





## IN BRIEF

**Kidnapped jeweller rescued, 2 arrested**

**New Delhi:** Two people were arrested for allegedly kidnapping a jeweller and demanding a ransom of ₹10 lakh from his family, police said on Saturday. The accused were identified as Nitin Kansal (40), a jeweller based in Meerut, and his accomplice Pankaj Kumar Goel (49), a resident of Delhi's Shahdara. According to police, Mukesh Kumar (50), a resident of Karol Bagh in central Delhi, was rescued safely from Nandan Nagar in Meerut and jewellery worth ₹3 lakh was recovered from their possession. Police said Kansal and Kumar were known to each other. A complaint was lodged at Prasad Nagar police station by Kumar's wife on October 7, a day after he was kidnapped, they said. On October 6, Kumar left his home at 8.30 am for INA market after he got a call from some unknown persons. At 3.15 pm, Kumar's wife got a call from his number and he asked her to give ₹1-2 lakh cash, his cheque book and some jewellery to Pankaj at Shahdara Metro Station. She again got a call from Kumar's mobile phone and this time, the accused asked her to arrange ₹2-3 lakh. Since the ransom calls were being made from Kumar's mobile number, his location was traced to Nandan Nagar in Meerut, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Sanjay Bhatia said. A police team was sent to Meerut and Kumar was safely rescued and the main accused -- Kansal -- was apprehended while his co-accused was nabbed from his house in Shahdara, he said. "During interrogation, the accused told police that he knew Kumar as they were in the same profession. Later on, some dispute developed between them. He hatched a conspiracy with his associate Pankaj to kidnap Kumar so as to meet the loss in his business," he said. — PTI

**African arrested with 340 gm heroin**

**New Delhi:** An African national suspected of supplying drugs in the country was arrested with 340 gram of heroin, police said on Saturday. Gnappa Nestor, 34, was held Friday night when the police had deployed its technical and manual surveillance to nab drug peddlers, an official said. Police had laid a trap after receiving specific information that an African national involved in drug peddling will come to Janakpuri area to deliver a consignment. The accused came there on a scooter and was soon overpowered by the police team, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Deepak Purohit said. On checking, the police recovered 340 gram of high-quality heroin from the accused, the DCP said. During interrogation, the accused told police that he is a narcotic drug peddler and operates in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Nestor came to India last year and had been living in West Delhi's Tilak Nagar area posing as a businessman. He had been selling and supplying heroin and other drugs since last year. Police are trying to ascertain the source of the contraband substance seized and arrest other members of the drug cartel.

**146 cases, 2 more deaths in Noida**

**Noida:** The Covid-19 death toll in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar rose to 58 on Saturday with two more fatalities, while 146 fresh cases pushed the infection tally to 14,855, official data showed. The number of active cases rose to 1,594 from 1,579 on Friday and 1,548 on Thursday, according to the data released by the UP Health Department for a 24-hour period. During the 24-hour period, 147 more patients got discharged, taking the number of recoveries in the district so far to 13,203, the seventh highest in the state, according to the data. With two more persons succumbing to the infection, the death toll on Saturday reached 58 while the mortality rate stood at 0.39 per cent, it stated. The recovery rate of patients dropped slightly to 88.87 per cent from 88.88 per cent the previous day, according to the statistics. There were 40,210 active cases across UP on Saturday while 3,87,149 patients have recovered across the state so far and the death toll linked to COVID-19 climbed to 6,353, it showed. — PTI

# DU announces first cut-off list

## Lady Shri Ram College pegs score at 100% for 3 courses

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

Delhi University announced its first cut-off list for undergraduate admission on Saturday with Lady Shri Ram College pegging the score at 100 per cent for three Honours courses. Lady Shri Ram College For Women has pegged 100 per cent score for three courses for general category aspirants — BA (Hons) Economics, BA (Hons) Political Science and BA (Hons) Psychology. The college has the highest cut-off among Science courses as well. The college has

► LSR has the highest cut-off among Science courses as well. The college has announced a cut-off of 99.75 per cent for B.Sc (Hons) Statistics for general category students, while Hindu College has pegged the score for the same course at 99.25 per cent.

► Nearly 70,000 undergraduate seats are up for grabs with the admission process commencing from October 12. Officials of the university had said that cut-offs would be higher this year owing to more students scoring above 90 per cent marks.

Among the BA programme combinations, aspirants need to have a minimum of 99.25 per cent for gaining admission for a combination of Economics and Political Science to LSR College, the highest among all the combinations. It was in 2015 that College of Vocational Studies and Indraprastha College for Women had pegged their cut-off at 100 per cent for the computer science programme for general category students. Last year, Hindu College had pegged the highest score of 99 per cent for Political Science Honours. LSR College came a close second with

a cut-off of 98.75 per cent for BA programme and Psychology Honours. At 98.3 per cent, Hindu College also had the highest cut-off for Physics Honours. Nearly 70,000 undergraduate seats are up for grabs with the admission process commencing from October 12. Officials of the university had said that cut-offs would be higher this year owing to more students scoring above 90 per cent marks in board examinations. The admission process will be completely online due to the coronavirus pandemic. The new session will commence from November 18.

# 2 die after falling into septic tank in Badarpur area

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

Two men died while another was hospitalised on Saturday after falling into the septic tank of a building in Southeast Delhi's Badarpur area, police said.

Devender and Manoj slipped into the septic tank when they had gone to clean it. Satish Chawla, who went inside the tank to rescue them, also fell inside it, they said.

Devender (40), a resident of southeast Delhi's Moladband area, and Chawla (60), who was the owner of the four-storey building and ran a grocery shop, died in the accident, police said.

Chawla had rented out the building and wanted to get its septic tank cleaned, for which he contacted Manoj.

During preliminary investigation, it was revealed that Manoj along with Devender had come for cleaning the tank. When Devender went inside the tank, he felt giddiness and slipped into it. Manoj then went inside the tank but he too fell down.

Chawla also fell into the tank while trying to save them, a senior police officer said.

However, people managed to take out Manoj from the tank and took him to hospital where he is under treatment and in a conscious state, he said.

Both Chawla and Devender were pulled out from the tank by fire

► DEVENDER (40), A resident of southeast Delhi's Moladband area, and Satish Chawla (60), who was the owner of the four-storey building and ran a grocery shop, died in the accident, police said

brigade personnel. They were rushed to hospital but were declared brought dead, he added.

"We received a PCR call around 4.45 pm at Badarpur police station that three men had fallen inside a septic tank of the building. Our staff rushed to the spot and found that one Manoj was already taken out from the septic tank and sent to the nearest hospital.

"Fire brigade personnel also reached there and managed to take out Devender and Chawla from the septic tank. They were taken to Apollo hospital but both of them were declared brought dead," said RP Meena, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast).

The officer said Manoj is a contractor who is engaged in the work of cleaning septic tank while Devender was a washerman and was assisting Manoj in cleaning the tank.

A case under section 304 A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered, police said, adding further investigation is underway.

**City BJP chief demands ₹1cr compensation**

## Sisodia meets slain student's family, offers ₹10L ex-gratia

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday met the family of an 18-year-old DU student — who was allegedly beaten to death over his friendship with a woman in Adarsh Nagar — and announced an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh.

Talking to reporters here, Mr Sisodia said the Delhi government will ensure that the culprits receive strict punishment at the earliest by appointing prominent lawyers in the case. The deputy chief minister said the IPS officer aspired to be an IPS officer.

The incident took place on Wednesday evening in Northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar.

Rahul Rajput was a second-year student in Delhi University's School of Open Learning. He also provided tuition to school students, the police said.

According to the police, the victim was friends with a woman from his locality but her family was against their friendship.

On Wednesday evening, the victim was called to Nanda Road on some pretext. When he reached the spot, he was physically assaulted allegedly by a group of four-five people, including the woman's



Manish Sisodia

brothers, a senior police officer had said on Friday. The woman's brother and a relative were arrested and three juveniles apprehended in connection with the incident, the officer said.

Delhi BJP president Aadesh Gupta also met the family of the student and appealed to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to provide a compensation of ₹1 crore to them.

"Kejriwal calls himself Delhi's son but on the death of a Dalit son of Delhi he did not come to express his condolences and meet his family members," Gupta said.

Entire Delhi is saddened by this incident, but Kejriwal is silent, he said. No immediate reaction was available from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

AAP and Congress leaders went to another state a week ago in the name of Dalits and held candlelight march but they are silent on this issue because they do "appeasement" politics, Gupta alleged, referring to the death and alleged gangrape of a 19-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras.



A cow covered with foam scavenges in the waste left on the banks of Yamuna in New Delhi on Saturday. — AFP

**‘Inadvertent’ error in chargesheet, say cops ■ File fresh copies, orders court**

## Delhi riots: Details of protected witnesses provided to accused

**New Delhi, Oct. 10:** A Delhi court hearing a case related to the Northeast Delhi riots has been informed that the police "inadvertently" put a document which contained the details of some of the protected witnesses in the copies of the chargesheet supplied to the accused booked under the stringent UAPA.

Special public prosecutor Amit Prasad, appearing for the police, approached the court informing it about the lapse after it came to the knowledge of the investigating agency that at least three protected witnesses have been reached out by various persons with vested interest, in relation to the case.

Additional Sessions

► **ADDITIONAL SESSIONS** judge Amitabh Rawat directed the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, which is investigating the case, to ensure comprehensive safety and security to all the protected witnesses

Judge Amitabh Rawat said there was a mistake on the part of the investigating officer and directed the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, which is investigating the case, to ensure comprehensive safety and security to all the protected witnesses.

The court ordered the accused and their counsel to return the documents. It also directed the accused or any other per-

son or authority not to divulge, publish, disclose, disseminate or circulate the identity of the protected witnesses and not to approach them directly or indirectly.

It directed the police to file fresh copies of the chargesheet redacting the details of the protected witnesses and supply it to the 15 persons charge-sheeted in the case and their counsel.

The court's directions came after Prasad moved an urgent application saying the identity of some of the protected witnesses in the case were disclosed "inadvertently" by way of attaching untruncated judicial and investigation papers in the charge sheet.

"Under the Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, there is specific provision for protecting the identity of the witnesses for their safety and accordingly orders have been passed regarding the protection of the protected witnesses.

"Thus, this particular provision was meant to protect the identity and ensure their safety for the purpose of fair trial," the judge noted.

"The whole idea is to provide cover to the identity of the witnesses so that they can depose fairly and independently in the court. Accordingly, once the order was passed by the court, the identity should not have been disclosed," the court said in its order passed on October 9. — PTI



Doctors and nursing staff of Hindu Rao Hospital, a Covid-19 dedicated treatment centre, hold placards during a protest against North Delhi Municipal Corporation over non-payment of pending salaries in New Delhi on Saturday. — PTI

## 20 Covid patients shifted from Hindu Rao to other hospitals due to doctors' strike

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

As cases continue to rise in the city, the Delhi government, on Saturday, ordered shifting of all Covid-19 patients from civic body-run Hindu Rao Hospital to its own facilities days after the resident doctors went on a "symbolic indefinite strike" over non-payment of their due salaries for the last three months.

Delhi health minister Satyendra Jain, interacting with reporters, said that as of now 20 patients are at the Hindu Rao Hospital.

The North Corporation shifted 20 Covid patients from Hindu Rao Hospital to Delhi government hospitals.

"17 patients shifted to LNJP hospital and three to Aruna Asaf Ali hospital. Hindu Rao Hospital would be sanitised on Sunday," said the North Corporation.

With 2,866 new cases in the last 24 hours, the total Covid-19 caseload increased to 3,06,559. Of the total cases, 22,007 are active and 2,78,812 have recovered. With 48 deaths in the last 24 hours, the death toll stands at 5,740.

Mr Jain said that in view of the strike of doctors and medical staff of the Kasturba Gandhi and

**Covid-19 causes upsurge in anxiety disorder among adults, kids: Experts**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

On 'World Mental Health Day', experts claimed that Covid-19 causes upsurge in anxiety disorder among adults and kids. According to the survey conducted by the Indian Psychiatry Society, the number of reported cases of mental illness had risen by 20 per cent in just one week of the lockdown announcement.

Senior consultant, Clinical Psychology, Paras Hospital, Dr Preeti Singh explains, "With Covid-19 ushering in a prolonged state of threat, uncertainty and insecurity, we are witnessing a significant rise in cases of anxiety, OCD, depression and suicidal tendencies. In

last 4-5 months we have seen an upsurge in anxiety spectrum disorder especially, Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)."

Experts pointed that rigorous hygiene routine to beat Covid-19 also causing obsessive behaviour. "Since April, we have received 1-2 patients on a daily basis have visited local physicians for skin related problems and were referred to psychological counselling. About 60 per cent of these patients were going out for work before the pandemic, which made them think that they have already been exposed to the virus and have carried it home," said senior psychologist, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Dr Shanu Shrivastav.

Hindu Rao Hospital, which are run by the MCD, the Covid patients admitted in these hospitals will be shifted to the Delhi government hospitals by Sunday.

"MCD must release the salaries of the doctors and staff of these hospi-

tals and if it cannot do so, the hospitals should be handed over to the Delhi government. There are currently 20 Covid patients admitted at Hindu Rao and they will be shifted to the Delhi government hospitals by Sunday. The patients

would have a freehand in choosing the hospitals that they want to be shifted to," Mr Jain added.

According to him, the positive cases were 2,807 and around 50,000 tests were conducted on Thursday.

"The positivity ratio is 5.82 per cent. There were 39 deaths and 3,098 people were discharged from the hospitals on Thursday. The net positive cases in Delhi are less than 22,000, which were 32,000 at one point," he said.

"The BJP is playing politics with the health of the patients. I reiterate, the BJP-ruled MCD must pay the salaries of the staff or handover the hospitals to us and we will run them better with better salaries on time.

"I do not think they are short on funds. They impose heavy taxes on people and collect hefty money but nobody knows where that money goes. Their job is playing politics and blame games. Even after the directions of the Central government on the removal of health licenses, they did not do so," he added.

He reiterated that Covid can be defeated using the three basic steps: wearing masks, social distancing, and sanitising and washing hands regularly.

## Air quality 'moderate', may improve marginally today

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

The national capital's air quality was recorded in the higher end of the 'moderate' category on Saturday, but a government forecasting agency said it is likely to improve marginally on October 11.

The city's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 197, which falls in the higher end of the 'moderate' category. It was in 'poor' category at 204 on Friday.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said PM 2.5 is the lead pollutant in Saturday's AQI and is like-

**Ficci fined ₹20 lakh**

**New Delhi, Oct. 10:** The Delhi government on Saturday imposed a fine of ₹20 lakh on the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for violating dust control norms at a demolition site on Tansen Marg here, according to an official order. The commerce body has been told to deposit the environment compensation within 15 days, according to the order. — PTI

ly to improve to the 'moderate' category by Sunday.

"The overall Delhi AQI is in the higher end of 'moderate' and at the edge of the 'poor' category, with PM2.5 as the lead pollutant," SAFAR said. It said the AQI is fore-

casted to marginally improve but remain in the 'moderate' category for tomorrow while further AQI is forecasted to improve by October 12, which will also remain in the moderate category.

It said the low pressure formed over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify to depression and move west northwestwards and influence the circulations in the north and central India.

"A shift in Delhi surface wind direction, north-westerly to southeasterly by October 12 is forecasted. This could influence air quality positively in the coming week," it said.

Due to stubble burning around Punjab, Haryana, and neighbouring border regions, the fire count was found at 253 on Saturday, SAFAR said.



## SHORT TAKES

## Dalit stir in Punjab hits normal life

**Chandigarh:** Markets and commercial establishments were closed and commuters faced inconvenience as protests were held in many parts of Punjab on Saturday as part of a statewide shutdown called by dalit organisations against the Hathras incident. Activists of several dalit organisations blocked roads, held demonstrations and demanded justice for the victim's family. Police personnel were deployed at sensitive places to maintain law and order. The victim, a 19-year-old Dalit woman, was assaulted and allegedly raped by four men in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh on September 14. The maximum impact of the shutdown was witnessed in Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, and Phagwara, among other places, where shops, markets and other commercial establishments remained shut. Traffic on the main roads was diverted due to a sit-in and rally by protesters. — PTI

## Covid-19 patient jumps to death

**Bhopal:** A 48-year-old Covid-19 patient jumped off the second floor of a government-run hospital in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh and died. According to hospital dean P.K. Kasal, the patient jumped off the second floor of the super-specialty wing of the hospital on Friday and died. The patient was admitted in the hospital last week after he tested positive for coronavirus. This was the second such incident in the hospital in the last month. On September 4, a 64-year-old Covid-19 patient jumped to death from the second floor of the hospital. As of Saturday, Madhya Pradesh has reported 1,45,245 coronavirus cases and 2,599 deaths. The state reported 1,616 fresh coronavirus cases and 25 deaths in the last 24 hours.

## Man paddles wife 90 km to hospital

**Bhubaneswar:** In an incident identical to that of the 2016 Dana Majhi case, a 70-year-old man from Sakhigopal in Puri district paddled his unwell wife for 90 km on a rented trolley rickshaw after he failed to hire an auto-rickshaw to take her for treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack. Kabir Bhoi had admitted his wife Sukanti at the Puri district headquarters hospital. The doctors there advised him to shift her to Cuttack. As he did not have money to take her to Cuttack, Kabir brought her back home. However, when Sukanti's health worsened, he hired a trolley rickshaw for ₹50 per day and paddled all the way from Sakhigopal to Cuttack.

## DILIP GHOSH'S CONVOY PELTED WITH STONES

**Jamalpur, West Bengal:** BJP chief Dilip Ghosh was shown black flags and his convoy pelted with stones allegedly by supporters of the ruling Trinamul Congress in Purba Bardhaman district on Saturday. The Trinamul Congress, however, has denied the allegation. The incident took place when Mr Ghosh went to Jamalpur area to interact with farmers on the farm laws. The supporters of the two parties clashed, following which police personnel had to resort to lathi-charge to bring the situation under control, a police officer said. "As soon as my convoy entered Jamalpur, I was shown black flags and my convoy was pelted with stones by TMC activists who carried their party flags. The TMC does not believe in democracy and this is just a reflection of that," Mr Ghosh said. "I am used to such incidents but people of the state will give them a befitting reply," he added. The local TMC leadership, however, denied the charge and said that farmers "must have protested against the farm laws, which are against their interests". The farm laws have emerged as the latest flashpoint between the BJP and the TMC in the state. The TMC and other opposition parties have been protesting the three farm laws, saying these "anti-farmer measures" will "destroy" the agricultural sector. — PTI

■ J&K police on alert, meets mediapersons to enquire if they feel threatened; CCTVs installed in colony

## Site claims 27 J&amp;K journo, activists on 'govt payroll'

YUSUF JAMEEL  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 10

The Jammu and Kashmir police appears to be on their toes following a social media post from an obscure source mentioning the names of 27 local journalists and other mediapersons and 12 political and social activists as being on the payroll of the Indian government.

Though the post assumed by some security officials here as a "hit list" or, at least, a "warning list" titled the "whole gang of so-called journalist/media fraternity working under Indian payroll" was deleted later, the J&K police authorities have taken the matter "very seriously" and decided "leave nothing to chance".

Over the past few days, the police has got in touch

with almost all Valley-based mediapersons individually to inquire if they feel threatened and needed security or any assistance from it. The list had categorised 14 mediapersons and 10 activists as 'A+', nine as 'B' and four as 'C' grade members of the 'gang'. The remaining two had been left without any ranking.

On Friday, the police also installed CCTV cameras in almost every nook and cranny of Mushtaq Press Enclave, the media hub of Srinagar named after photojournalist Mushtaq Ali who was killed in a parcel bomb explosion in this correspondent's office in September 1995. It was in this area only where *Rising Kashmir* editor Shuja'at Bukhari was gunned down by unknown assailants — accused by the authorities of being

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▶ **THE POLICE** has installed CCTV cameras in almost every nook and cranny of Mushtaq Press Enclave, the media hub of Srinagar. It was in this area only where *Rising Kashmir* editor Shuja'at Bukhari was gunned down by unknown assailants.

Lashkar-e-Tayyaba cadres on June 14, 2018. Another journalist Parvaz Sultan was also murdered here in February 2003.

The area, less than 300 yards from City centre Lal Chowk witnessed grenade attacks, kidnappings and some other atrocious incidents involving various parties to the conflict since 1990 when the Kashmiri separatist campaign burst into a major violence. The police officials said that the purpose of installing CCTV cameras in what is

often referred to as 'Press Colony' is aimed at increasing the surveillance "in the interest of people living in or operating from the area".

Last week, the police had said that they have registered a case against a blog post, vilifying Kashmiri journalists and political activists, which they claimed added to the vulnerability of the media. In a statement, the police said that an FIR has been registered against the URL handler for uploading posts

"prejudicial to integrity, sovereignty and maintenance of peace and tranquillity". It added, "Not only this, list of political/mediapersons and public figures and also posts of Lashkar-I-Islam are uploaded with the intention to create fear psychosis among individuals."

The mediapersons in Kashmir Valley have worked virtually on the razor's edge during the past over three decades. As many as 18 of them fell prey to violence-some of them were killed by militants and some by security forces or unknown assailants, and others died in bomb explosions or shooting incidents.

Post-August 5, 2019, Kashmir media has been caught in a more complex situation in many ways. On the one hand, the gov-

ernment not only embraced several bizarre methods to discount and even run down independent journalists, but also created a very hostile atmosphere in which it became more difficult for them to discharge their duties smoothly. Several reporters who wrote stories critical of the policies and actions of the government and various other official agencies and the police had to cope with tough situations. Some of them were even summoned by the police and asked to disclose their news sources and cases under tough laws registered against a few on various pretext.

On the other hand, there has also been a trust deficit between mediapersons and average Kashmiri lately. Many

Kashmiris complain that sections of local media, including major Srinagar dailies, have post-August 5 failed to reflect the ground reality of Kashmir and the overwhelming feeling of its residents and a few of them even chose to act as the "mouthpieces" of the government. Sections of local media organisations have also come under severe criticism on social media and accused of "crawling" when asked by the authorities to "bend".

However, various bodies of the Kashmiri journalists including editors and reporters have regretted the continued vilification of individuals representing the institution of media "even as they continue to be associated with the blood-soaked Srinagar dateline for the last three decades".

## Left with 2 days' coal, Punjab stares at severe outages

**Chandigarh, Oct. 10:** The ongoing rail blockade has severely impacted coal supply for the thermal power plants in Punjab, officials said on Saturday, as fear of severe power outages rises in the state.

Finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal appealed to the farmer outfits, which have been protesting against the three new contentious agriculture laws, to ease their agitation to allow movement of goods trains because of the 'rail-roko' agitation for an indefinite period, the coal supply in thermal power plants has reached a critical stage.

"If (goods) train services do not resume, I fear there can be power cuts and maybe total power shutdown in the state," Badal told reporters. With no movement of goods trains because of the 'rail-roko' agitation for an indefinite period, the coal supply in thermal power plants has reached a critical stage.

"We are now left with two days of coal," Punjab State Power Corporation Limited chairperson and managing director Venuprasad said. According to officials, Lehra Mohabbat, Ropar thermal and GVK thermal power plants are already shut. Two other power plants — Talwandi Sabo and Nabha — are running at half of their total power generation capacity.

Some of the areas in the state have already been

▶ **SOME OF** the areas in the state have already been facing powercuts due to less electricity generation. The state is procuring 6,500MW of power from other sources, including private ones, as against the demand for over 7,000MW.

facing powercuts due to less electricity generation. The state is procuring 6,500 MW of power from other sources, including private ones, as against the demand for more than 7,000 MW.

Different farmers' bodies have been protesting against the new farm legislations. They had stepped up their agitation by resorting to rail blockades for an indefinite period from October 1. Farmers under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee have been squatting on the rail tracks in Amritsar and Ferozepur since September 24.

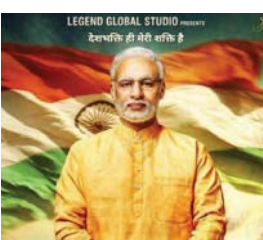
Meanwhile, several farmer organisations held a meeting in Barnala on Saturday to discuss Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's appeal for relaxing their 'rail-roko' agitation. However, it concluded without any decision as representatives of some farmers' bodies could make it to the meeting. — PTI

## PM biopic to re-release, first film as cinema halls reopen

**New Delhi, Oct. 10:** Vivek Oberoi-starrer PM Narendra Modi, a biopic on the Prime Minister, will be the "first film" to hit the theatres on October 15, once the Covid-19-induced restrictions on cinema halls and multiplexes are lifted.

The information and broadcasting ministry gave its green signal for theatres to reopen from this Thursday after a long break due to the pandemic.

Film critic and movie trade analyst Taran Adarsh confirmed the news of its re-release in theatres, on Saturday on social media. "IN CINEMAS NEXT WEEK... #PMNarendraModi — s t a r r i n g #VivekAnandOberoi in title role — will re-release in \*cinemas\* next week... OFFICIAL poster announcing the theatrical



release..." he tweeted.

Taran also shared a poster of the film featuring Oberoi, bearing an uncanny resemblance to PM Modi.

In the movie, which was first released on May 24 last year, Oberoi plays the titular role of PM Modi, essaying as many as nine different looks. This is a first for the Saathiya actor who has played a real-life character.

The movie also stars Boman Irani, Manoj Joshi, Prashant Narayanan, Barkha Bisht, Rajendra Gupta and

Zarina Wahab.

Produced by Sandip Singh, Anand Pandit and Suresh Oberoi, the biopic showcases PM Modi's political journey.

Announcing the re-release date of the biopic, producer Singh wrote: "PM Narendra Modi has been the best Prime minister of the country, which was proven in the 2019 elections. What can be better than watching the inspiring story of the most inspiring leader of today's times, as theatres re-open."

"I'm proud to be a part of this historical moment! Moreover, due to some political agendas, when it was last released, the film couldn't be watched by many. We're hoping the film gets a fresh life in the theatres and makes for a great watch for the people of the nation," he added. — Agencies

**Srinagar, Oct. 10:** The Indian Army has foiled an attempt to push in arms and ammunition by Pakistan from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Kheran Sector of Jammu and Kashmir and recovered a cache, including four AK74 rifles, officials said on Saturday.

Alert troops foiled Pakistan's attempt to push in arms across the LoC in Kheran Sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, an Army official said. He said the Army noticed two-three men transporting some items in a tube tied to a rope across Kishenganga river.

The troops immediately reached the location and recovered four AK 74 rifles, eight magazines and 240 rounds concealed in two bags. The area has been cordoned off and a search is under progress, the official said.

He said it was another attempt by militants from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to smuggle war-like stores, but it was successfully foiled by the quick action of alert troops.

Corps Commander of the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju said there has been no change in Pakistan's intentions. — PTI

## States like Maha, Gujarat implemented rule quickly: MoS 'No job interviews in 23 states, 8 UTs'

**New Delhi, Oct. 10:** Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Saturday that interview for recruitment in government jobs has been abolished in 23 states and eight Union Territories so far, according to a personnel ministry statement.

This, he said, is a follow-up to the abolition of interview for Group-B (non-gazetted) and Group-C posts in the central government ever since 2016.

It was in 2015, while speaking from the ramparts of Red Fort here on the occasion of Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

had suggested abolition of interview and making the job selection totally on the basis of written test because whenever an interview call was received by a candidate, his entire family would get disturbed with apprehension and anxiety, the minister recalled.

On a quick follow-up to the Prime Minister's advice, he said, the department of personnel and training (DoPT) undertook an expeditious exercise and within three months completed the entire process to announce abolition of interview for recruitment in Central

▶ **IN 2015,** Narendra Modi had suggested abolition of interview and making the job selection totally on the basis of written test because whenever an interview call was received by a candidate, his entire family would get disturbed with apprehension and anxiety

government with effect from January 1, 2016.

While some states like Maharashtra and Gujarat were quick to implement this rule, there were other states which were quite reluctant to abolish the conduct of interview for

jobs, said Mr Singh, the minister of state for personnel. He expressed satisfaction that after quite a bit of persuasion and repeated reminders to certain state governments, today the practice of conducting interview stands discontinued in all the eight Union Territories of India including Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and 23 out of 28 states of the country, the statement said.

Mr Singh said, in the past there had been complaints, grievances and allegations about marks in interview being manipulated to help certain favoured candidates. — PTI

## TRP scam: Republic TV moves SC, CFO skips summon

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, OCT. 10

A day after the Mumbai police issued summons to chief financial officer (CFO) of Republic TV, for being questioned in the TRP manipulation case, he did not turn up stating the media house had approached the apex court seeking relief. The CFO also informed the police that since the Supreme Court (SC) could hear the matter in a week, the process of recording his statement should be held up until then. The crime branch meanwhile recorded the statement of Madison World & Madison Communication's Sam Balsara on Saturday.

The Mumbai crime branch is probing into the alleged manipulation in the TRPs by soliciting and paying certain viewers for watching the said news channels round the clock. The police has stated that three channels, including Republic TV, Fakt Marathi and Box Cinema, were found to be manipulating the TRPs. The Mumbai police commissioner had conducted a press conference and revealed the scam.

The crime intelligence unit had issued the summons on Friday to Shiva Sundaram, CFO of Republic TV. The officials would verify his role in the said scam and the company's funding.

"Citing his position in the company he is privy to certain practices and policies. He would be questioned on the same based on what has been found in the probe till date," said a police officer.

## Army Vice-Chief rues lack of desi winter clothes, gear

PAWAN BALI  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

As Indian Army prepares to keep thousands of its troops at forward positions against China during harsh winters in Ladakh, Army's Vice Chief Lt. Gen. S.K. Saini on Saturday rued the fact that the country still had to import winter clothing and equipment "due to the lack of viable indigenous solutions".

"Special clothing and mountaineering equipment is another aspect which needs to be highlighted. A large number of our troops are deployed in super high altitude areas where the temperature touches minus 50 degrees Celsius. However, we are still importing cold-weather equipment, mainly due to the lack of viable indigenous solutions," Lt. Gen. Saini said at a webinar organised by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) on "Force Protection India 2020".

He said a collaborative effort needs to be put in this field to fulfil our vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".



Lt. Gen. S.K. Saini

His comments come at a time when Indian Army is preparing to keep some 30,000-40,000 additional troops in forward positions at the line of actual control (LAC) against China in Eastern Ladakh during winters where temperatures dip to as low as minus 30 degrees. India has been rushing winter clothing and tents to Ladakh for these additional troops so that they can survive the harsh winters at LAC.

Lt. Gen. Saini said amongst other threats, drones and UAVs stand out in their innovative employment and destructive potential. He pointed out that considering their low cost, multi-use and dense proliferation, the threat will no doubt increase manifold in the

years to come. "In this context, third dimension threats may take precedence in the near future, for which we need to plan now. Both hard kill and soft kill counter-drone solutions including swarm technology are the need of the hour," said vice chief.

Lt. Gen. Saini said that IEDs represent a threat that is here to stay." This threat seems to be gaining traction as a favoured tool for terrorists and anti-national elements. The threat is sophisticated and can be used while avoiding direct contact. It ends up causing both physical and psychological trauma and seriously impairs own readiness, by forcing us to commit scarce resources for own protection," he said.

Lt. Gen. Saini said that technological innovation is key to combating this threat. "A combination of robotics, artificial intelligence and big data analysis could provide a possible answer," he said.

Lt. Gen. Saini asked the Indian defence industry to develop solutions for force protection requirements of Armed forces.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER CTU & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT U.T. CHANDIGARH.	
Plot No. 701 Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh.	
No. 9475/CT/CTU/2020	Dated, Chandigarh, 09/10/2020
Addendum/CORRIGENDUM	
In reference to the e-tender Reference No.8028-30/CT/CTU/2020, dated, 03.09.2020 with Tender ID 2020_CHD_56664_1, 56661_1, 56656_1 uploaded on https://etenders.chd.nic.in and chdctu.gov.in for inviting tender for e-tender for Marketing Rights for Display of Advertisement (Outside and Inside) on CTU Long Route & Sub Urban Buses, for Marketing Rights for Display of Advertisement (Outside and Inside) on CTU City Buses and for supply, Installation, Marketing and Maintenance of Media Assets at ISBT-17, ISBT-43, CTU workshop No.4. Due to administrative reasons, the date of receiving of tenders is hereby extended from 12.10.2020 upto 14:00 hrs to 28.10.2020 upto 14:00 hrs and the date of opening of Technical Bid is extended from 12.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs to 29.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs.	
General Manager-I For Divisional Manager, CTU & Director Transport, Union Territory Chandigarh	
WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE IN BOX FORMAT	

Jammu & Kashmir Police Headquarters	
Phone/Fax No: 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr) 0191-2459029/2459255(Jmu)	
website: www.jkpolice.gov.in, email: phqjkl@jkpolice.gov.in	
AUCTION NOTICE	
Subject:-	Postponement of Public Auction of condemned vehicles/stores of J&K Police Department, scheduled with effect from 07.10.2020, at Srinagar.
Due to some unavoidable circumstances, Public Auction of various types of condemned vehicles /un-serviceable Store items of J&K Police Department, scheduled with effect from 07.10.2020 in Auction Ground PCR Kashmir, is postponed. The new date of Public Auction shall be notified separately.	
(Garib Dass), IPS Inspector General of Police, Technical Services J&K, Srinagar, (Chairman Auction Committee)	
No. PHQ/MT/Auction/01/2020/8974-85 DIPK-7068/20 Date 10.10.2020	

## Manjhi, Paras seek Ratna for Paswan

**Patna:** HAM president and former Bihar chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, LJP Lok Sabha member and Ram Vilas Paswan's younger brother Pashupati Kumar Paras and Bihar minister and senior BJP leader Prem Kumar demanded that Bharat Ratna be conferred posthumously on dalit leader. — PTI

## Chirag collapses after lighting father's pyre

**Patna, Oct. 10:** The burden of grief, at a juncture that might be most critical in his political career, proved too much for Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan who fell unconscious after lighting the funeral pyre of his father Ram Vilas Paswan here on Saturday.

The 37-year-old lawmaker has been a picture of bereavement ever since his father breathed last at a Delhi hospital on Thursday. Chirag, known to be a duti-

ful son who even played the barber for his father during the nationwide lockdown, raised a banner of revolt against Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), announcing the stunning decision to go solo in the assembly polls, while spending most of his time beside Paswan senior's hospital bed. He wept when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited their Delhi residence to pay his last respect. Chirag wailed inconsolably on

Saturday when BJP MP and former minister Ram Kripal Yadav, who has known Chirag since he was a child, visited their Patna house.

Mr Yadav was also moved to tears and the two stood for some time, holding each other tightly. At the Digha ghat, Chirag fainted after lighting the funeral pyre, but was saved from crashing on to the ground by his cousins who had been beside him, helping him perform the rituals. — PTI



SHORT TAKES

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER FROM MYSURU MISSING

M.B. GIRISH  
MYSURU, OCT. 10

Abhishek Reddy Gulla, 26, working as scientific officer attached to Baba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mysuru has gone missing for 20 days. Police have launched a search to trace him. According to the police, Abhishek Reddy was working as a scientific officer at the research center for over a year and was staying at a rented house in New Janata Colony, Yelwala, about 20 kms from Mysuru. Reddy did not attend office for about 20 days. Later, BARC administrative officer T.K. Bose lodged a complaint with the Yelwala police on October 8. In the complaint, Reddy is said to have left the house on his two wheeler (KA09 JA0013). Reddy is 5 feet nine inches in height, has wheatish complexion and is bald. The police has ruled out the possibility of a kidnap but suspect that he might have gone missing under depression and a search is on to trace him.

ACTIVE COVID CASES BELOW 9L FOR SECOND DAY

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

With 73,272 fresh cases of coronavirus, India till Saturday had 69.79 lakh overall cases while the number of deaths were 1,07,416 after 926 new fatalities were recorded in the last 24 hours. According to the union health ministry, 59.88 lakh people have recovered so far from Covid-19, taking the recovery rate to 85.81 per cent. The case fatality rate stands at 1.54 per cent. Union Health Ministry officials said, the number of active cases remained below 9 lakh, for the second day in a row — there are 8.83 lakh active cases in the country as of now. “Presently the active cases comprise merely 12.65 per cent of the total positive cases of the country. These are nearly 1/8th of the total cases in the country. The total recovered cases are close to 60 lakh thereby enhancing the difference with respect to the active cases. As many as 82,753 patients have recovered and discharged in the last 24 hours whereas the new confirmed cases stand at 73,272,” officials said, adding 18 states and UTs have recorded recovery rate more than the national average.

3 Nepalese held for looting family

**Lakhimpur Kheri:** Three Nepalese have been arrested here for allegedly looting a family in Telangana’s Cyberabad district at gunpoint earlier this month, a police official said on Saturday. The accused were trying to cross over to Nepal through Kheri on Friday, Lakhimpur Kheri SP Vijay Dhull said. He said Telangana The police took away the accused after obtaining a transit remand from a court. They have been identified as Vinod Shahi, a resident of Tatapani village in Surkhet district of Nepal, Narjising Shahi of Kailali district and Sita of Surkhet district, the SP said. He said police recovered ₹5.20 lakh in cash, over 100 gram of gold, silver and diamond jewellery and four silver coins from their possession. — PTI

Champagne and coconuts

■ Continued from Page 1 for going on a foundation stone laying spree for different projects during election time, saying, “He carries a coconut with him wherever he goes and cracks it whenever he gets the opportunity.” Mr Nath said that coconut is indeed considered auspicious, but added, “I am opposed to using the coconut for electoral gain. Coconuts should not be used to misguide the voters by giving them the false hope that a project was being launched for them”, he said. “One should crack real coconut (for laying foundation stones for projects), not election coconut (for giving false hopes),” he quipped. He also took a jibe at Mr Chouhan for inaugurating 13 road projects recently, daring him state publicly in whose tenure these roads were built.

Puja preparations in full swing



A Durga idol is being prepared at Suruchi Sangha, a prestigious puja pandal of South Kolkata, on Saturday. Puja organisers at Suruchi Sangha said that they plan to spend 70 per cent of their total budget for the Durga Puja in helping distressed people and distributing clothes to more than 10,000 children. — PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

Soldiers posted along LAC mostly rely on foot mobility

Even in 1962, soldiers moved on foot and it has remained unchanged

VIKRAM SHARMA  
HYDERABAD OCT. 10

Technology and firepower aside, soldiers of the Indian Army posted in the rugged terrain along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh are mostly relying on foot mobility in the ongoing military operations.

To take on the People’s Liberation Army of China (PLA), the Indian troops are sticking to the basic war principles which is advantageous in the theatre which mostly comprises mountains and ridges. When it comes to cross-country, the Indian Army is one of the best in the world.

On a day US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that China has amassed more than 60,000 troops along the LAC, highly placed sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that basic fighting principles have hardly changed in this region. This is true since the 1962 war between both the countries.

“Foot mobility continues to be the key in mountain warfare and both sides know that too well. Helicopters will find it difficult to land as there are limited landing sites in this mountainous region. They will have to fly at lower speeds while the harsh weather will limit visibility. Despite having the best helicopters, flying through the limited approach between the valleys without being detected by the enemy is another huge task. This is precisely the reason why our soldiers are relying on cross-country,” they explained.

Ever since tensions between the two armies increased, especially after the Galwan valley clashes, Indian troops have taken up arduous journeys on foot for several kilometres, which enabled them to quickly dominate the areas and consolidate their positions.

Like it is for all armies, cross country is one of the key aspects of training of soldiers and officers of the Indian Army.

Carrying heavy loads, they are made to run several kilometres at a stretch, non-stop. They are fully trained for survival in the mountainous regions while moving on foot, which tests the limits of physical endurance and determination.

“In this theatre, military operations will largely depend on how quickly soldiers are able to capture ground on foot. There needs to be quick link-ups between the special forces and soldiers from other units who will dominate and consolidate positions. Even in the 1962 war, soldiers moved on foot and it has remained unchanged in this region ever since. The intense training on foot mobility that a soldier or an officer undergoes during training are being put to use,” sources said.

Since moving on foot frequently requires unhindered logistical support, all logistical arrangements are in place for the soldiers who would need to sustain for several days at different points along the LAC. As winter sets in, the soldiers are fighting the harsh weather and the PLA alike.

“The PLA (People’s Liberation Army) Navy and Air Force continue to conduct threatening military drills, O’Brien said.

“Beijing’s signature international development programme, One Belt One Road (OBOR), involves impoverished companies taking on opaque and unsustainable Chinese loans to pay Chinese firms employing Chinese labourers to build their infrastructure, he said.

“And now these countries’ dependence on the Chinese debt leaves their sovereignty eroded and with no choice but to huddle to the party’s line on UN votes or any other issue that the CCP considers a red line,” he said. — PTI

“The village consists of around 500 families who are mostly Vanniyars and 100 Dalit households. The panchayat was reserved for SC community.

Since January, the panchayat has conducted four meetings and in all of them Rajeswari was asked to sit on the floor while the vice-president and four members of the panchayat belonging to the dominant caste sat on chairs.

The fifth member from the Scheduled Caste community, Suganthi, member from ward 1, was also not allowed to sit on a chair. Nor was she allowed to

the national flag on the occasion of Independence Day. fare of the village burying caste and religious differences The administration would take necessary action to prevent such incidents in the future and raise awareness among the people. Block Development officials will monitor the village panchayats and, if necessary, such panchayat meeting

As Rajeswari’s photos, taken at a meeting held on July 17 went viral, the district administration swung into action with Cuddalore District Collector Chandra Sekhar Sakhamuri and Cuddalore SP M. Sree Abhinav conducted preliminary enquiry at the panchayat on Saturday.

While Mohanrajan escaped from the place, Sinhuja has been placed under suspension. The Collector said a case has been registered against perpetrators of the crime and investigation is going on. He appealed to ward members and panchayat leaders to work in unison for the wel-

which she was seen sitting on the floor went viral. It is reported that upper caste men have been preventing her from performing official duties and that they have been taking all the decisions since she assumed office in January this year.

They also abused her continuously. On a complaint from Rajeswari, the Bhuavagiri police registered a case against the Panchayat Vice-President, K. Mohanraj and Secretary Sinhuja under 3 (1) (m) and 3 (1) (r) sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act.

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Detention centres have to be outside jail premises: HC

MANOJ ANAND  
GUWAHATI, OCT. 10

The Gauhati High Court has directed that detention centres cannot be inside the jail premises and if suitable accommodations are not available, the state government should look for and hire private buildings to run the detention centre.

There are six detention centres in Assam to detain ‘illegal foreigners’ but all are inside jails.

In these six detention centre altogether 425 detainees are lodged. Following a Supreme Court’s order in April to prevent congestion in jails due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 350 detainees languishing in various detention centres had been released on bail.

The high court order came in response to a batch of petitions related to detention of ‘foreigners’ in Assam.

The petitions were filed by a team of lawyers and activists, facilitated by Studio Nilima, a research collective. Renowned advocate Nilay Dutta argued the case on behalf of the petitioners.

The High Court observed that the declaration of a part of the jail premises in six districts of Assam as detention centres are not the complete requirement of the order of the Supreme Court in Bhim Singh vs Union of India case, communications of the MHA as well as the Model Manual for the Detention Centres.

The decision in the Bhim Singh vs Union of India as reported had held that detainees cannot be treated as prisoners and cannot be confined to prison and deprived of basic human rights and human dignity.

The Court noted that the directions of the Supreme Court, communications of Ministry of Home Affairs and the Model Manual for Detention Centres, 2019

provides that detention centres should be set up outside the jail premises. “If suitable accommodation is not available, the state government may look for hiring of private buildings for the purpose,” the court stated.

Part of the jail premises in Silchar and Kokrajhar have been declared as detention centres in 2010 as a “temporary measure”.

Later, parts of the existing jail premises in Goalpara, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tezpur were also declared as detention centres for the purpose of detaining persons declared as illegal foreigners, pending their deportation.

“It is discernible that more than 10 years have gone by since a part of the jail premises in Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Silchar had been declared to be detention centres. Certainly a period of more than 10 years cannot be understood to be a temporary arrangement,” the court observed.

It may be noted that the court has directed the Home and Political Affairs Department of the state government to submit an action taken report by October 16 as to what steps have been taken to set up detention centres outside the jail premises in compliance with the law.

■ Continued from Page 1 be inside home during the cyclone as a precautionary measure. But many of them did not listen to the warning and remained outside. This resulted in high casualties,” she added.

The chief minister announced ₹2.5 lakh compensation for each victim’s kin.

The “extremely severe” cyclone Amphan, which made landfall in Digha near Sundarban on West Bengal-Odisha border and Hatia in Bangladesh on Wednesday afternoon, weakened Thursday as it moved into Bhutan.

Exuding confidence that the NDA will retain power in the state, BJP’s Bihar in-charge Bupendra Yadav took a dig at the Opposition RJD-Congress-CPI(ML) camp, claiming that Bihar will never give a chance to the “unholy alliance” and return of

an era when “class clashes, mayhem and Left extremism” used to rule the streets.

Mr Yadav also took a dig at the RJD, saying it is carrying on its back the same Congress against whose policies the regional outfit was established by Lalu Prasad Yadav. The party’s poll slogan for Bihar is, “Jan jan ki pukaar, atmanirbhar Bihar”.

Giving details of Mr Nadda’s day-long visit to the poll-bound state, BJP spokesperson Sanjay Mayukh said the BJP president will also visit the famous Hanuman Mandir in Patna and JP Niwas, where Jayaprakash Narayan lived, before addressing the public meeting in Gaya. Mr Nadda will also meet party leaders and workers in Patna and preside over the election management committee’s meeting later.

the national flag on the occasion of Independence Day. However, Amurtham, hoisted the Tricolour five days later after the district administration intervened.

Reacting to the incident, S. Karuppiah, State Secretary, Dalit Liberation Movement, said this is not an isolated incident. Such atrocities and discrimination are common across the state.

“Dalit panchayat presidents, especially women Dalit leaders, continuously face threats in villages. The government must provide adequate security to them and allow them to perform their duties freely,” he said.

As Rajeswari’s photos, taken at a meeting held on July 17 went viral, the district administration swung into action with Cuddalore District Collector Chandra Sekhar Sakhamuri and Cuddalore SP M. Sree Abhinav conducted preliminary enquiry at the panchayat on Saturday.

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CASTE | BIAS Since Jan., panchayat had four meetings and in all of them Rajeswari was told to sit on floor

Dalit president of TN panchayat forced to sit on floor

A. ARUL PALANI  
CUDDALORE, OCT. 10

Atrocities and discrimination against Dalit local body members and office bearers continues unabated in the state. The women members face worse as they are not only prevented from performing their official duties but also constantly abused by men from dominant castes.

Dalit village Panchayat president, S. Rajeswari, 31, was made to sit on the floor while all others were seated on chairs in a panchayat meeting at Therku Thittai village near Chidambaram in Cuddalore district. The photo of the incident in

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■ THE INCIDENT came to light two months after V. Amurtham, Aathupaakam village panchayat president in Tiruvallur, was prevented from unfurling the national flag on the occasion of Independence Day.

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will be monitored through CCTV cameras, he added.

The village consists of around 500 families who are mostly Vanniyars and 100 Dalit households. The panchayat was reserved for SC community.

Since January, the panchayat has conducted four meetings and in all of them Rajeswari was asked to sit on the floor while the vice-president and four members of the panchayat belonging to the dominant caste sat on chairs.

The fifth member from the Scheduled Caste community, Suganthi, member from ward 1, was also not allowed to sit on a chair. Nor was she allowed to

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Reacting to the incident, S. Karuppiah, State Secretary, Dalit Liberation Movement, said this is not an isolated incident. Such atrocities and discrimination are common across the state.

“Dalit panchayat presidents, especially women Dalit leaders, continuously face threats in villages. The government must provide adequate security to them and allow them to perform their duties freely,” he said.



## IN BRIEF

**Graft charges: Zuma summoned**

**Johannesburg:** Former South African president Jacob Zuma has been issued with a legal summons to appear before an inquiry commission probing corruption charges, including the veteran politician's alleged role in assisting the controversial Indian-origin Gupta family in looting billions of rands from the state-owned entities. Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo said Zuma would be required to appear on November 16-20, adding that if the former president wished to present his evidence virtually rather than in person, it would be permitted. Zuma, 78, has evaded appearing before the State Capture Inquiry, complaining about his illness with controversial doctors' letters, as well as claims that he needed time to prepare for the separate court cases where he is facing corruption charges. Zuma's supporters have also called for Zondo to recuse himself.

**UK calls back envoy to Belarus**

**London:** Britain has joined several eastern European nations in withdrawing its ambassador from strife-torn Belarus in protest at President Alexander Lukashenko's expulsion of diplomats from Poland and Lithuania. In a tweet late Friday, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the UK "condemns Belarus' decision to expel Polish & Lithuanian diplomats". "Completely unjustified and will only isolate the Belarusian people. In solidarity, we are temporarily recalling our Ambassador for consultations on the situation in Belarus," he said. The ambassadors of Lithuania and Poland were recalled on Monday after Minsk accused them of backing mass protests that have erupted against Lukashenko since a disputed election on August 9. Following a demand from Belarus, Poland and Lithuania recalled a further 35 diplomats on Friday. Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia and Latvia have all withdrawn their ambassadors.

**Anti Nuke activist Sister Platte dies**

**Washington:** Anti-nuclear activist Sister Ardet Platte, a Dominican nun who spent time in jail for her peaceful protests, died in her sleep on September 30. She was 84. Sister Carol Gilbert, who confirmed Platte's death, lived with her at a Catholic Worker house in Washington, D.C. Gilbert said Platte had participated in a street corner demonstration against nuclear weapons just a few days before her death. In 2010, Platte was arrested for trespassing at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, during a protest, according to the Knoxville News Sentinel. At her sentencing hearing, Platte said, "Nuclear weapons are the taproot of violence, and they must be abolished. So I refuse to be silent," the newspaper reported. She served a four-month sentence. It was one of several arrests over many years of anti-war protests.

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**DELTA: MORE DESTRUCTION IN LOUISIANA**

**Lafayette (US), Oct. 10:** Ripping tarps from damaged roofs and scattering massive piles of storm debris in the wind and water, Hurricane Delta inflicted a new round of destruction in Louisiana communities still reeling along a path Hurricane Laura carved just six weeks earlier.

Delta hit as a Category 2 hurricane, with top winds of 100 mph (155 kph) before rapidly weakening over land. By Saturday morning, it dwindled to a tropical storm with 45 mph (75 kph) winds, but storm surge and flash floods continued to pose dangers across much of southwestern Louisiana and parts of neighboring Texas. Mississippi also got its fair share of rain overnight. Delta made landfall Friday evening near the coastal town of Creole — only 15 miles (24 kilometres) or so from where Laura struck land in August, killing 27 people in Louisiana.

It then moved directly over Lake Charles, a waterfront city about 30 miles (50 kilometres) inland where the earlier hurricane damaged nearly every home and building, and where moldy mattresses, sawed-up trees and other debris still lined the streets. Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter spoke with AP as he rode out Delta's arrival downtown.

**Don-Biden 2nd Prez debate cancelled**

**Washington, Oct. 10:** The second presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden set for October 15 has been cancelled, the organisers have announced, after the incumbent US President refused to do a virtual face-off with his Democratic challenger despite concerns over his Covid-19 diagnosis.

In a statement, the non-partisan (CPD) confirmed on Friday that the second version scheduled to be held in Miami, Florida, would be scrapped. The CPD said it was preparing for the next debate to be held on October 22 in Nashville, Tennessee, less than two weeks ahead of the November 3 presidential election. The first presidential debate between Trump and Biden was held on September 29 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The one-off debate between the vice presidential candidates Mike Pence

and Kamala Harris took place on October 7 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"On October 8, CPD announced that for the health and safety of all involved, the second presidential debate, scheduled for October 15 in Miami, would be conducted virtually," the CPD said in a statement, officially announcing the cancellation of the second debate.

"Subsequently, the campaigns of the two candidates who qualified for participation in the debate made a series of statements concerning their respective positions regarding their willingness to participate in a virtual debate on October 15, and each now has announced alternate plans for that date." "It is now apparent there will be no debate on October 15, and the CPD will turn its attention to preparations for the final presidential debate sched-

**WH offers \$1.8 tn stimulus**

**Washington, Oct. 9:** With the presidential election fast approaching, the White House on Friday proposed a beefed-up \$1.8 trillion economic rescue plan to try to coax congressional Democrats into an agreement.

President Donald Trump, who this week has veered wildly in his position on stimulus to help the world's largest economy recover from the damage done by the Covid-19 pandemic, now seems to be making a major push to

roll out funding before he stands for re-election on November 3.

The new proposal, an improvement over the administration's previous \$1.6 trillion offer, brings them closer to the Democrats' latest package costing \$2.2 trillion.

White House spokeswoman Alyssa Farah said the administration was "willing to come up on the level" but wanted to keep the price tag "below \$2 trillion." But Trump, who is trailing in the polls again

st Democratic rival Joe Biden, said he wants an even more robust plan.

"A lot of people are being hurt. I would like to see a bigger stimulus package, frankly, than either the Democrats or the Republicans are offering," Trump said in an interview with conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh.

"I would like to see money going to people. It was not their fault." That marked the latest dramatic shift from the president.

— AFP

**Ballot drop-off order blocked**

**Houston, Oct. 10:** A US judge has blocked an order from Texas' governor cutting the number of sites voters can drop off mail-in ballots for November's presidential election, which Democrats had said amounted to voter suppression.

The order, issued in early October by Republican Governor Greg Abbott, limited the number of drop-off centres to one per county, even as mail-in voting is expected to become much more popular due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The move would, help curb "illegal voting," Abbott had said, in line with views expressed by President Donald Trump, who

frequently claims without evidence that postal ballots are a source of massive vote fraud.

But in a decision published Friday following a challenge by voting rights advocates, federal judge Robert Pitman blocked the order, arguing it "restricts the rights of some voters, those who qualify to vote absentee in larger, more populous counties".

The order also added to voter confusion, Pitman's 46-page decision said, and would force voters to travel further to cast their ballot and wait in longer lines to vote, leading to greater risks of exposure to the Coronavirus.

— AFP

**Prez warnings on Columbus Day**

**Washington, Oct. 10:** President Donald Trump's proclamation Friday commemorating Columbus Day veered from a typical White House holiday announcement, with stark warnings of "radical activists" seeking to tarnish the explorer's legacy.

Native American advocates have pressed states for years to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day over concerns that Christopher Columbus helped launch centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas.

"Sadly, in recent years, radical activists have sought to undermine Christopher Columbus's legacy," Trump said in his proclamation declaring Monday Columbus Day.

"These extremists seek to replace discussion of his vast contributions with talk of failings, his discoveries with atrocities, and his achievements with transgressions."

Trump has been projecting himself as a defender of America's history and

monuments as he seeks reelection. He signed an executive order recently to establish a commission to promote what he calls "patriotic education".

The move is in part a response to *The New York Times'* "1619 Project", which highlights the long-term consequences of slavery and the contributions of People of Colour Americans.

Trump frequently cites the commission at his campaign rallies, and he did so again in his proclamation Friday. Trump has also ordered federal agencies to end diversity training programs.

In his proclamation Friday, he said many such programs "are grounded in the same type of revisionist history that is trying to erase Christopher Columbus from our national heritage."

"Together, we must safeguard our history and stop this new wave of iconoclasm by standing against those who spread hate and division," Trump declared.

**Military rigged '18 polls: Oppn**

**Karachi, Oct. 10:** For the first time, Pakistan's two major Opposition parties have come out openly against the country's powerful military, accusing it of rigging the 2018 elections that brought Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party to power.

In the past, political leaders have only indirectly pointed to the involvement of the military establishment in the country's political affairs but this is the first time that the leaders of the two main Opposition parties — the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) have openly criticised the military. Former prime minister and PML-N supremo Sharif, who is in London since November last year and facing a number of corruption cases, fired the first salvo at the inaugural meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, an alliance formed by Opposition parties last month to oust Prime Minister Khan.

Sharif alleged that the military rigged the 2018 elections to bring Prime Minister Khan to power. He said interfering in politics in uniform amounts to treason under the country's Constitution. His allegations sparked an

**APPEAR BEFORE NOV. 24, COURT INFORMS NAWAZ**

**Islamabad, Oct. 10:** A Pakistani court through newspaper advertisements asked Nawaz Sharif to appear before it by November 24 to avoid being declared a "proclaimed offender" after the former three-time prime minister reportedly refused to receive non-bailable arrest warrants at his residence in London.

The Islamabad High Court on Friday noted that it was left with no option but to order issuance of proclamation for intimidating 70-year-old Sharif.

— PTI

angry response from Khan, who said Sharif was "playing a very dangerous game" by humiliating the military and intelligence services. PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari accused the military of rigging the 2018 elections. He warned that any interference in the legislative assembly elections in Gilgit-Baltistan would result in a siege of Islamabad and a sit-in in the city.

— PTI

**DISCONTINUE TWO-FINGER TEST ON RAPE VICTIMS, SAYS LAW MINISTRY**

**Islamabad, Oct. 10:** The Pakistan government has disapproved of the two-finger test performed on rape victims and recommended that it should not be part of any medico-legal examination report in sexual assault cases. The Ministry of Law and Justice has intimated the Additional Attorney General at Lahore, Chaudhry Is-

htiaq Ahmed Khan, about the recommendation. He will now inform the Lahore High Court about the federal government's stance. The court sought the ministry's response after going through a statement by the WHO, which has declared virginity testing as "unscientific, medically unnecessary and unreliable".

— PTI

**Protest in Ankara**

Turkish police detain people during a protest marking the fifth anniversary of the twin suicide attacks in which over 100 people were killed, in Ankara on Saturday. On October 10, 2015, suicide bombers believed to be linked to Islamic State blew themselves up in a crowd of pro-Kurdish peace activists planning to hold a rally outside Ankara's main train station, killing 103 people and wounding about 500 people.

— AFP

**Taiwan: Lessen China tensions**

**Taipei, Oct. 10:** Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Saturday she has hopes for less tensions with China and in the region if Beijing will listen to Taipei's concerns, alter its approach and restart dialogue with the self-ruled island democracy.

Speaking at Taiwan's National Day celebrations on Saturday, Tsai took note of recent remarks by Chinese leader Xi Jinping in a video message to the UN General Assembly that China would never seek hegemony, expansion or to establish a sphere of

influence. "As countries in the region and around the world are now concerned about China's expanding hegemony, we hope this is the beginning of genuine change," Tsai said in her annual address at the Presidential Office in downtown Taipei.

If Beijing can "heed Taiwan's voice, change the way it handles cross-strait relations, and jointly facilitate cross-strait reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, I believe that regional tension can surely be resolved," Tsai said. China's ruling Communist Party

claims the self-governing island as Chinese territory to be annexed by force if necessary. Beijing cut contacts with Tsai's government following her election to a first term in 2016 and has steadily increased diplomatic, military and economic pressure on the island of 23 million people to compel her to endorse its contention that Taiwan and the mainland constitute a single Chinese nation, which it refers to as the "1992 Consensus".

In Beijing, a spokesperson for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office res-

ponded to Tsai's address by renewing China's demand for concessions and accusing her of "disrupting the exchanges and cooperation" between the sides, according to state broadcaster CCTV. Zhu Fenglian also accused Tsai of "deliberately misleading the people of Taiwan".

Tsai, of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, was reelected by a wide margin this spring, and especially since September, China has been sending warplanes and ships into areas under Taiwanese control.

— AP

**TRUCE BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN, ARMENIA FAILS**

**Moscow, Oct. 10:** Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a Russia-brokered cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh starting on Saturday, but immediately accused each other of derailing the deal intended to end the worst outbreak of hostilities in the separatist region in more than a quarter-century.

The two sides traded blame for breaking the truce that took effect at noon (0800 GMT) with new attacks, and Azerbaijan's top diplomat said the truce never entered force. The cease-fire announcement came overnight after 10 hours of talks in Moscow sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The deal stipulated that the cease-fire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict. If the truce holds, it would mark a major diplomatic coup for Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but also cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan. But the agreement was immediately challenged by mutual claims of violations.

— AP

**WHO: Record 3.5L daily cases**

**Geneva, Oct. 10:** The World Health Organisation has announced a new daily record high in Coronavirus cases confirmed worldwide, with more than 350,000 infections reported to the UN health agency on Friday.

The new daily high of 350,766 cases surpasses a record set earlier this week by nearly 12,000. That tally includes more than 109,000 cases from Europe alone.

In a press briefing on Friday, WHO emergencies chief Dr Michael Ryan acknowledged that even as Covid-19 continues to surge across the world, "there are no new answers".

He said that although the agency wants countries to avoid the punishing lockdowns that have devastated economies, governments must ensure the most vulnerable people are protected and numerous measures must be taken.

"The majority of people in the world are still susceptible to this disease," Ryan warned. He said countries should focus not just on restrictive measures, but also on bolstering their surveillance systems, testing, contact tracing and ensuring populations are engaged.

As the virus continues to surge across Europe and elsewhere, Ryan acknowledged that restrictive measures might be warrant-

ed at some point. British scientists reported this week that the Covid-19 outbreak is doubling every few weeks, French hospitals are running out of ICU beds, Germany may enlist the army to help contain its outbreak and Spain declared a state of emergency in Madrid as cases soar. Ryan said lockdowns "may be unavoidable where the disease has got out of control again".

— AP

**NEW | REPORT Women account for 99% of all victims of sexual exploitation****29M girls victim of modern slavery**

**United Nations, Oct. 10:** A new report estimates that 29 million women and girls are victims of modern slavery, exploited by practices including forced labour, forced marriage, debt-bondage and domestic servitude.

Grace Forrest, co-founder of the Walk Free anti-slavery organisation, said Friday that means one in every 130 women and girls is living in modern slavery today, more than the population of Australia.

"The reality is that there are more people living in slavery today than any other time in human history," she told a UN news conference. Walk Free defines modern slavery "as the systematic removal of a person's freedom, where one person is exploited by another for personal or financial gain," she said.

Forrest said the global estimate of one in 130 women and girls living in modern slavery was made

based on work by Walk Free, the International Labour Organisation and the International Organisation for Migration, both UN agencies. "What this report has shown is that gender stacks the odds against girls from conception throughout their lives," she said.

According to the report, titled "Stacked Odds", women account for 99 per cent of all victims of forced sexual exploitation, 84 per cent of all victims of

forced marriage, and 58 per cent of all victims of forced labour. Forrest said the face of modern slavery "has radically changed".

"We're seeing normalised exploitation in our economy in transnational supply chains and also in migration pathways," she said. "The world's most vulnerable people have been pushed even further into this practice of modern slavery because of Covid-19." She said the estimate of women and

girls in modern slavery is conservative because it doesn't account for what's happened during the pandemic, which has seen "sharp increases of forced and child marriage and exploited work conditions around the world".

Forrest said Walk Free and the UN's Every Woman Every Child program are launching a global campaign to demand action to eliminate modern slavery.

— AP



# THE ASIAN AGE

11 OCTOBER 2020



Nilofar Suhrawardy

Off the beaten track

## Papa's haircuts and other hair-raising experiences

Covid-19 has forced quite a few young fathers or fathers with small children, particularly boys, to turn into barbers. They cut their sons' hair with an apparent air of professional expertise. Interestingly, these "neo-barbers" have had no qualms about displaying photographs of their handiwork. They do so, through various social media platforms. The photos, of course, cannot hide the serious look on the fathers' faces and the puzzled, perplexed, even slightly disturbed, expression on the kids'. The latter seem disturbed about what they look like after being subjected to a first-time experience of their fathers' mercy on their hair.

Paradoxically, the father's pride and sense of achievement in becoming a "barber" is hardly pleasing to the child. So what if the father is a professional expert in the medical field, business, academics or some other area? The little ones care little when their hairstyle faces their scissors. Even toddlers of today's day and age seem fairly smart in judging their parents' expertise at whatever they may be attempting. It isn't surprising that a certain number of children have preferred going totally bald than opt for the said haircut.

The fairer sex is luckier. With the mask on, they can afford to be calous about their facial hair. Why should they care if the make-up industry is suffering from a sudden fall in demand? They have too many things to bother about — having to stay at home for too long a period, precautions to be exercised because of the pandemic, and so on. And as far as their hair is concerned, it can just be knotted into a bun or clipped as convenient. Of course, men, too, exercise the option of having long hair and styling it as they please. But leaving it loose isn't considered "safe" while Covid-19 lasts.

This hairy issue is a cause of great concern for celebrities. Covid-19 has not diminished their love for the lime-light. But it certainly appears to have had a great impact on their hair. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hairstyle and beard is no more what they used be before the vicious virus struck this country. Politically speaking, this is perhaps one way of his letting others know that he is not above board where the impact of coronavirus is concerned.

Paradoxically, his rival Rahul Gandhi's hairstyle is less wild than what it earlier used to be. Rather, sometimes, not a hair seems to be out of place.

Of course, Modi, Rahul and all other celebrities have a personal right to do what they like with their respective hairstyles and beards. The same can be said about the styling of their moustaches and sideburns. On this front, men may be said to be as lucky as women, though. For they can let their masks hide what they don't want seen.

Also, till masks remain compulsory, all conscious of their looks can certainly extend their "cosmetic moves" beyond their lips — to their eyebrows and hair. They can style their hair along the forehead and around the ear. Clearly, Covid masks don't spell the end of style for both ladies and gentlemen. Amazingly, the little ones aren't far behind. Even before they learn how to walk and speak, toddlers appear to have become fairly conscious about their looks. It is not without reason that they are extra-fond of staring at their faces in the mirror. When it comes to haircuts, several adults are needed to hold down the yelling chappies throwing their arms and legs into the wind.

Also, a rudimentary analysis of such hairy issues suggests that political celebrities as well as those in the entertainment industry are almost equally conscious about this subject. After all, they are extra-concerned about presenting a "good" image of themselves before the public. Both are public figures, counting on their stars for their success in how people view them. They have the right as well as, in their perception, the "duty" to care. And the media has no other option but to play its part. It is up to the audience to notice, ignore, criticise or even praise what they are presented, including changing hairstyles, growing beards and other hairy issues.

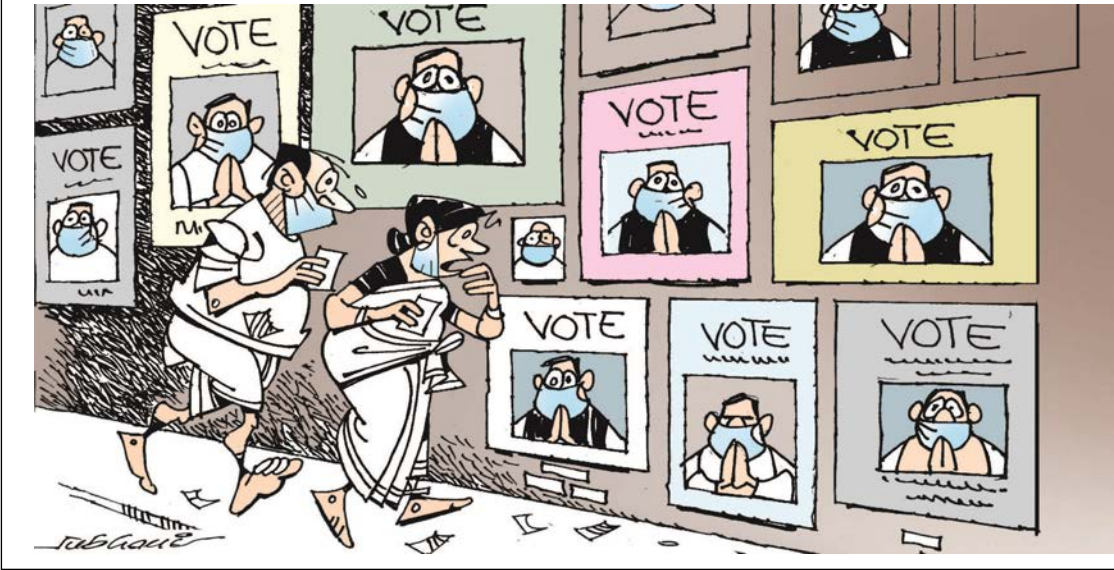
Frankly speaking, of late, quite a few media outlets are also facing hair-raising experiences. This is not only linked with too many people losing jobs but also with the media being pushed into a corner for according too little and much importance to various issues. Now, who should be blamed for all that hair pulling that is to be witnessed? Give it a thought!

The writer is a journalist with specialisation in communication studies and nuclear diplomacy. She is also the author of several books.



**Paradoxically, the father's pride and sense of achievement in becoming a 'barber' is hardly pleasing to the child. So what if the father is a professional expert in the medical field, business, academics or some other area? The little ones care little when their hairstyle faces their scissors.**

Subhani



## Why Eco Prize is the most prized Nobel of them all



Mohan Guruswamy

The truth is that there is no Nobel Prize in Economics, yet it is the most prized among all the Nobels. The winners of these prizes often acquire the voice of God in the intellectual discourse of nations. What is thought of as the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences is officially the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel. It is administered by the Nobel Foundation established by the Swedish inventor of dynamite. The prize was established in 1968 by a donation from Sweden's central bank to commemorate the bank's 300th anniversary. It is now easily the most awaited of the Nobels. To know who will get it in 2020 we will have to wait till Monday.

The winners last year, the husband-and-wife duo of Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Dufo, won it ironically enough for their study in eastern Odisha of one the most spectacular economic bombs of recent times. It was a scheme to replace open-fire cooking used by three billion of the world's poorest people with more efficient, less polluting stoves. The \$400 million project was backed by the United Nations and launched by former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton in 2010. It set out to reduce indoor air pollution, which kills two million people a year, while empowering women and helping the environment. After its initial success, millions of stoves built in India were largely abandoned within four years.

Banerjee and Dufo studied the reasons for it and told the world why such an altruistic and even rational project flopped. The

reasons were quite mundane, something which the world's finest development economics and policymaking minds didn't anticipate. The new stoves needed more attention, were prone to break down and took longer to cook food. They couldn't be moved because they were tethered to fixed chimneys sending the smoke outside. I don't think Narendra Modi's genius factored the more mundane considerations when the government of India launched its colossal public toilets scheme, which we now know is also a spectacular flop. Open defecation is again rampant. It is little wonder that Mr Modi has given the duo a big avoid.

But Economics Nobel winners also spawned spectacular flops. The hedge fund Long Term Capital Management (LTCM) had a plan to apply expert knowledge and theories of academics to the real world. The collapse of this \$125 billion fund directly led to the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 1998 Russian default that brought the financial world to the brink of collapse. LTCM had recruited some of the biggest names in economics and trading, hiring people like 1997 Nobel Economics winners Myron S. Scholes and Robert C. Merton to sit on their board of directors. But the combined brilliance of the top academics and high-flier bankers couldn't spot the coming disaster. Both failures highlighted an inability to understand how ordinary people behave.

Classical economics was linked closely with psychology. Adam Smith's other great work was *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and dealt with

the psychological principles of individual behaviour. Smith emphasised the concept of empathy, the capacity to recognise feelings that are being experienced by another being. Jeremy Bentham described utilitarianism as "the greatest happiness of the greatest number that is the measure of right and wrong" and is seen by many as father of the welfare state. Classical economic theory, also known as laissez faire, claims that leaving individuals to make free choices in a free market results in the best allocation of resources. Since individuals made choices, the emphasis was on understanding human beings and their behaviour as individual and as groups.

Neo-classical economists based their thinking on the assumption that people have rational preferences; that individuals maximise utility and firms maximise profits; and people act independently. Consequently, neo-classical economists distanced themselves from psychology and sought explanations for economic analysis heavily based on the concept of rational expectations. For most of the past century, economics became increasingly mathematical. Much of economic theory came to be presented as mathematical models, mostly calculus, to clarify assumptions and implications.

It is not as if the switch was complete. Many great economists like Vilfredo Pareto, John Maynard Keynes and Joseph Schumpeter continued to base their analysis on psy-

chological explanations. In more recent times, this school of economics has been given greater importance and is reflected in the award of Nobels to behavioural economists like Daniel Kahneman of Princeton University and to Richard Thaler at Chicago. Banerjee and Dufo are considered development economists but the focus of their research was in how beneficiaries looked at gift horses.

The dominance of the classical school on the world of economics can be gauged by the fact that since the relatively recent inception of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1968, the Chicago economics faculty have won the Nobel as many as 12 times, twice as many as MIT, which has six Nobel laureates. Seen from Harvard's ivory tower, even MIT is considered as leaning more towards classical economic theory. Recent Harvard winners for economics like Oliver Hart (2016), Alvin Roth (2012) and Eric Maskin (2007) were rewarded for their work based on mathematical empiricism than behavioural speculation. Amartya Sen (1998) was one of the few who broke this mould and won it in recognition of his work and abiding interest in welfare economics. A well-known economist explained that Sen won it for being a good person!

Every politician worth his salt knows the national mood and perceptions are decisive in determining national outcomes. People often don't make rational choices, something that marketers of diverse products like soap and automobiles, as well as political dreams, are fully aware. But economists took their time recognising this, and the Nobel Committee even longer.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

**People often don't make rational choices, something that marketers of diverse products like soap and automobiles, as well as political dreams, are fully aware. But economists took their time recognising this, and the Nobel Committee even longer.**

**Hathras is not another 'Nirbhaya', but another Surekha. The participation of caste Hindu women in the rape and lynching of a dalit woman and her children in Khairlanji (2006) shocks the human conscience. It did not shock the nation, however.**

dalit woman and her children shocks the human conscience. It did not shock the nation, however.

It took more than a week's time for the news of the Khairlanji massacre to appear in print. Neither did any candlelight march take place, nor did the media give a thought to changing the victims' names the option of which is given to them by the law. And, to top it off, the brahminical media actually distorted the case by reporting that Surekha Bhotmange had had an extramarital affair with her cousin that thence "justified" the atrocity. But the media, police and politicians have operated according to the interests of the dominant castes. While "Nirbhaya" was considered by the media as an innocent young person and a "pure" victim,

Surekha was constructed as sexually impure by the same media.

Sexual purity/caste purity determines the value of a woman in brahminical society. Brahminical society constructs the brahmin and caste-Hindu women as sexually pure and aims to "protect"/control their sexual purity. Dalit women are constructed outside the normative of caste purity and sexual purity as the caste system sanctions the upper caste man's access to the dalit woman's sexuality, body and labour. Endemic caste-based sexual violence against dalit women is condoned and considered normal. Dalit women are casually exploited in agricultural fields and construction sites where they toil for their livelihoods. They are also raped, paraded naked and/or lynched by dominant castes when they want to teach a lesson to dalit caste groups for transgressing the caste order. Any act of transgression ranging from dalits inadvertently entering sacred spaces such as temples to fighting for a hike in wages leads to violence against dalits.

The police, politicians, judiciary and the media have so far protected the interests of dominant caste perpetrators in every case of caste atrocity.

## LETTERS

### WFP DESERVED IT!

Every year, the Nobel Prize is awarded in five categories. Generally, the prizes are won by individuals and are a matter of little concern for others. It is commendable that this year the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) has won the Nobel Peace Prize. Hunger is the major problem for a large part of the world. In 2019, 135 million people suffered from acute hunger. The Rome-based WFP provided food assistance to almost 100 million people in 88 countries around the world in that year. In India, this help took the form of PDS reforms and Annapurthi or the rice ATMS. A well-deserved accolade!

M.C. Joshi  
Lucknow

## WORST OVER?

**RBI GOVERNOR** Shaktikanta Das averring that the worst is possibly over for India's Covid-hit economy comes as music to the ears. This is the first official forecast since the pandemic hit the country earlier this year and is in line with other global institutions and brokerages. Without lowering the interest rate, the RBI rejigged home loan rules, making new loans sanctioned up to March 21, 2022, cheaper. The optimistic picture presented by the RBI governor is subject to avoiding a second wave of infection, but it does give us a sliver of hope.

N.J. Ravi Chander  
Bengaluru

## HE'S THE PROBLEM

**AMID THE MURKY** politics over the Hathras incident, the character assassination of the victim by a BJP leader from Barabanki is indeed shocking. The BJP leader allegedly claims that the four upper-caste men accused of brutally assaulting the 19-year-old dalit girl in Hathras are innocent as it is the victim who was awara (wayward). He said that the victim must have called the boy to the field, because they were having an affair. Such comments shake the conscience. It is very strange that being a political leader the man has neither done his duty nor raised his voice for justice but is supporting the culprits instead.

N.R. Salam  
Jammu

## BE RESPONSIBLE

**COUNTRIES PUT IN** place unprecedented restrictions to limit the spread of the coronavirus, but thus delayed acquisition of herd immunity. However, once quelled, it could resurface with renewed strength. Rashes of new cases in Asia and the US add to the fears. In 1918, a second wave of the historic influenza had caused most of the deaths in that pandemic. In this case, mutation made the virus again unrecognisable to most people's immune systems. The per capita death rate of Denmark is similar to neighbouring Germany, and about a quarter of Sweden's. Sweden was liberal but socially disciplined and responsible and that perhaps is the key.

R. Narayanan  
Navi Mumbai

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

Sowjanya Tamalapakula



## Desexualise, don't deny caste rape

Dalits live like Jews in Holocaust Germany and Black slaves in pre-capitalist America. Yet, the world knows nothing about their pain!

Dalits live in this country without any respect and recognition of their right to life. Dalits don't have access to legal justice in the world's largest democracy since its inception.

From the first reported incident of caste violence in Independent India, the Kilvenmani massacre in Tamil Nadu in which 44 dalits were burnt alive by dominant caste landlords in 1968 for demanding a hike in wages to the Chunduru massacre of 13 dalits in 1991 in Andhra Pradesh and the Khairlanji atrocity (2006), dalits have been vainly hoping for change. The rape and murder of a dalit woman in Hathras is only the tip of the iceberg that endemic violence against dalits represents. From Khairlanji to Hathras, what dalits witnessed was manipulation of witnesses, a faulty prosecution to cover up crimes and distorted reportage by a brahminical media.

Caste is the most pertinent and compelling factor in understanding sexual violence in India. In December 2012, a young middle class educated woman, "Nirbhaya", was gang-raped,

tortured and murdered in the national capital of Delhi. The gruesome incident had shocked the nation. Nationwide protests erupted. Still, was the rape of "Nirbhaya" the first of its kind that took place in India? During the Nirbhaya protests, dalit scholars have repeatedly questioned the absence of a similar response from the general public against the Khairlanji atrocity.

A few years before "Nirbhaya", on December 5, 2006, a mob of dominant caste men and women attacked a dalit woman, Surekha Bhotmange, and her three children in the village Khairlanji, Maharashtra. Surekha Bhotmange had been fighting for her land rights against dominant castes. They had encroached on her small piece of agricultural land. Enraged by a dalit woman's assertiveness, dominant castes have dragged Surekha Bhotmange, her daughter and two sons out of their home, paraded them naked, raped them and lynched them. Burnt charcoals were inserted into the private parts of Surekha Bhotmange and her daughter, Priyanka. Their bodies were dumped on the outskirts of the village. The participation of caste Hindu women in the rape and lynching of a



## SHORT TAKES

Bengaluru United  
face Garhwal FC

**Kalyani:** Having lost their respective opening games of the I-League Qualifiers 2020, FC Bengaluru United and Garhwal FC will look to get off the mark when they lock horns at the Kalyani Municipal Stadium here on Sunday. This is the first sporting event to be held in India post the seven-month long Covid-19-forced hiatus. On the eve of the match on Saturday, Bengaluru head coach Richard Hood sounded cautious, stating that he expects nothing less than a “hard battle” from the Delhi-based side.

“We have maintained right from the start that there are no favourites or underdogs in this tournament and Garhwal proved us right. They are a very well-drilled unit that has everyone on the pitch playing out a very clear game plan,” said Hood.

Garhwal FC head coach Vikas Rawat was appreciative of the efforts put in by FC Bengaluru United to play an expansive style of football. However, he implied that his charges will have their own plans of putting the ball in the Bengaluru net. — PTI

Honda riders  
climb in France

**Le Mans, France:** Ever-changing conditions made for a demanding day in France with Honda riders Alex Marquez and Stefan Bradl adapting throughout the day and pleased with the work done in Free Practice 4. Alex Marquez was able to keep the pace and improved his lap time on multiple occasions throughout the first session to remain in top-ten contention. Unfortunately, the MotoGP rookie was the victim of a harmless crash at Turn 3, typical of the Le Mans circuit in the cold conditions. A red flag during Free Practice 4 added further disruption to the day, but Alex made a strong start to Q1 and saw himself in contention for a transfer spot. A 1’32.774 will see Alex lining up just behind fellow rookie Brad Binder with the Honda rider eyeing progress forward with so many riders showing a similar pace. The colder temperatures did not deter a refreshed Stefan Bradl who headed on track as soon as FP3 began and ended the session as the 11th fastest rider.

Sharma makes  
cut at BMW golf

**Wentworth, UK:** India’s Shubhankar Sharma closed his second round with a birdie to comfortably make the cut and ensure weekend action at the BMW PGA Championship, the third Rolex Series event of the 2020 Race to Dubai.

Sharma, who had his season’s best finish of tied 26 at the Scottish Open last week, looked solid despite back-to-back bogeys on fifth and sixth. He shot two-under 70 with five birdies against three bogeys after a first round of 1-over 73 on the first day, when he had four birdies against three bogeys and a double bogey.

Things, however, did not improve for Gaganjeet Bhullar (73-77) who missed his third cut in a row.

Sharma birdied two of four Par-5s, but what must be concerning is that he bogeyed two Par-3 each day. Gavin Green shot 71 after a first round 67, and stayed on in the top 10 at the halfway stage. — PTI

Stadium collapses  
in South Sudan

**Geneva:** Part of a FIFA-funded stadium in South Sudan has collapsed during renovation work.

The world body said on Friday it was in contact with the South Sudan Football Association and seeking further information on a “minor incident” this week at Juba National Stadium in the country’s capital.

Currently, we understand that there are no casualties or injuries that occurred as a result of the incident, FIFA said, adding it involved the setting of concrete.

The Juba National Stadium is South Sudan’s only international-standard stadium and is being renovated using money from the FIFA Forward Program. FIFA gave \$5 million for the renovation. Work has been halted, although it might restart in weeks, youth and sports minister Dr. Albino Bol said. The renovation began last year and it is already behind schedule.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino pledged to fund the renovation during a visit to the conflict-torn country in 2016 and he was expected to attend its inauguration. — AP

## SWEET SWIATEK

## Polish teenager shines, wins French Open title

**Paris, Oct. 10:** With the poise of a veteran and the shots of a champion, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek picked the perfect place for her first tour-level title: The French Open.

Unseeded and ranked merely 54th, Swiatek grabbed the last six games to beat Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the final at Roland Garros on Saturday, becoming the first Polish tennis player to win a Grand Slam singles trophy.

When she smacked one last forehand winner to the corner to end things, Swiatek placed her right hand over her mouth then crouched, shaking her head.

“It’s crazy. Two years ago, I won a junior Grand Slam, and right now I’m here. It feels like such a short time. I’m just overwhelmed,” Swiatek said, her voice cracking.

Hard to believe? Maybe. This was, after all, only her seventh major tournament, she’d never been past the fourth round.

But the way she played these two weeks made this outcome less of a surprise. Swiatek is the first woman to triumph in Paris without ceding a set since Justine Henin in 2007. She lost only 28 games across seven matches, too. She is the first teen to win the women’s title at the French Open since Iva Majoli in 1997.

And Swiatek did it with victories over such opponents as 2018 champion Simona Halep and 2019 runner-up Marketa Vondrousova, both by scores of 6-1, 6-2.

So it made sense that Swiatek would be able to get past Kenin, a 21-year-old American who was trying to claim her second major title of 2020 after winning the Australian Open in February.

Kenin was 16-1 in Grand Slam matches until Saturday. But she dealt with a leg issue in the second set and showed frustration by kicking her red-white-and-blue racket after lost points.

And then there was this: She ran into the composed Swiatek, who only recently completed her high school studies, listens to Welcome to the Jungle by Guns N’ Roses before walking on court, travels with a sports psychologist and meditates during changeovers, breathing slowly with her eyes closed.

“I was just mentally consistent. I felt like today was really stressful for me, so it was kind of hard. This weekend is the culmination of an unusual two weeks, to say the least,” Swiatek further added. — AP

**It’s crazy. Two years ago, I won a junior Grand Slam, and right now I’m here. It feels like such a short time. I’m just overwhelmed.**

— IGA SWIATEK after clinching French Cup trophy



Poland's Iga Swiatek kisses the trophy after beating Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the women's singles final of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on Saturday. — AP

## Djoker does it again, in final

**Paris, Oct. 10:** Novak Djokovic set up a blockbuster French Open title showdown with Rafael Nadal after a dramatic five-set semifinal victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas, but insisted Sunday’s eagerly-awaited championship duel will “not be the biggest match of my life.”

World No.1 Djokovic, the 2016 champion at Roland Garros, reached his fifth final in Paris, defeating Greek fifth seed Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 in a roller-coaster of a contest where he had held a match point in the third set.

On Sunday, Djokovic can win an 18th major and become the first man in half a century to win all four Slams twice.

Nadal, the World No.2, can equal Roger Federer’s all-time record of 20 Grand Slam title wins.

Djokovic is one of only two men to have defeated Nadal at Roland Garros in 15 years.

“This is the house of Rafa,” said Djokovic ahead of the pair’s 56th career clash and his 27th appearance in a Slam final.

“I will have the motivation to win. I beat him in the quarterfinals in 2015 but this will be the biggest challenge — playing Nadal on clay,” he added.

However, the Serb insisted that he has played far more significant finals



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after beating Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 in the men's singles semifinal match of French Open tournament in Paris on Friday. — AFP

and pointed to his first win over Nadal at a Slam at Wimbledon in 2011.

Djokovic also put his 2016 Paris final win over Andy Murray, which allowed him to celebrate a career Grand Slam, above Sunday’s latest instalment of his Nadal rivalry.

“Every French Open

final that I played was the match of my life before I actually won it,” he added.

On Friday, Djokovic showed no sign of the neck and shoulder injuries which blighted his performance against Pablo Carreno Busta in the last eight as he stormed into a comfort-

able two-set lead.

Tsitsipas had seen 10 break points come and go and his first Roland Garros semifinal looked to be heading for an early finish until he staged a stunning comeback.

In the 10th game of the third set, Djokovic was unable to convert a match point.

He then picked up a time violation and the Greek exploited the top seed’s sudden unease to claim the third set.

Djokovic squandered a huge 10 break points in the fourth set as Tsitsipas, who had also been two sets down in his opening match against Jaume Munar, levelled the tie.

However, Tsitsipas, feeling a thigh injury picked up in Rome, faded away in the decider, dropping serve twice to hand Djokovic a 4-1 lead.

He saved another match point but was powerless on the third as Djokovic fired a clean winner. For 34-year-old Nadal, his win over Schwartzman was his 99th at Roland Garros.

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

Nadal has a 6-1 career edge of Djokovic at Roland Garros although their last meeting was in 2015 when Djokovic won in straight sets in the quarterfinals. — AFP

Heat hit back to  
lay Lakers low

**Orlando, Oct. 10:** Jimmy Butler’s triple-double propelled Miami to a 111-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday that kept the Heat alive in the NBA Finals.

Butler scored 35 points with 12 rebounds and 11 assists and the Heat withstood a 40-point performance from Lakers superstar LeBron James to deny Los Angeles a title-clinching win in the NBA’s quarantine bubble at Orlando.

The Lakers still lead the best-of-seven series three games to two and can secure the title with a game-six victory on Sunday.

“We just played hard,” said Butler, who has insisted the Heat can become just the second NBA team to rally from a 3-1 deficit to win the championship series.

Butler drained two free throws with 16.8 seconds left to put Miami up by one.

The Lakers’ Danny Green missed a three-pointer and Tyler Herro added two more free throws for Miami before James’s last-gasp heave at the buzzer came up well short.

On a night that saw the Heat lead much of the way,

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope’s three-pointer with 6:18 remaining put the Lakers up 97-96 — their first lead since the first quarter.

But the Heat dug in, Duncan Robinson’s three-pointer putting Miami back up, 101-99 with 3:16 remaining, and it was a heavyweight slugfest the rest of the way, the lead changing hands seven more times.

Duncan Robinson added 26 points for Miami. Kendrick Nunn had 14, Bam Adebayo 13, Herro 12 and Jae Crowder 11.

James added 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers.

Anthony Davis added 28 points and Caldwell-Pope scored 16.

The Lakers got an early injury scare when Davis, battling Andre Iguodala for a rebound late in the first quarter, took an awkward hop and limped off the court.

The Lakers, trailing 25-24 through one quarter, said Davis had aggravated a right heel contusion. He stayed on the sideline, testing the injury as the game continued and returning in the second quarter. — AFP

JAMES URGES LAKERS  
TO STAY ‘EVEN-KEELED’

**Orlando, Oct. 10:** “King” James and the Los Angeles Lakers were ready for their coronation, but Jimmy Butler and the Miami Heat had other ideas.

Now, Lakers superstar LeBron James says, the key to closing out the Heat for a first NBA title in a decade on Sunday will be focusing not on lifting the trophy but on winning a single game.

“Listen, at the end of the day, you don’t predetermine anything and you take the game as it’s going and you play,” said James.

“You play each quarter, you play each possession and you live with the results,” he said.

“You don’t think about what could happen at the end of the game and things of that nature. You don’t get caught up in the aftermath. You have to live in the moment and prepare yourself each and every possession, because if you start to wander and your mind starts to go, you make a mistake,” James added. — AFP



Jimmy Butler (right) of Miami Heat shoots over Anthony Davis of Los Angeles Lakers during their first half in Game 5 of NBA Finals in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Friday. Heat won 111-108. — AP

Firmino nets brace as  
Brazil bulldoze Bolivia

**Sao Paulo (Brazil), Oct. 10:** Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino scored a brace as Brazil romped to a 5-0 victory over Bolivia in their opening 2022 World Cup qualifier on Friday.

Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho and Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos also got on the scoresheet while star forward Neymar set up two goals in a totally one-sided encounter that sent Brazil top of the South American qualifying table. On 65 minutes, a cross from Coutinho flew into the net off the unlucky Jose Carrasco’s chest.

In a Corinthians Arena deserted due to Covid-19 restrictions, Bolivia showed almost no ambition as Brazil dominated throughout, with PSG’s



Roberto Firmino of Brazil in action during a FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualifying match at the Neo Quimica arena in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Friday. — AP

Neymar starting after overcoming a back problem.

Inside the first minute, winger Everton volleyed wide from inside the six-yard box and three minutes later his cross was headed off-target by

Marquinhos from a similar position.

Meanwhile, in the night’s other match, Atlanta pair Duvan Zapata and Luis Muriel fired Colombia to a 3-0 win over Venezuela. — AFP

## Bottas barges to Eifel pole

**Nurburgring (Germany), Oct. 10:** Valtteri Bottas topped the times ahead of championship leader and Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton in Saturday morning’s belated and sole practice session ahead of Sunday’s Eifel Grand Prix.

The Finn maintained the momentum from his victory in Russia two weeks ago as he clocked a best lap in one minute and 26.225 seconds to outpace the six-time champion by a tenth of a second.

After both Friday sessions were cancelled due to fog and rain that prevented the use of the circuit medical helicopter, there was relief when on-track action began albeit with the notable absence of Racing Point’s Lance Stroll, due to an unspecified illness.

The team confirmed that Stroll was unwell and unable to take part, adding that a decision on their plans for qualifying later Saturday would be



Mercedes Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas drives during the third practice session at the Nuerburgring circuit in Nuerburg, western Germany, on Saturday ahead of the German Formula One Eifel Grand Prix. — AFP

reviewed after practice.

It was not made clear if Stroll had tested positive for Covid-19.

His teammate Sergio Perez was quarantined for two weeks after returning from Mexico and testing positive for the coronavirus ahead of the British

Grand Prix in July.

German driver Nico Hulkenberg, who was drafted in at short notice to substitute for Perez at Silverstone, arrived during the session and, subject to passing a Covid-19 test, was clearly set to replace Stroll if required.

The Mercedes team were hit this week by two positive test results in their travelling race team, resulting in six of the team going into isolation. Six replacement staff were flown to Germany to replace them on Thursday.

Conditions at the Nurburgring remained cool with an air temperature of only eight degrees and a track temperature of 14 as the teams began a major ‘catch up’ process on F1’s first return to the track since 2013.

Both Mercedes cars were fitted with new engines for a session in which the teams concentrated on gathering data in the difficult conditions, working specifically on tyre performance. Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third fastest, as the Italian team showed improved form in the cold weather, with Max Verstappen fourth for Red Bull and Sebastian Vettel fifth. — AFP



## SHORT TAKES

## No reduced Aussie isolation for India?

**Sydney:** BCCI president Sourav Ganguly's request for a shorter than mandated quarantine period for the Indian team in Brisbane, ahead of its tour of Australia, is likely to be rejected, said a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the rules of the game, which restarted with the Test series between England and the West Indies in July. Players have to be in quarantine for two weeks and be tested for the virus before they can take the field. "Queensland health officials are set to make cricket's most powerful nation adhere to strict national protocols, details of which have delayed Cricket Australia announcing a revised schedule for its \$300 million summer," the daily wrote in its report. India is keen on a reduced quarantine and wants the players to be allowed to train in a bio-secure bubble instead of being restricted to a hotel room, which, the BCCI fears, can take a toll on the fitness of its players. The report added that the BCCI has filed an application, requesting that an extended squad, coaches and support staff land in Brisbane days after the final of the Indian Premier League, which is under consideration. — *PTI*

## Lynch reveals racial abuse

**London:** Monte Lynch, a former England cricketer, has revealed he was racially abused by fellow players and spectators during his time in county cricket. Lynch thus becomes the latest player to talk about racial abuse in the game, weeks after Azeem Rafiq suggested Yorkshire, as a cricket club, was "institutionally racist". "Racist notes were slipped under my hotel (room) door," Lynch said in an interview with *The Cricketer* magazine. "My coffin (sic) was filled with orange juice and milk. There were lots of issues. At Headingley, when I played the ODI, three Yorkshiremen walked past and said: 'We are going to give you black \*\*\*\* a good \*\*\*\*\* hiding tomorrow.' 'We were often called 'chocs' and referred to as 'you lot'." Lynch, who was born in Guyana but moved to London as a 13-year-old, had a long county career with Surrey and then Gloucestershire. He also played three ODIs for England in 1988 and has been involved in coaching since his retirement as a player. His comments are the latest in a series of similar revelations that have rocked English cricket this year. — *PTI*

## Ex-Ranji player Suresh hangs self

**Alappuzha:** A former Ranji trophy player, M. Suresh Kumar was found dead in his house on Friday night, police said. Police said Kumar (47) was found hanging in his bedroom at his residence near here. "It was his son who found the cricketer hanging in his bedroom and informed us around 7.15 PM. Prima facie it is a suicide, but we are looking further into the matter," police said. Kumar, a first-class cricketer, had played for Kerala in the Ranji Trophy. A native of Alappuzha, Kumar played 72 First Class matches from 1991-92 to 2005-06 and scored 1,657 runs and taken 196 wickets.

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals from 3.30 pm; Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## TENNIS

**French Open Men's singles final:** Novak Djokovic vs Rafael Nadal from 3 pm on Star Sports 2, 3, Select 2

## FORMULA ONE

**Elifel Grand Prix:** Main race from 5.35 pm on Star Sports 3

## FOOTBALL

**UEFA Nations League:** Ireland vs Wales from 6.30 pm; England vs Belgium from 9.30 pm; France vs Portugal from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Croatia vs Sweden from 9.30 pm; Poland vs Italy from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Six, HD

## BASKETBALL

**NBA Finals (Game 6 of best-of-7):** Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 5 am (Monday) on Sony Six

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# Knightmare for Kings

## Punjab choke again to hand KKR a two-run win

## SCORECARD

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** Rahul Tripathi b Shami 4, Shubman Gill run out 57, Nitish Rana run out 2, Eoin Morgan c Maxwell b Ravi Bishnoi 24, Dinesh Karthik run out 58, Andre Russell c Simran Singh b Arshdeep Singh 5, Pat Cummins (not out) 5. **Extras:** (b-1, lb-2, w-6) 9. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 Overs) 164. **FoW:** 12-1, 14-2, 63-3, 145-4, 150-5, 164-6. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 4-0-30-1, Arshdeep Singh 4-1-25-1, Chris Jordan 4-0-37-0, Mueeb Ur Rahman 4-0-44-0, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-25-1.

**Kings XI Punjab:** K.L. Rahul b Prasidh 74, M. Agarwal c Gill b Prasidh 56, N. Pooran b Narine 16, P.S. Singh c Rana b Prasidh 4, G Maxwell (not out) 10, M Singh c (sub) Green b Narine 0, C Jordan (not out) 0. **Extras:** (lb-2) 2. **Total:** (for 5 wks, 20 Overs) 162. **FoW:** 1-115, 2-144, 3-149, 4-151, 5-158. **Bowling:** Cummins 4-0-29-0, Krishna 4-0-29-3, Nagarkoti 3-0-40-0, Chakravarthy 4-0-27-0, Narine 4-0-28-2, Rana 1-0-7-0.

play with Pat Cummins bowling three of the first six overs.

Rahul was dropped by Andre Russell off the bowling of Prasidh Krishna in the second over when he was on two. Russell hurt himself while fielding after a few overs but returned in the 11th over only to leave the field again in the 13th over.

KKIP were 76 for no loss at the halfway mark and the duo kept on getting the ones and twos without much trouble with the KKR suddenly finding a death over bowler less without Russell. — *PTI*



Prasidh Krishna (left) of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates the wicket of Mayank Agarwal of Kings XI Punjab during their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

— *BCCI*

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	6	5	1	0	10	+1.267
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	4	2	0	8	+0.017
Royal Challengers Bangalore	6	4	2	0	8	-0.820
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	+0.232
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	0	4	-0.588
Rajasthan Royals	6	2	4	0	4	-1.073
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

## WE LET DELHI OFF THE HOOK, SAYS SMITH

**Sharjah, Oct. 10:** Rajasthan Royals skipper Steve Smith said they let Delhi Capitals off the hook by conceding an extra 15-20 runs in their Indian Premier League match on a slow Sharjah pitch.

Delhi posted 184 for eight, the lowest first innings total at the ground this season on Friday.

"I think the wicket did slow down a bit, probably it was not that good as it was in our first two games, but having said that, we probably let them off the hook in the first innings, we probably let them get 10-15 too many," Smith said.

Delhi Capitals' Harshal Patel agreed with the Australian run-machine at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Smith added, "During the chase, we lost wickets again, I got out, we just kept on losing wickets at regular intervals, and chasing 180 odd on a wicket that has slowed up is not easy." — *PTI*

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

**OVERALL:**  
● Matches: 11  
● Hyderabad: 6  
● Rajasthan: 5

## MEETING IN 2019

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Rajasthan Royals by 5 wickets in Hyderabad.

● Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 7 wickets in Jaipur.

## FOR THE RECORD

● David Warner, who scored 4,933 runs at an average of 42.89 in 132 innings of as many matches, needs 67 runs to become fourth batsman to score over 5,000 runs in IPL.

● Steven Smith, who hit 98 sixes in 174 innings of 198 matches, needs two more sixes to complete a century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

look to stage a comeback.

The top guns — Jos Buttler, Smith and Sanju Samson — will again need to live up to the expectations by contributing in a big way. — *PTI*

# Kohli wins it for Bangalore

**Dubai, Oct. 10:** Virat Kohli's epic skill level complemented by peak fitness proved to be too good for Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings which slumped to their fifth defeat by 37 runs in an Indian Premier League campaign already gone awry.

It was captain Kohli's unbeaten 90 off 52 balls that powered RCB to a competitive 169 for 4 on a slowish track after opting to bat.

The CSK batting, which has been wobbly throughout the first four weeks fared no better after Washington Sundar (2/16 in 3 overs) removed Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis inside the Powerplay overs. In the end, they finished on 132 for 8 in 20 overs. Ambati Rayudu (42 off 40 balls) and rookie N. Jagadeesan (33) added 64 but the partnership never took off on a track where ball wasn't coming onto the bat.

Once the wily Yuzvendra Chahal dismissed M.S. Dhoni (10) with a brilliantly set-up plan, the match was as good as over. CSK now have four points from seven games and are in danger of missing out on Play-Offs for the first time in 11 seasons.

Once Rayudu was dismissed by a back of the hand slower from Isuru Udana (1/30 in 4 overs), the match was all over. Special mention for Chris Morris (3/19 in 4 overs), who was brilliant in his first appearance for RCB bowling tight lines with a hint of away movement from right-handers.

Earlier, Kohli, who walked in at the fall of Aaron Finch in the third

## SCORECARD

**Royal Challengers Bangalore:** Devdutt Padikkal c Plessis b Thakur 33, Aaron Finch b Chahar 2, Virat Kohli (not out) 90, AB de Villiers c Dhoni b Thakur 0, Washington Sundar c Dhoni b Curran 10, Shivam Dube (not out) 22. **Extras:** (lb-1 w-10 nb-1) 12. **Total:** (for 4 wks, in 20 overs) 169.

**FoW:** 1-13, 2-66, 3-67, 4-93. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 3-0-10-1, Sam Curran 4-0-48-1, Shardul Thakur 4-0-40-2, Dwayne Bravo 3-0-29-0, Karn Sharma 4-0-34-0, Ravindra Jadeja 2-0-7-0.

**Chennai Super Kings:** S. Watson b Washington Sundar 14, Faf du Plessis c Morris b Washington Sundar 8, A. Rayudu b Udana 42, N. Jagadeesan run out (Morris) 33, M.S. Dhoni (c) c Gurkeerat Singh b Chahal 10, S. Curran c 'de Villiers b Morris 0, RA Jadeja c Gurkeerat Singh b Morris 7, D.J. Bravo c Padikkal b Morris 7, D. Chahar (not out) 5, S. Thakur (not out) 1. **Extras:** (w 5) 5. **Total:** (for 8 wks, in 20 overs) 132.

**FoW:** 1-19, 2-25, 3-89, 4-106, 5-107, 6-113, 7-122, 8-126. **Bowling:** C. Morris 4-0-19-3, N. Saini 4-0-18-0, I. Udana 4-0-30-1, Washington Sundar 3-0-16-2, Y. Chahal 4-0-35-1, S. Dube 1-0-14-0.

over, led from the front with a majestic 52-ball knock that was the finest blend of skill and peak fitness. His innings had four fours and as many sixes but in searing Dubai humidity, ran four twos in the final over, a testament to the hours put in rigorous physical training.

The RCB captain was involved in two half-century partnerships — one with opener Devdutt Padikkal (33 off 33 balls) and Shivam Dube (22 off 14 balls) for the fifth wicket, an unbeaten 76-run stand, which powered the total.

— *PTI*

# Mumbai, Delhi in crunch clash

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

**OVERALL:**  
● Matches: 24  
● Delhi: 12  
● Mumbai: 12

## MEETING IN 2019

● Delhi Capitals beat Mumbai Indians by 37 runs in Mumbai.

● Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 40 runs in Delhi.

## FOR THE RECORD

● Rishabh Pant, who has smashed 99 sixes in 60 innings, needs just one more to become the 20th batsman to complete a century of sixes in the IPL.

● Quinton de Kock, who has dismissed 27 batsmen behind the wickets in 22 innings, needs one more to equal Parthiv Patel's record (28 in 40 innings) for Mumbai Indians in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

batsman with their pace and accuracy. The good news for Capitals is Shimron Hetmyer getting his touch back with the innings against Rajasthan Royals on Friday. He seemed to be the only weak link in Capitals' ranks but his six-laden knock against Royals has removed that worry. — *PTI*

# Royals bank on Ben's return

**Dubai, Oct. 10** Bruised and battered after a string of defeats, Rajasthan Royals will hope the presence of Ben Stokes gets the adrenaline flowing as they seek a revival of fortunes against a charged-up Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League on Sunday.

Rajasthan are struggling at the penultimate spot on the points table after two wins and four straight defeats, while Sunrisers have won three out of their six games so far and occupy the fifth position.

The Royals will be relieved to have the services of Stokes who completes his mandatory quarantine on Saturday. His absence has severely impacted the team's campaign, as the inaugural season champions struggled to figure out their best combination.

Stokes had taken compassionate leave in the middle of England's home Test series against Pakistan in August and travelled to New Zealand to attend to his father who had been diagnosed with brain cancer.



Ben Stokes

It was Stokes' father who reminded the star all-rounder of his duty towards his job and that night he was playing in the 29-year-old's mind.

It is to be seen whether the World Cup winner, who has been out of action for some time now, is afforded the luxury of some practice or is played

straight up.

"Stokes hasn't had a lot of practice, he gets out of quarantine tomorrow, so we'll see if he plays the day after tomorrow," skipper Steve Smith had said after the match against Delhi Capitals.

Rajasthan, having lost to Delhi Capitals by a big margin of 46 runs, will

# IPL's mid-season transfer rule can bring twist in the tale



Ayaz Memon  
Over The Top

The IPL's mid-season transfer rule — which comes into effect from October 13 — not only adds an interesting dimension to the league but could well end up influencing the outcome of matches. Perhaps even which team wins the title this year!

For instance, imagine Ajinkya Rahane, who is struggling to find a place in Delhi's strong batting line-up, moving to Chennai Super Kings, who have been desperate for stability and runs in the middle order. Or indeed, going

back to Rajasthan Royals who also have a fragile middle order.

A marquee name like Rahane, with a proven record could substantially alter CSK's or RR's progress in the tournament. There are several established names — along with others of good experience and newbies — eligible for such transfer. But first let's put the backdrop to what the scope and ambit of this rule is.

This is not the first time the mid-season transfer window comes into effect. In 2019 too, the rule existed,

but with an important difference: where last year, only uncapped players could be transferred, in IPL2020, even capped players have been made eligible.

The previous year, where franchises had shown little or no interest in the mid-season transfers, this time there is expected to be a fair amount of movement. In fact, some franchises had planned for the rule to kick in and make their decisions accordingly.

For instance, before IPL2020 began, Mike Hesson, Director of Cricket Operations with Royal Challengers Bangalore, had talked about this in a press conference conducted virtually.

"We've got a small squad and we've done that for a reason. If something was

to occur, we'd certainly look at that," Hesson had said.

Managements of other franchises may not have been as vocal, but all have been seized of the possibilities that the mid-season transfer offers and have been working on how to gain from this as one gathered from some sources.

One can assume that injuries to players would not be the sole determinant in choosing or discarding players' mid-season. Form would be equally important, as well as finding the right team combination, though injury replacement could be the excuse.

One other factor which has willy-nilly come into play is that the tournament had to be shifted to the UAE because of the Covid pandemic, while

franchises chose their squads based on playing in Indian conditions. Some tweaking of personnel may become imperative.

The mid-season transfer is not a simple exchange of players between franchise but governed by a set of conditions that constitute the rule. Briefly, these are as under:

1) The transfer season comes into effect only after the half-way mark in the league phase when all franchises have played seven games each i.e. from October 12.

2) Both capped and uncapped, domestic and overseas players are eligible this year for this transfer.

3) The player to be transferred should not have participated in more than two matches.

4) Transfer will take

place with mutual consent between franchises and would be binding on the player.

5) Price for the player under transfer can't be lower than what he was sold for in the pre-season auction.

As is to be expected, there is a great deal of speculation and conjecture about how the mid-season transfer will unravel this year. Inquiries with franchise managements have been met with tight-lipped response.

Understandably, cards are being held close to the chest. But it seems inevitable that some big ticket transfers will happen, more so given the topsy-turvy nature of IPL2020 so far.

Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians are frontrunners so far in the

