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DECCAN Chronicle

5 OCTOBER 2020

Trump Covid +ve: The danger is still very real

America's President Donald Trump testing positive for Covid-19 was a surprise many may have anticipated. There is rum irony in dramatic events culminating in his coming down with the coronavirus just hours after having said that "the end of the pandemic is in sight." At 110 kg, his obesity would itself have placed him among the vulnerable and at the age of 74 he did himself no favours by playing down the threat for months on end while trying to open up the economy so that his prospects as a President seeking reelection would not be affected. Science may admit to no karmic influence handing down penalties like sicknesses but Trump did set himself up as a prime candidate for the omnipresent virus by ignoring most protective protocols like wearing a mask, which he did only on occasion while denigrating those like his opponent Joseph R. Biden for sporting a big mask at their infamous first debate. More significantly, Trump scorned the advice of scientists while imperilling millions of Americans.

A source of comfort even as doctors say he is not yet "out of the woods" is humanity has had considerable experience with this virus for having studied it clinically in over nine months. Treatment protocols are far more advanced than when his friend from across the Atlantic, British PM Boris Johnson, suffered a near-death experience while in ICU last April. Campaigning fiercely while egging his nation on towards normalcy even as millions fell sick and more than 2,09,000 Americans died, Trump was flaunting his bravery while downplaying the threat to the world, dabbling in prophylactic doses of HCQ and even floating the wild idea of injecting patients with bleach. With his opponent also having to quarantine since he was at the debate with Trump, the American election scene has been thrown into total disarray and the presidential race fundamentally altered. And Trump personally does not have the cushion of secretiveness of times past when US Presidents were seriously ill, including Woodrow Wilson in the 1918 pandemic.

The Trump saga serves a dire warning that no one is immune to this insidious threat of a coronavirus and he is not necessarily more fortunate because he is the leader of a country very advanced in science and possessing most modern healthcare facilities. While Trump is getting the finest treatment possible, including Remdesivir and experimental cocktail of antibodies, most of 35 million patients around the world have had to do with much less while more than a million have died. The number of new cases is growing faster than ever before, not least in India where 80,000 plus cases on Sunday took the people infected past the 65 lakh mark. Good public health practices would still be masks, social distancing and hygiene, long after an effective vaccine is certified and manufactured on a scale proportionate to global population. No greater lesson on the need for humility may have been served to the world, especially in the face of an illness science does not yet fully understand. "Stay safe" is a message worth shouting from rooftops.

No one killed Sushant Rajput

There were no injuries on the body of deceased actor Sushant Singh Rajput other than those of hanging. No marks of a scuffle were present on his person, the AIIMS Forensic Medical Board, in its report submitted to the CBI, stated. This gives the lie to the entire charade enacted by TV channels as well as state governments and police administrations investigating a purported murder and connection to a drug cartel following the death.

Rajput's family had earlier accused his former live-in partner, Rhea Chakraborty, of abetting his suicide. This was used by some channels as well as the social media to run a vilification campaign against her. It was notwithstanding the fact that circumstances and evidence are crucial to prove that a person actually instigated another to take their own life. Mens rea cannot be assumed to be ostensibly present but has to be visible and conspicuous, the Supreme Court recently said. For the wrong decision taken by al... man of frail mentality another person cannot be blamed, the Punjab and Haryana high court in 2018 had said while quashing another case.

Ms Chakraborty and her brother now face a bail hearing in the Bombay high court in an NDPS Act case involving criminal conspiracy and "financing illicit traffic". Last month, the BJP had launched a "Justice for Sushant" campaign for the Bihar Assembly election, now less than a month away. Many believe that the entire show of investigation, and prosecution, accompanied by shrill and nonstop media broadcasts, have been aimed at both entertainment as well as a play at a competitive son-of-the-soil politics, to be rendered irrelevant as soon as the polls end.

Incidentally, the actor's autopsy report from Cooper Hospital mentioned that the ligature knot was present on the back of the neck that ruled out forcible hanging. Why then did some media outlets peddle hearsay, publicise conspiracy theories of a random hospital staffer about fractures and needles? Shouldn't these outlets be named and shamed?

Strangling and poisoning, the two allegations made by the actor's family, finally stand ruled out after the report's publication. The CBI, which has distinguished itself by being assigned, for the first time, to probe what had actually been a suicide, now has little option but to close the case.

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Subhani



Democracy's discontent: Is India for the people?

Shikha Mukerjee

I deliberately ignoring the message delivered by spreading discontent reflected in hundreds of small to large, but certainly not mammoth protest meetings, rallies, highway blocks, railway blocks, stone pelting, mostly organised by mass organisations of farmers, workers, dalits and women, the Narendra Modi government on the one hand and the ruling BJP's other poster boy, Yogi Adityanath as Uttar Pradesh chief minister, are taking a calculated risk.

The leadership reflects the BJP's unshakeable confidence in its simple and direct appeal to right-thinking Hindus, who comprise the vast majority of voters in India. The rest don't really count.

Other identities, of the farmer, worker, women wanting to be safe, dalits expecting respect and dignity, are apparently so insignificant that they can be dismissed as politically irrelevant, because at the intersection between the BJP on the one hand and the Opposition, distributed across a multitude of political parties including the Congress, the appeal of Hindutva and Narendra Modi's popularity appears to be invincible. As of now, there is no data, no election results, nothing to suggest that the BJP is wrong in its assumption.

The growing international concern that human rights are being trampled in India, that labour rights are being trashed, that the rights of Muslims and other minorities, the marginalised, specifically dalits and women, are being dishonoured clearly means nothing to a sanguine BJP and its government at the Centre and the governments it controls in the states. Even the exit of its oldest ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal, from the BJP-led National Demo-

cratic Alliance over the three farm bills seems not to have disturbed the BJP.

This level of confidence manifesting itself as a supreme disregard or supercilious contempt of people's voices implies that the BJP is absolutely complacent and it believes it represents enough numbers of voters to win intensely competitive elections, including Bihar, in the foreseeable future. What would have been dangerously risky for other political parties seems to be easily disregarded by the BJP. The fact that farmers, which includes the rich landlords and the rest, that is about 80 per cent who are small cultivators, tenant farmers or share croppers, are equally angry and are collectively opposing the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, and the Essential Commodities Amendment Bill, because it strips both the rich and the poor of all protection as sellers and gives buyers infinite freedom to fix the market has cut no ice with the BJP. That farmers in Punjab, in Haryana, in Maharashtra, in some pockets of Uttar Pradesh, in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala and in the rest of India are against the changes in the laws has made no difference to Prime Minister Modi, who tweeted that history had been created.

The BJP has not reacted to the farmer-worker joint call for an all-India shutdown, or bandh, against the farm bills and the three labour codes passed by Parliament — the Industrial Relations Code Bill 2020, the Code on Social Security 2020 and the Occupational Health and Safety Bill 2020. These changes

effectively strip workers in about 80 per cent of units where they are employed from the right to strike, make them work longer hours and deny them overtime. The changes alarmed the International Labour Organisation sufficiently for it to issue a statement saying that the law was in violation of workers' rights which India is promised to uphold.

That there is an intersection between the rural and the urban and there is growing unrest that is impossible to ignore in rural and urban areas would have warned any other ruling party that there is political risk in persisting in dismissing protests by accusing the representative organisations of misleading the masses from which they draw their members and get support. There is mobility between rural and urban labour. The shock to the economy after demonetisation in 2016 sent urban labour back to the villages. The shock of the unplanned, abrupt lockdown of March 24 this year and the distress it triggered sent urban labour back to the villages.

There is no sign that the buildup of unrest, despite the convergence of urban and rural discontent, has reached a critical mass, which is why the BJP and the Narendra Modi government at the Centre are unperturbed. Even though the urban working class is accessing free kitchens run by trade unions, political parties, civil society organisations, and thousands have shifted into street vending as an alternative means of survival, the discontent has oddly and intriguingly bypassed and instead channelised its frustrations and anger against governments at the

state level. This transference of blame indicates that the credibility of the governments run by regional parties in the states, like Trinamul Congress, has sunk to an absolute low. Or that the BJP has succeeded in selling the idea to the masses that it is still their best bet in a very bad situation.

What makes the BJP the best bet for the economically and socially marginalised or vulnerable is that it is the big party, the party with the most power and popular projection via television and social media that is accessible on smartphones in even the most isolated communities in India. There must be something mesmerising about the big party that can reject the articulation of discontent by farmers and labour, magisterially push aside issues like the number of migrants who died en route to their villages, the mismanaged movement of migrants and the government's indifference to the human disaster.

It will take time for dalits and women in rural and urban areas, who are unsafe because powerful predators are being shielded to internalise the meaning and message of Hathras, which is that UP is run by a government that operates outside the limitations set by the principle of the rule of law. Each movement — farmers, labour, dalits, women — represent a set of discontents. By ignoring these representations, the BJP may assert itself as the big party, but it equally clearly signals itself to be an outsider to democratic politics, where the Opposition is not the party that lost in the elections but equally the institutions that represent segments of citizens with identities like peasant, labour, women and dalit. It brings the BJP irrevocably close to ticking all of the boxes that classify a political organisation as fascist — anti-labour, sexist, contemptuous of human rights and all the rest, militant nationalism, obsession with national security and majoritarian politics.

The writer is a senior journalist in Kolkata

The BJP has not reacted to the farmer-worker joint call for an all-India shutdown, or bandh, against the farm bills and the three labour codes passed by Parliament

LETTERS

DEMAND JUSTIFIED

Tamil Nadu CM is fully justified in his demand for the Siddha Medical Research Institute to be located in a suitable part of the state. The sidhdhars or the 'Mystic Monks' are stated to have lived in Tamil Nadu several centuries ago and had worked out many miracles through their magical and spiritual powers gained after decades of practice and penance. Actually, the word sidhdhar cannot be found in any other Indian language than Tamil. Most of their efforts were concentrated towards getting permanence of life for the humans or in other words deathless life. Most of the sidhdhars worked for the welfare of the people and wanted humanity to be freed from diseases of all kinds so that all can live longer years without physical suffering of any kind. Hence it is more than apt and appropriate the proposed Sidhdha Research Institute be located in TN since no other state of India has history or legend about any sidhdhar in their land. Folktales may, however, be available about them in other states.

S. Nagarajan Iyer, Coimbatore

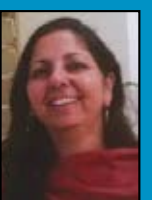
SHASTRI LESS REMEMBERED

While the nation celebrates Gandhi Jayanthi on October 2 every year, a few remember that the day is also the birthday of Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister, who played an important role in shaping a new India. He commanded a lot of respect from his peers. Shastri coined the popular slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' which still resonates in the heart of every Indian. Shastri never misused the power of office. When he bought a Fiat worth ₹12,000 for his personal use, he had only ₹7,000 in his bank account. He took a loan from the bank for the balance amount. Even today the vehicle is kept at the Shastri Memorial in New Delhi. We don't find such strong personalities today who personified real leaders of the masses. Each aspect of Shastri's life can teach and inspire future generations.

R. Sivakumar, Chennai

Anita Katyal

Political Gup-Shup



Lok Janshakti Party's national president Chirag Paswan and Rashtriya Janata Party leader Tejashwi Yadav have been in the news in recent weeks for the same reason: both young leaders were seen driving a hard bargain with their respective alliance partners in the seat-sharing negotiations for the forthcoming Bihar Assembly polls. But the two also have something else in common. According to reports from Patna, young Paswan and Yadav have been in touch with poll strategist Prashant Kishor who has told them that they should not be impatient as their electoral prospects in the coming poll are not very bright. He has instead advised them to bide their time and focus on the 2025 Assembly election by which time they would have added to their experience and attained a degree of gravitas. Realising that there's merit in Kishor's argument, Paswan and Yadav have decided on using this election to build their profile as both see themselves as future chief ministers. This exp-

lains their recent tough posturing.

After losing two allies, the Shiv Sena and the Shiromani Akali Dal, the Bharatiya Janata Party has stepped up efforts to persuade the AIADMK to formalise its entry into the National Democratic Alliance. The AIADMK has one foot in the door already as it has been extending full support to the Narendra Modi government on all major issues. The Southern party has apparently been offered a Cabinet berth to sweeten the deal. Given its brute majority in the Lok Sabha, the BJP actually does not need the crutch of alliance partners. But if the AIADMK comes on board, it will help the BJP correct the public perception that it is arrogant and is driving away its allies. At the same time, the BJP hopes such a development will strengthen its presence in Tamil Nadu as it one of the Southern states where it wants to expand its footprint.

Ever since it stormed to power in 2014 and emerged as the dominant political force in

the country, the Bharatiya Janata Party has adopted a pragmatic approach when it comes to inducting leaders from other political parties. The saffron party has been happy to give them tickets if they have the potential to win an election. Similarly, the party has no problem in inducting these "outsiders" as ministers. There was a time when the BJP drew the line at accommodating them in key party positions but not any more. This was once again evident from the composition of party president J.P. Nadda's new team members. A number of leaders once dubbed "outsiders" like D. Purandeswari, D.K. Aruna, Mukul Roy and Tom Vadakkan were given prominent positions in the party, once the preserve of those who had risen from the ranks and were steeped in the party ideology. Though this has led to a lot of resentment among the loyalists, the party is unconcerned as these appointments have been made with a firm eye on spreading its wings in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal, the states

these "newcomers" come from.

With speculation rife that Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat is on his way out, his rivals in the Bharatiya Janata Party are busy positioning themselves for the top post. State tourism minister Satpal Maharaj is the latest to join the long list of chief ministerial contenders. Satpal Maharaj's ministry has recently hired a private public relations firm ostensibly to promote tourism in the hill state but the fact is that it has been promoting the minister. As a result, Satpal Maharaj's visibility in the press has increased. The minister has also visited Delhi several times in recent weeks despite the coronavirus pandemic as he believes his status as a religious guru gives him an edge over the others. But Satpal Maharaj faces tough in-house competition. Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and BJP media chief Anil Baluni are also in the race and both have a hotline to the leadership.

The outrage over the Hathras tragedy finally pushed the otherwise somnolent Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati to put out a statement demanding the dismissal of the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh. This is a change from the recent past when Mayawati was virtually invisible and refrained from attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Yogi government. Her periodic outbursts were instead directed at the Congress, especially its general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who has made a conscious effort to woo the Dalits in Uttar Pradesh, the BSP's support base. On her part, Priyanka makes it a point to visit victims of violence, particularly dalits, while tweeting regularly on the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh. Realising that she could end up losing the perception war and the loyalty of her core voter, Mayawati finally roused herself to take on Yogi Adityanath.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist

Tejashwi, Chirag play long game; Hathras wakes up sleepy Mayawati

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WEATHER



Max: 36°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 19
Tithi: Chaturthi
Star: Bharani/ Krithigai
Rahukalam:
7.30 am to 9 am
Yamagandam:
10.30 am to 12 noon

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.48 am
Zohar: 12.04 pm
Asar: 3.19 pm
Maghrib: 6.00 pm
Isha: 7.10 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.56 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 8.22 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 10.08 AM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+74,726)	(+902)
66,22,135	1,02,714

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+5,489)
TN: 6,19,996 9,784

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3,52,48,330
DEATHS
10,39,541

COUNTRIES
AREAS WITH
CASES **213**
worldometers.info

C T Ravi quits Yediyurappa cabinet

Bengaluru: Karnataka Minister for Kannada, Culture and Tourism C T Ravi has tendered his resignation, days after being appointed BJP national General Secretary, sources close to him said on Sunday. The four-time MLA from Chikkamagaluru submitted his resignation on Saturday to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa. They added that the Minister, who was appointed to the party position at the national level on September 26, is slated to fly to Delhi on Monday to meet the BJP Central leaders.

YSR Cong leader succumbs to Corona

Visakhapatnam: YSR Congress leader and former MLA Dronamraju Srinivas succumbed to COVID-19 here on Sunday. He was 59 and survived by his wife, son and daughter. Srinivas got infected with coronavirus a month ago and was shifted to a corporate hospital for treatment after the initial home isolation period, YSRC sources said.

COUNTER POINT



Seat-sharing between the parties is complete... now, it's among factions of our own party!

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DMK's candle light march for Hathras victim



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Market capitalism has failed: Pope

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It's all about smart work: Shreyas Iyer



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■ On first day of demo, Punjab CM joins tractor rally

Farm laws will be junked if Cong comes to power: Rahul

Moga/Raikot (Punjab), Oct 4: Vowing to scrap the new farm laws once the Congress returns to power at the Centre, Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that the BJP-led government was acting at the behest of select corporates to “destroy” farmers.

Leading a tractor rally in Punjab against the farm legislations, the Congress leader launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and questioned the need for bringing in the new laws at the time of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Their target is to end the MSP and food procurement system. They know the day that happens, farmers of Punjab and Haryana will be finished,” he said. “But the Congress will not allow this to happen, we stand firmly behind you. We will not back down an inch,” Gandhi said while addressing a gathering at Badli Kalan here before a tractor rally through the districts of Moga and Ludhiana.

The Congress, which is in power in Punjab, is holding tractor rallies from October 4 to October 6 across the state in protest against the Centre's new farm laws.

Gandhi alleged that the Modi government was acting like “a puppet”. “Do you (people) remember about Kathputli? There used to be a puppet show. Somebody else used to pull puppet's strings.... This is not the Modi government, this is the government of Adani and Ambani,” he alleged.

The former Congress president said if the laws were meant for farmers, then why they were agitating against these new legislations, and referred



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and other leaders during a tractor rally, 'Kheti Bachao Yatra', in protest against the new farm laws of 2020, in Punjab's Moga district, Sunday.

● **This is the government of Adani and Ambani, Rahul Gandhi alleged**

to the Congress' opposition to the Land Acquisition Bill. “I guarantee the day the Congress government is formed (at the Centre), these three black laws would be scrapped and thrown in the waste-paper basket,” he said.

He said while the system needed reforms and change, there was no way the Congress would allow it to be destroyed. “I am not saying that there is no deficiency in this system. There is a need to reform the system, but it does not need to be destroyed. If you do so then there will not be anything for farmers' safety and they will have to directly talk to Ambani and Adani and farmers will be destroyed,” he said.

States to oppose GST loan plan

New Delhi, Oct. 4: The GST Council meeting on Monday may turn into a stormy affair, with non-BJP ruled states still being in disagreement with the Centre on the compensation issue.

While as many as 21 states, mostly ruled by BJP or parties which have supported it on issues, had till mid-September opted to borrow Rs 97,000 crore to meet the GST revenue shortfall in the current fiscal, opposition-led states like West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala have not yet accepted the borrowing option given by the Centre.

Sources said in the 42nd meeting of the Council on

October 5, opposition-ruled states would object to the Centre's borrowing options and demand alternative mechanism for funding GST compensation deficit. They feel that the constitutional liability of compensating states lies with the union government.

In the current fiscal, the states are staring at a staggering Rs 2.35 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue shortfall. Of this, as per Centre's calculation, about Rs 97,000 crore is on account of GST implementation and rest Rs 1.38 lakh crore is the impact of COVID-19 on states' revenues.

INSIDE

DMK, PMK criticise rail ticket SMS in Hindi

A DMK MP and NDA constituent PMK on Sunday criticised rail users in Tamil Nadu allegedly receiving train ticket confirmation SMS in Hindi, with the Parliamentarian lashing out at “Hindi imposition”.

■ PAGE 3

Farm laws must be scrapped: NGO

A NGO fighting against degradation of ecology and biodiversity has launched a signature campaign in the social media demanding scrapping of the Farm Acts. Poovulagin Nanbargal stated that the legislation is aimed at destroying farmers.

■ PAGE 3

TMC miffed at Centre over Gorkhaland talks

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, OCT. 4

Barely eight months before the Assembly Election in West Bengal, the Centre has invited the Mamata Banerjee government to a meeting on “Gorkhaland” with Gorkha Jannukti Morcha (GJM) in New Delhi this week, leaving the Trinamul Congress fuming and the BJP in smiles. The Narendra Modi government's move comes close on the heels of BJP MP of Darjeeling Raju Bista's statement in the last session in the Parliament where he raised the long-standing demand of the people of the hills for “Gorkhaland” as a “permanent solution” and mentioned the BJP's electoral promise in 2019 Lok Sabha polls to fulfill it.

Recently the ministry of home affairs in a letter to the state government requested state home secretary, Darjeeling district magistrate and principal secretary of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) to attend the meeting to be convened by union minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy at 11 am on October 7.

Besides a similar invitation has been sent to the president of GJM, the Darjeeling-based political party which spearheaded fierce Gorkhaland movement both before and after

● **Eight months before polls, Centre invites Mamata govt to a meeting on “Gorkhaland”**

the Trinamul came to power in the state in 2011. Bimal Gurung, who founded the GJM, was its president for many years. He however went underground with cases against him after violence rocked Darjeeling leading to a prolong shutdown in 2017. In November of that year Mr Gurung was suspended by his rival camp in the party led by Binoy Tamang while taking control of the outfit. Mr Tamang has been in the good book of the TMC for his pro government stand.

Meanwhile Mr Gurung and his camp built rapport with the BJP. His lieutenant Roshan Giri informed that their representative would attend the meeting. It is however not clear whether anyone from the state government or GTA would attend the meeting.

State tourism minister Goutam Deb alleged, “BJP is conspiring to divide Bengal. We will not allow this. We will foil this.” Rejecting his claim state BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu made it clear that the saffron party is against the division of the state but it wants a “permanent solution” to the issue.

INDIA-CHINA TALKS ON OCTOBER 12

PAWAN BALI NEW DELHI, OCT. 4

India and China will hold 7th round of Corps Commanders level talks on October 12 to discuss measures to disengage their armies at the line of actual control (LAC) in the Eastern Ladakh where both countries are engaged in a 150-day military stand-off.

The talks will be held even as high peaks in Ladakh are already seeing initial snowfall and winter has started to set in. Both sides are prepared to keep their armies at these high altitude mountains during winters when temperatures dip way below zero degrees and bone-chilling wind makes survival extremely difficult.

This will be last meeting under 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen Harinder Singh who is 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.

LJP to go it alone in polls, take on JD(U)

PASWAN UNDERGOES HEART SURGERY

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) on Sunday virtually walked out of the National Democratic Alliance in Bihar ahead of the state assembly polls, saying that it will not fight the election under JD(U) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership of the ruling alliance in the state, LJP sources said.

An LJP parliamentary board meeting chaired by its president Chirag Paswan instead passed a resolution in favour of an alliance with the BJP and said its MLAs will work to strengthen the hand of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP has already announced that the NDA will fight the polls under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. As such, the LJP resolution makes the party's break up with the NDA in the state inevitable. The BJP central election committee is meeting later in the evening to finalise the party's candidates for the three-phase assembly election, which begins from October 28. — PTI

New Delhi, Oct 4: Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party patron Ram Vilas Paswan has undergone a heart surgery, his son Chirag Paswan said on Sunday. Ram Vilas Paswan (74), who has been in active politics for more than five decades and is one of the country's most noted Dalit leaders, has been hospitalised for the last few weeks. He was operated upon at a private hospital in the national capital.

He has long suffered from a heart condition, and family sources expressed confidence that he will soon return to good health. In a tweet, Chirag Paswan said his father underwent a heart surgery due to sudden developments on Saturday evening, which forced him to cancel a party meeting and rush to his father's side. — PTI

New cases seen rising in city

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 4

The number of fresh Covid-19 cases has not come down in Chennai. In fact, they have gone up a shade to 1,348 on Sunday while the State total was steady under the 5,500 mark with 5,489 cases in Tamil Nadu. The number of deaths was 66 taking the TN tally to 9,784 and near enough to the depressing figure of 10,000. The number of persons tested today stays high enough at 84,159 on Sunday too.

Total cases stand at just over six lakhs at 6,19,996 whereas recoveries are above 5.64 lakhs. Chengalpet – 381, Coimbatore – 474, Salem – 357 and Thanjavur -242 were some districts with high numbers on Sunday. Meanwhile, the Centre is planning to receive and utilise about 50 crore doses of vaccines on around 25 crore people by next J7uly, according to Union health minister Harsh Vardhan. Top priority might be frontline health workers who are in Covid-19 management.

Doctor: Trump improving, but not ‘out of the woods’ yet

Bethesda,(US), Oct. 4: President Donald Trump's hospitalisation stretched into a third day on Sunday as he and his health team sought to clarify contradictory statements and confusion from the day before that raised questions about the seriousness of his fight with COVID-19.

The president faces “critical” coming days after a “very concerning” period in his fight against COVID-19 at a military hospital, his chief of staff said Saturday

— in contrast to a rosier assessment from Trump's doctors.

Trump offered his own assessment of his status Saturday evening in a video from his hospital suite, saying he was beginning to feel better and hoped to “be back soon.” And he was back on social media early Sunday morning, sharing a video of flag-waving supporters, most not wearing masks, gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

“Thank you so much!” Trump tweeted at 7.18 am, US eastern time.

The changing, and at times contradictory, accounts created a credibility crisis for the White House at a crucial moment, with the president's health and the nation's leadership on the line. Moreover, the president's health represents a national security issue of paramount importance not only to the functions of the U.S. government but also to countries



around the world, friendly and otherwise.

Trump's Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, pulled his attack ads off the air during Trump's hospitali-

sation, and on Sunday, he dispatched senior aides to deliver a largely friendly message.

“We are sincerely hoping that the president makes a very quick recovery, and we can see him back out on the campaign trail very soon,” Biden adviser Symone Sanders said on CNN's “State of the Union.” She added: “This is a glaring reminder that the virus is real.” Biden was at home in Wilmington, Delaware, on Sunday with no plans for

in-person campaigning or other public appearances. Having already tested negative, he is expected to release the results of a new coronavirus test later in the day, and the campaign has pledged to disclose those results and all other future test results for the 77-year-old candidate.

On Saturday, chief of staff Mark Meadows told reporters outside the hospital, “We're still not on a clear path yet to a full recovery.” — AP

AFTER BEING RESCUED BY TAZMAN, THE WHITE RUKKERS FUMED. "NO ONE TREATS BETTY GOLE LIKE THAT!" AND PROMPTLY SLAPPED HIS FACE!

A RIDICULOUS SITUATION, BUT THE APE-MAN ACTED ACCORDINGLY. HE GRABBED THE POUTING GIRL --

...AND SHE WAS KNOWN AS BETTY GOLE. DESPITE HER HOWL, PREPARED TO DRINK HER THOROUGHLY AND EFFICIENTLY!

SHORT TAKES

DMK's candle light march for Hathras victim

Chennai, Oct. 4: The DMK Women's Wing led by its chief Kanimozhi will take out a candle light march towards the Raj Bhavan here on Monday seeking justice for the 19-year-old Hathras woman who died after being assaulted and allegedly gang-raped in UP, the party said on Sunday.

DMK President M K Stalin alleged that the safety of minorities, woman and the members of SC/ST community in Uttar Pradesh was "generally a question mark. The media is also feeling a lack of safety. The Centre has a duty to address this and ensure the safety of all," Stalin said in a statement here.

"The DMK Women's Wing has proposed to take out a march to the Raj Bhavan insisting on this," he said, adding, Kanimozhi, Lok Sabha MP, will lead the protest. —PTI

Student among 4 arrested for selling ganja

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 4

The Kelambakkam police arrested four persons, including a student of a leading private university for possessing and selling ganja on the OMR road on Saturday night. The police seized three kilograms of ganja in the raid.

Based on a tipoff that a few men were selling ganja in Kelmabakkam, Padur, Thaiyur and Kovalam areas along the OMR stretch, a team of police officials came to the OMR and surrounded the men selling ganja on the road. On seeing the police, they attempted to escape but were caught. The police also seized around 3 kgs of ganja.

The arrested were identified as N. Revanth (22) of Thaiyur, P. Thiyaagu (30) of Padur, N. Mohammed Yasin (22) of Kovalam and Chaithanya (20), a native of Andhra Pradesh district and a student of a leading private university in Padur. Police said Chaitanya procured the contraband from Andhra and sold it to students along with his friends. All four were remanded to custody, the police said.

758 gm gold bars, chains worth ₹39.5L seized

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 4

Gold bars and chains worth ₹39.5 lakhs were seized from four passengers on arrival at the Chennai international airport here from Dubai on Saturday.

Based on a tip-off, customs officials intercepted Kaja Mydeen (33) and Mohammad Sharkhan (21) of Chennai, who arrived from Dubai by a Fly Dubai flight, on Saturday. On a search on their person, two gold bars weighing 10 tolas each (232 grams) and a gold cut bit (31 gram) were recovered from both their pant pockets. A total of 526 grams of gold valued at ₹27.4 lakh was recovered and seized.

In another two cases on Saturday night, two passengers Abdul Jaleel Mohamed Ali (33) of Tiruchy and Ravuthar Naina Mohamad Abdul Hameeth (39) of Chennai, who arrived by Air India Express from Dubai, were intercepted at the exit on suspicion of carrying gold.

Gold in paste form and chains were recovered from their pant pockets. A total of 232 grams of gold valued at Rs. 12.16 lakh were recovered.

The gold seized in both the incidents weighed 758 grams and is estimated to value Rs. 39.5 lakhs, said a customs press release. Investigations are under progress.

DMK, PMK criticise rail ticket SMS sent in Hindi

Chennai, Oct. 4: A DMK MP and NDA constituent PMK on Sunday criticised rail users in Tamil Nadu allegedly receiving train ticket confirmation SMS in Hindi, with the Parliamentarian lashing out at "Hindi imposition".

Southern Railway officials said that while the matter does not come under their purview, it has however, been 'flagged' with IRCTC, the authorised e-ticketing agency.

DMK MP from South Chennai, Thamizhachi Thangapandian, took to Twitter to share a screenshot of the SMS purportedly received in Hindi. "The #GovernmentofIndia despite its promises to not impose Hindi, continues to impose the language through insidious means. Stop forcing Hindi on the non-Hindi speaking states," she said.

In a series of tweets, Thamizhachi Thangapandian tagged the Railway Ministry and urged it to take urgent steps to ensure non-Hindi speakers are also able to access the IRCTC services. "#StopHindiImposition"

In a series of tweets, she tagged the Railway Ministry and urged it to take urgent steps to ensure non-Hindi speakers are also able to access the IRCTC services. "#StopHindiImposition," she added.

Party MP Kanimozhi also criticised the alleged Hindi imposition. "They are not respecting people's feelings and are repeatedly imposing Hindi," she said in an apparent reference to the Centre. "People (in TN) cannot read what is mentioned in the SMS

since it is in Hindi," she told reporters at the airport here and warned of "serious repercussions" due to such incidents.

PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss, whose party is an ally of the ruling BJP at the Centre, alleged that SMSes for e- tickets in Tamil Nadu are "being sent in Hindi for the last two days."

"This is a planned imposition of Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people. The Railways should stop this," he said in a tweet. He demanded action against those behind this and urged that all Central government related announcements in Tamil Nadu must be released only in Tamil and English.

Southern Railway, which earlier 'flagged' the matter to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC),

the authorised e-ticketing agency, said that in the case on hand, the person had selected Hindi as the preferred language while registering on the IRCTC portal.

"Language is an option in e-ticketing...it is clarified that while registering the details under the section titled 'profile' in the IRCTC website, one needs to indicate the preferred language-- either English or Hindi - to enable receipt of ticket related messages in the language of one's preference," it said.

"In the instant case, in the profile of the person on whose ID the said ticket was booked, the preferred language was indicated as Hindi. This was the reason why the system generated message was sent in Hindi, which was the preferred language," it said. —PTI

Demand for conversion of abandoned subway in Alandur

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 4

The Traffic and Transportation Forum (TTF), Chennai, has demanded conversion of abandoned subway near Alandur Metro Station into a mini vehicular subway. In a letter to the National Highway Authority of India, the forum said that the people were currently struggling to reach the GST road covering an additional two kms.

The commuters between St.Thomas Mount station and Medavakkam junction (Adambakkam, Vanuvampet, Puzhuthivakkam, Madippakkam, Kizhakkattalai, Kovilambakkam and Nanmangalam) either have to go to the airport end or to the St.Thomas Mount post office, each a distance of 2 kilometers. Lakhs of people using the suburban rail system every day amounts to loss of time and adds to pollution.

"We request the authorities to convert the existing abandoned subway into a mini vehicular subway like the one in Tambaram so that smaller vehicles and two wheelers can pass through it", said V. Subramani, Project Director, TTF.

TNNLU bags tax moot court contest

G SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, OCT. 4

"Understanding tax law is akin to understanding economy which is to be understood from a society's underlying structure – its health, wealth, productivity, defense mechanism and civil order," said Justice M M Sundresh, Judge, Madras High Court, at SASTRA University here on Sunday.

Delivering the valedictory address at the 16th 'Nani Palkhivala tax moot court' competition organised online by SASTRA deemed to be university here on Sunday, the judge appreciated the level of commitment and deep research done by the participants, who argued before the jury on an intricate



Candidates appear for UPSC exam in Chennai on Sunday.

— DC

Farm laws must be scrapped, says NGO

A. ARUL PALANI | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 4

A NGO fighting against degradation of ecology and biodiversity has launched a signature campaign in the social media demanding scrapping of the Farm Acts. In the campaign in twitter, Poovulagin Nanbargal stated that the legislation is aimed at destroying farmers by handing over agriculture and agri market to big corporates. The provisions in the Acts favour MNCs and domestic companies for whom the government has opened the doors for exports. The MNC agents will become the new middle-men who will control farmers' produce and pricing. The country's food security will be decided by corporates who will decide what one should grow and eat.

Local markets and shops will be closed. Similar to Ola and Uber, which control taxi owners, farmers also will be controlled by corporates which will decide the crop to be cultivated and pricing. The legislation may lead to the

widespread introduction of GM crops because of the nexus between different corporates. The Acts make hoarding legal by eradicating procurement/storage limits.

The NGO said that the state governments were not consulted on changes in agriculture laws, which seek to bypass the jurisdiction of the states in creating new contracts between farmers and corporates.

Under the proposed system, APMCs will be hard hit with trade moving out of their jurisdiction to zero tax in the private trade zone. The introduction of parallel private trade is designed to snatch their revenue and in due course make the entire APMC system collapse.

Contract farming and competitive pricing in itself has seeds of unequal farming which act to the detriment of small and marginal farmers. Through these legislations the government abdicates its responsibility of protecting the farmers and leaves them vulnerable to market forces.

With a landholding of

less than two hectares farmers will hardly have any bargaining power. The arrangement lacks the space for zero budget farming, natural farming and revival of nutrition foods, millets and coarse cereals.

Instead of reforming the agriculture sector, the government introduced Acts aimed at destroying the agricultural activities and introduced failed models through these Acts.

The state government will face revenue loss. Private players will buy the produce during harvest season when prices are generally lower and release it later when prices firm up. Agricultural Acts will endanger ecology and they are against UN sustainable development goals. Agriculture sector was the only sector which had positive growth in the latest GDP figures and now the government has decided to change this also. MSP – 'Minimum Support', hereafter will be decided by Corporate. The Acts will destroy traditional knowledge of agriculture.

Palmyra seed planting project in Ariyalur

DC CORRESPONDENT
ARIYALUR, OCT. 4

Collector T Rathna here on Sunday hailed the efforts of Ariyalur-based NGO 'Solaivanam' in tree plantation and protecting the environment by planting one lakh Palmyra seeds under the 'one day - one lakh Palmyra seed plantation in 60 villages' scheme,

and called upon other like-minded agencies to come forward to promote such tree planting activities.

Inaugurating movement at Santhana Lake at Ravuththanpatti village near here on Sunday, the collector also congratulated 1,200 youths for involving themselves in this noble cause.

Trustee, Solaivanam, S

Elavarasan, told DC that to protect groundwater table in the district, they had prepared a plan to collect one lakh Palmyra seeds, for the last one month, covering 60 villages including Ottakovil, Poyyathanallur, Anandhavadi, Ayan Athur, Kallamedu, Salaikurichi, Kumzhiyam and Sirukadambur.

Be ready to face challenges, says Chief whip Rajendran

DC CORRESPONDENT
ARIYALUR, OCT. 4

The government chief whip, Thamarai S Rajendran, called upon officials of all departments to be ready to meet any challenges during the disaster period, and to protect the people.

Rajendran made these remarks as he was winding up a two-day review meeting on various developmental activities in the district along with the district's monitoring officer A Saravanavelraj.

Collector T Rathna and others on Sunday appealed to the agriculture department officials to ensure availability of adequate stocks of agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers. Stating that

Chief Minister Palaniswami has been implementing a lot of schemes to uplift the livelihood and economic development of the poor and downtrodden, he said it was the duty of the respective department to reach out such welfare measures to the needy.

Rajendran added that works were going on in a war footing for the establishment of a new government medical college hospital in Ariyalur district.

Later, Saravanavelraj and Collector T Rathna inspected the on-going drinking water waterline installation process for a distance of 97 kms to provide drinking water to 200 small villages in Senthurai Union, at an estimated cost of ₹5.32 crore.

Horse cart race: Five held

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, OCT. 4

Police arrested five persons and seized three horses and carts for allegedly organising a horse cart race without police permit at suburb Thuvakkudi area near here in the wee hours of Sunday.

Police said a police team led by inspector Gandhimathi (Thuvakkudi) and Muthukumar (Navalpattu) raided the ring road area in Thuvakkudi, where 25 horse carts from Tiruchy, Thanjavur, Salem, Thiruchchennai-mpoondi area, participated in the race.

Five persons including the race coordinator, Suresh of Thuvakkudi, were arrested.

VRS can't be denied just for a censure in teacher's record: HC

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 4

Observing that a censure is the least of minor penalties envisaged in service rules and a request for voluntary retirement could not be denied on that count, the Madras high court directed the authorities to process the request of a teacher seeking voluntary retirement from service after 37 years of service in the School Education Department.

Justice V.Parthiban gave the directive on a petition from K.Raju seeking to quash an



order passed by the Chief Educational Officer, Namakkal District, dated

December 6, 2018.

The petitioner, working as a Drawing Teacher at the Government higher secondary school at Karuppur, Salem district, had for personal reasons submitted a request for voluntary retirement on September 3, 2019 and which was forwarded by the headmaster to the Chief Educational Officer, Namakkal District. His request was not considered.

Counsel R.Neelakandan submitted that the petitioner was earlier facing departmental action on allegations of misconduct, which, however, ultimately ended in

imposition of a penalty of a censure on December 6, 2018. The petitioner was given to understand that because of the imposition of the penalty, no decision had been taken on the voluntary retirement request and the petitioner was impelled to challenge the censure order, Neelakandan added.

The judge said when the court confronted the government advocate P.Raja as to how the imposition of the penalty of censure on December 6, 2018 could be a legal impediment to taking a decision in the voluntary retirement application, the

counsel submitted that if a direction was issued to the authority for a decision in response to the request of the petitioner, the same would be considered and complied with.

"A censure is the least of minor penalties envisaged in the service rules and by no stretch of advancing the administrative interest, the request for voluntary retirement could be denied. Nevertheless, as on date it appears there is no legal impediment for the respondents (authorities) to accept the request for voluntary retirement if the petitioner

is not otherwise facing any serious disciplinary action," the judge said.

The writ petition was disposed of with a direction to the respondents to process the request seeking voluntary retirement from service by his letter dated September 7, 2019. "In case no disciplinary action is pending against him for any serious charges, the same shall be accepted by passing suitable orders. The Chief Educational Officer/competent authority is directed to pass appropriate orders as indicated above within two weeks", the judge added.

Two produce country gun, held

DC CORRESPONDENT
PUDUKKOTTAI, OCT. 4

Police arrested two persons for illegally producing a country-made gun by watching YouTube videos at Udhayaneri Colony here, on Saturday. Police said, acting on a tip-off, a police team raided a particular house and arrested Siva (19) and Marimuthu (21), who were engaged in the crime.

Preliminary enquiries revealed that the duo had been manufacturing guns and they purchased a country-

They confessed that they were attempting to manufacture guns by watching Youtube videos

made gun from Tiruchy, as a prototype for their production. They confessed that they were attempting to manufacture guns by watching Youtube videos. Police also seized other accessories there. The two were arrested and remanded to judicial custody, police said.

SHORT TAKES

BJD MLA PRADEEP MAHARATHY DIES OF CORONAVIRUS

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 4

Former minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA from Pipili Pradeep Maharathy passed away on Saturday night. He was 65 and is survived by his wife, son and daughter. On September 14, the BJD leader had tested positive for Covid-19 and was undergoing treatment ever since.

Born on July 4, 1955, Maharathy was one of the towering non-Congress leaders in Odisha. Considered a close confidante of former chief minister Biju Patnaik, Maharathy began his career from student politics. He was elected as secretary, Morning College, Puri, and latter as president of SCS College, Puri.

In the 1975 Emergency, he was arrested under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA).

Known for his good sense of humour, the leader always projected him as a farmer. He always chose to raise the voice of common people both in and outside the state Assembly.

BJP MP WARNS OF 'GUERRILLA' STYLE RALLY IN WB

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, OCT. 4

In what may trigger controversy, BJP MP of Barrackpore Arjun Singh has threatened the Mamata Banerjee government of a "guerrilla" style rally by the saffron party which will "shake" the state secretariat Nabanna in Howrah on October 8. He also warned the Trinamul Congress that "no obstacles" would be accepted by the BJP workers in its mission.

To corner the TMC ahead of the Assembly elections in the state, the BJP Yuva Morcha has called the '*Nabanna Chalo Abhijan*' on seven issues — corruption in the SSC/TET recruitments, fair recruitment process, jobs to the unemployed, increase in age limit to appear for the examination, making the Public Service Commission free of corruption, bribery for jobs and jobs instead of allowance to the unemployed. The state secretariat houses the Chief Minister's office alongwith those of several Cabinet ministers and top bureaucrats.

RHEA SHOULD BE RELEASED, SAYS ADHIR

Kolkata, Oct. 4: A day after a panel of doctors at AIIMS in Delhi ruled out murder as the cause of Sushant Singh Rajput's death, leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Choudhury, on Sunday demanded that the actor's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty be released forthwith without further harassment.

Choudhury, who had said in the past that Chakraborty was being "falsely implicated" following her arrest in connection with a drug probe linked to Rajput's death, claimed on Twitter that she was a victim of a "political conspiracy".

"Now the BJP propaganda machinery may accuse the forensic team of AIIMS who has nullified the allegation that Rhea Chakraborty conspired to kill Sushant Singh Rajput," the state Congress chief tweeted.

"We are all pained by the expiry of Sushant ji but he cannot be honoured by falsely implicating a lady as an accused, I have earlier said that Rhea Chakraborty was an innocent lady, she should be released without further harassment to her, she has been the victim of Political conspiracy (sic)," he added.

Farmers burn paddy stubble



A farmer burns paddy stubble at a farm on the outskirts of Amritsar on Sunday. The pollution and smokey haze around the adjoining states of Punjab and Haryana, especially New Delhi has been linked with stubble burning and is said to be a contributing factor for increasing air pollution.

— PTI

Karnataka Covid-19 tally crosses 10K-mark again

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, OCT. 4

Karnataka's Covid-19 spread continued to take a turn for the worse with 10,145 people testing positive for the virus on Sunday, the third time in the last one week when the number reached 10,000 mark.

The state had reported the single-day highest number of cases on September 29 with 10,453 cases, which also saw 136 deaths. The toll on Sunday, however, almost halved to 67, according to the health department data.

The spike in cases was

led by Bengaluru Urban with 4,340 fresh cases and 22 deaths.

The cumulative positive cases and fatalities due to coronavirus were 6,40,661 and 9,286, respectively.

The total infections comprised 5,15,782 discharges including 7,287 on Sunday whereas there were 1,15,574 active cases in the state including 847 in ICUs, the department said in the bulletin.

Kerala records 8,553 new cases: Kerala reported 8,553 fresh Covid-19 cases on Sunday, taking the infection count to 2,28,886 while the toll climbed to

836 with 23 more deaths. Samples of as many as 4,851 people have turned negative, the highest single day recoveries while the active cases touched 84,497.

As many as 1,44,471 have recovered so far from the infection. Two districts accounted for over 1,000 cases-- Kozhikode (1,164) and Thiruvananthapuram (1,119)-- while

Ernakulam added 952 infections. **TS soon to cross 2 lakh mark:** The number of Covid-19 cases inched towards the two-lakh mark with the state health department say-

ing that the total infections as on Saturday evening stood at 1,99,276. The state recorded 1,949 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday, along with 10 more deaths that took the fatalities tally to 1,163.

The GHMC area had the most number of cases on Saturday at 291, followed by 156 in Ranga Reddy, 150 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, 124 cases in Nalgonda, 114 cases in Karimnagar 85 cases in Khammam, 76 in Siddipet, and 71 cases in Bhadrachari-Kothagudem districts. The lowest number of cases for the day was recorded in

Narayanpet district at six.

East, West Godavari dists top: The number of new coronavirus infections continued to show a decline with 6,242 people testing positive on Sunday, down from an earlier average of 10,000 cases per day in the previous week.

The East and West Godavari districts were top in Covid-19 positive cases as East Godavari crossed the one lakh mark and West Godavari in the second place with reaching total 70,133 positive cases, a health department bulletin said on Sunday.

Plans to vaccinate 25 crore people by July 2021: Minister

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, OCT. 4

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Sunday said the government plans to vaccinate about 25 crore people against the Coronavirus by July next year.

He said priority would be given to health workers engaged in Covid-19 management in getting inoculated and asserted the Centre would ensure fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, once they are ready. The health ministry has asked states to submit a list of priority groups by October end, particularly the health workers, who will receive vaccine shots.

The Centre estimates to receive 40-50 crore doses of the vaccine.

During an interaction on social media platforms, Dr Vardhan said vaccine pro-

curement would be done centrally with each consignment tracked real-time until delivery to ensure it reaches those who need it the most and there is no black-marketing. "The list of frontline health workers will include both government as well as private-sector doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitary staff, ASHA workers, surveillance officers and many other occupational categories who are involved in tracing, testing and treatment of patients," the minister said.

"The Centre is also working on plans for building capacities in human resources, training, supervision and others on a massive scale and roughly estimates to receive and utilise 40-50 crore doses covering approximately 20-25 crore people by July 2021. All this is under various stages of finalisation," the minister said.

India, China to hold 7th round of talks on Oct. 12

FROM PG3

The representative from the ministry of external affairs joint secretary (East Asia) Naveen Srivastava is also expected to attend.

In the last Corps Commanders meeting both had sides agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may com-

plicate the situation.

Since the 6th Corps Commanders meeting a type of uneasy peace has been maintained at LAC in Ladakh which had witnessed a number of firing incidents for the first time in over four decades.

However, there is also a concern that if Chinese troops don't move out soon or are not pushed out from places where they have transgressed they may permanently change the alignment of the LAC.

My work is derived from the infinite, says A.R. Rahman

New Delhi, Oct. 4: It's important to be in touch with one's inner self as well as nature to create music, says Academy Award-winning composer A.R. Rahman who believes an artiste should draw inspiration from "higher ideals".

The 53-year-old music director said he tries to stay away from chaos while working on his music as it is a spiritual process for him. "In art, you get inspired by higher ideals, higher inspirations and higher things in life. If you derive something from nature, from a universal feeling or a consciousness, then there's greatness in your work. And often, we are forced to derive from smaller things, but I feel my work is mostly derived from the infinite, whether it's a feeling or a musical bit or whether it's a soundscape."

"I try to position myself to stay away from the chaos which is around us and try to derive from there," Rahman said in a Zoom interview. The composer, who has attained the status of a global music icon with magnificent discography as well as Oscar and Grammy wins to his credit, said there are times when artistes are pushed to follow a certain trend and that leads to mediocrity. "If you have a song and then somebody wants you to make that kind of a song again, then it becomes mediocre," he added. Rahman, however, said he respects different points of view of the people in the film industry as they all share the same goal of making people happy. He believes the industry gives different mindsets a space to coexist and there is no "elitism".

"I respect that there are various people and they make the whole industry colourful with different mindsets, but all of us have one goal - to make the person who is watching or listening, happy. Everything coexists, there's no elitism. It is a great thing and I admire that in everyone I meet. I respect everybody equally, not that this person is smaller or this

work is smaller. So, I feel like my part is done in the world and I've made people happy."

The composer, who started his journey in the movies with Mani Ratnam's 1992 film Roja, went on to create memorable soundtracks for films like Bombay, Rangeela, Daud, Dil Se, Taal and Lagaan, Swades, Yuva, Rang De Basanti and Rockstar.

Rahman said he always aspires to create music which resonates with people across age, gender, caste, class and interest. In his almost three decade-long career across languages, he believes, he has been fortunate



enough to work with people who strive to achieve harmony.

"I've got a great team and all of us have made cinematic masterpieces, I would say. But it's a fight... You know there will still be a fight where there are certain disagreements and where I have to do my part and they do their part and when it's in unison, it's fun," he added.

Rahman said the fact that he did not join the industry with an aim to become an icon gave him the courage to break the boundaries. "I didn't have any insecurities. Because only a person who wants some result would be insecure and then he'll compromise on what he does. But for me, my intention was not to go further. I had more courage to do things."

The composer's journey from a young boy from Madras to one of the most celebrated artistes across the globe, will be traced in the third episode of National Geographic's "Mega Icons" season two. Rahman, who prefers to stay away from the limelight, said he has rejected many biopic offers but this show came with an assurance of quality.

"I don't like watching shows myself, usually. I've rejected so many of these proposals like - 'I want to make a movie based on you, I want to make this about your life' and all that," he said.

— PTI

No more than 100 people can attend poll rallies, directs HC

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 4

Gwalior bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed to register FIR if the poll rallies being organised by political parties in the election-bound Assembly constituencies in the state, comprised more than 100 people.

A court's directive came on Saturday in the wake of the spike in Coronavirus positive cases in the state. The state has reported 1.33 lakh positive cases and 2,399 deaths till date.

The court's directive was in response to public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Ashish Pratap Singh.

The court has also appointed a 3-member-lawyer team to keep a vigil on the political activities in the state and report cases of breach of protocol, if found, to the court through its registrar.

The petitioner has contended that the political parties attracted huge crowds in their rallies

● **THE COURT'S** directive was in response to a PIL filed in the wake of the spike in Coronavirus positive cases in the state, so far MP has reported 1.33 lakh Coronavirus positive cases and 2,399 deaths till date.

which has increased risk of spreading the virus. The court in its interim order observed that the politicians, leaders, and functionaries of the government should set an example for the people by abiding by the Covid-19 guidelines.

The court held that the district magistrates would be liable for contempt of court if they would be found wanting in implementation of the court's directive. The court said any person can take photographs of such congregations and place it before the appropriate bench for adjudication, through the principal registrar.

The next date for hearing in the case has been set for October 15.

SHIVRAJ LEAVES FOR DELHI TO FINALISE CANDIDATES FOR BYPOLLS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 4

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan left for Delhi on Sunday to finalise candidates for the 28 Assembly constituencies which are going to bypolls on November 3.

Chouhan was scheduled to meet central BJP leaders to finalise the candidates for Assembly by-elections which may prove crucial for survival of his government.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has earlier in principle decided to re-nominate the 25 ex-Congress MLAs who had resigned from the house and the grand old party leading to collapse of Kamal Nath government in March this year, from their respective Assembly seats in the ensuing by-elections.

However, the party was

yet to finalise candidates for three other Assembly constituencies, Joura, Agar and Byabra, leading to the delay in the release of the candidates' list.

By-elections in these three Assembly seats were necessitated following the death of sitting MLAs.

"State election committee of the party has recommended two names each for the three Assembly seats to the Central election committee of party for finalisation of candidates for these constituencies", a senior BJP leader here said.

Filing of nomination for the Assembly by-elections would commence from October 9.

The Congress has already announced its candidates for 24 Assembly seats. Similarly, BSP has come out with a list of its candidates for 18 seats.

HATHRAS | CASE

Pehalvan's son blames victim's family, claims they keep 'changing their stand'

Meeting at ex-BJP MLA's house defends accused

Lucknow/Hathras, Oct. 4: Scores of people held a meeting on Sunday outside the house of a former BJP MLA in Hathras where they defended the accused in the alleged gangrape of a Dalit woman who later died, and demanded registration of an FIR against her family members.

Heavy police force was deployed in the vicinity of the residence of former BJP MLA Rajvir Singh Pehalvan, located around 8-9 kilometres from the vic-

tim's village. One of the organisers of the meeting and Pehalvan's son Manver Singh denied that the gathering comprised members from the upper castes and said they were from "different sections of society". "We welcome the CBI inquiry ordered by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. We have faith in the investigation," Singh said while claiming that the victim's family members were "changing their stand". "The entire

scenario has been created to blame the government. The accused persons are in favour of any type of inquiry. But the victims are changing their stand every now and then. They do not want a narco test or a CBI probe. Now they want other kinds of inquiries," he claimed.

He said an FIR should be registered by police against the complainants in the case. "Our demand is that a case should be filed against those people who had filed

the case in the first instance," he said.

The 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped by four upper caste men in Hathras on September 14. She died on September 29 at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. Singh also said various legal options were being explored to defend the accused in the case. He asserted that the arrest of some of the accused persons from their homes was proof of their innocence.

— PTI

AZAD CHIEF SEEKS Y-PLUS SECURITY FOR VICTIM'S FAMILY MEMBERS

Hathras, Oct. 4: Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad on Sunday visited the family of Hathras gangrape and murder victim and demanded government to allocate Y-plus security cover to them.

He also demanded that the government order an investigation into case

under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge.

Speaking to ANI, he said, "I demand Y security for the family or I'll take them to my house as they aren't safe here. We want an inquiry to be done under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge."

— Agencies

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
aSensex	38,697.05	1.65
Nifty 50	11,416.95	1.51
S&P 500*	3,348.44	-0.96
Dollar (₹)	73.15	0.83
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.15	0.50
Euro (₹)	85.81	0.79
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,389▼37	0.07
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	39.27	0.00
IN 10-Yr bond yield	0.704	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.692	0.015

* As of 9:30 PM IST

China's Jingye shows interest in Tata Steel UK

Chinese steelmaker Jingye Group Co is exploring a takeover of the UK's biggest steel producer, Tata Steel Ltd, Sky News reported, citing unidentified banking sources. The firm, which took over British Steel earlier this year, has expressed a "tentative" interest to Tata Group as well as the UK government, but has failed to make substantial progress so far. There is no formal sale process at this stage, Sky said.

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■ Saudi Arabia's pre-budget estimates Oil seen hovering around \$50 till '23

ABEER ABU OMAR & MATTHEW MARTIN OCT. 4

Saudi Arabia's finance ministry seems to think that oil prices will stay around \$50 a barrel for at least the next three years. That's according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc's analysis of the kingdom's pre-budget statement released on September 30.

"Using our own estimates for the breakdown of government revenues, we calculate that the numbers presented in the budget statement are based on an average oil price of around \$50 a barrel between 2020 and 2023," said Farouk Soussa, a London-based analyst at Goldman.

Brent crude fell 6.3 per cent to \$39.27 a barrel last week as more countries tightened restrictions to counter the coronavirus pandemic and US president Donald Trump got infected, causing traders to fret about the outlook for energy demand.

While oil at \$50 would represent a 25 per cent rise from current prices, it would still be far below the pre-pandemic level of around \$65 and less than Saudi Arabia needs to balance its budget.

Goldman's calculations are roughly in line with those of Cairo-based investment bank EFG Hermes, which said Saudi Arabia is basing next year's budget on an oil price of \$50 to \$55. Goldman is itself more



CHEVRON NIGERIA TO CUT 25% WORKFORCE

RUTH OLUROUNBI & CHUKWUDI EJIMOFOR OCT. 4

Nigeria's Chevron unit said it plans to cut 25 per cent of its workforce to become more efficient and reduce operating costs, the latest sign demand for global oil is wobbling under coronavirus and new restrictions to contain it.

"The aim is to have a business that is competitive and an appropriate-

ly-sized organisation," a company statement said. "We must make the necessary adjustments in light of the prevailing business climate."

The International Energy Agency last month trimmed its forecasts for fuel consumption for the rest of the year, warning th\at the global oil market was increasingly "fragile" as new outbreaks of coronavirus derail the recovery.

— Bloomberg

bullish, forecasting that Brent will climb to \$65 by the end of 2021.

Saudi officials expect the country's fiscal deficit to narrow to 5.1 per cent of gross domestic product in 2021 from 12 per cent this year as they cut spending, according to last week's statement.

The kingdom tends to take a relatively conservative view of crude prices in drawing up its budget and doesn't divulge its assumptions, leaving analysts to estimate them from other

projections. The finance ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia would need oil to trade at \$66 to balance its budget in 2021, according to estimates from the International Monetary Fund.

Saudi Arabia's caution on prices comes as oil giants including BP Plc and Total SE predict the era of growing global demand for energy is over or coming to an end barely a decade from now.

— Bloomberg

KUWAIT CENTRAL BANK DENIES PLAN TO DEVALUE DINAR

ABBAS AL LAWATI & FIONA MACDONALD OCT. 4

The Central Bank of Kuwait, which pegs the dinar to a basket of currencies dominated by the US dollar, affirmed its commitment to the country's exchange-rate policy, responding to reports of an impending devaluation.

"In light of recent online reports falsely speculating on the intent to devalue the national currency, the Central Bank of Kuwait reiterates its commitment to maintaining the Kuwaiti dinar exchange rate at a level that protects its purchasing power," it said in a statement on Sunday. "CBK will continue its adherence to policies that aim to bolster the local currency."

The speculation started swirling after the passing last week of Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been succeeded by his half brother Kuwait is facing the highest budget deficit in its history, brought on by the drop in oil prices and the coronavirus pandemic. A potential solution to its liquidity crisis has been blocked by parliamentary opposition to a law that would allow the government to borrow.

Twelve-month forward contracts on the Kuwaiti dinar rose almost 60 points to 270 in the offshore market last month, signalling traders' concerns over the risk of a devaluation in the currency peg.

— Bloomberg

Micro units to gain from interest waiver

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 4



The government's suggestion of waiving compound interest on delayed payments during the moratorium period would predominantly benefit micro enterprises. While some small enterprises would also benefit from the waiver, medium-sized firms are feeling discriminated against. Industry is also keen to know whether banks will refund those who have already paid the compound interest.

The government on Saturday filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court that it was ready to bear the burden of an interest waiver for small borrowers.

Any individual or entity whose loan amount is less than Rs 2 crore, irrespective of whether they have availed of loan repayment moratorium or not, will be eligible for waiver of the compounding of interest. This includes micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), education, housing, consumer durable, credit card, automobile, personal, and consumption loans.

Among the MSMEs in India, only 15 per cent have access to the formal banking system. Reports suggest that 45 to 50 per cent of the MSMEs with loan outstanding have availed of moratorium. According to Rajive Chawla, chairman of IamSMEofIndia, all the micro enterprises which have availed of the moratorium would benefit from the government decision and some of the small enterprises, too. Medium enterprises are not likely to benefit from the waiver.

"It is good that micro enterprises will get relief. But I wish they would have given it to all MSMEs, as it is not a waiver of interest but a waiver of interest of interest," he said.

"Even within MSMEs, medium enterprises are

being discriminated against in very many ways. Most of the policy support goes to micro and small enterprises. The policy biases force them to remain dwarfs without growing large," said Anil Bharadwaj, secretary general, Federation of Indian MSMEs (Fisme).

Faiz Askari, founder of SMEStreet, fears the waiver may disincentivise banks from providing loans to MSMEs in the future. "The number of MSMEs which are into the formal banking system itself is miniscule. Government should fully compensate the banks for the waiver so that they won't be reluctant to lend to MSMEs in future," he said.

However, Chawla believes banks will continue to lend MSMEs to meet priority sector lending targets. "Further, they lend to us for a higher interest rate compared to large corporates and there are a lot of other charges. The NPAs are also lower among MSMEs," he said.

MSMEs also want to have clarity on whether those who have already paid the compound interest to the banks will receive a refund.

Australia to pay half wages of trainee workers

TRACY WITHERS OCT. 4

Australia will provide a wage subsidy to encourage businesses to hire as many as 100,000 new apprentices or trainee workers as part of its budget strategy to

create jobs and boost incomes.

The A\$1.2 billion (\$860 million) program, which will pay for half of the apprentice's wage in the first year, will be available from Oct. 5, Prime Minister Scott Morrison

said Sunday in an emailed statement. "Apprenticeships are an important pathway to get young people into jobs and to ensure there is a skills pipeline to meet the future needs of employers," Morrison said.

— Bloomberg

WORLD

Bumpy situation till X-mas: Boris

UK records over 10K Covid cases in a day for the first time since mass testing began

London, Oct. 4: Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday, warned of a "bumpy" ride at least through to Christmas in December, as the UK recorded more than 10,000 Coronavirus cases in a day for the first time since mass testing for the deadly virus was put in place.

According to official figures, there were 12,872 new cases on Saturday, while a further 49 people have died within 28 days of testing positive for Covid-19. However, the government said a technical issue meant some cases from earlier in the week were not recorded at the time so these were included in Saturday's data. In his interview, the UK PM tried to strike a note of optimism over progress in beating the virus and said he believed over the "next few weeks and months" the "scientific equation will change, whether that is vaccines or testing". "I've got to tell you in all candour it's going to continue to be bumpy through to Christmas, it may even be bumpy beyond," Johnson told the BBC.

"This could be a very tough winter for all of us —

we've got to face that fact," he said. While insisting his government was working "flat out" to fight the pandemic, Johnson said he took "full responsibility for everything that has happened since the pandemic began", admitting the National Health Service (NHS) led Test and Trace system was "not perfect". But he said scientific advisers had told him that by spring in March/April 2021 "things will be radically different and we will be in a different world".

Johnson said he understood people's "frustration" at differing rules and restrictions for different parts of the country but stressed that localised lockdowns was the right way to go and wait to see if the R number — of the rate at which the infection is transmitted — comes down as a result. "I'm a freedom-loving Tory. I don't want to have to impose measures like this, are you crazy? This is the last thing we want to do. But I also have to save life. And that's our priority," he said. "And as Prime Minister I couldn't take a course that could expose us to tens of thou-

sands more deaths in very short order...we've got to continue to bear down on this virus, whilst protecting the economy. That's the balance we've got to strike," he added.

The interview this weekend coincides with his Conservative Party's annual conference, being conducted virtually for the first time due to coronavirus restrictions on mass gatherings. The Tories have created a 3D virtual conference with a computer-generated auditorium, foyer and fringe meeting rooms. However, the system has not been smooth-sailing as the virtual platform crashed during a session with UK Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove.

Russia reports 10,400 new daily cases

Moscow, Oct. 4: Coronavirus infections in Russia hit a new record on Sunday, with the government reporting over 10,000 new confirmed cases for the first time since mid-May. The 10,499 new cases reported on Sunday bring the country's total to over 1.2 million. Russia currently has the fourth largest caseload

Israel environment minister tests +ve

Jerusalem, Oct. 4: A member of Israel's Cabinet has tested positive for the Coronavirus as the country remains under lockdown while battling a second wave of infection.

Gila Gamliel, Israel's environmental protection minister and a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, announced on Twitter Sunday that she had tested positive. She was the fourth minister in Israel's government to test positive for Covid-19 since March. "I feel good and hope to recover

quickly with God's help," she wrote on social media.

The Israeli government imposed a nationwide lockdown on September 18 ahead of the Jewish High Holidays in an effort to rein in a runaway outbreak of the Coronavirus. The country has one of the highest daily infection rates per capita in the world. According to Health Ministry figures, Israel has recorded over 264,000 cases and almost 1,700 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.

— AP

in the world and has so far reported over 21,000 deaths. The Russian authorities insist there are no plans to impose a second lockdown in the country that has lifted most of the virus-related restrictions imposed in the spring.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday

another lockdown is currently not being discussed in the government. At the same time in Moscow, which reported over 3,000 new cases on Sunday in the biggest surge in months, officials have recommended the elderly to self-isolate at home.

— AP

Azerbaijan's No. 2 city hit in fighting with Armenia

Baku (Azerbaijan), Oct. 4: The fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces continued on Sunday over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, with Azerbaijan's second-largest city coming under attack.

Azerbaijani officials said Sunday that Armenian forces attacked Ganja, the country's second largest city. Hikmet Hajiyev, an aide to the Azerbaijani president, tweeted a video depicting damaged buildings, and called it the result of "Armenia's massive missile attacks against dense residential areas" in Ganja. It wasn't immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the video. Hajiyev said in another tweet that attacks on Ganja and other areas in Azerbaijan were launched "from territory of Armenia." Armenia's Defence Ministry said that "no fire of any kind is being opened from the territory of Armenia in Azerbaijan's direction."

But Nagorno-Karabakh's leader, Arayik Harutyunyan, confirmed on Facebook he ordered "rocket attacks to neutralize military objects" in Ganja. His spokesman, Vahram Poghosyan, said the territory's army destroyed a mili-

tary airport in Ganja, a claim Azerbaijani officials denied. The attack on the city killed one civilian and left four others wounded, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry tweeted. Harutyunyan said he ordered his forces to stop the attacks on Ganja to avoid civilian casualties. Nagorno-Karabakh's leader added that "proportionate and crushing" strikes targeting the opponent's forces would continue, if Azerbaijan fails "to draw appropriate lessons." The fighting, which broke out on September 27 and has continued for eight straight days, is the biggest escalation in years in the decades-long dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The region lies within Azerbaijan, but is controlled by local ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia. Both sides said the hostilities have spread beyond the breakaway territory and accused each other of attacking areas outside Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ganja, with a population of more than 330,000, is located roughly 100 kilometres (about 60 miles) north of Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's capital.

— AP

RAHMAN PDM HEAD IN PAK

Islamabad, Oct. 4: Fir-ebrand cleric-cum-politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been unanimously appointed as the chief of the newly-formed Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an anti-government alliance launched by 11 Opposition parties to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan. The decision was taken on Saturday during a virtual meeting of the Opposition parties attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme and three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Balochistan National Party chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal among other senior politicians.

According to PDM's steering committee convener Ahsan Iqbal, Sharif proposed 67-year-old Rehman's name as the alliance president and it was endorsed by PPP chairman Bilawal and others, the Dawn newspaper reported.

— PTI

CURBS | LIFTED

Muslims from outside the Kingdom could be allowed to perform pilgrimage from Nov. 1

Pilgrims return to Mecca as Saudi eases virus restrictions

Riyadh, Oct. 4: A very small, limited number of people donning the white terrycloth garment symbolic of the Muslim pilgrimage circled Islam's holiest site in Mecca on Sunday after Saudi Arabia lifted Coronavirus restrictions that had been in place for months.

The kingdom had taken the rare step of suspending the smaller "umrah" pilgrimage that draws millions year-round from across the world in early March as the Coronavirus morphed into a global pan-

demie and prompted countries to impose lockdowns and curfews to slow down transmission. But as nations begin to ease those restrictions, the Saudi government on Sunday started allowing a maximum of 6,000 pilgrims a day to enter the sprawling Grand Mosque in Mecca.

Only Saudi citizens and residents will be permitted to enter the mosque during this first phase of reopening, and each person has up to three hours to complete the pilgrimage. The Grand Mosque, which is being

sterilised and cleaned multiple times a day, houses the cube-shaped Kaaba that observant Muslims pray toward five times a day. Before visitors can enter the mosque to pray or perform the umrah, they have to apply and reserve a specific time and date through an online application to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing. Visitors can also select via the app their means of transportation and meeting points.

State TV showed on Sunday what appeared to be

fewer than 50 people circling the Kaaba at the same time and walking several metres (feet) apart. Typically, the mosque would be packed with worshippers from around the world crowded shoulder-to-shoulder at all times of the day and night. The second phase for loosening restrictions at the Grand Mosque comes into effect on October 18, allowing a maximum of 15,000 pilgrims and 40,000 for prayer from among residents and citizens based on allocated times via the app.

Muslim travellers from outside Saudi Arabia could be allowed to perform the umrah pilgrimage as early as November 1, the Interior Ministry has said. Saudi Arabia recently began easing some restrictions on international flights for the first time since March. The kingdom held a dramatically downsized, symbolic hajj pilgrimage in July due to concerns that it could easily have become a global super-spreader event for the virus.

— AP



SHORT TAKES

Teen Swiatek knocks out Halep

Paris: Polish teenager Iga Swiatek dumped top seed Simona Halep out of the French Open on Sunday with a crushing 6-1 6-2 victory to make her maiden Grand Slam quarter-final. Halep came into the fourth round clash on a 17-match unbeaten streak having defeated the 19-year-old Swiatek, ranked 54th in the world, 6-1 6-0 in 45 minutes at the same stage last year in the claycourt Grand Slam at Roland Garros. While there have been upsets in the women's draw, it's business as usual for Rafael Nadal among the men at the French Open. Against a player who loves him so much that he named his cat after him, Nadal showed no mercy with Sebastian Korda, seeing off the 20-year-old qualifier with a 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 thumping on Court Philippe Chatrier to reach the quarterfinals at Roland Garros for the 14th time. — *Agencies*

Tottenham hit United for a six

Manchester: Manchester United suffered their joint heaviest Premier League defeat with a 6-1 home thrashing at the hands of Tottenham to further darken the bleak mood at Old Trafford. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men looked all at sea in their opening two games but sunk to a new low as Spurs ran riot on Jose Mourinho's return to his former club. Meanwhile, Arsenal teenager Bukayo Saka celebrated his first England call-up by putting the Gunners on course for a 2-1 win against Sheffield United. Saka was included in Gareth Southgate's squad for England's forthcoming internationals against Wales, Belgium and Denmark. West Ham posted a stunning 3-0 win at Leicester, ending the Foxes' perfect start thanks to goals from Michail Antonio, Pablo Fornals and Jarrod Bowen. — *Agencies*

Vincius, Benzema do it for Real

Madrid: Goals from Vinicius Jr. and Karim Benzema plus some top class saves from Thibaut Courtois gave Real Madrid a 2-0 win away to Levante on Sunday for a third consecutive La Liga victory. Brazilian forward Vinicius, Madrid's match-winner in Wednesday's 1-0 win over Real Valladolid, also gave his side the lead at Levante, controlling a loose ball inside the area and taking his time to curl into the far corner in the 16th minute.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

French Open: Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

WWE RAW

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

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Watto comeback!

Watson roars back to form as Chennai floor Punjab

Dubai, Oct. 4: Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis conjured up commanding unbeaten half-centuries as Chennai Super Kings demolished Kings XI Punjab by 10 wickets to snap their string of losses in the IPL here on Sunday. CSK relished a much-needed victory after three defeats in a row, overhauling a 179-run target with remarkable ease.

Watson (83 not out) and Du Plessis (87 not out) ensured that there was no close finish this time, reducing the match to a 'no-contest' with their authoritative batting.

The seasoned Australian punished the KXIP bowlers with 11 fours and three sixes in his 53-ball unbeaten knock while Du Plessis hit 11 fours and a six from 53 balls to also remain not out.

Except Mohammed Shami, KXIP did not have a bowler who could trouble the opposition batsmen and CSK exploited it to the fullest. CSK moved to sixth spot from bottom with this confidence-boosting win.

Skipper KL Rahul hit a well-paced 63 to lead Kings XI Punjab to a competitive 178 for four after electing to bat but in the absence of good bowlers it was an onerous task to stop the experienced CSK brigade.

Rahul's risk-free 63 came off 52 balls with the help of seven fours and a six as he shared a 61-run stand with fellow opener Mayank Agarwal (26) and then raised a 58-run partnership with Nicholas Pooran (33 off 17).

KXIP looked set for a bigger total but both Pooran and Rahul were dismissed by pacer Shardul Thakur off successive balls in the 18th over.

CSK, like their rivals, also got to a solid start with openers — Du Plessis and Watson — creaming off 60 runs in the Powerplay overs.

They did not exactly set the field on fire but an effective strokeplay helped them begin the chase in right earnest.

The Australian-Protea duo blended caution with aggression, picking the right deliveries to attack. They raised the team hundred in the 10th over.

Watson got to his fifty with consecutive boundaries off Chris Jordan while Du Plessis raised his own with a single off the same bowler.

With Nothing working for KXIP, Watson and Du Plessis only became more dominant as the



SHANE WATSON

R 83* B 53 6s 3 4s 11

CSK opener Shane Watson en route to his unbeaten 83 against Kings XI Punjab in an IPL game in Dubai on Sunday. — BCCI

game progressed. Earlier, Rahul and Agarwal were cautious. No lofted shot was played till the last over of the Powerplay with the two batsmen preferring to drive along the ground. It was also because Deepak Chahar and Sam Curran hardly pitched it short.

Even if Agarwal and Rahul opened their arms it was to slap the balls outside the off stump, when there was enough room to do that. CSK captain MS Dhoni introduced spin in the seventh over with Ravindra Jadeja, who created a chance too but Agarwal's hit fell just short of a diving Du Plessis.

Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla succeeded in getting the breakthrough when Agarwal pulled one straight to Curran. The openers added 61 runs in 8.1 overs.

Mandeep Singh, playing his first game of the season, joined his skipper and made an impact immediately. He creamed off two sixes off Chawla in the 11th over to start the fireworks.

Jadeja soon got rid of dangerous-looking Mandeep, who scored 27 off 16 balls.

Rahul, who had adopted a risk-free approach till then, completed his half-century with a six off Thakur and followed that up with a four. — PTI

RCB run into charged-up DC

Dubai, Oct. 4: A back-in-form Virat Kohli's tactical acumen will be put to test against Shreyas Iyer's unassuming but dynamic brand of captaincy when the two most impressive teams of the ongoing IPL — Royal Challengers Bangalore and Delhi Capitals — face each other here on Monday.

Both DC and RCB have looked solid so far and are among the top teams with three wins out of four games each.

While Iyer has shown great form in his team's four matches, Kohli finally got his act together in RCB's last game against Rajasthan Royals, striking a fluent half-century.

On Saturday, Iyer (88 not out off 38 balls) again showed his class after Prithvi Shaw's (66) opening act as Delhi beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 18 runs.

It's going to be a good challenge. They (RCB) have got a pretty good line-up, and have some big names. But, I think we have got a good team as well and the guys have been training really well. If we just execute our skills, perform the way we have been, I think it's going to be a very good game, and I'm sure we can out skill them

— ANRICH NORTJE

Delhi Capitals pacer says his team are capable of outperforming their opponents on Monday.

Kohli too finally got his touch back after three ordinary outings with an unbeaten 72 off 53 balls to guide RCB to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals.

And come Monday, the two skippers would look to lead from the front and outwit each other in what promises to be a thrilling contest.

While Shaw has so far looked quite in control at the top of the order for DC, Shikhar Dhawan's form would be a cause of concern for Iyer.

But on the brighter side,

and bowled a brilliant penultimate over against KKR on Saturday.

Harshal Patel, as Ishant Sharma's replacement, did well enough to finish with 2 for 34 in 4 overs but the fit-again Ravichandran Ashwin and Stoinis went for runs.

RCB, on the other hand, have been served well by the young Devdutt Padikkal at the top. The left-hander, considered the next big thing in Indian cricket, is fourth in the run-scorers' tally with 174 from four games, including three fifties.

And if Aaron Finch too gets going, it would be difficult for any side to stop the marauding Bangalore openers.

Kohli's return to form is a relief for RCB's batting unit, which also has the likes of the in-form AB de Villiers, Shivam Dube and Gurkeerat Singh among others. — PTI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD
OVERALL:
● Matches: 23
● RCB: 14
● Delhi: 8
● No result: 1

MEETING IN 2019
● Delhi Capitals beat RCB by 4 wickets in Bengaluru.
● Delhi Capitals beat RCB by 16 runs in Delhi.

FOR THE RECORD
● Yuzvendra Chahal who has taken 197 wickets at an average of 23.77 in 174 innings needs three more to become the fifth Indian and 39th bowler overall to complete a double century of wickets in T20.

● Shikhar Dhawan who has scored 956 runs at an average of 34.14 needs 44 runs to become the eighth batsman from Delhi to complete 1000 runs in IPL.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	5	3	2	0	6	+1.214
Delhi Capitals	4	3	1	0	6	+0.588
Royal Challengers Bangalore	4	3	1	0	6	-0.954
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	2	2	0	4	-0.121
Rajasthan Royals	4	2	2	0	4	-0.317
Chennai Super Kings	5	2	3	0	4	-0.342
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	-0.417
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	0	2	+0.178

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

Quinton takes Mumbai to top

Sharjah, Oct. 4: Quinton de Kock was back amongst the runs with a sizzling 39-ball 67 before the bowlers did a commendable job in batsmen friendly Sharjah to power Mumbai Indians to a clinical 34-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

The swashbuckling duo of Hardika Pandya (28) and Kieron Pollard (25 not out) scored at their usual brisk pace but it was Krunal who propelled MI to 208 for five with 20 runs off a mere four deliveries in the last over.

Then, the MI bowlers did just enough to restrict SRH to 174 for seven.

Chasing 209, a formidable target even on the small Sharjah ground, SRH began with Jonny Bairstow sending Trent Boult's third delivery into the stands. Two fours and a six followed before Boult had the Englishman for a 15-ball 25.

David Warner (60 off 44 balls) got into the act with a couple of boundaries off Jasprit Bumrah. Manish Pandey had raced to 16 when Hardik Pandya dropped a sitter, his view blocked by the evening sun.

Pandey lofted Rahul Chahar over long-on for a massive six and Warner followed suit, hitting the leg-spinner for another maximum in the same over as SRH kept pace with the required run-rate.

The prolific Australian then cut his compatriot James Pattinson through the point region before smashing Krunal for a six and four to help SRH past the 100-run mark in the 11th over.

Attempting an upper cut against Boult, Kane Williamson was out caught by Quinton de Kock, after Bumrah bowled an excel-

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: R. Sharma c Bairstow b Sandeep Sharma 6, Q de Kock c & b Rashid Khan 67, S. Yadav c Natarajan b Kaul 27, Ishan Kishan c Pandey b Sandeep Sharma 31, H. Pandya b Kaul 28, K. Pollard (not out) 25, K. Pandya (not out) 20. **Extras (lb 1, nb 1, w 2) 4. Total (for five wickets in 20 overs) 208.** **FoW:** 1-6, 2-48, 3-126, 4-147, 5-188. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-41-2, T. Natarajan 4-0-29-0, S. Kaul 4-0-64-2, A. Samad 2-0-27-0, R. Khan 4-0-22-1, K. Williamson 2-0-24-0. **Sunrisers Hyderabad:** D. Warner c Ishan Kishan b Pattinson 60, J. Bairstow c H. Pandya b Boult 25, M. Pandey c Pollard b Pattinson 30, K. Williamson c de Kock b Boult 3, P. Garg c Chahar b KH Pandya 8, Abhishek Sharma b Bumrah 10, A. Samad c Sharma b Bumrah 20, R. Khan (not out) 3, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 0. **Extras (lb 5, w 10) 15. Total (for seven wickets in 20 overs) 174.** **FoW:** 1-34, 2-94, 3-116, 4-130, 5-142, 6-168, 7-172. **Bowling:** T. Boult 4-0-28-2, J. Pattinson 4-0-29-2, K. Pandya 4-0-35-1, J. Bumrah 4-0-41-2, K. Pollard 3-0-20-0, R. Chahar 1-0-16-0.

lent six-run over.

Last match hero Priyam Garg failed to replicate his performance but it was the big wicket of Warner, in the 16th over bowled by Pattinson, that almost sealed the game in MI's favour even as the required rate soared past 14 runs an over. For MI, there were two wickets apiece for Boult (2/28), Pattinson (2/29) and Bumrah (2/41).

Earlier, Rohit Sharma plonked Sandeep Sharma over mid-wicket for a six to start the proceedings but the MI skipper was out caught behind the very next ball as he chased a wide delivery, only to nick it to Jonny Bairstow. — PTI



QUINTON DE KOCK

R 67 B 39 6s 4 4s 4

Mumbai Indians opener Quinton de Kock plays a shot against Sunrisers in Sharjah on Sunday. — BCCI

Chennaiyin FC rope in Brazilian defender Memo

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 4

Chennaiyin FC on Sunday announced the arrival of Emerson Gomes de Moura, better known as Memo, on a free transfer for the 2020-21 season. The 32-year-old Brazilian joins the two-time Indian Super League champions CFC on the expiry of his contract at Jamshedpur FC, having spent the previous three campaigns there. Known for his versatility as a defensive midfielder and central defender, Memo is set to add experience and stability to Chennaiyin's ranks.

"I am delighted to be a part of the blue Chennaiyin family. The upcoming season will be



Memo Moura

fantastic, I am certain. It is a pity we won't be able to feel the warmth of the fans in the stands, as they are truly incredible and loyal. Every time I have played in Chennai, I have truly felt their passion. They will always be in our thoughts, and we have to work hard and be united to achieve glory. A unique ISL awaits us, which will be a specta-

cle in itself," said Memo. "Memo is a solid addition to our squad. His rich experience of playing in the ISL will provide a huge boost, along with his versatility in key defensive areas. We have signed a proven and dependable individual in Memo, who is sure to hit the ground running. His skill-set comprises the perfect combination of technical adeptness and aggression, which is something the youngsters in our team can also benefit from," CFC Head Coach Csaba Laszlo commented on his latest recruit.

After playing extensively in the Brazilian lower division leagues, Memo came to India and joined Delhi Dynamos for the 2016 ISL season.

It's all about smart work, says Shreyas



Shreyas Iyer is leading Delhi from the front. — BCCI

Sharjah, Oct. 4: Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer doesn't consider himself a "gifted player" and has attributed all those big sixes against Kolkata Knight Riders to the enormous "hard and smart work" that he had put in the gym sessions.

Iyer hit 88 off 38 balls with six sixes and seven fours in Delhi's 18-run win over KKR in an IPL game here on Saturday.

"I know the hard work and the smart work I have put in through my gym sessions, so I wouldn't say I am a very gifted player," Iyer said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"It was really necessary for me to take time at the start which I did in the earlier games as well. It was the right time for me to take on the bowlers and then rotate strike as well after that. "Luckily it worked out for

me. We keep talking about close victories and this was one of them. Really satisfied with the way everyone stepped up."

Losing captain Dinesh Karthik rued missing out on a couple of sixes in the middle overs which he felt probably cost them the match. "Maybe in between 10-13 overs we didn't get many boundaries, we lost a couple of wickets as well which sets you back in such run chases. To be honest, couple more sixes and we would have crossed the line," Karthik said.

Delhi seamer Anrich Nortje, who captured three wickets for 33, said they tried to exploit the conditions and focussed on mixing up the deliveries.

"We wanted to use the conditions to the best of our ability. There was a little bit of dew. Myself and KG (Kagiso Rabada) tried to get a few to go through.

We did it at the start. It got a little bit tough in the end, the ball was coming on nicely," he said.

"It was a bit difficult, proud that the guys pulled it through. We had different plans — try and change it up, not go with the same thing over and over again. Could have gone for a six, but luckily we got him (Morgan) out. Some balls gripped, that one gripped and we got the wicket."

Nortje said he and Rabada feed off each other's ideas.

"It's great bowling with him (Rabada), really enjoying the time we spend together. Trying to feed off each other, trying to find out what he thinks, what he does and it's nice to be in the same team with him," he said.

The 26-year-old from South Africa said they worked on their death bowling skills ahead of the match in Sharjah. — PTI