single full charge can provide up to 15 hours of online HD movie streaming, or 9 hours of resource-intensive gaming on the phone, making it one of the best performing smartphones in the segment when it comes to battery backup. In all, a phone with good camera capabilities with bigger battery and display at an affordable price range.

Gunisha's gifts to needy students

T SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 11

‘Charity begins from Home’, seems to be the guiding principle for young Gunisha Aggarwal, a class XII student in the city who happens to be the younger daughter of city’s top cop Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal. Even at this tender age, Gunisha has chosen the path of alleviating the sufferings of her fellow humans, especially during the pandemic as it has compelled her to take efforts to help fellow students attend online classes.

As the pandemic hit the world, education went online making it inaccessible to many. In India, millions of poor kids continue to be deprived of education, due to the digital divide prevalent in the society. To bridge the gap, Gunisha along with her elder sister, Arshita, started an online mission to set up a website ‘www.helpchennai.org’ that has already turned a boon to five struggling students.

Kelvina Elavathi, a class X student from Kelambakkam, Chennai, had not attended a single online class till last week.

Thanks to Gunisha’s effort, Kelvina got a tab and is now able to attend class. Her mother, Kripa, a housewife, applauds the Gunisha mission which brought to an end her concerns about her daughter’s education. Kelvina’s mom is a parent



Gunisha (left) hands over a gadgets to a student to enable her to attend online classes.

of four other girls, and she feels a lot relieved now, because they are all enjoying the benefits of Gunisha’s mission. “We have collected 25 devices, mostly tabs of which five have been distributed. The rest will be given away in the coming weeks,” said Gunisha.

Gunisha says the seeds of humanity were planted in her mind when she saw her mother Prof Vaneeta Aggarwal, recently give away an used laptop at home to the domestic help who struggled to make her daughter attend online

classes. “Absolutely, my parents are my role models. But my mom’s particular gesture was the spark of fire that still is blazing in my mind. I am also a student. Even though I am privileged, I used to feel a kind of discomfort while attending online classes, thinking about those underprivileged children who cannot afford online education. I want no child in the country to lose out on education, because it is the gateway to the progressive world. With that aim, I decided to design a website with my sister’s support. Through the web-

“We have collected 25 devices, mostly tabs, of which five have been distributed. The rest will be given away in the coming weeks,” said Gunisha

site, we called for help from people to collect devices so that we could bridge the digital divide among students who don’t have learning facilities. The response to our call was in fact encouraging.

‘Seva Chakra’, an orphanage in the city, made 15 gadgets available to us. And the rest were offered by non-profit organizations. Now, Rotary Club, Chennai, has pledged at least 100 tabs. We hope we could collect more in the coming days. We select beneficiaries through NGOs online queries and verification by voluntary organisations. As many as 15 students have so far applied for devices, which she would hand over to them this week.

Gunisha, who wants to become a development economist, does not want to shy away from her moral responsibilities to society and has helped several needy with food packets. She wants to partner with any non-profit organisations to help more students in distress.

Joy of Giving week

Chennai: As part of the Joy o Giving Week celebrations, SBI Chennai Circle donated clothes, stationery, books, toys, face masks and toiletries that were contributed by employees to Avvai Home, an orphanage for girl children & Sri Poorna Mahameru Trust, an old age home for abandoned senior citizens.

Mr B Sankar, CGM of SBI Chennai Circle handed over the items to the beneficiaries.

Promise to marry: Till society do us part?



Boy loves girl. Girl loves boy. Courtship and physical intimacy ensues between two consenting adults. But the rest is not just biological but also legal. The recent Supreme Court finding in Maheshwar Tigga Vs State of Jharkhand (2020) may come as a relief to bridegrooms whose past affairs return to haunt them just before their wedding. But with an alarming rise in sexual crimes against women, this verdict must not be taken out of context, as it may otherwise send out wrong signals. The need for zero tolerance of heinous offences against women can never be over-emphasised.

The case in point revolved around courtship and a physical relationship between a couple from different religions. The marriage did not materialise due to a dispute over whether it was to be solemnised in a Church or a Temple. The Apex Court saw through the ulterior motive of the complainant as the First Information Report (FIR) which alleged rape, defined under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was filed after a delay of four years and “at an opportune time of seven days prior to the appellant solemnising his marriage with another girl”, raising “doubts about the truth and veracity of the allegations levelled by the prosecutrix.”

The 3-judge Bench held that the couple was “smitten by each other and passions of youth ruled over their minds and emotions. The physical relations that followed was not isolated or sporadic in nature, but regular over the years. The prosecutrix had even gone and resided in the house of the appellant.”

At the heart of such conflicts is Section 90 of the



her consent on a misconception of fact, the offence of rape under Section 375 IPC is clearly made out. It is not possible to hold in the nature of evidence on record that the appellant obtained her consent at the inception by putting her under any fear.”

A clear distinction between rape and consensual sex was drawn by the Supreme Court in Dhruvaram Murlidhar Sonar Vs The State of Maharashtra (2019). The principle of ‘deception from the inception’ will reveal if consent was under a ‘misconception of fact’ or not. A mere breach of a promise is different from not fulfilling a false promise. The court held that “if the accused has not made the promise with the sole intention to seduce the prosecutrix to indulge in sexual acts, such an act would not amount to rape. There may be a case where the prosecutrix agrees to have sexual intercourse on account of her love and passion for the accused and not solely on account of the misconception created by an accused, or where an accused, on account of circumstances which he could not have foreseen or which were beyond his control, was unable to marry her despite having every intention to do. Such cases must be treated differently.”

That there is no strait-jacket formula to determine whether consent for sexual intercourse is given voluntarily or under a ‘misconception of fact’ was underscored by the Supreme Court in Uday Vs State of Karnataka (2003). Courts must consider the “evidence and the surrounding circumstances because each case has its own peculiar facts.” Weak moments and temptation between consenting adults are a reality but must never be an excuse for irresponsible behaviour; much less, deception or blackmail.

(The writer is an advocate at the Madras high court, columnist & author)

RUMBLINGS IN ALLIANCES CAN CAUSE POLITICAL QUAKES



G. Babu Jayakumar

Just spamming

There is a lot in common between the AIADMK and DMK, the two leading political parties of Tamil Nadu. But the striking commonality is a shared aversion to share power with electoral allies. Irrespective of who is at the helm, both parties would like to form the government on its own. A coalition government is an anathema to the parties that do not mind forming rainbow alliances and going on joint campaigns.

That big brotherly attitude of the lead parties is so perceptible that when Dinesh Gundu Rao, Tamil Nadu in-charge of the Congress party, mistakenly mentioned at a press conference that the DMK-led alliance, in which his party is a part, would form a coalition government, he had to expeditiously make amends. The same night he issued a statement to the media explicitly saying that the government would be formed under the leadership of DMK President M K Stalin.

To put it otherwise, the Congress made it clear that it had no aspirations to power in the State and that it would abide by the DMK’s diktats. Other allies, too, are expected to do it, lest they ruffle the feathers of the big brother. The recent utterings of DMK general secretary Durai Murugan – though he apologised for it

later, blaming it on the face mask that he was wearing – on the allies was actually indicative of the kind of respect the big parties have towards smaller partners, historically.

There had been instances of late popular supremos of both the parties being rude to alliance partners during seat-sharing talks in the past. By forcing smaller parties out of alliances through hard bargaining, big parties had even lost elections. Yet without any remorse, they uphold their hegemony with panache. Perhaps keeping with that tradition, the DMK now expects its smaller allies, other than the national parties like Congress and Communists, to contest in its ‘Rising Sun’ symbol.

Whatever is the exact reason for the DMK wanting allies to opt for its symbol, the allies are now refusing to play ball. Already the VCK and MDMK have openly said that they would contest on the symbols allotted to them by the Election Commission rather than go for the ‘Rising Sun’ and other parties might follow suit.

Though in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the VCK’s D Ravi Kumar and MDMK’s A Ganesha Murthi contested in the ‘Rising Sun’ from Villupuram and Erode constituencies respectively, both the parties do not want



Edappadi K. Palaniswami



BJP's L. Murugan



S. Ramadoss



M.K. Stalin



Vaiko



Thirumavalavan

to do it now. What they say is that they want to maintain their individuality. But it could also be aimed at improving their bargaining power after the elections. For, if the candidates go for the ‘Rising Sun,’ they would be technically DMK candidates as per the Election Commission records and be bound by its whip.

It is widely rumoured that IPAC, which is reportedly guiding the DMK in all its moves, has advised that the party should contest a certain number of seats on its own. And to reach that number the DMK wants allies to contest in its symbol. But it could be based on plain political wisdom too. For, the DMK, in the event of the elections turning out

to be a neck and neck race with the AIADMK, could be caught in a cleft stick while sorting out issues relating to government formation with the allies who had won seats in their own party names and symbols.

The allies could demand a share in power or may even switch over to the other side of the fence without attracting the provisions of the anti-defection law, post elections. Perhaps the DMK just wanted to avoid all that. But the point is that the allies have woken up. Though they know that popularising a new symbol, yes both VCK and MDMK do not have an election symbol of their own now, is an arduous task and that conversion of DMK votes to them

would be much easier by picking the ‘Rising Sun,’ they do not want to sacrifice their party identity on the altar of electoral compulsions.

Even if the smaller allies would like Stalin to become the Chief Minister and might be prepared to work for that, the rumblings caused by them threaten to shake the coalition edifice in some way or the other. The same problem is also faced by the AIADMK-led alliance with the BJP having started queering the pitch through its contradictory statements from different leaders. BJP State President L Murugan might not have spoken anything against the AIADMK-led alliance.

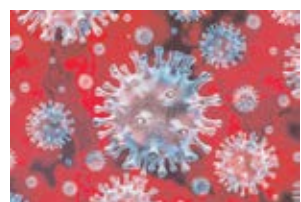
But his aspiration to contest from 30, or is it 60, seats in the State could create a discord when it comes to constituency allocation. Also the statements of party leaders that the BJP would identify the chief ministerial candidate cannot go well with the AIADMK that had at last finalised its chief ministerial candidate after much ado. While Murugan evaded a question on that, AIADMK’s deputy coordinator, K P Munusamy has made it clear that only those who accept their chief ministerial candidate can be in their alliance.

Meanwhile, BJP’s another senior leader, Pon Radhakrishnan, had even suggested that the party may not be in an alliance with the AIADMK at all. So with all these rumblings, the State can expect a major change in political equations in its run up to the 2020 Assembly elections and after that, too.

CORONAVIRUS AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Chennai: The NGO, Coodu Trust, in collaboration with Rane (Madras) (RML), conducted awareness campaigns on Covid-19 emerging as a grave threat. The people living in Dr Smbedkar Nagar in Velachery were sensitised

about the importance of wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and hygiene. Rane employees held placards to create awareness amongst the public and to adopt safety precautions.



SHORT TAKES

Medicated anti-dandruff formulations

Chennai: Alliance appoints Alniche as its exclusive marketing partner to market and distribute the Nizral / Nizoral range of formulations. Transfer of the business was successfully concluded during September.

Dandruff affects around half of the adult population and India's ethical and over the counter medicated shampoo market is estimated to be worth around ₹650 crores. Nizral 2% and Nizoral 1% with its clinical heritage, established safety profile and long history of use continues to be one of the top medicated anti-dandruff brands in India.

Rajiv Ghildiyal, Alliance's Regional Business Director – Central Asia, Middle-East & Pacific said, "We aim to consolidate and expand awareness and reach beyond Metros and Class A towns so that more of the Indian population can benefit from this time-tested remedy for scalp and related skin conditions."

Free bridal journal with wedding info

Chennai: Sangeetha Kailash, a name in bridal make up and makeover design circles in South India, launched bridal Journal VARAA, a free quarterly journal in print and digital versions. The journal has been conceptualised on the necessity to bring out bridal and wedding trends in a kind of hub for all marriage related information. Information is made available about venues, décor, styling, entertainment, engagement, mehndi, reception, wedding, photography & videography, flowers, stationeries, return gifts. Tamil film actor Bharath Srinivasan unveiled the logo and the first copy of the bridal journal in the presence of actress Aathmika.

Man held for trying to break ATM

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 11

A 28-year-old man who made a futile attempt to break open an ATM machine on Rajiv Gandhi Salai in Thorapakkam was nabbed by the police on Sunday morning. The accused was identified as Lawrence, a resident of Slum Clearance Board apartment in Perumbakkam who was trying to open a private bank ATM in the early hours of Sunday. People who spotted him trying to break the ATM open alerted the Adyar DC and the alert was passed on to the Thorapakkam Police who rushed to the spot and nabbed the accused. He was remanded in judicial custody.

Tarpaulins given to DPCs

DC CORRESPONDENT THANJAVUR, OCT. 11

Adequate number of tarpaulins have been provided to direct purchase centres (DPCs) to cover paddy bags and heaps of paddy stocks, to protect them from rain, said Collector M Govinda Rao.

Judiciary is not free from corrupt practices: HC judge

J. STALIN | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Endorsing the fact that the judiciary is not free from corrupt practices, the Madras high court said the judiciary has to strengthen its vigilance wing. "The prevailing vigilance system in the judiciary is insufficient to crush the corrupt practices and frequent surprise visits and inspection in the judicial departments and premises are needed," Justice S.M.Subramaniam said while removing N.Ulagaraj, an employee of the Registration Department, from service. He subsequently modified the punishment to compulsory retirement for demanding and accepting a bribe while in service.

The judge said that "conscience would not permit if it fails to mention the increasing corrupt practices in the Judiciary Department as well as in court premises. Justice requires equal treatment of all the citizens and consistency in the justice delivery system. Corrupt practices in the judicial system can never be tolerated. It is worse than that of the corruption in public departments. Judicial remedy being the last resort to the common man, effective, efficient and impartial judicial system in consonance with the constitutional, philosophy and ethos are to be achieved. Building confidence in the minds of the citizens on the judiciary system is the constitutional mandate. Doubts in the minds of citizens will lead to destruction of constitutional principles. Undoubtedly, the judiciary has to strengthen its vigilance wing and the prevailing vigilance system in the judiciary is insufficient to crush the corrupt practices. Frequent surprise visits and inspection in the judi-

'CORRUPTION A DEVIL'

1) Corruption is a devil in the society. Corruption is an anti-developmental phenomena. Corruption is the blockage for the developmental activities of our great nation. Corruption causes greater injustice to the society at large, more specifically, to the poor and downtrodden. Creating more awareness and sensitivity are all paramount importance in order to deal with the corrupt practices in public services.

2) It is the constitutional mandate that every government of the day is expected to be efficient, people-friendly and hypersensitive in the matter of dealing with corrupt practices. Corruption eats the welfare of the society like termite. No doubt, the Department of Vigilance and Anti-corruption is functioning in the state. However, the size of the department and the number of officials functioning are not in commensuration with the large scale corrupt practices prevailing in many departments. The department of vigilance and anti-corruption is to be strengthened to a greater extent, so as to ensure periodical surprise inspections and raids are conducted to deal with the corrupt practices in public services. Adequate number of men and women of integrity and honesty must be engaged for this purpose.

3) Decent salary has been paid to public servants and nowadays institutionally competitive in comparison with their counterparts in private sectors. Public servants are receiving salary from tax-payers' money. The responsibility and accountability is the constitutional mandate. Public servants are expected to perform their duties with utmost care and by maintaining absolute integrity and honesty. However, in reality, the state of affairs prevailing in our great nation is the worrying factor. People are frustrated with the large scale corrupt practices in public services.

cial departments and premises are needed".

"It is pertinent to remind that many former Chief Justices of India had lamented that the judiciary is not exempted from corrupt practices. Unfortunately, efficient measures are yet to be taken to deal with many kinds of corrupt practices in the judicial system. Making observations in the judgment is one aspect of the matter, but, if such findings are taken in a right spirit by the administrators then alone we can see the development of our great nation. Thus, the administrator must have a heart and spirit to take the issues in a right manner and attempts are to be made sincerely to develop an effective and efficient system," he said.

In the present petition the charges against the petitioner were proved both before the Tribunal for Disciplinary Proceedings,

Tirunelveli and the finding recorded by the Tribunal were considered by the authorities in their order and as such there was no infirmity or perversity in imposing punishment on the writ petitioner. The petition is devoid of merits and stands dismissed, the judge added.

"The assets and the liabilities of the department servants were to be periodically verified as the Service Rules require every public servant was bound to furnish the details of their assets and liabilities. When the rule requires such information to be provided to the department, the same has not been maintained properly in many departments by many higher authorities. The disproportionate wealth was to be periodically monitored and the information provided by the public servants was to be properly checked," the judge added.

The judge said urgent and stringent measures were warranted and appropriate instructions and guidelines were to be issued to all government offices. The competent authorities have the choice to obtain suggestions and expert opinions in the field of anti-corruption and issue comprehensive instructions/directives/guidelines to deal with the corrupt practices in public departments. Announcing beneficial schemes alone were insufficient.

The implementation of the beneficial schemes must reach the poor and downtrodden in a hassle-free manner. Thus by introducing welfare schemes, the government cannot attain success. The implementation of such beneficial schemes so as to take the scheme to the poorest of the poor in this country would alone lead to success, the judge added.

Diffabled cricketer seeks fiscal support

ANANTH MATHIVANAN | DC COIMBATORE, OCT. 11.

A 28-year-old differently-abled cricketer, who has been selected to play a match in Dubai representing India, is looking for financial assistance from the government.

Cricketer Srinivasan is an engineering graduate residing at Pollachi - Mamarthupatti. Despite being handicapped, Srinivasan had developed interest in cricket from a young age. Even without his left hand and enough money to buy a cricket bat,



Srinivasan 28 selected for disabled cricket match. — DC

he had designed his own bat using a piece of coconut tree.

When he was eight-years-old, Srinivasan lost his parents and was raised by his grandmother Rangamaal and her brother Suresh. After a long financial struggle, he completed his graduation in engineering. Simultaneously, he had developed his cricketing skills from school days and played more than 100 matches and bagged many medals in the district and state-level matches, conducted for the differently-abled.

Presently, Srinivasan is selected on behalf of Chennai Stars cricket team representing India, and

would be participating in the match for differently-abled players that is to be played in Dubai on November 2.

While Srinivasan is looking for financial support, his brother took him to the Pollachi deputy collector's office on Friday. Deputy Collector Vaidyanathan promised to help Srinivasan and urged him to perform well in the match.

Srinivasan has started his net practice, and has sought the government's help for his tour and also for players like him struggling without financial assistance.

Canara bank CSR initiative

DC CORRESPONDENT SRIRANGAM, OCT. 11

The Canara Bank is always supportive of the society through its Corporate Social Responsibility scheme (CSRS), especially during the present pandemic, said bank's Madurai Circle Deputy General Manager, D Madhavaraj.

He made this remark while handing over the parking facility near the compound wall of Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, Srirangam, on both sides of South Uthira street, established by the bank for the benefit of devotees at Srirangam, on Sunday.

Loadman electrocuted

DC CORRESPONDENT SALEM, OCT. 11

A load man perched on the back of a loaded lorry here died of electrocution, while another fortunately survived, on Sunday.

A firewood loaded lorry was coming from Thiruvannamalai to Salem Chatram area on Sunday morning, driven by M u r a l i t h a r a n .

Balakrishnan is a lorry cleaner.

Raman (40) and Rajasekar, loadmen from Chatram area, loaded the firewood on the lorry,

which proceeded from Kothan forest area near Sivathapuram.

Raman, who was sitting on top of the lorry load, came in contact with a wire running from the transformer in that area to the other side, and was thrown on the ground and he died on the spot.

Rajasekar, another worker who was traveling with him, immediately jumped down and fortunately escaped.

Aware of this, lorry driver Muralitharan and cleaner Balakrishnan stopped the lorry and jumped down

and escaped. On an alert, electricity department staff and police rushed in and cut off the electricity.

Suramangalam police registered a case and recovered the body and sent it to the Salem government hospital for autopsy.

The electric wire goes down in the Kothan forest area. No action has been taken as the public has repeatedly informed the electricity department to replace these wires.

The public has now demanded that action be taken at least after this death.

A few leading controversies may not have made it to the book but the collection is wholesome and the book would bring many of them

back to the memories of cricket followers who would like to believe that they had an inside track to each such event and that they were reading now only to confirm if the author got it right. But then sports fans are known to be very opinionated and would like to believe that they have always had the last word on it. I would, however, take Vedam's recall of many controversies even if I was disappointed that he didn't go deep into the Great Indian Betting Scandal that ripped the game apart in the 1990s. Maybe, the author believed it was best that most of it be left unsaid.

Engaging read on cricket and its great controversies

R. MOHAN | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 12

Controversy has been cricket's eternal handmaiden. Not even IPL matches pass these days without a clutch of controversies. Social media adds to the mix too, not always in a nasty way and at most times triggering in a healthy way the thought process along with all the 'ifs and buts' that lend discussions great interest. It is appropriate then that veteran sports journalist Vedam Jaishankar's book — *Courage, conviction, Controversy and cricket* — should be published at a time when the players are



showing all those qualities of courage and conviction while cricket itself continues to go hand in hand with

Courage, conviction, controversy and cricket — by Vedam Jaishankar (Westland Sport)

controversy. Endless discussions are not just part and parcel of cricket — they are its very spirit as the willow game lends itself so readily to ratiocination, perhaps more than any other game. In fact, it used to be said that youngsters learnt more from discussing the day's events with seniors for a couple of hours after play in the dressing room than when out in the middle. Vedam lists this aspect very

early in his introduction to the book with that gem of a quote from CLR James that is staple knowledge for aficionados of the game — "What do they know of cricket who only cricket know."

Many interesting chapters from the game's history are recaptured here with good insights into controversies that seemed so difficult to unravel as in Rahul Dravid's declaration of the Indian innings when Sachin was into the 190s and looking keen enough on making his maiden double ton in Tests then. And landmarks tend to get even more memorable if an Indian cricketer is set to cross it against

Pakistan, that too on Pakistan soil. The two players in that drama may have shaken hands on the event after an apology or explanation and got on on with their careers, but events from cricket history have a way of coming back to its keen followers.

Given that the book lists such episodes from as far back as Bodyline of the 1932-33 England tour of Australia with Douglas Jardine the hero or villain, depending on your point of view, it is obvious that the recounting is not from the reporter's personal presence. But Vedam has done painstaking research to

bring out the details, spelling them out in detail in simple and unbiased manner. I am not certain Vedam looked at how those two Indian greats were involved again in a misunderstanding over Sachin Tendulkar's batting order in the 2007 World Cup. If that event proved India's greatest disaster since 1999, Dravid's decision to bat Sachin down the order may have been the cause even if Greg Chappell had been in on it.

A few leading controversies may not have made it to the book but the collection is wholesome and the book would bring many of them

back to the memories of cricket followers who would like to believe that they had an inside track to each such event and that they were reading now only to confirm if the author got it right. But then sports fans are known to be very opinionated and would like to believe that they have always had the last word on it. I would, however, take Vedam's recall of many controversies even if I was disappointed that he didn't go deep into the Great Indian Betting Scandal that ripped the game apart in the 1990s. Maybe, the author believed it was best that most of it be left unsaid.

FISH MARKET GETS BUSY AGAIN



After Purattasi month, hundreds of people thronged Kasimedu fish market, without face masks and not maintaining social distancing. — DC

DMK forms 8-member panel for poll manifesto

A. ARUL PALANI | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 11

DMK has formed an 8-member committee to prepare the party's election manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections next year. In a statement, DMK's

Secretary Duraimurgan on Sunday stated that the Committee includes DMK parliamentary party leader and Treasurer T.R. Baalu, MP and former Union Minister A. Raja, Rajya Sabha members T.K.S. Elangovan, Trichy N. Siva and Lok Sabha member MP Kanimozhi.

The committee also includes deputy general secretaries Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan and Anthiyur Selvaraj and professor A Ramaswamy.

For the first time the Dravidian parties AIADMK and DMK are facing the Assembly poll without

their party supremos, J Jayalalithaa and M Karunanidhi, respectively. While Jaya died following prolonged treatment on December 5, 2016 and Karunanidhi died on August 7, 2018 after a series of prolonged age-related illnesses.

In the past DMK's election manifestos had been hailed as a 'hero' during the campaign by DMK patriarch Karunanidhi and leaders of the DMK-led alliance.

Political pundits predict DMK manifesto will consist of number of assurances including enhancing employment opportunities, combating Covid-19, abolition of Neet, opposition to methane project in Delta region, neutrino project in Theni, protecting disaster prone coastal region, implementation of MBC reservation in medical courses, revival of industries, promoting export,

opposition to Farm Acts, GST, National Register of Citizens, EIA-2020, NIA and NEP-2020.

It will also include education loan issues, Sivakasi fire cracker worker's issues, sand mafia issues, closure of TASMAR outlets, solving the water crisis for agriculture, permanent solution to issues faced by delta farmer and Cauvery water issues, maintaining law and order and preventing sexual assault, reviving textile industries in Tiruppur and Coimbatore.

Protecting Dalits, farmers and fishermen, assistance to entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, fishermen issues, improvement of infrastructure in the state and livelihood for the poor and downtrodden and freebies to voters will also occupy important place in the manifesto.

AISMS lauds CM, health min

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, OCT. 11

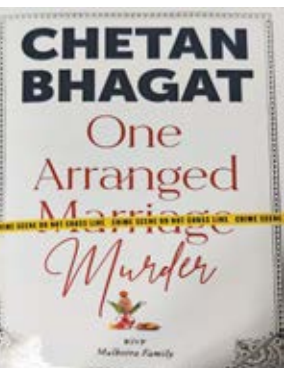
The Tamil Nadu unit of the All India Siddha Maruthuva Sangam (AISMS) and Tamil Nadu Acupuncture Research Council (TNARC) and Mukkulathor Thevar Samuga Arakkattalai thanked Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, health minister Dr C Vijayabaskar and the state health department for their effective handling of Corona pandemic across the state.

Releasing a monthly magazine 'Nam Makkal Manasu', AISMS president Dr K S Subbaiah said, after a resolution to that effect was adopted on the sidelines of the book release function here on Sunday.

He said the meeting welcomed the government's move of utilising Sidha medicine system for treating Covid-19 patients.

They also appealed to the chief minister to utilise other Indian medicines also, especially the acupuncture system, for treating Covid 19 patients.

BOOK RECEIVED



One Arranged Marriage Murder
By Chetan Bhagat;
Published by Westland, Seattle - This is a work of fiction from a leading Indian author and is a story about love, friendship, family and crime

SHORT TAKES

TEEN HELD FOR THREATS AGAINST DHONI'S DAUGHTER

Ahmedabad, Oct. 11: 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 Namna 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 confirm if he was the one who had posted the threat message, Mr 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. Dhoni is captaining the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) cricket team in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 season. —PTI

WOMAN DIES AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO 16TH CHILD IN MP

Damoh (MP), Oct. 11: A 45-year-old woman gave birth to her 16th child in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, but both of them died soon afterwards, a local health worker said on Sunday.

The woman, Sukhrani Ahirwar from Padajhir village in the district, delivered a baby boy at home on Saturday, Kallu Bai Vishwakarma, an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), said.

"However, the condition of the woman and her newborn turned critical and they were rushed to a primary health centre, where both of them were pronounced dead," she added.

According to her, Ahirwar had given birth to 15 children earlier, however, the family had lost seven of them. District Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Sangeeta Trivedi confirmed the incident.

STAY WAY FROM LARGE GROUPS IN FESTIVALS: MIN

SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan urged people to stay away from large congregations and diligently follow Covid-19 guidelines during the upcoming festive season, saying no religion or God asks people to celebrate ostentatiously.

Requesting people to celebrate the approaching festivals at home with their loved ones instead of going out to fairs and pandals, he said fighting against Covid-19 is everyone's foremost dharma and as the health minister it is his dharma to mitigate the virus and prevent deaths at any cost. "No religion or God says you have to visit pandals and temples and mosques to pray," Vardhan underlined.

PAK VIOLATES CEASEFIRE IN POONCH, RAJOURI

Jammu, Oct. 11: Pakistani troops on Sunday shelled mortars in three sectors along the Line of Control in Poonch and Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir; a defence spokesperson said. The shelling from across the border in Degwar and Khari Karmara sectors in Poonch and Rajouri's Sunderbani drew a befitting retaliation by the Indian Army, he said, adding that there was no immediate report of any casualty. Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars in Degwar sector around 6.15 pm. It was followed by firing and artillery shelling in Khari Karmara at 6.40 pm, the spokesperson said. At 6.45 pm, Pakistani troops targeted forward areas along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri, he said.

Cong asks Karnataka CM to quit over graft, seeks probe

Reports on Yeddiyurappa kin's conversation on bribe to BDA official come out

New Delhi, Oct. 11: The Congress on Sunday attacked the BJP over reported allegations of corruption against family members of Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yeddiyurappa in connection with a housing project and demanded a time-bound judicial probe into the matter.

When Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah had made the allegations against the Chief Minister in the Assembly last month, Mr Yeddiyurappa had dismissed them as "baseless" and challenged the Congress leader to prove the charges.

Citing media reports, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi on Sunday alleged that the BJP government is "engulfed in the clutches of corruption with dented, tainted leaders ruling the roost". "If the Chief Minister has the slightest sense of shame, he must resign or be sacked," Mr Singhvi said.

He also questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda over the reported allegations of corruption and kickbacks against the son, son-in-law, and grandson of Yeddiyurappa.

The matter relates to a Rs 662-crore construction of an apartment project in Bengaluru, Mr Singhvi said and claimed media reports have "disclosed direct involvement of close relatives like son, son-in-law and grandson in corruption and bribery in connection with the project".

"It has shocked the consciousness of the entire

ASSAM GOVT EXPEDITES BODO PEACE-ACCORD

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, OCT. 11

Assam government has accelerated the process of implementing the peace accord signed with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) which led to surrender and disbanding of all the armed rebel groups in Western Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

Informing that several key points of the peace accord have already been implemented, security sources said that the ministry of home affairs has also directed the state government to expedite the process of implementing the accord.

Admitting that withdrawal of cases and rehabilitation of armed cadre would take some more time, security sources said that cases would be withdrawn only after the judicial review of all the cases.

However, the process of rehabilitating the cadres has already started and 1,279 cadres are getting a stipend of ₹6,000 per month.

They will also get a one-time grant of ₹4 lakh each. The one-time grant will be put in fixed deposit accounts for a period of three years and they would be able to withdraw it only if they maintain good conduct during this period.

Deoria (UP), Oct. 11: A Congress worker was roughed up by her colleagues at a party meet in Deoria after she alleged that a "rapist" had been given the ticket for the Assembly by-election, prompting the party to order a probe into the incident and expel two members for "indiscipline".

National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma said she has written to Uttar



BJP national president J.P. Nadda with party leaders and NDA candidates during the first election rally at Gandhi Maidan in Gaya on Sunday. —PTI

Congress forms committees, Surjewala to head key panel

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

The Congress will hold a meeting of its Central Election Committee on Monday where the last of the candidates to the 70 seats on which it is contesting in the Bihar Assembly polls would be finalised.

The party also formed various panels for the upcoming Assembly polls with party general secretary Randeep Surjewala named chairman of the election management and coordination committee.

The 14-member election

management and coordination committee includes senior leaders like Meira Kumar, Tariq Anwar, Shatrughan Sinha, Kirti Azad, Shakeel Ahmed and Sanjay Nirupam while Mohan Prakash would be the convener of the panel.

Elections to the 243-member Bihar Assembly will be held in three phases from October 28 to November 7. The counting would take place on November 10.

On Sunday, Congress president Sonia Gandhi also approved the setting up of the publicity com-

mittee, media coordination committee, public meeting and logistics committee, legal committee and office management committee for the Bihar elections, a party statement said. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera will head the media coordination committee of which Prem Chand Mishra and Rajesh Rathor would be convener and co-convener respectively. While Subodh Kumar has been appointed the convener of the publicity committee, Jaeya Mishra was named the co-convener of the panel.

country, but it appears that the BJP has no conscience," Mr Singhvi said.

The Congress leader cited a purported communication between a close relative of Mr Yeddiyurappa

and another person referring to a bribe paid by a contractor to a top Bengaluru Development Authority official. Mr Singhvi claimed an additional bribe was sought

and paid through shell companies in Kolkata.

He said the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act must be invoked and the allega-

NITISH TO HIT CAMPAIGN TRAIL FROM TODAY

From Pg 1

From the state Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Union Ministers Nityanand Rai, Giriraj Singh Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Ravi Shankar Prasad, RK Singh along with others have been included in the list of campaigners which the party will release in a phased manner.

Besides, both JD(U) and BJP have also planned to hold small rallies and virtual shows to reach out to their voters.

Bihar Assembly elections for 243 seats are to be held in three phases beginning October 28 and the results will be declared on November 10.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar will hit the campaign trail on Monday, when he will address people of several Assembly segments that go to polls in the first phase. Sanjay Kumar Jha, JD(U) national general secretary and a key aide of the Chief Minister, said he will be addressing people in a total of 35 Assembly constituencies over the next couple of days.

tions probed. "The most remarkable and virtually admitted allegations of unabashed corruption and we don't even find a criminal investigation," he said. —PTI

India to become worst-affected by Covid in weeks

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 11

The number of Coronavirus cases in India increased to 7,053,806 on Sunday after the country recorded 74,383 infections in the last 24 hours. The death toll due to the deadly virus reached 1,08,334 with 918 fresh fatalities being reported in the said period.

India is expected to become the pandemic's worst-hit country in the coming weeks, surpassing the United States, where more than 77 lakh infections have been reported.

As of now, India is the second worst-hit nation in terms of Covid-19 cases after the US and at the third spot in terms of fatalities globally after the US and Brazil.

Kerala toll crosses 1000: Death toll due to Covid-19 in Kerala on Sunday crossed 1000 with 25 people succumbing to the virus even as the state's caseload mounted to 2,87,202 with 9,347 fresh infections. The state has reported 8,924 recoveries on the day, taking the total recoveries so far to 1,91,798 while 96,316 people are presently undergoing treatment.

K'taka reports 9,523 cases: Karnataka on Sunday reported 9,523 fresh Covid-19 cases and 75 related fatalities, taking the total number of infections to 7.10 lakh and the toll to 9,966, the health department said on Sunday. The state has at present cumulatively 7,10,309 confirmed cases, which includes the deaths and 5.80 lakh discharges. Out of 9,523 new cases

reported on Sunday, 4,623 cases were from Bengaluru urban alone.

AP scene makes steady improvement: Decrease in Corona positive cases in Andhra Pradesh has continued on Sunday with the number of positive cases dropping to 5,210 from an earlier average of 10,000 cases per day in the before last. East and West Godavari districts have remained on top in number of Covid-19 positive cases registered. The total number of Corona positive cases in the state has reached 7,55,727 on Sunday. The figure includes 7,03,208 patients who have recovered, 6,224 are active cases while 6,159 patients have died. With recoveries increasing, the recovery rate has reached 93.06 percent. The state has registered 30 new Covid-19 deaths in the past 24 hours.

Telangana has 1,717 new cases: Telangana recorded 1,717 new cases of Covid-19 on Saturday, the state health department reported on Sunday, adding that five more people lost their lives to the disease, taking the total cases so far to 2,12,063, and the fatalities to 1,222.

For the 24-hour period between Friday and Saturday evening, the department, in its Covid-19 bulletin, said that 2,103 persons were declared as recovered from the disease. With this, the number of people who have overcome Covid-19 so far has reached 1,85,128.

(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru, Vijayawada and Hyderabad)

THACKERAY SHIFTS METRO CAR SHED FROM AAREY

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, OCT. 11

In a major decision, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has announced that the metro car shed project at Aarey Colony has been shifted to Kanjurmarg in Mumbai.

"I had opposed the metro car shed at Aarey. The project will now be relocated to Kanjurmarg. The plot belongs to the government and it will be available at zero cost. No cost will be incurred for the purpose," Thackeray said in a webcast on Sunday.

Despite stiff opposition from the Shiv Sena and environmentalists, the earlier Devendra Fadnavis-led government had decided to build a metro car shed at Aarey Colony, which is called the green lungs of Mumbai city. The citizens and green activists had protested the project citing the felling of trees and perceived damage to the environment in Aarey due to the project.

Spread over 2000 acres, the Aarey Colony is one of the few green spaces left in Mumbai. The Maharashtra government, on September 3, had declared 600 acre of Aarey land as a reserve forest.

"The government has now revised the forest area to 800 acre. Biodiversity in Aarey needs to be to be conserved and protected. Nowhere is there an 800-acre jungle in an urban set up. Mumbai has a natural forest cover. There will be no infringement on rights of tribals in the Aarey forest," said the CM.

Thackeray earlier had also directed the state home department to withdraw cases registered against the protestors last year for opposing the felling of trees at Aarey Colony.

The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) had chopped more than 2,600 trees at Aarey colony on October 25 last year to construct a car shed for the ₹32,000 crore underground Colaba-Bandra-Seepz Metro corridor.

—PTI



People throng a market at New Market area in Kolkata on Sunday for shopping ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja festival amid the Coronavirus pandemic. —PTI

Jagan letter to CJI on judge creates flutter

Amaravati (AP), Oct. 11: Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's allegation against a senior Supreme Court judge that he has been influencing the sittings of Andhra Pradesh High Court and acting in the interests of Telugu Desam Party created a flutter with the Chandrababu Naidu-led party dismissing it as 'atrocious' and a 'conspiracy' against the judiciary.

The Chief Minister wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of India (CJI), S.A. Bobde,

in an unprecedented move alleging that the Andhra Pradesh High Court was being used to "destabilise and topple my democratically elected government."

Mr Reddy requested the CJI to look into the matter and consider initiating steps "as may be considered fit and proper to ensure that the state judiciary's neutrality is maintained." There was no immediate reaction from Supreme Court officials to the allegation.

The Chief Minister

alleged that the senior apex court judge had proximity to Chandrababu Naidu and that a "former judge of the honourable Supreme Court placed this fact on record."

After his government initiated an inquiry into the actions of Naidu regime between 2014-19, he said, "it is now clear that the judge started influencing the course of administration of justice in the state..."

Naming some high court judges, Mr Reddy alleged

they had a "nexus with the Supreme Court judge and the Telugu Desam Party and displayed animosity towards my government and me."

The apex court judges influence was in the areas of "roster for sitting of the honourable judges, whereby important matters of policy and protection for Chandrababu Naidu's interests were posted before a few honourable judges," the Chief Minister alleged and referred to some orders to

buttress his claims.

The Chief Minister's letter to the CJI was dated October 6 and his principal advisor Ajeya Kallam released it to the media here on Saturday night.

He said it was sent on October 8 to the CJI.

The Telugu Desam Party rejected the allegation as a "deliberate conspiracy against the judiciary" and nothing could be more atrocious than this. The state unit of the Congress termed it a frontal attack on the judiciary. —PTI

ASSEMBLY | BYPOLLS

Party orders probe into incident, expels two members for indiscipline

Cong woman protests 'rapist' nominee, thrashed

Pradesh director general of police seeking strict action against the accused.

The woman, Tara Yadav, lodged a police complaint against four office-bearers of the party, including the district president, for allegedly beating and molesting her.

As the videos of the ugly scenes at the meeting held on Saturday went viral sparking outrage, the state unit of the Congress

termed it as a "political conspiracy" to defame the party.

According to eyewitnesses, Yadav allegedly tried to "manhandle" party secretary Sachin Naik, and also hurled a bouquet towards him during the meeting on Saturday.

Yadav was protesting over the party nominating Mukund Bhaskar Mani for the November 3 by-polls, accusing him of being a rapist, a charge denied by

him. As she hurled a bouquet towards Sachin Naik, angry workers allegedly roughed up Yadav and whisked her out of the meeting venue, the eyewitnesses claimed.

"A police complaint has been received. The matter is being probed. However, no case has been registered so far," SHO Kotwali Chandrabhan Singh said.

Yadav, who claimed to be associated with the party for four years, said she

was only questioning the choice of candidate and never expected that the party members would react in such a manner.

"You have given the ticket to a rapist, and this has tarnished the image of Congress. You could have given the ticket to someone else. As I said this, I was pushed by someone from behind. Can I not even put forth my point of view. These people want to destroy the Congress and

end it," Yadav said.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the UP Congress said, "In the context of by-polls to the Deoria Assembly constituency, a meeting was held at the party office in Deoria on October 10. In this meeting, Deendayal Yadav and Ajay Kumar Sainthwar indulged in indiscipline, and have been expelled from the party with immediate effect."

—PTI

IN BRIEF

Thailand bus-train collision: 17 dead

Bangkok: At least 17 people died early Sunday when a train collided with a bus in central Thailand, officials said. The tour bus was travelling with 65 passengers on board when it crossed the railway track during rain in Chacheongsao, 80 kilometres east of Bangkok, where a train smashed into the vehicle. Prathueng Yookasem, the district chief officer, told Thailand's *PBS TV* that at least 17 people died and 30 were injured. "It was raining, perhaps, the driver did not see the train," he said. All of the injured were brought to two hospitals. Police say they are investigating. The bus passengers were travelling from Samut Prakan province to a Buddhist temple in Chacheongsao for a merit-making ceremony.

Mexico asks Pope for abuse apology

Mexico City: Mexico's president published an open letter to Pope Francis calling on the Roman Catholic Church to apologise for abuses of indigenous peoples during the conquest of Mexico in the 1500s. In the letter published Saturday, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador also asks the pope to lend Mexico ancient pre-Hispanic Mexican or colonial-era documents. "The Catholic Church, the Spanish monarchy and the Mexican government should make a public apology for the offensive atrocities that indigenous people suffered," the letter states. Lopez Obrador asked the Pope to make a statement in favour of Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico's 19th-century independence leader who was believed to have been excommunicated by the church for his involvement in the uprising.

France aircraft collision kills 5

Paris: An ultra-light airplane has collided with another small plane, killing five people as the two aircraft fell into gardens around a town southeast of France's capital. The collision occurred on Saturday in the skies above Loches, about 50 kilometres from Tours, southeast of Paris, according to the mayor, Marc Angenault, who was quoted by the France Bleu radio station. According to Nadia Seghier, head of the prefecture, the state authority of the Indre-et-Loire region, the ultra-light plane fell around a home near the town's centre without injuring people on the ground. The tourism aircraft, reportedly a four-seat single engine plane, fell into an uninhabited sector. Two of the dead were in the ultra-light plane and the three others in the other small aircraft. There were no reports of survivors. About 50 firefighters and 30 gendarmes rushed to the area of the crash, as well as aviation specialists, the radio station said.

N. KOREAN NEW MISSILE NAGS SOUTH

Seoul, Oct. 11: South Korea on Sunday urged North Korea to commit to its past disarmament pledges while expressing concerns over the North's unveiling of a suspected new long-range missile during a military parade. During celebrations marking the 75th birthday of its ruling party in Pyongyang on Saturday, North Korea paraded a variety of weapons systems, including two missiles that were disclosed for the first time to a foreign audience. One is what appeared to be an inter-continental ballistic missile that is larger than any of the North's known ICBMs, and the other would likely be an upgraded version of a missile that can be fired from submarines.

While some experts say they could be mock-ups of missiles under development, their disclosures suggest North Korea has been continuously pushing to boost its weapons capability amid a stalemate in nuclear diplomacy with the United States. South Korea's Defence Ministry said Sunday it was expressing concerns about the fact that "North Korea unveiled weapons including what was suspected to be a new long-range ballistic missile".

A ministry statement demanded North Korea abide by 2018 inter-Korean deals aimed at lowering animosities. South Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a separate statement urging North Korea to return to talks to produce progress in its past commitment to achieving denuclearisation and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Anti-TB vaccine trials in UK

London, Oct. 11: Scientists in the UK will begin recruiting frontline healthcare workers to test if an old vaccine used to combat tuberculosis (TB), the *Bacillus Calmette-Guerin* or BCG jab, can be repurposed to help boost immunity against the Coronavirus as well. The University of Exeter in south-west England said on Sunday that it is leading the UK arm of the worldwide research called the BCG vaccination to Reduce the impact of Covid-19 in healthcare workers (BRACE) trial. Participants will be given either the BCG vaccine, currently given to more than 100 million babies worldwide each year, including in India, to protect against TB, or a placebo injection.

The BCG vaccine boosts immunity by "training" the immune system to respond to other subsequent infections with greater intensity. Researchers hope this improved "innate immunity" will buy crucial time to develop an effective and safe vaccine against Covid-19. "Covid-19 has killed more than a million people globally, with well over 33 million people acquiring the disease, sometimes in its severest forms. BCG has been shown to boost immunity in a generalised way, which may offer some protection against COVID-19," said Professor John

Campbell from Exeter University, who is the UK lead for the BRACE study.

"We're excited to be contributing to the large-scale, international BRACE study where we are seeking to establish whether the BCG vaccine could help protect people who are at risk of Covid-19. If it does, we could save lives by administering or topping up this readily available and cost-effective vaccination," he said. In the UK, routine BCG vaccination – which dates as far back as the 1920s – was stopped in 2005 because of low rates of TB in the general population.

Previous studies suggest that the BCG vaccine could reduce susceptibility to a range of infections caused by viruses including those similar to the novel coronavirus causing Covid-19. Examining the mechanism by which this may work is part of the trial being conducted by BRACE researchers.

The UK arm of trial is initially recruiting care home and healthcare workers in the south-west of England, who can attend clinics in Exeter. It is targeting these professionals because they work in fields with high exposure to Covid-19. — *PTI*

Adviser: UK running into Covid-19 headwind
London, Oct. 11: One of the UK's senior-most gov-

Trump no longer considered transmission risk to others

Washington, Oct. 11: US President Donald Trump is no longer considered a transmission risk to others, the White House physician has said, as the president held an in-person event on the White House lawn for the first time since contracting the Covid-19 disease. White House physician Dr Sean Conley said on Saturday, "This evening I am happy to report that in addition to the President meeting CDC criteria for the safe discontinuation of isolation, this morning's Covid PCR sample demonstration, by currently recognised standards, he is no

longer considered a transmission risk to others."

In a White House memorandum, Dr Conley said now at day 10 from symptom onset, fever-free for well over 24 hours and all symptoms improved, the assortment of advances diagnostics test obtained reveal there is no longer evidence of actively replicating virus.

"In addition, sequential testing throughout his illness has demonstrated decreasing viral loads that correlate with increasing cycle threshold times, as well as decreasing and now undetectable subgenomic mRNA," he said.

Trump, 74, and First Lady Melania tested positive for Covid-19 last week. The president was taken to a military hospital for treatment, which the White House said was taken as a "matter of abundance caution". After spending four days, he came back to the White House on Monday. White House physician Dr Sean Conley said on Thursday that the president was "safe" to return to public life on Saturday. In his first public address from the Blue Room Balcony of the White House, Trump said that he was feeling great.

— *PTI*

INDIAN ENVOY SELF ISOLATES AFTER MEETING VIRUS +VE NEPAL MINISTER

Kathmandu, Oct. 11: India's Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been staying in self isolation after he met Nepal's Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Yogesh Bhattarai, who tested positive for the Coronavirus on Saturday, an Indian official said on Sunday.

Ambassador Kwatra has

quarantined himself as he had met with Bhattarai, Indian Embassy spokesperson Abhisekh Dubey said. However, his health is good and he has not developed any symptoms of infection, he added. The duo had discussed ways to promote tourism in both countries.

— *PTI*

Protest against Netanyahu

Israeli security officers detain protesters during a demonstration against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, on Saturday.

— *AFP*

28 ARRESTED IN WISCONSIN PROTESTS

Wauwatosa, Oct. 11: Police used tear gas on demonstrators and arrested 28 people during a third straight night of protests over the lack of charges against a suburban Milwaukee police officer who fatally shot a PoC teen, authorities said, as they took to Twitter on Saturday to outline what they called an "escalation in force by the protesters."

About 100 people gathered outside City Hall on Friday past Wauwatosa's 7 pm curfew and refused multiple orders to disperse, according to police. Police said they used tear gas on the crowd, after bottles were thrown at officers. On Saturday, the Wauwatosa Police Department posted on Twitter that people have been asking valid questions about the police response over three nights of protests. Police posted a picture of bottles they said were found in a backpack, including a bottle of lighter fluid, noting that the materials can be used to start fires.

"Over the past three nights, we have seen an escalation in force by the protesters," police tweeted.

— *AP*

Prominent cleric shot dead in Karachi

Karachi, Oct. 11: A prominent Pakistani Sunni Muslim cleric was shot dead along with his driver by unidentified assailants in Karachi, police said on Sunday. Maulana Dr Adil Khan, head of Karachi's Jamia Farooqia seminary, was attacked in a market on Saturday evening, they said. According to a senior police official, as the car carrying Khan stopped near a shopping centre in Shah Faisal Colony to purchase sweets, armed pilloriders opened indiscriminate fire on the car and fled.

The police official said it appeared to be a targeted attack. Khan was the son of late prominent scholar Maulana Saleemullah Khan, who founded the Jamia Farooqia, a seminary located in Shah Faisal Colony. Jamia Farooqia adheres to the Sunni Muslim teachings of the Deobandi sect.

The seminary spokesperson, Amjad Rizvi, said that the Maulana expired in hospital from multiple bullet wounds while his driver, Maqsood Ahmed, died on the spot.

— *PTI*

IN RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCE, MARYAM TO ADDRESS OCT. 18 KARACHI PDM RALLY

Karachi, Oct. 11: In a rare public appearance, Maryam Nawaz, Vice-President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), will address the grand anti-government rally on October 18 here organised by the alliance formed by the opposition parties to oust the Imran Khan-led government.

On September 20, the leaders of 11 major Opposition parties announced

formation of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and launch of a three-phased anti-government movement under an "action plan" starting with countrywide public meetings, protest demonstrations and rallies before a "decisive long march" towards Islamabad in January 2021. The first anti-government rally is scheduled on October 16 in Gujranwala.

— *PTI*

TEMPLE IN SINDH VANDALISED, ONE ARRESTED

Islamabad, Oct. 11: A Hindu temple has been vandalised by a person in Pakistan's southeast Sindh province, according to the police. One person has been arrested and a case registered in connection with the incident which took place on Saturday, *The Express Tribune* reported.

— *PTI*

CHINA CONSULAR ACCESS FOR TWO CANADIANS

Toronto, Oct. 11: The Canadian government said Saturday that China granted consular access to two detained Canadians in China for the first time since January.

The Global Affairs department said Dominic Barton, Canada's Ambassador to China, was granted virtual consular access to Michael Spavor on Friday and virtual consular access to Michael Kovrig on Saturday.

— *AP*

Joe may end cap on Green card: Indians

Washington, Oct. 11: Distressed that professionals from India on H-1B visas have to wait for decades to get their Green Card, Indian-origin lawmakers have expressed hope that a Biden administration would come to their rescue by removing the country cap on the legal permanent residency. A Green Card, officially known as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to the immigrants in the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently. It allows a non-US citizen to live and work permanently in America.

Indian IT professionals, most of whom are highly skilled and come to the US mainly on the H-1B work visas, are the worst sufferers of the current

immigration system which imposes a seven per cent per country quota on allotment of the coveted Green Card or permanent legal residency.

One of the original co-sponsors of the Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act, Democratic Congressman from Illinois Raja Krishnamoorthi said on Saturday that removing per country cap from employment-based Green Cards would remove the Green Card backlog for Indian IT professionals, who are being brought here often to fill the shortages in the IT industry. "I'm hopeful that under a Joe Biden administration, we're finally going to be able to get this legislation through the Senate, and then signed into law," Krishnamoorthi said.

— *PTI*

Joe 'shipped' jobs to China: Trump

Washington, Oct. 11: US President Donald Trump has alleged that Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in his previous capacities as Senator and vice president was busy shipping jobs to China, prompting the latter to hit back.

Biden said Trump will be the first president in modern American history to "leave office with fewer jobs than when it began". Making his first public address from Blue Room Balcony of the White House after being discharged from hospital where he was treated for Covid-19 infection, Trump charged Biden and his campaign of taking the country on the path of socialism, which he vowed would not let him do. "The Democrats' is a socialist programme and

● **JOE BIDEN** is set to make his first general election campaign visit Monday to Ohio, signalling the former vice president's hopes of winning the state Democrats lost by a significant margin four years ago.

platform — and it really is more than socialist. It's not just socialist; it's beyond socialism," he said. As one member from the audience screamed "communist", Trump said, "Communist. That's about right."

Biden, who was campaigning in Erie city in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, alleged that Trump was only protecting the interests of the rich and billionaires.

— *PTI*

Shelling dashes Karabakh truce

Stepanakert, Azerbaijan, Oct. 11: Hopes that a Russian-brokered ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan might hold were further eroded Sunday, with both sides accusing the other of intensive shelling of civilian areas and escalating two weeks of fierce clashes.

Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said that overnight shelling by Armenian forces on the country's second largest city, Ganja, had left at least seven people dead and 33 wounded including children, less than 24 hours after the halt to fighting was supposed to take effect.

Rescuers in red helmets dug through piles of debris with their bare hands in search of signs of survivors, an AFP journalist in the city reported.

They retrieved one nearly naked body and gingerly put it in a white bag to be taken away in an ambulance while several horrified residents watched on and wept.

One witness said they were woken by a huge blast that levelled an entire square block of one- and two-storey houses in the early hours of the morning, leaving nine apartments destroyed.

— *AFP*

NEW | FIND

Monkey species is probably the ancestors of some of the modern primates**Oldest monkey fossils outside of Africa found**

Beijing, Oct. 11: Scientists have found that the fossil samples unearthed in a lignite mine in China belong to a monkey species that lived about 6.4 million years ago, a discovery which indicates that they existed in Asia at the same time as apes, and are probably the ancestors of some of the modern primates in the area.

According to the researchers, including Nina G. Jablonski from the Pennsylvania State University

in the US, the samples collected from a mine in southeastern Yunnan Province in China are "some of the very oldest fossils of monkeys outside of Africa". "It is close to or actually the ancestor of many of the living monkeys of East Asia. One of the interesting things from the perspective of paleontology is that this monkey occurs at the same place and same time as ancient apes in Asia," Jablonski noted. The study, published

in the *Journal of Human Evolution*, noted that the unearthed jaw and thigh bones were found in close proximity, "and are probably of the same individual". The scientists also uncovered a left calcaneus — heel bone — that belongs to the same species of monkey, *Mesopithecus pentellicus*.

"The significance of the calcaneus is that it reveals the monkey was well adapted for moving nimbly and powerfully both on

the ground and in the trees," Jablonski said. "This locomotor versatility no doubt contributed to the success of the species in dispersing across woodland corridors from Europe to Asia," she added.

According to the researchers, the lower jawbone and upper portion of the leg bone indicate that the individual was female. The scientists believe these monkeys were probably "jacks of all trades" able to navigate in the

trees and on land, and their teeth indicated they could eat a wide variety of plants, fruits and flowers, while apes eat mostly fruit. "The thing that is fascinating about this monkey, that we know from molecular anthropology, is that, like other colobines (Old World monkeys), it had the ability to ferment cellulose. It had a gut similar to that of a cow," said Jablonski.

The monkeys were successful since they could

eat low-quality food high in cellulose and obtain sufficient energy by fermenting the food and using the subsequent fatty acids then available from the bacteria. They said a similar pathway is used by animals like cows, deer, and goats. "Monkeys and apes would have been eating fundamentally different things. Apes eat fruits, flowers, things easy to digest, while monkeys eat leaves, seeds," Jablonski said.

— *PTI*

DECCAN Chronicle

12 OCTOBER 2020

Recovery contingent on curbing Covid-19

After a six-month-long flow of negative news, the Reserve Bank of India's economic forecast has offered a glimmer of hope. While the annual economic growth rate would continue to be in the negative territory with an expected contraction of 9.5 per cent, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said that the Indian economy will post a positive growth of 0.5 per cent in January-March quarter, unless the country witnesses a second wave of Covid-19 cases.

Though a half percentage growth is negligible, it shows that the economy has passed its worst phase. This optimism was also reflected in the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) for September 2020, which rose to 56.8 — its highest mark since January 2012 — supported by acceleration in new orders and production. The services PMI too has almost reached the positive territory in September with 49.8, which is shy of 0.2 points. Since PMI records business expectation, it needs to be seen as to which sector would contribute to this growth.

Another data point that was not highlighted by the RBI governor is the rise in bank deposits. According to RBI data, banks have seven per cent more deposits in September compared to February. The loan books of the banks have risen merely by two per cent. When seen together, these metrics indicate that people who have surplus money are not confident enough to spend. Job losses and reduction in salary have reduced disposable incomes of lakhs of people and, as a result, taken a toll on consumption.

The central bank's optimism also betrays the fact that consumer confidence is at an all-time low. According to RBI's consumer confidence survey, people have curtailed spending and discretionary spending would continue to remain low in the near future. A subdued demand would make businessmen hesitant in expanding their operations.

Exports, another key component of the Indian economy, are also languishing at low levels. Given the global economic outlook, Indian exports may not see a major revival unless the country can attract some of companies de-risking their operations from Chinese dependence. This, however, may not happen in the short term, as infrastructure in India remains woefully inadequate.

Public investment, therefore, remains the only way to kick-start the economy. However, the subdued tax collections would make it difficult to shoulder this responsibility. According to the RBI, there has been a 23.7 per cent contraction in gross tax collections and a 14.7 per cent plunge in transfer of taxes to states and Union Territories.

A full recovery in the economy, therefore, would be incumbent on how fast the world defeats the coronavirus. Until then, the economic activity will not reach the pre-pandemic levels and the bullishness of stock markets would not reflect the real state of the economy.

Don't buy into US rhetoric

Just days before US deputy secretary of state Stephen Biegun commences a visit to New Delhi on Monday, America's national security adviser Robert O'Brien has observed, "The time has come to accept that dialogue and agreements will not persuade and compel China to change." The remark is in the context of the "CCP's (Chinese Communist Party's) territorial aggression" and China's "attempt(ed) to seize control of the Line of Actual Control by force".

Many may agree with the general drift of the US NSA's comment. It will become clearer after Mr Biegun's talks here if, officially, India at this stage would go so far as to withhold any further discussions and consultations — at the military and diplomatic levels — with China in order to make it move back its troops in Ladakh.

The Chinese aggression was evidently a key issue in the meeting of the Quad (US, Japan, Australia, India) foreign ministers in Tokyo earlier this month. The Quad, which began its journey as an informal grouping of liberal democracies of the Indo-Pacific region in 2007 in order to counterbalance China and act as a moderating influence on it, has been active of late. This arises from China's ongoing marked aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific littoral — aimed at territorial expansion — taking on a continental dimension in Ladakh.

The tenor of the US criticism of Xi's China has of late taken on a sharp political and ideological dimension. But India and other Quad members have been more calibrated, calling for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" or FOIP. The situation in Ladakh is likely to loom large at the meeting of "2+2" — the defence and foreign ministers of India and the US — in New Delhi later this month. While being prepared for any military eventuality, it might be prudent not to cancel further talks with the Chinese unless it seems this would make Beijing reverse its militarist stance in Ladakh.

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Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08ss

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London Diary



Ill, Boris had a harder time; virus blow to James Bond

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has said that new restrictions appear to be inevitable, which seems to indicate that things are going to get worse before we finally see the New Year. And so it is going to be corona carols for all of us! We can only hope that Santa comes along to stuff the Covid vaccine into our Christmas stockings.

If things were not gloomy enough already, the weather has turned wet and windy. There has been an odd day of sunshine now and then but otherwise we are in a standard English autumn. The political climate is no warmer except a lot of people are angry and fed up. The second coming of Covid has seen thousands of new cases every week. Everyone had thought the lockdown was over in August and we would be back to our usual round of pubs and parties. But now pubs are to be shut again as will restaurants. Nothing is certain and the rules keep changing.

The scientists are definitely quarrelling and they have been fighting for some time. Those advising Boris Johnson want dire lockdowns but others are complaining that we need herd immunity and freedom to mingle. London has escaped the worst so far but there are local lockdowns in the North. In Scotland, as of this week-end, all pubs, restaurants and cafes are shut. But cafes not serving alcohol are allowed to be open. So can a pub stay open serving coffee but not Irish coffee? No clarity yet!

The only constant is that like the scientists, the government is also at a loss. They are now not very sure about how they can calculate the precise numbers of those who got the virus. The latest is that the test and trace programme missed out on 50,000 cases because the computer was old as was the Excel spreadsheet and the last few rows were left out. So there are 50,000 people out there who tested positive but cannot be traced because the computer was dysfunctional. The test

and trace programme, according to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson was going to be a "Moonshot".

But let us face it, Boris has had a tougher time than other heads of state when he got Covid-19. Look at how luxuriously Donald Trump gets treated when he catches the virus — his own four-room suite in Walter Reed hospital with a personal chef and doctors and secret service staff. You have to feel sorry for the British Prime Minister. In 10 Downing Street there are no doctors or staff to look after the Prime Minister. When he had Covid last March, he was alone in a flat at the top of No.11. He was being supplied food pushed through the door, because his then pregnant girlfriend had to isolate elsewhere to be safe. Finally Boris had to check into hospital — but only because he was, by then, seriously unwell. We do not pamper our Prime Minister. If he wants a posh meal at home, he cooks it himself or orders a takeaway. Things are better at

Chequers but there are no chefs or housemaids in 10 Downing Street. The family has to cook, wash the dishes and do their own laundry. Now, I wonder how things are back in India?

James Bond normally comes to the rescue of the British people in distress. But this time he has struck a hard blow. The release of the latest Bond film *No Time to Die* was postponed for six months. We had even heard that cinemas were supposed to open with a bang and Bond. Now Cineworld, a cinema chain which owns 127 theatres, has decided to close them all down. Others may follow suit. It seems as though the great film industry in the UK is going to be badly impacted. How will one survive without eating popcorn and watching action on the big screen?

But some cheering up has been done by the Queen as usual. She has buoyed sinking spirits by honouring the many wonderful doctors and nurses and other "warriors"

who were at the frontline of fighting Covid. Every year she bestows honours on people in June, which is her official birthday month. Due to Covid the date was put back to October. Normally there is intense competition and lobbying by the top people to grab a gong. One is told that there are even agencies you can hire to secure you an honour, though that sounds a bit odd. (What do they do — sidele up to the Queen, and whisper in her ear?) But this time, it is the many ordinary people — NHS nurses, volunteers who donated their time to prepare free meals or encouraged people to exercise daily online — 414 of them have been honoured, out of a total of 1,495. This spirit of helping others is a unique thing about the local culture. It is wonderful that this is being recognised.

Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author. Her latest book, The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani, will be out by November.

Subhani



How farm laws might hurt national security



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

On the 27th of September, 2020, the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, gave assent to the three farm bills, namely, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, thereby paving the way for their notification as law.

These acts unconstitutionally passed by the Rajya Sabha have created great trepidation among the agrarian communities, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh, as also in various other parts of the country. The first two bills are especially troublesome because they have been perceived as the first act in dismantling both the public procurement and the Minimum Support Price regimes. What gives further credence to these concerns is the fact that the debt burden of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the current fiscal has already crossed 3.15 lakh crores and the government has no plans of defraying the debt. The FCI has barely any independent means of servicing this debt and if things continue as such FCI may just fold up. It would be pertinent to underscore that FCI is the principal instrumentality of the Union government for public procurement of agricultural produce in the country.

However, far more disconcerting than the economic imperative are the national security implications that have totally been ignored. It has the potential of destabilising the entire western border and creating conditions for the return of militancy to Punjab. However, to understand this properly, we must peep into the past.

The saga of Punjab has

Hindus, 12 per cent Sikhs and one to two per cent Christians. However Sikhs were more in proportion than Punjabi Muslims when it came to people being recruited once they attained military age both at the cusp and again during the war. Moreover, during World War I, 75,000 acres of land on the Lower Bari Doab Canal alone was granted on peasant conditions to those who had distinguished themselves in the various battles of the Great War.

This process of recruitment exacerbated during the Second World War with the numbers from Punjab crossing a million. When the Second World War ended in 1945 most of the recruits were demobilised and came back to their respective villages. The Partition of India followed in 1947. The worst affected provinces were the Punjab and Bengal. More than a million innocents were slaughtered between July and September of 1947 in the Punjab alone. This was the direct consequence of dismembering a heavily militarised region without thinking through its implications.

Post 1947 agriculture, Armed Forces and immigration continued to be the main occupations of the people of Indian Punjab. Over a period of time due to the institution of the Recruitable Male Population policy in 1966 the share of Punjab in the Armed Forces started dropping and as barriers to immigration became higher agriculture soon became the mainstay for the people of the state.

Incidentally even today Haryana, which has only 2.2 per cent of India's population, contributes 7.82 per cent to the Armed Forces. Punjab with 2.4 per cent of the National population still contributes 16.6 per cent to the Armed Forces even though these num-

SYL provided the trigger to a festering yet nascent militant movement that soon evolved into full-fledged terrorism consuming the lives of thousands of innocent citizens

bers are a far cry from the pre-1966 days when both these states were a part of Joint Punjab formed post the merger of Patiala and the East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) and erstwhile British Punjab in 1956.

After the 1965 war the Minimum Support Price regime and public procurement were introduced in 1966-67 for wheat and later expanded to other commodities. This gave the Punjabi farmer an assured return on his produce. He could plan the future of his children assured of a safety net. The NDA/BJP government now wants to dismantle this social security architecture.

After the Green Revolution in 1974 the paddy and wheat cycle with public procurement and MSP as its two pillars brought prosperity to the Punjabi farmer. In 1982 when the Satluj Yamuna link canal (SYL) was sought to be constructed it had a very negative impact on the state for canal water is the mainstay of the agricultural economy. It provided the trigger to a festering yet nascent militant movement that soon evolved into full-fledged terrorism consuming the lives of thousands of innocent citizens while allowing Pakistan to destabilise this sensitive border state for over a decade and a half. Those were the bloodiest years for the state post-Independence. Even today Pakistan is hell bent on reviving militancy in Punjab. Weapon drops via drones and arrests of Pakistan-trained terrorists are regular occurrences.

Given this background how wise would it be from the national security perspective to dismantle both the public procurement and MSP regimes through these recent legislative enactments is a question that Prime Minister Modi must ask himself. Contrary to whatever the government may claim these laws have stoked the innermost fears of the people. The genie is out of the bottle. The NDA government has gone where angels fear to tread.

The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.

LETTERS

REGULARISE RATION SUPPLY

'One Nation One Ration' scheme has just been introduced. Its success or failure cannot be immediately assessed as it may take a month or two to get reliable feedback. The free or subsidised ration supply is no doubt a big strain and drain on government finances, as several, serving government employees and pensioners who are getting meaty amounts also avail the freebies and subsidies. The original objective of helping the poor, indigent and underprivileged people through the ration system is therefore defeated. I myself have seen people having five and six-digit monthly incomes standing in the queues to buy free rice and subsidised sugar, plus other articles from ration shops. The government should immediately take an income census and weed them out. Those having their own houses of more than 700 sq feet of living space and car owing families should be excluded from ration benefits.

B.S. Jayaraman,
Coimbatore

LEADER OF MASSES

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, who passed away recently, was one of the country's most noted Dalit leaders, and was a stalwart of the socialist movement. He was active in politics for more than five decades. Paswan rose to prominence during Jaya Prakash Narayan's 'Sampoorna Kranti Movement' in 1974. Four years later, he was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time when he won from the Hajipur constituency in Bihar by a record margin of over 4-lakh votes. In fact, he bettered his own record by winning from the same parliamentary seat again in 1989. Paswan was always at the forefront in raising issues concerning the disadvantaged sections of the society. As a grassroots politician, he enjoyed the camaraderie with leaders across the political spectrum. With Bihar going to polls very shortly, Paswan's demise is expected to impact the election prospects of his Lok Janshakti Party in the State.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

quick
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,509.49	0.81
Nifty 50	11,914.20	0.67
S&P 500*	3,477.13	0.88
Dollar (₹)	73.14	0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.67	0.30
Euro (₹)	86.31	0.20
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,558*236	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.82	-0.52
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.937	-0.002
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.769	0.002

* As of Friday/Saturday

Cello re-enters
stationery biz
after 5 years

After selling its stationery business to France's BIC five years ago, the Cello Group is re-entering the category and plans to launch products in the local market. In Dec. 2015, BIC Group acquired Cello Pens for Rs 540 crore. "We have just started stationery business with a different brand name (Uno-max)... here was a non-compete (agreement)... so we couldn't do same products portfolio," Gaurav P. Rathod, MD, Cello Group, said.

20-crore entry capital recommended
Panel for low base
for microinsurersFALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, OCT. 11

At a time when millions of Indians, especially in the informal sector, have lost their livelihoods to the Covid-19 pandemic, a panel set up by the insurance regulator has recommended a steep cut in the entry level capital requirement for floating a standalone microinsurance company to help accelerate the expansion of this segment. The panel wants the threshold be cut to Rs 20 crore, from the current requirement of Rs 100 crore for microinsurance companies.

Stating that India would need to allow multiple players in the field if it wants to substantially increase insurance penetration, the panel has suggested that microinsurance companies, as well as cooperative and mutual insurers, should be allowed to act as composite insurers to transact both life and non-life business through a single entity. "Their portfolios should have a balance of both life and non-life business," said the panel.

However, the changes would require amendments to the Insurance Act, 1938 to bring the standalone microinsurance business under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (Irdai) purview. This will include defining microinsurance, microinsurers, reducing the capital requirement and/or giving powers to insurance



regulator to decide on capital requirements for standalone microinsurance companies.

However, amending the Insurance Act, 1938, may require time. In the immediate term, the central government may be approached to issue rules under Section 24(2)(c) read with Section 14(2)(g) of Irdai Act, 1999 giving the Irdai powers to put in place a regulatory framework for floating micro insurers.

Such an approach was adopted by the government to allow insurers in special economic zones (SEZs) when there was no specific power with the Irdai for regulating entities in SEZs said, the Irdai-appointed committee in its report.

"India too will need to improve access for multiple players if it wants to substantially increase insurance penetration. This is all the more urgent in the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic when millions of Indians, especially in the informal sector, have lost their livelihoods, are now leading more insecure lives and

are falling back into poverty," said the report.

The committee has also suggested that a risk-based capital (RBC) approach should be adopted to enable the progressive growth of the microinsurance business while maintaining the highest prudential standards.

Referring to the low insurance penetration, the report said, "Dedicated standalone microinsurance institutions can close this gap by making insurance affordable and available to low-income families, thereby providing a measure of risk mitigation and security. The committee therefore recommends that the government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India license such businesses which can cater to the low-income segment."

The Irdai had constituted the committee in February 2020 consisting of members from NGOs, independent consultants and experts working in financial inclusion and regulatory fields.

GST COUNCIL TO
MEET AGAIN
TODAY TO IRON
OUT DIFFERENCES

New Delhi, Oct. 11: The GST Council in its meeting on Monday is likely to discuss the suggestion of non-BJP ruled states of setting up a ministerial panel to develop consensus on the issue of compensation, sources said.

The Council, chaired by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state finance ministers, will for the third time in a row discuss the issue of funding the shortfall of goods and services tax (GST) revenue of states.

While some opposition ruled states are demanding that a Group of Ministers be set up to arrive at a decision on the mechanism for funding the compensation shortfall, BJP-ruled states, which have already opted for the borrowing option given by the Centre, are of the view that they should be given a go-ahead so that they can get money quickly.

The 43rd meeting of the council will discuss the single agenda of the way forward, sources 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 ways to compensate states for loss of tax revenue.

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

—PTI

Steep fall in project
completion in H1SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Lockdown and unlock restrictions have affected completion of capacity expansion projects to the extent that the value of projects commissioned in the past two quarters are a fraction of those completed in the pre-Covid quarters.

Projects commissioned during the September and June 2020 quarters were worth Rs 32,600 crore and Rs 24,000 crore, respectively. In comparison, project completions averaged Rs 1.3 lakh crore per quarter in 2019-20 and Rs 1.6 lakh crore per quarter in 2018-19, says CMIE's CapEx service that tracks project execution.

Most projects completed in the September 2020 quarter were in the infrastructure sector: Rail and

road transport claimed the biggest share among all sectors. These two together accounted for 43 per cent of the total completed projects. The transport infrastructure services sector accounted for 35 per cent of the total value of commissioned projects.

Government projects accounted for 63 per cent of all commissioning of projects in the September quarter.

In the last three quarters, government projects accounted for over 60 per cent of all commissioning, with the private sector going slow.

"Private sector projects could take much longer to revert to aggressive completion of projects. While the logistical reasons for slowing down of project completions may be getting over, the problem of

depleted demand will linger and will remain a hindrance to project completions," says CMIE.

If the lockdown was not a good period to implement a project, it was also not a good time to decide about abandoning a project. Hence, compared to the past, the number of projects getting abandoned during the nine-month period till September 30 remains modest. Projects worth Rs 77,500 crore were abandoned during the nine-month period. In the past five-six years, such a number had averaged Rs 1.52 lakh crore per nine-month period.

While implementation of projects worth Rs 9.9 lakh crore was stalled during the first nine months of 2020 till September 30, projects worth Rs 9.2 lakh crore have been revived.

Price rise helps pharma mkt in Sept.

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Despite having a higher base, the pharma market clocked 4.5 per cent growth in September. Volumes were lower, but prices largely compensated for the same. The pharmaceutical market had registered 11.9 per cent growth in September last year.

Volumes declined 4 per cent last month, but a 4.6 per cent rise in prices and a 3.8 per cent rise in new launches made good the drag in volumes, according to Motilal Oswal

Financial Services. Cardiac drugs grew by 17 per cent, vitamins, minerals & nutrients by 16.3 per cent and anti-diabetic therapy posted growth of 6.5 per cent last month.

From 2.2 per cent decline in August, the market had made considerable recovery in September. Anti-infectives therapy showed a good recovery of 1.4 per cent in September against 11 per cent year-on-year decline in August. There has been a healthy uptick in Covid-related medicine.

But growth was muted for the quarter ended by

September. Volumes fell 6.5 per cent, while prices grew 4.6 per cent. Though volumes of drugs outside the national list of essential medicines declined by 4.9 per cent, prices rose by 4.8 per cent. Essential medicines too saw price growth of 3.6 per cent.

Crisol, meanwhile, expects pharma exports to grow by 11-12 per cent this fiscal, better than last year's 10 per cent growth. Export growth will outpace growth in domestic formulations expected at 5-6 per cent, leading to 8-9 per cent overall growth.

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: An influential person assists you. You'll get on something that's been in limbo for a while. Don't let office rumours distract you. Maintain the lead in any given situation.



Taurus: Parents may start coaching a youngster for competitions. An older relative helps uncover family secrets. Minor sickness and domestic quarrels cause trouble.



Gemini: Real-estate professionals fulfil targets. Self-employed persons get better returns. Persons recently employed will feel overburdened.



Cancer: Expect shortage of funds. Court cases may complicate financial matters. Real-estate entrants find an encouraging atmosphere.



Leo: Your family and friends' company keeps you happy and relaxed. Money loaned is recovered easily. Expect good money from ancestral property deals.



Virgo: Holding your own in a competitive environment at work or school will be tough. Some are manipulated into taking more work than needed. Expect arguments with a parent over personal issues.

You share your b'day with

Hugh Jackman, Hollywood actor. He is best known for his roles in X-Men film series, Kate & Leopold, Van Helsing, The Prestige, The Fountain, Les Misérables, Prisoners and The Greatest Showman amongst others.



Libra: Religious activities get your attention. You'll happily re-establish ties with an old friend who wasn't around for a while. You may meet a new family member. Stay away from negativity.



Scorpio: Newcomers to business could involve you in offbeat schemes. Listen but don't act. You get important projects once your routine is cleared.



Sagittarius: Trouble expected for married or romantically involved folks. Friends provide modest but enjoyable entertainment. Social activities present exciting business ideas.



Capricorn: Expect a highly successful reunion. Interesting new ventures expand your activity range. New ventures need loved one's cooperation.

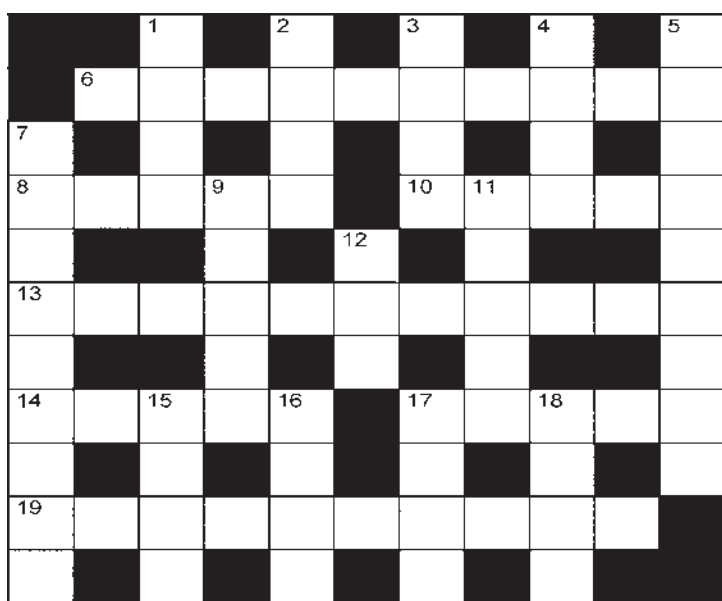


Aquarius: It's an exciting and challenging time, needing strength and initiative. New enterprises and relationships prove favourable.



Pisces: It might be difficult to concentrate on work. Spend the evening with kids. Friends could pressurise you by creating complicated situations. Attend to each other's needs lovingly and enjoy love. You may meet new friends.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

6. A small fear (anag) (5,5) (10)
8. Of the Arctic, Antarctic (5)
10. Slogan (5)
13. Agronomy; crop-growing (11)
17. U-shaped cut (5)
19. Use a divining rod (5)
19. Disinclination (10)

Down

1. Chainlike armour (4)

2. Russian emperor (4)

3. Mollify (4)
4. Diplomacy (4)
5. Confiscated (9)
7. Earthquake's focus (9)
9. High room (5)
11. Go one better than (5)
12. Climbing plant (3)
15. Lean (4)
16. German white wine (4)
17. Pull out (4)
18. Candle cord (4)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 1. Covert, 3. Gnat, 7. Punt, 8. Rubble, 10. Codicil, 13. Flatter, 16. Mutual, 17. Jute, 18. Name, 19. Patent.
Down: 1. Cape, 2. Vendor, 4. Nibs, 5. Treaty, 6. Purists, 9. Misdread, 11. Salmon, 12. Peruse, 14. Stem, 15. Next.

Word Mine

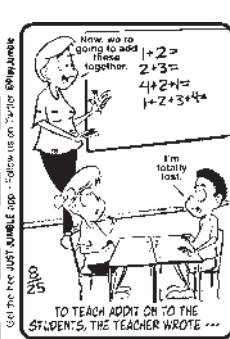
S
T
O
S
R
U
A
U
ETODAY'S RATINGS: 30 AVERAGE: 35
GOOD: 40 OUTSTANDING

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.

Answers (known):
Yesterday's Jumble: WOODY
Answer: With so many owls in the same place, it was hard to tell — WHO'S 'HOO'

Jumble

MUYRM
NTLUB
NISRPG
SSUECN



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(Asia Features)

two clubs. If opener replies two diamonds, denying a four-card major, a two-spade rebid by responder shows five spades, four hearts and game-invitational values. Here, though, South rebids two hearts. Now North raises to three hearts to invite game. The length of the suit is usually more important than the strength. (Remember that a 4-4 fit often plays better than a 5-3.)

On this deal, South will pass out three hearts. West will lead the club ace and shift to a diamond. Declarer will take the trick and duck a round of trumps. East wins that and returns a club, but when West ruffs South's jack or king, it costs a trump trick. With the spade finesse working, declarer takes 10 tricks.

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



SHORT TAKES

Alex conquers 1st MotoGP podium

Le Mans, France: The Repsol Honda Team achieved their best result of the season to date, Alex Marquez stunning with second place from 18th on the grid as Stefan Bradl makes it a double top ten. It was another cold start to the day in France for round 10 of the MotoGP World Championship. Forecasts had predicted it to stay dry throughout, but the French sky had other ideas just moments before the lights went out. A delayed start due to rain on the grid saw the race declared wet and had the entire field switch to wet tyres, the race distance reduced by one lap. Alex shot forward from 18th on the grid and made up eight places in just a few laps. The gap to eventual race-winner Petrucci proved too big as Alex crossed the line in front of a delighted Repsol Honda Team.



Hemant Muddappa

Hemant fastest in national drag race

Chennai: The Madras Motor Sports Club kick-started the domestic 2020 motorsport season by successfully conducting the first round of the MMSC Fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship in a secure bio-bubble environment at the MMRT circuit here on Sunday when Bengaluru's reigning champion Hemant Muddappa (Mantra Racing) emerged the fastest rider. Managing some 116 entries besides a host of officials, volunteers and employees, the MMSC went to great lengths to strictly implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and protocols as mandated by Government guidelines designed to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. In view of the restrictions, no spectator or guest was permitted entry to the venue, while each competitor was allowed only one helper or mechanic, and the races were spread over two days (Saturday and Sunday) so as to limit the size of the congregation to under 100.

Mixed day for girls at Asian chess

Chennai: The Indian women's chess team endured mixed fortunes, winning the first two matches before being upstaged by Iran which pushed them to eighth spot after three rounds of the Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Championship on Sunday. The team led by Mary Ann Gomes started with a 4-0 rout of Syria before edging Mongolia 2.5-1.5. In the third round, the top-seeded Indians went down 1.5-2.5 to sixth-ranked Iran despite R. Vaishali (Elo rating 2149) winning on the top board against Sarasadat Khademalsharieh, the highest rated player in the event at 2393. Bhakti Kulkarni and P. V. Nandhidhaa lost against Mobina Alinasab while Padmini Rout drew with Anousha Mahdian enabling Iran to pull off an upset. In the second round game against Mongolia, India won narrowly. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

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

WWE RAW

Bouts from 5.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

Regd. No.
TNENG/2010/35692

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

Royals in the pink

Tewatia, Parag snap Rajasthan's 4-match losing streak

Dubai, Oct. 11: Rahul Tewatia's uncanny ability to win tricky games rescued Rajasthan Royals yet again as they eked out a five-wicket victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad to snap their four-match losing streak in the IPL, here on Sunday.

Tewatia, who became a household name with five sixes in an over against Kings XI Punjab, smashed an unbeaten 45 off 28 balls as Royals overhauled the 159-run target with a ball to spare.

Along with Riyan Parag (42 not out off 26 balls), Tewatia won the game in 'Royals' style keeping Steve Smith's men in the mix after they were reduced to 78 for 5 in 12 overs.

With two needed off two balls, Parag hit Khaleel Ahmed for a six over extra cover and broke into an impromptu 'Bihu jig'. They added 85 runs for the sixth wicket in their illustrious international stars flattered to deceive.

Tewatia brought back memories of the Sharjah night but this time it was Rashid Khan who was at receiving end in the 18th over as the left-hander struck three consecutive boundaries.

With 22 needed off two overs, Tewatia launched into T. Natarajan, who lost his length trying to bowl yorkers, for a four and a six over short fine leg that swung the match in favour of Royals.

Earlier, Manish Pandey struck an impressive half-century but Rajasthan Royals restricted Sunrisers Hyderabad to 158 for 4 in stipulated overs. — PTI



Rajasthan Royals' Rahul Tewatia (left) and Riyan Parag during their Indian Premier League match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

— BCCI

SCORECARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner b Archer 48, Jonny Bairstow c Samson b Kartik Tyagi 16, Manish Pandey c Tewatia b Unadkat 54, Kane Williamson (not out) 22, Priyam Garg run out (Archer/Buttler) 15. **Extras:** (nb-1, w-2) 3. **Total:** (for 4 wks, in 20 overs) 158. **FOW:** 1-23, 2-96, 3-122, 4-158. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-25-1, Shreyas Gopal 4-0-31-0, Kartik Tyagi 3-0-29-1, Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-31-1, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-35-0, Ben Stokes 1-0-7-0. **Rajasthan Royals:** Ben Stokes b Ahmed 5, Jos Buttler c Bairstow b Ahmed 16, Steven Smith run out 5, Sanju Samson c Bairstow b Rashid 26, Robin Uthappa lbw b Rashid 18, Riyan Parag (not out) 42, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 45. **Extras:** (lb-4 w-2) 6. **Total:** (for 5 wks, in 19.5 overs) 163. **FOW:** 1-7, 2-25, 3-26, 4-63, 5-78. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-32-0, Khaleel Ahmed 3.5-0-37-2, T. Natarajan 4-1-32-0, A. Sharma 1-0-11-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-25-2, Vijay Shankar 3-0-22-0.

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
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	4	2	0	8	+0.017
Royal Challengers Bangalore	6	4	2	0	8	-0.820
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

Quinton, Surya script MI win

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 11: Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals by five wickets in an Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan scored unbeaten 69, while skipper Shreyas Iyer made 42 as DC scored 162 for four.

For MI, Krunal Pandya picked up two wickets giving away 26 runs.

Later chasing the target, Quinton de Kock and Suryakumar Yadav scored 53 each to guide MI home with two balls to spare.

Earlier, Dhawan gave himself enough time to play sheet anchor's role even as MI bowlers did a decent job in the slog overs to not let the batsmen play too many big

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw c Krunal Pandya b Boult 4, Shikhar Dhawan (not out) 69, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Krunal Pandya 15, Shreyas Iyer c Boult b Krunal Pandya 42, Marcus Stoinis run out 13, Alex Carey (not out) 14. **Extras:** (w-5) 5. **Total:** (for 4 wks, in 20 overs) 162. **FOW:** 1-4, 2-24, 3-109, 4-130. **Bowling:** Trent Boult 4-0-36-1, James Pattinson 3-0-37-0, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-26-0, Krunal Pandya 4-0-26-2, Kieron Pollard 1-0-10-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-27-0. **Mumbai Indians:** R. Sharma (c) c Rabada b AR Patel 5, O de Kock c Shaw b Ashwin 53, S. Yadav c Iyer b Rabada 53, Ishan Kishan c A. Patel b Rabada 28, H. Pandya c Carey b Stoinis 0, K. Pollard (not out) 11, K. Pandya (not out) 12. **Extras:** (w-4) 4. **Total:** (for 5 wks, in 19.4 over) 166. **FOW:** 1-31, 2-77, 3-130, 4-130, 5-152. **Bowling:** K. Rabada 4-0-28-2, A. Nortje 4-0-28-0, A. Patel 3-0-24-1, R. Ashwin 4-0-35-1, H. Patel 2-0-20-0, M. Stoinis 2-4-0-31-1.

shots.

Dhawan's unbeaten 69-run knock came off 52 balls with six fours and a six, while Iyer's 33-ball 42

had five shots to the fence.

After Prithvi Shaw (4) was snared early by Trent Boult and Ajinkya

Rahane too following him back in the dug out soon, there were no free runs for the Capitals in the beginning after electing to bat.

Rahane, playing his first game of the season, was trapped in front of the wicket by Krunal Pandya, introduced timely by MI skipper Rohit Sharma, considering that the India Test vice-captain struggles against left-arm spinners.

With in-form Iyer and Dhawan at the crease, the boundaries came here and there. It kept the scoreboard ticking at a decent run-rate.

Iyer's trademark along the ground-strokes, played with straight bat, were effective and a treat to watch. — PTI

CSK'S BATTING MAIN WORRY FOR DHONI

Dubai, Oct. 11: Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni says batting has become his team's major worry in an IPL campaign thrown haywire by "too many holes in the ship".

"Too many holes in the ship and when you try to plug one there is water flowing from another. We need to get our act together," Dhoni said after they lost to RCB by 37 runs on Saturday night.

"Batting has been bit of a worry and today also it was evident. We can't just keep turning up..It is almost the same thing that is happening maybe the individuals are different." — PTI



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates his 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 win over Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the French Open men's singles final at Roland Garros in Paris on Sunday. — AP

Nadal lifts 13th French trophy

Paris, Oct. 11: Rafael Nadal demolished Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 to win his 13th French Open and equal Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles on Sunday.

For world number one Djokovic, the defeat ended his hopes of an 18th Slam and of becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four majors twice.

Nadal, 34, claimed his 100th match win at Roland Garros against just two defeats since his 2005 debut.

The Spaniard, the oldest champion in Paris since Andres Gimeno in 1972, claimed the title without dropping a set.

He finished the one-sided affair with just 14 unforced errors to his opponent's 52. "Congrats to Novak for another great tournament. Sorry for today. We've played plenty of times together — one day one wins, another the other," said Nadal.

"After all the things I have been through in my career with injuries, I could not have done it without my family."

Nadal said he wasn't even thinking about matching Federer's record.

"It's been a very tough year. Winning here means

LEADING MEN'S GRAND SLAM WINNERS

20: Roger Federer (SUI)
20: Rafael Nadal (ESP)
17: Novak Djokovic (SRB)
14: Pete Sampras (USA)
12: Roy Emerson (AUS)
11: Rod Laver (AUS), Bjorn Borg (SWE)
10: Bill Tilden (USA)

everything to me so it's not about equalling Roger on 20, for me today it's just a Roland Garros victory," said Nadal who had skipped the US Open due to the global health crisis.

"Roland Garros means everything to me. I spent most of the most important moments of my tennis career here.

"Just playing here is a true inspiration. The love story I have with this court and city is unbelievable."

For Djokovic, it was just his second loss of 2020 following his default at the US Open.

'KING OF CLAY'

"Today, Rafa showed why you are the king of clay. I was out-played by a better player."

Nadal also used his victory speech to thank organisers for staging the tournament, pushed back from its traditional May-June slot due to the coronavirus pandemic. — AFP



Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes celebrates on the podium after winning the Eifel Grand Prix at the Nuerburgring racetrack in Nuerburg, Germany, on Sunday. — AP

HAMI EQUALS SCHUMI'S RECORD WITH 91st WIN

Nürburgring (Germany), Oct. 11: Lewis Hamilton controlled his emotions on Sunday as he equalled Michael Schumacher's record of 91 F1 wins with a measured triumph and thoughtful homage at the Eifel Grand Prix.

After completing his seventh win of the season, Hamilton was surprised to be greeted by Mick Schumacher, the son of the German seven-time champion. Mick presented a red helmet from his father's career collection to Hamilton.

"Congratulations on a great achievement," said Schumacher, a rising star who is leading the F2 series.

Clearly moved, Hamilton struggled for words. "Thank you so much," he said. "It's such an honour. I don't know what to say. When you grow up watching someone and idolising them..."

"Seeing his dominance for so long, I don't think I imagined I would be near him in terms of records so it's an incredible honour. "As I came in the pit lane, that was only when I

realised I had equalled the record. "I hadn't computed it when I crossed the line — and I couldn't have done this without this incredible team pushing behind me. So, a big thank you — and huge respect to Michael."

Taking full advantage of team-mate and pole-sitter Valtteri Bottas' early retirement with engine problems, the runaway series leader and six-time champion drove a well-judged race to claim his landmark victory. On a circuit where Schumacher, a seven-time champion, won five times, Hamilton came home 4.5 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen to take his second Nurburgring victory, the other for McLaren in 2011. Daniel Ricciardo was third for Renault. — AFP

CHENNAIYIN FC ROPE IN PORTUGUESE ATTACKER ISMA

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, OCT. 11

Chennaiyin FC have completed the signing of Esmael Goncalves, better known as Isma, on a free transfer for the 2020-21 season. The 29-year-old Portuguese attacker who is capable of playing anywhere across the forward line, is set for a first stint in India following a spell at Japanese club Matsumoto Yamaga.

"It feels great to join Chennaiyin FC, a club that represents a city with rich culture and a wonderful fanbase. My conversations with our Head Coach (Csaba Laszlo) have been great so far, and I truly believe in the project he has in mind for us. I will work extremely hard to fulfil what my team and coaches expect from me. And hopefully deliver with as many goals and assists that help us win and achieve our objectives," said Isma.

With UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and AFC Asian Champions League experience in his repertoire, Isma is well-versed in operating across the frontline.



Isma

KKR fret over Russell's fitness, Narine's chucking complaint

Sharjah, Oct. 11: Kolkata Knight Riders will have a lot on their plate when they take on a resurgent Royal Challengers Bangalore in an IPL match here on Monday with their lethal weapon Sunil Narine blunted by a chucking complaint and fitness clouds hovering over enforcer Andre Russell.

Narine, who have had multiple complaints of suspect action against him, is again in trouble after field umpires' report post KKR's thrilling two-run win against Kings XI Punjab in which the spinner played a massive role.

Not only KXIP, the match against CSK also witnessed Narine's entry after 10 overs, stifling M.S. Dhoni's men. It seemed that the

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 24
● Kolkata: 14
● Bangalore: 10

MEETING IN 2019

● Kolkata Knight Riders beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets at Bangalore
● RCB beat KKR by 10 runs at Kolkata

FOR THE RECORD

● AB de Villiers' duck in the previous match against Chennai Super Kings was ninth in 148 innings of 160 matches in IPL.
● Virat Kohli scored 674 runs at an average of 37.44 in 21 innings of 24 matches against Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

spinner was getting his mojo back and could have

been a handful for Virat Kohli's in-form men.

However, the first warning (a second one would bar him from bowling) from the IPL authorities is certain to ring alarm bells in the KKR camp as he was supposed to be Dinesh Karthik's 'go-to' man in pressure situations.

Andre Russell, who hurt his knee when he accidentally dived into the advertisement boards after missing a catch on Saturday, could also be a doubtful starter.

RCB, on the other hand, are coming into the game following a 37-run morale boosting victory against CSK and will fancy their chances. The biggest positive for RCB is that captain Kohli is slowly hitting the peak. — PTI