

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | MONDAY 19 | OCTOBER 2020

## WEATHER



**Max:** 32°C  
**Min:** 23°C  
**Rainfall:** 2.1 mm

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Aippasi 3  
**Tithi:** Thrithiyai  
**Star:** Visagam/ Anusham  
**Rahukalam:**  
7.30 am to 9 am  
**Yamagandam:**  
10.30 am to 12 noon

### PRAYERS

**Fajar:** 4.48 am  
**Zohar:** 12.00 noon  
**Asar:** 3.16 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.51 pm  
**Isha:** 7.02 pm

**SUNSET TODAY** 6.02 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 6.12 AM  
**MOONRISE TODAY** 8.33 AM  
**MOONSET TOMORROW** 9.27 PM

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+54,091)	(+556)
75,46,818	1,14,620

[covid19india.org](https://covid19india.org)

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+3,914)  
**TN:** 6,87,400 10,642

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

4,01,49,426

### DEATHS

11,16,907

COUNTRIES  
AREAS WITH  
CASES  
214

[worldometers.info](https://worldometers.info)

## Sonowal speaks to Mizoram CM on border clash

**Guwahati/ Aizawl:** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal apprised the PMO and Union Home Ministry about the prevailing situation at the state's border with Mizoram on Sunday, following a violent clash in which several people were injured, officials said. Sonowal also telephoned Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga and spoke to him on the border incident, said an Assam government statement. During his conversation with the Mizoram CM, Sonowal stressed taking productive measures and joint efforts to address the border issues. He also advocated for amicably settling the border dispute and to work with cooperation for maintaining peace, and law and order at the inter-state border, the statement said.

## COUNTER

## POINT



**I can't find a safe place to shift flood affected people, sir!**

## Sun sets on Super Over Sunday as Knights win

Kiwi pacer Lockie Ferguson bowled a sensational Super Over as Kolkata Knight Riders prevailed over Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL game in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. Playing his first match of the season, Ferguson took three wickets during regulation play before picking two in the Super Over. —*BCCI*



## STATE | 3

**TN Corona death rate dips to 1.2%: Minister**



## NATION | 4

**BJP-Cong spar over Tharoor's remarks**

## SPORT | 8

**Jamaican sprinter Blake slams MSD**



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GHMC personnel carry out a rescue operation to move flood-affected people to a safer place following heavy rains, at Hafiz Baba Nagar in Hyderabad, Sunday.

# Second wave of floods hits Hyderabad

**Hyderabad, Oct. 18:** A fresh spell of overnight incessant rains caused flooding on Sunday in parts of the city and left a girl dead, days after it witnessed one of the worst deluges following the heaviest downpour in over a century. The latest rains since

Saturday evening led to lakes and other water bodies overflowing and triggering flooding of several low-lying areas, including places affected last week, here and on the outskirts. The Disaster Response Force personnel, the staff of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

and police swung into action since Saturday night itself, evacuating the marooned. In a near repeat of scenes witnessed last week, basements of several apartment complexes were flooded by the rain waters and people were seen walking in knee deep

water in some areas.

A video showed some auto-rickshaws getting washed away in a flooded street.

In a rain-related incident, a five-year-old girl died early Sunday in a wall collapse in Mangalhat area here, civic officials said. —*PTI*

# Iconic buildings to be razed for Central Vista project

**ANIMESH SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, OCT 18

Raksha Bhavan which houses the accommodation suites of officers attached with the prestigious National Defence College (NDC) as well as Transport Bhavan (office of the Road Transport & Shipping and Tourism Ministries) and Shram Shakti Bhavan (which houses the Labour, Water Resources and Power Ministries) – are to be demolished under the controversial Central Vista project. Transport Bhavan and Shram Shakti Bhavan will make way for chambers for MPs next to the pro-

posed new Parliament building, while Raksha Bhavan will be replaced by common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings which will house offices of all central ministries, top sources aware of the development told this newspaper.

The much criticised Central Vista project, which envisions building of a new Parliament, a new accommodation for the Prime Minister and offices of all central ministries at the three kilometres stretch between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate – entails shifting the entire staff of the abovementioned min-

istries as well as officers' suites of NDC to the under construction Grameen Vikas Bhavan which was earlier supposed to be the new address for the Rural Development Ministry.

The entire cost of shifting the staff of the above-mentioned ministries as well as that of the NDC officers' suites to the under constructed erst-while Grameen Vikas Bhavan and its fresh construction will come to around Rs 350 crore, sources informed further. They claimed that this cost would be less than the cost of building the new office of the Rural Development Ministry.

## Don't infringe biryani hotel trademark: HC

**Chennai:** The Madras high court has restrained "M/s Thalappakattu Biriyani & Fast Food" in Chennai from infringing the trademark and trading style of "Thalappakatti Biriyani Hotel" by using the offending trade mark and trading style of "M/s Thalappakattu Biriyani & Fast Food" or any other mark or marks which are similar or in any way deceptively similar to or a colourable imitation.

■ **REPORT ON PAGE 3**

# SL navy chases away 4,000 TN fishermen

**Rameswaram, Oct. 18:** More than 4,000 fishermen from Rameswaram returned without a catch after some of them were allegedly driven away by Sri Lankan Navy personnel while fishing near Katchatheevu, fishermen association leaders said on Sunday.

The fishermen were fishing between Danushkodi and Katchatheevu, an islet

ceded to Sri Lanka, past midnight on Saturday when gun-toting Lankan Naval personnel came in patrol boats and drove away around 50 of the nearly 600 mechanised boats, they claimed.

The fishermen, who have not been venturing into sea in the past fortnight due to a strike and weather conditions, had put out to sea on Saturday night.

## Sunday market in Srinagar reopens after 8 months

**Srinagar, Oct. 18:** The weekly flea market in the heart of the city, popularly known as 'Sunday Market', re-opened for business on Sunday after remaining closed for over 8 months in view of the coronavirus-induced lockdown, officials said. The flea market reopened for shoppers as vendors put up stalls on the TRC Chowk-Batamalo axis through the Lal Chowk city centre. The vendors maintained social distancing and followed other precautions and standard operating procedures (SOPs).

# Governors are BJP's political agents: Sena

**BHAGWAN PARAB**  
MUMBAI, OCT. 18

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has accused the BJP of using the governors as its "political agents" to destabilise all the governments run by the Opposition parties. This is not a sign of a good ruler, said senior Sena leader Sanjay Raut.

"In Maharashtra, the BJP has engaged in anti-government propaganda since there is a non-BJP government in the state. In fact, wherever there are Opposition governments, the BJP has trained its guns at them by appointing governors as their political agents," said Mr

Raut in his weekly column in the Sena mouthpiece Saamana on Sunday.

The Sena leader cited several states where governors are at loggerheads with the governments of Opposition parties. "In West Bengal, governor Jagdeep Dhankhar is seen posing daily challenges to chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who is not budging to him. In Delhi too, there is a clash between Arvind Kejriwal and the Lieutenant-governor. There is no trouble in Punjab due to the fear of invoking the wrath of the Sikh community. In Maharashtra, the Thackeray government is stable despite various

attempts from the governor, whereas all efforts to destabilise the Ashok Gehlot government were foiled in Rajasthan," he added.

Mr Raut predicted that Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar will also meet the same fate after the Assembly polls. It is the sole reason behind the decision of Chirag Paswan's party to contest independently, he said.

The BJP is ready to go to any extent to grab power. For this, it is using the CBI, the income-tax department and the Enforcement Directorate. This is even more terrible than China and Russia, the Sena leader said.

Meanwhile, Mr Raut has welcomed Union home minister Amit Shah's remark that Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari could have "chosen his words in a better way" while writing to chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on reopening places of worship in the state. He also said that with Mr Shah's statement, the Shiv Sena has put the issue to rest. Mr Koshiyari had recently written to Mr Thackeray on reopening places of worship in the state, and asked if the Shiv Sena president had "suddenly turned secular", triggering a war of words between the governor and the chief minister.

## LAC ROW

## 8th round of Corps Commander talks this week

**New Delhi, Oct. 18:** The eighth round of Corps Commander-level talks between India and China is likely to take place this week with a focus on carrying forward their discussions on the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh as the region enters the harsh winter season, government sources said.

There was no breakthrough on the disengagement of troops from the friction points during the seventh round of talks on October 12. Both sides had maintained that the talks were "positive and constructive". "The eighth round of military talks are likely to take place this week. The date is yet to be finalised," said a source.

A joint press statement by the two armies a day after the last round of talks said that both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement "as early as possible".

India has all along been maintaining that the onus is on China to carry forward the process of disengagement.



### M B GIRISH

KALABURAGI, OCT. 18

Though the heavy rains has subsided in Karnataka, heavy discharge of water from Ujjani and Veer reservoir of Maharashtra into downstream areas has lead to floods in almost five districts of North Karnataka.

While about 157 villages of Kalaburagi district alone is marooned, many villages in Vijayapura, Gadag, Haveri, Belagavi district are also floods. In Kalaburgi, 15, 078 people from 55 of these affected villages have been shifted to safe locations in the district besides inundating agricultural fields in vast tracts of lands.

As per the preliminary assessment made by Kalaburagi officials, excess water from rivers flowing in spate had entered as many as 10000 houses causing damages to belongings while there were no reports of loss of human lives on account of flood.

To add to the woes of the flood ravaged villagers, water level in River Bheema has been slightly rising causing concern among officials and an official said that water level in River Bheema had

reduced on Saturday but saw about 3-feet rise on Sunday morning while officials concerned are constantly monitoring water level in the river so as to initiate precautionary measures.

Maharashtra has released excess water from these two reservoirs in between 5.50 lakh to 8 lakh cusecs into River Bheema flowing through Kalaburagi and people in the taluks of Chittapur, Afzalpur, Shahabad, Kalaburagi and Jewargi have been severely affected since water level in the river Bheema started to swell since October 13 onwards.

After evacuation of flood-hit people, the district administration has opened as many as 120 relief centres and about 18, 252 people have been shifted so far. At the relief cen-

tres, officials concerned have made arrangements for hand sanitizers, masks and to keep social distancing to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

In flood hit areas, farmers have suffered crop damages mainly to sugarcane, tur dal and cotton while agriculture officials told Deccan Chronicle on Sunday that fields have been waterlogged and it has been difficult for the officials to assess the damages. The officials, however, refuse to estimate the preliminary extent of crop losses.

However, Chief Minister B.S. Yadiyurappa at the inaugural function of Mysore Dasara stated that heavy rainfall in August and September had caused damages to fields in about 10.07 lakh hectares resulting in crop loss of about 9, 952 crore.

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## ■ 'Pandemic can be controlled by early 2021'

# Covid-19: Panel warns against festive laxity

**SANJAY KAW**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 18

A government-appointed committee has said that India has crossed the coronavirus peak and predicted that the epidemic could be brought under control by early next year, possibly by the end of February 2021, if all measures are followed. But the onset of winter and the festival season ahead may increase susceptibility to the infection and laxity at this point can again lead to a spike.

Keeping a "steady declining trend", the number of active coronavirus cases in India stayed below eight lakhs for the second consecutive day on Sunday and comprised 10.45 per cent of the total caseload. There are 7,83,311 active cases of coronavirus infections now. The total number of recoveries has surged to 65,97,209 and are 58,13,898 more than active cases. The Covid-19 recovery rate in the country has also risen to 88.03 per cent.

As many as 22 states and Union territories, including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and

## Fresh cases in TN drop below 4000/day mark

**Chennai, Oct. 18:** Tamil Nadu's daily Covid-19 case count on Sunday dipped below the 4,000 mark, with the tally touching 6.87 lakh, while 56 fatalities pushed the death toll to 10,642. The state logged 3,914 infections, out of which Chennai reported 1,036, Coimbatore 319, Thiruvallur 195, Salem 188, Chengalpet 174 and Tirupur 166.

Chennai accounted for 1,89,995 of the 6,87,400 cumulative positive cases, a health department bul-

letin said. Out of the 20,642 deaths reported so far, Chennai's share is 3,520.

Recoveries continued to outnumber fresh cases and with 4,929 patients getting discharged from various hospitals, a total of 6,37,637 people have got cured. Correspondingly the active cases have dipped to 39,121, the bulletin said. As many as 90,286 samples were tested and 89,46,566 specimens have so far been examined in 192 COVID labs across the state.

Chandigarh, have less than 20,000 active cases. Also, 10 states and Union territories, including

Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Telangana, Rajasthan and Odisha, have over 20,000 but less than 50,000 active cases, while three states -- Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala -- have more than 50,000 active infections. "The declining trend of active cases is

complemented by the unbroken rising number of recovered cases," an official said.

A total of 72,614 coronavirus patients recovered and were discharged in a day while 61,871 new infections were reported in the same time. As many as 79 per cent of new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi.



## SHORT TAKES

## City student gets all India rank in Neet

**Chennai:** G Swetha of Velammal Vidyalaya, Mel Ayanambakkam in Chennai secured All India Open Category Rank 62 by scoring 701 marks out of 720 in NEET. The school topper secured a

bove 99 percentile score in the key subjects of physics, chemistry and biology.

## Shakti Pumps' 178% growth in domestic trade

**Chennai:** Shakti Pumps reported total income of ₹201.74 crores during the period ended September 30 as compared to ₹93.25 crores during the period ended June 30.

The company posted net profit of ₹15.24 crores for the period as against net profit of ₹3.31 crores for period ended June 30.

The company reported EPS of ₹8.29 as compared to ₹1.80 Talking about these encouraging results,

Mr. Dinesh Patidar, Chairman and Managing Director, Shakti Pumps (India) Limited said, "We were also able to achieve an increase in agribusiness and exports. Along with exports, the demand for various rural and solar energy schemes will continue to grow."

## Funskool, first toy maker to get BIS certificate

**Chennai:**Funskool India, part of MRF group, is the first Indian toy manufacturer to get certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards for safety of its electric toys for the manufacturing plant based at Goa, which also has a licence for non electric

toys. T he Ranipet plant of Funskool is the very first toy manufacturing unit from South India to get the BIS accreditation for non-electric toys.

The BIS standard was made mandatory for all toys designed or intended for use in play by children below 14 years of age, by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. R. Jeswant, CEO Funskool India, said: "Our toys manufactured at the factories in India were already compliant with all stringent international quality standards. Acquiring the BIS certification is an extension of our commitment to manufacturing high-quality toys in India.

## 40-lakh landmark for Apache bikes

**Chennai:** Shakti Pumps reported T To commemorate the four million global sales milestone celebrations, TVS Motor Company, in collaboration with TVS Apache customers, created the "Longest Chequered Flag" spanning a length of 957 feet.

With over 2,000 images, the chequered flag set a record in the Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records.

## ₹100 cr fishing harbour in Nagapattinam

**DC CORRESPONDENT NAGAPATTINAM, OCT 18**

A fishing harbour at an estimated cost of ₹100 crores is coming up at Vellappallam in the district for the benefit of 9,176 fishermen in and around Vellappallam fishermen hamlet, said Collector

Praveen P Nair. Talking to newsmen here on Saturday after inspecting the on-going civil works for the proposed fishing harbor, Nair said the harbour will get facilities to anchor 490 fibreglass boats, 80 catamarans, have prevention walls for a distance of 1,300 metre in the South, 1,080 metre in the northern part of the harbour, and two fish auction centres.

## City gets busy on monsoonish day



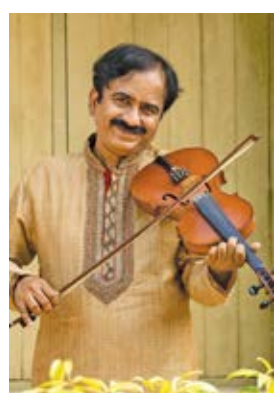
Motorists are finding it difficult to negotiate wet and slippery road at Sanatorium near MEPZ on Sunday. — EK SANJAY

## Jai Poduvom, a tribute to soldiers

**DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 18**

One day, on a morning walk, the renowned musician Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan was inspired to write a few lines to express gratitude to the nation's soldiers who are being martyred at the border even amidst the pandemic. The lines had flowed in simple and colloquial but powerful Tamil and he sent it to his sister Ms Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi who encouraged him to set it to music.

The musical video offering as a humble tribute to soldiers was thus conceived and Krishnan, with his partners Vijayaa Shanker, Narayan Sharma and Rahul Pandey, crated this salute to soldiers and their bravery in the musical offering Jai Poduvom. Krishnan had initially put off setting the music due to preoccupation with the online musical celebrations related to Lalgudi 90, the 90th birth anniversary of his guru



Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan

and legendary musician Lalgudi Jayaraman.

Haunted by the tune, Krishnan had reached out to Vijayaa Shanker, whose melodious voice has been featured in many films. She enthusiastically agreed to sing. For the male voice, Krishnan turned to his student Narayan Sharma, a talented violinist as well as singer. Vijayaa from Mumbai and Narayan from Bengaluru both learnt the song and recorded it

and Ms Shanker's student Rahul Pandey voluntarily offered to take care of sound design, mixing and mastering and a folksy style to convey a deep message was made to hit the Internet. The song has excellent visuals to evoke scenes of the life of soldiers at the high altitude frontiers of India.

"India's soldiers defending our borders in extreme conditions are literally the personification of sacrifice. This musical offering is a humble tribute to these soldiers," Krishnan said. "The pandemic has confined many of us to our homes, creating ample time and opportunity for the mind to focus on introspection, deepening one's sense of appreciation for the truly important things," he added. The song has excellent visuals to evoke scenes of the life of soldiers at the high altitude frontiers of India. (The song can be accessed at https://youtu.be/NAem99FOVYI)

## Judges should be fearless in their decisions: SC's justice Ramana

**New Delhi, Oct. 18:** The seniormost judge of the Supreme Court Justice NV Ramana has said the greatest strength of the judiciary is the faith of people in it and judges must be "steadfast in holding on to their principles" and "fearless in their decisions" to withstand all pressures and odds.

Justice Ramana's comments hold importance in the backdrop of a recent unprecedented move by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of making allegations against him in a letter to Chief Justice of India S A Bobde. — PTI

## Kids dump studies, turn breadwinners

**T SUDHEESH | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 18**

The other day, 16-year-old Karthik hailing from Khan street near Choolaimedu here, was begging with a mobile shop owner in Ramapuram for a mobile phone battery. He wanted to get his old mobile phone working, but fell short of a few hundred rupees to replace it.

Karthik works as a labourer in a water packaging unit near Ramapuram for the last couple of years. He has never seen his father, and is the sole breadwinner of his four-member family including a 12-year-old-sister, mother and grandmother.

As Karthik shared his problem with the shop owner, his hands shivered like that of a Parkinson's patient. The reason for this unusual shivering, said Karthik, was the continuous hard work at the packaging unit.

"There are three persons in the unit working as labourers. I started working from the age of 10 in a

## Chennai bizman shoots relative over an argument

**DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 18**

An argument over a family problem led to a firing in which a man sustained injuries. According to the police, the Syed Ibrahim, a resident of Pudumanaikuppam in Royapuram runs a hotel in Mannady area. He lived with his wife, Nisha.

Police said, On Saturday, an argument arose between the couple and Nisha allegedly informed his Nephew Ansaruddin about the incident. Ansaruddin warned Syed over the phone, and the latter asked him not to interfere in their family issues. The duo reportedly hurled abuses at each other. Irked by his Ansaruddin reached Syed's house with friends to attack him. When Ansaruddin entered the house, Syed who was hiding in the bathroom with his licenced gun, fired at former.

Ansaruddin suffered injuries to his hand, Police sources said that Syed Ibrahim was also injured in the incident. Based on the information, Royapuram police rushed to the spot and sent the injured to the hospital. Ansaruddin is being treated at the Stanley government hospital, whereas Syed is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Greams road.

Royapuram police began an investigation into the matter. Police seized the gun from Syed. They are questioning the duo and Nisha regarding the inci-

## PANDEMIC AFTERMATH

● **State convener, Tamil Nadu Child Rights Watch, Andrew Sesuraj, agrees to the fact that the number of children out on the street involved in various physical labour including vending vegetables, has increased in the post-pandemic period**

chicken shop, and also carried on with his schooling along with the job. That was how I passed class X last year," he said.

"I want to continue my studies. I would like to join an Industrial Training Institute (ITI). But Covid-19 has smothered everything. Now, I am the only breadwinner in the family. I haven't seen my father. I have to take care of my mother, granny and sister, a class VI student. The pandemic and lockdowns had severely affected our lives. Now, I am working at the water packaging unit for Rs150 as daily wage. I have the desire to continue studying. But I am not sure whether I can manage to do it in the current situation," he lamented.

State convener, Tamil Nadu Child Rights Watch, Andrew Sesuraj, agrees to the fact that the number of children out on the street involved in various physical labour including vending vegetables, has increased in the post-pandemic period.

"I have come across several such cases in the city in the last couple of months. It's evident that they are forced to be involved in such activities since they are left with no other option to deal with hunger," said Sesuraj.

He pointed out that it was difficult to conduct a survey on children laboring out in the streets. This would be possible only when the schools reopen. It remains to be seen as to

how many of them would return to schools when it reopens," he added.

Sesuraj also criticised the government for not taking steps to reconstitute the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNSCPCR) despite so many children facing a tough time due to the pandemic. The term of the body ended earlier this year. But no new commission has been reconstituted so far. Considering this situation, the government should have extended the tenure of the last commission, he said.

Officials with the Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal programme department said that the government had issued an order on July 2 to provide dry ration for all primary and upper primary students in the state.

It may be recalled as per the recently released Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the 'serious hunger' category.



Let it be coronavirus or rain, nothing stops these people reaching Kasimedu fish market on Sundays. — DC

## Daily infections in TN drop below 4,000 mark

**Chennai, Oct 18:** Tamil Nadu's daily Covid-19 case count on Sunday dipped below the 4,000 mark, with the tally touching 6,87 lakh, while 56 fatalities pushed the death toll to 10,642.

The state logged 3,914 infections, out of which Chennai reported 1,036, Coimbatore 319, Thiruvallur 195, Salem 188, Chengalpet 174 and Tirupur 166.

Chennai accounted for 1,89,995 of the 6,87,400 cumulative positive cases, a health department bulletin said.

Of the total of 56 deaths, a 55-year-old man did not have comorbidities and two men, aged 30, had chronic illness.

Out of the 10,642 deaths reported so far, Chennai's share is 3,520.

● **Recoveries continued to outnumber fresh cases and with 4,929 patients getting discharged from various hospitals, a total of 6,37,637 people have got cured**

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As many as 90,286 samples were tested and 89,46,566 specimens have so far been examined in 192 Covid labs across the state. — PTI

## No fresh Covid-19 fatality in Puducherry

**Puducherry, Oct. 18:** In a welcome development, the union territory of Puducherry reported no fresh fatalities due to Covid-19 on Sunday for the first time this month while the test positivity rate dropped to 4.3 per cent.

The infection count rose to 33,141 with the addition of 177 cases while recoveries outnumbered with 306 patients being discharged after treatment from various hospitals during the last 24 hours ending at 10 am, an official said.

The toll remained unchanged at 574 as no death due to the coronavirus occurred during the period, Health and Family Welfare department Nodal Officer Ramesh said.

This was the first time there was no Covid-19 fatality this month in the UT which has been witnessing a declining trend in number of deaths in recent days, he told a virtual press meet. Ramesh said the fatality rate was 1.73 per cent and the recovery rate was 85.36 per cent.

The case positivity rate had also come down to 4.3 per cent which "is quite encouraging", he said, adding 177 new cases were identified from 4,072 samples in the last 24 hours.

There has been improvement in the pandemic situation in the UT in recent days after it had witnessed steady increase in cases and deaths in the past few months with the fatality rate touching the two per cent mark, above the then national average of 1.6 per cent, during September. Of the fresh cases on Sunday, Puducherry accounted for 131, Karaikal 24, Yanam six and Mahe reported 16 cases. — PTI

● **This was the first time there was no Covid-19 fatality this month in the UT**

## Sync social media community standards with local laws



Sanjay Pinto

The Crucifix — Jesus Christ nailed to the cross — is the most sacred sign of Christian faith. It depicts the human suffering of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and forms the basis for the resurrection. A blasphemous and sacrilegious meme showing Jesus suspended from the cross by a rope in a sort of bungee jump formation with the words "Bored with regular Jesus? Spice up your wall with BunGeeZus" was recently shared on Facebook. When reported, Fb almost instantaneously replied that it did not constitute a violation of its 'community standards.'

Not too long ago, there were grossly offensive listings of products like rugs with Hindu Gods and sacred symbols on an e-commerce site. And there is no dearth of memes mocking religious or cult leaders. Content that denigrates any religion or faith on any plat-

form deserves condemnation.

Just what are these 'community standards' that sites follow? Should just one set of rules be applicable across the globe? What is offensive in one country may not be an issue in another place. What may be funny to you may cause outrage to another. If content uploaded violates a penal law, how can it pass community 'standards'?

The meme on the crucifix, or mockery of other religions, in my opinion, attract Sections 295A and 298 of IPC. These are invariably deliberate and malicious acts, intended to "outrage or wound religious feelings" by "insulting" religious beliefs through signs or visible representations or objects. Such communication is not protected by Article 19(2) of the Constitution. The Supreme Court in Ramji Lal Modi Vs State of UP (1957) had held that Section 295A was not ultra vires the guarantee of freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court, in Priya Prakash Varrier Vs State of Telengana (2018), insisted on a "calculated tendency to insult or to dis-



## JUSTICE FOR ALL

turb public order to invite the wrath" of the penal provision. Drawing a distinction between Section 295A and 298 IPC, the Patna high court in Taslima Nazrin vs State of Bihar (2017) observed that "outraging is a much stronger word than wounding" and in that case, concluded that "sarcasm" was not the same as "intention."

The memes in question go beyond sarcasm. Poking fun at sacred beliefs of communities could only stem from a premeditated act to insult, mock, at wound and outrage religious feelings. Authors of derogatory posts targeting any religion must face trial.

Facebook has a seemingly exhaustive list of red flags — nudity, violence, harassment, suicide or

self-injury, false news, unauthorised sales, hate speech, terrorism, infringement of intellectual property, fraud, bullying, child abuse, animal abuse, promoting drug use, sexual exploitation, sharing private messages. And there are sub texts like race or ethnicity, religious affiliation, caste, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity, disability or disease and calls for exclusion or segregation.

In India, these parameters are a sizeable sweep of the IPC and other statutes such as the Juvenile Justice Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Look at the other hot button — cyber bullying. How often do social media sites act on reports citing these infractions? When complaints do not violate face-book's community standards, its nudge to resort to "counter speech in the form of accurate information and alternative viewpoints" may be ineffective in the face of trolling and cyber bullying. It is indirectly asking a victim to fight back on the same platform. How many victims would be combative enough? Hounding a person on the social media

may, in extreme cases, attract Section 306 IPC for abetment of suicide. Of course, the burden of proof is quite high in such cases requiring evidence of direct incitement.

A report to a social media site is not to be treated like a FIR with the objective of criminal prosecution. Flagging objectionable content does not require the burden of proof to be met.

A prima facie, prudent view should suffice. Timely action by sites may serve to assuage feelings and legal action may not be resorted to. The legitimate expectation is for sites to have more stringent self regulation, especially for content ridiculing matters of any faith, as opposed to inexplicable leniency by some of them.

Religious sentiments aside, when business interests are at stake, sites can display uncharacteristic alacrity. In response to a post by an Economics Professor about the high retail price of surgical and N95 masks, a well meaning, innocuous comment on how they can be sourced from wholesale dealers for much less, was deleted instantaneously and a

warning sent out to the user that it was a violation of the site's "Community Standards on Covid 19 related supplies." Is face-book flapping its wings to protect advertisers of such products? What happened to its recommended "counter speech" or "alternative viewpoints" here?

Twitter appears to have tightened its reporting apparatus. Its complaint categories may be relatively less such as tweets being abusive or harmful, disrespectful or offensive, sharing private information, indulging in targeted harassment, spewing hate against race, religion, gender, orientation, disability or threatening violence or physical harm, encouraging self-harm or suicide. Mercifully, its interpretation of hate speech comes across as stricter.

Trolls and abusive handles, or accounts that cross a line, create controversies and hashtags. The sad reality is that outrage drives traction! As Jesus said on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

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



## SHORT TAKES

GOLD WORTH  
₹24L SEIZED IN  
AIRPORTDC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 18

The Chennai air customs seized gold worth Rs 24 lakhs on Saturday.

Sources said, Rawther Naina Mohamed (38) of SP Pattinam, who arrived from Dubai by an Air India Express flight, was intercepted at the exit.

On questioning, Rawther confessed that carrying gold paste bundles concealed in his rectum. On a search on his person, two bundles of gold in paste form were recovered and 179 gms of gold recovered after extraction. Two gold bits weighing 50 grams were recovered from his pant pocket. A total of 229 grams of gold valued at Rs 12 lakh was recovered and seized.

Earlier, in another case, a passenger identified as Abdul Kadar Jailani (34) of Madurai, who arrived from Dubai by an Air India Flight, was intercepted at the exit. On a search, two bundles of gold paste concealed in his rectum were recovered. A total of 228 grams of gold valued at Rs 11.96 lakh was recovered. In both cases, a total of 457 grams of gold worth Rs. 23.96 lakh was recovered and seized under the Customs Act.

HUGE HAUL OF  
GANJA IN CITY,  
THREE HELDDC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 18

The Kotturpuram police here seized a huge quantity of ganja from a drug peddler in the city, and from Santhangadu in North Chennai. Three persons, who allegedly procured the contraband from other states and supplied them to several outlets in the city, were also arrested.

During a routine vehicle check on Sunday morning, a team of Sathangadu police headed by Inspector Rangaswamy intercepted two persons on two motorbikes near Rajaji Nagar in Thiruvottiyur. On a search, police recovered nine kilograms of ganja.

The suspects were identified as R Saravanan (34) of Thiruvottiyur and P Shanmugam (31) of Triplicane. They were arrested by the police. Contraband and two motorbikes were seized from them. They will be sent to the judicial custody, police said.

Theni cowherd's  
son clears Neet

## Jeevithkumar seeks help to study

**Theni, Oct. 18:** A cowherd's son in the State cleared this year's NEET, topping the list of students from government schools in the country who took the coveted exam for admission to undergraduate medical courses.

However, due to financial constraints, Jeevithkumar, the son of a cowherd and a MGNREGA worker from Theni district, said he might not be able to pursue the course.

He was a student of the Government Model Higher Secondary School at Silvarpatti, Periyakulam and has scored 664 marks out of total 720 in his second attempt of taking the examination.

Jeevithkumar said he might not be able to pursue medical education as the fees of even the government colleges is beyond his family's reach. "It wasn't my aim to



become a doctor, but I tried it because the exam was very hard to crack. Now I would like to pursue MBBS course, but my family wouldn't be able to pay the fees for even government colleges, let alone a private one. I want to request people to help me pursue my studies," he said.

He also thanked his teachers at his school for their guidance and help in enrolling at a coaching

institute for NEET preparation. "Last year, I wrote the exam only to realise how tough it was. I planned to write it again and my teachers helped me in joining a NEET coaching and this time I was able to score 664 marks which made me the national topper among government school students across the country," he added.

Jeevithkumar's mother, Parameshwari, who is a MGNREGA worker, expressed happiness at her son's success and thanked his teachers for their help and guidance. "Jeevith's school and teachers played a major role in ensuring that he was able to enroll in a year-long coaching class. Jeevith was the first in our family to score high marks in Class 10 and 12. We are happy with how well he has done and it feels like he has already become a doctor," she said.

Poor visibility forces  
copter to land in village

**Tirupathur, Oct. 18:** A private helicopter bound to Tirupati made an unscheduled landing on Sunday due to poor visibility. All the occupants, from a business family in Coimbatore, of the

helicopter were safe, police said and they took off after about two hours.

The family of five, besides a two-member crew, were on their way to Tirupati this morning

when the pilot faced visibility issues due to foggy conditions. The pilot landed in an open area at Kandili, much to the surprise of locals who gathered to have a glimpse of the helicopter. — PTI

TN, Centre hold divergent views  
on PG medical seats reservationDC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, OCT 18

The Tamil Nadu and the Union governments have expressed divergent opinions before the Madras high court in the matter relating to providing reservation for in-service candidates in super specialty courses in medical institutions.

Recording the same, Justice N.Anand Venkatesh posted to November 9, 2020, further hearing of the petitions filed by Dr.M.Syed Fahrudeen and Dr. G. K.umaravel, Assistants Professors, Department of General Medicine, Government Royapettah Hospital, Chennai which sought a direction to the Tamil Nadu and Central governments to notify 50 percent of vacancies for in-service candidates for admission to super specialty DM/MCh. courses in academic session 2020-2021 in medical in TN institu-

tions.

The judge said pursuant to the order passed by the court on Oct. 9, 2020 the Director of Medical Education has filed the counter affidavit on behalf of the State Health and Family Welfare secretary also. The counter has stated, "In Tamil Nadu, there are 25 government medical colleges, 14 self finance private medical colleges and many are with post graduate and super specialty courses. The quality of medical education in Tamil Nadu is so high when compared with any other State across the country, since the State has been creating a skilled human resource over the years. Further, as a policy, the State has proposed to create government medical colleges in all the districts."

"Recently, Government of India has sanctioned 11 new government medical colleges under a centrally sponsored scheme and for

the existing colleges and for future expansion, skilled faculty is an absolute essential requirement. As per the above direction of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, Tamil Nadu should be allowed to fill up 50 per cent of the seats in super specialty Courses as its quota from this academic year."

Advocate General Vijay Narayan submitted that the state government was now in the process of assessing the total seats that were to be filled up in PG courses and also super specialty courses and it was also taking into consider future expansion. The AG further submitted that the government was now in the process of taking a decision, which will be reported in the next date of hearing, the judge added.

The judge said senior central government standing counsel Subbu Ranga Bharathi submitted that he has received written

instructions to the effect that the central government was not in agreement in providing reservation for in-service candidates in super specialty courses. He sought time to file the counter.

"It is clear that different stands have now been taken by the State and Central governments on this issue. The Supreme Court, by passing judgment in Tamil Nadu Medical Association and Others vs Union of India and others has specifically traced the power of reservation of in-service candidates under Entry 25 to List-III of Constitution of India. Both the Central government and State government will have powers to enact a law with regard to providing reservation for in-service candidates in post graduate and super specialty courses. In view of the divergent opinions of the court has to hear the versions of both sides before passing final orders", the judge added.

Plea to run  
more Coonoor,  
Kovai busesB RAVICHANDRAN | DC  
COONOOR, OCT 18

Residents of Coonoor, the second largest town in the Nilgiris, have demanded the TNSTC to operate more buses between Coonoor and Coimbatore during weekends, to handle the crowd.

Pointing to the huge crowd that generally waits for hours together to board buses to Coimbatore during weekends, residents here have sought more bus services from Coonoor and Coimbatore, to solve the issue.

"Generally, travelers from Coonoor board buses coming from Ooty to travel to places like Mettupalayam and Coimbatore. Though normally seats are available in Coimbatore-bound buses from Ooty, during

● **More buses are needed over the weekend as a lot of people wish to travel to and from hills**

week-ends, these buses are packed to capacity with hardly any seats available," said a resident in Coonoor.

"The TNSTC is the sole public bus transport in the Nilgiris, and any bus travel would depend only on the TNSTC buses. Due to SOPs after 'Unlock 4.0', there are restrictions on the number of passengers travelling in buses, aggravating the situation. The only solution is for TNSTC to operate more buses between Coonoor and Coimbatore during the weekends, to clear the extra rush," opined Unni, a resident here.

VOCATIONAL  
TEACHERS SEEK  
PROMOTIONR VALAYAPATHY | DC  
TIRUVARUR, OCT 18

The Tamil Nadu Higher Secondary Schools Vocational Teachers Kazhagam has appealed to the government to provide promotional opportunities for them, as they served in the same post for the last 30 years.

Kazhagam's newly elected state president S Janarthanan, said in a release here on Sunday that a resolution to this effect was adopted in their state general council meeting held here on Saturday.

Janarthanan further said the meeting also wanted two incentive pay hikes for them like other teachers, to make vocational education a compulsory subject in all the higher secondary schools, to fill up the 700 vocational teachers vacancies across the state immediately.

They also wanted the Supreme Court's verdict 'Equal job - Equal pay', to be implemented for vocational teachers, and to provide a time-bound pay scale to all vocational teachers, who have been working under the consolidated pay scale. The meeting also appealed to the Union Government to withdraw its new educational policy, he added.

TN Corona death  
rate dips to  
1.2%: MinisterR VALAYAPATHY | DC  
PUDUKOTTAI, OCT 18

The death rate due to the Corona virus has come down to 1.2 percent, while the positive rate also has come down below six percent in Tamil Nadu, said Health minister Dr C Vijayabaskar.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday after inspecting the arrangements for Chief Minister Edappadi K

Palaniswami who is expected to visit Pudukottai district on October 22, along with Collector B Uma Maheswari and others, Dr Vijayabaskar said that anti-corona virus vaccine has been administered to 58 social activists, and there was no report about any side effects from them so far. We need 150 social activists for this purpose, and have sought youths to come forward for this, he added.

He further said that both the WHO and the ICMR appreciated the government's effective handling of COVID-19 and had also suggested that other state governments follow TN's model to tackle the pandemic.

To a question, the minister said, in the last three weeks Corona numbers have been reduced considerably, and at present 41,000 are under treatment.

## Thalappakatti Biryani hotel trademark not to be infringed: HC

J.STALIN | DC  
CHENNAI, OCT. 18

The Madras high court has restrained "M/s Thalappakattu Biryani & Fast Food" in Chennai from infringing the trademark and trading style of "Thalappakatti Biryani Hotel" by using the offending trade mark and trading style of "M/s Thalappakattu Biryani & Fast Food" or any other mark or marks which are similar or in any way deceptively similar to or a colourable imitation of the

trade mark "Thalappakatti Biryani Hotel".

Justice C.V.Karthikeyan granted the interim injunction till November 4, 2020 on an application arising out of a suit filed by M/s Thalappakatti Naidu Ananda Vilas Biryani hotel in Chennai. The judge also ordered notice, returnable by November 4, to "M/s Thalappakattu Biryani & Fast Food at CIT Nagar in Chennai."

Advocate Vijayan Subramanian, appearing for the plaintiff submitted

that originally hotel business was commenced in 1957 by P.Nagasamy Naidu alias Thalappakatti Naidu. The business in the name M/s Thalappakatti Naidu Anandha Vilas Biryani hotel, acquired enormous popularity and goodwill. On the demise of P.Nagasamy Naidu in 1978, his son N.Dhanabalan continued the business. Since P.Nagasamy Naidu wore a turban, the name of the business was identified with the same and it was referred as "Thalappakatti

Biryani Hotel". The business has been continuously functioning and it has acquired goodwill and reputation and it has also been referred to in various movies, he added.

Vijayan Subramanian said the trademark and trading style of "Thalappakatti Biryani Hotel" had acquired secondary meaning to denote the products of the plaintiff who also had an advantage of having registration of their trademark on September 23, 2010 and the registration is still on.

There have been earlier occasions when the trade name of the plaintiff had been infringed by various other traders and the plaintiff had occasions to approach this court to institute suits and this court had also ensured that the plaintiff's mark had been protected from infringement.

The defendant has now commenced business under the name of "Thalappakattu Biryani & Fast Food". The plaintiff was naturally aggrieved since the mark

"Thalappakattu" had been utilised by the defendant, not only to infringe the trademark but also to pass off their products as that of the plaintiff, which is why the plaintiff has now filed the present application and suit, he added.

Comparing the pictorial representation of the plaintiff's and defendant's mark, the judge said, "It is seen that the defendant is using the name 'Thalappakattu Biryani and Fast Food' as the name of their hotel and this is a direct infringement

of the mark enjoyed exclusively by the plaintiff. In view of that fact, I hold that a prima facie case has been made out and owing to the registration, I further hold that the plaintiff would suffer immense loss if the defendant is permitted to continue with their business under the offending name. The balance of convenience is also certainly with the plaintiff. Consequently, an order of interim injunction is granted as prayed for till November 4, 2020".

## Book review

R. MOHAN

A lesser known fact may be that the Venetian merchant-explorer Marco Polo came to Pulicat Lake where he berthed his boat in 1292 and travelled towards what would have been ancient Madras. Of course, the history of visitors to South India goes way back to Greek and Roman traders. The history of far flung parts of the world trading with South India goes back centuries, beyond Vasco Da Gama who was one of the most famous traders to come south. A historic visitor in the first century CE was the doubting apostle Saint Thomas, who is celebrated in Chennai with the famous St Thomas Mount named after him and long before that had the Portuguese naming the village of San Thome after him. In the first century CE, he was interred in the basil-

ica in Santhome

It is a matter of curiosity that South Indian history must somehow seem so laid back like its people that it rarely speaks reverently of such old ties as those brought by the likes of Marco Polo. You may not find a plaque or a memorial honouring Marco Polo around Pulicat Lake. Also, given the nature of our school history books, it might appear that the history of India is that of the Mughals and then that of the occupiers who first came here as traders and then became rulers after the Indian Mutiny - the British and their Raj.

It was most fascinating to pore over the book by Rajmohan Gandhi on modern South Indian which is a history from the 17th century right up to modern times. This book helps remove the lacuna created by a blind belief in the seat of the Moghul empire and then the capital of the British after they moved to imperial Delhi from trading Calcutta being thought of

exclusively as the centre of India and the cradle of its modern history. It might have taken me a while to read this detailed history put down in this great Dravidian story by a scholar and descendant of Mahatma Gandhi. The pandemic helped in creating the time to read such a valuable and well-researched tome.

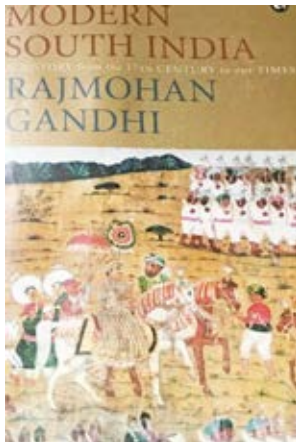
The author defines the South India story attempted in the book is of a peninsula region influenced by the oceans, not by the Himalayas. We must first doff our hats to the scholar who had the vision to see the south, the land of the Dravidians and home of four prominent cultures - Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu - and their myriad subcultures as an entity that stood out on its own and not just an appendage as a very political India ruled by North Indians thinks of the South in most modern times. In restricting himself to far more modern centuries, Rajmohan cannot dwell on

the brilliance of Chola or Pallava architecture or that of the Hoysalas.

He does concede that his book does not seek to unearth hidden knowledge about the past.

Selection being a bigger challenge than exclusion, the author brings out people and events from at least four centuries that would help us define South India even better. It enhances our understanding of a diverse land that was attractive enough for northerners to come south to conquer far more often than any south Indian ruler looked north to expand his kingdom. Perhaps, that itself is a definition of South India and its sensibilities through the ages. Raja Raja Cholan may have been an exception in an expansionist view of his grand empire that encompassed vast areas across the eastern seas.

The author's four important dates for perspective are well worth remembering - 1498 and the arrival of Vasco da Game in Kerala, 1565 when the Vijayanagara

MODERN SOUTH INDIA - A  
HISTORY FROM THE 17TH  
CENTURY TO OUR TIMESBy Rajmohan Gandhi  
Aleph Book Company

Empire began disintegrating, 1619 and the birth of Fort St George and 1687 when by forcing the independent Sultan of Golconda to, Aurangzeb enforced

Mughal authority in the south. Between the first and last dates there are countless personalities of history who are brought to life in colourful manner by a fine storyteller. In describing the fall of the nayakas or viceroys who ruled after the Vijayanagara Empire collapsed, the author has it that the ruler's eye was "more interested in the courtesan's smile than the contentment of the peasant's wife or the pride of the artisan's mother."

Today we speak of political conquerors like MGR who were not from Tamil Nadu and still ruled the land. But there could have been no more colourful conqueror than Chanda Sahib, whose real name was Shams-ud-daula Husain Dost Khan, and who was born into the Navaiyat branch of South India's Muslims whose Arab forefathers had landed on the Konkarn coast.

Chanda deposed the rani of Madurai and proclaimed himself heir of the Hindu Nayaka throne. He was

removed in a coupe of years by the Nizam who came foraging south but climbed back and became the Carnatic Nawab with the help of the French general Dupleix.

Long before he was beheaded by his captor in another of an endless series of succession battles and his head sent to Muhammad Ali Walajah, Chanda was an enigmatic ruler and able military strategist.

There isn't a page you can turn without learning of old intrigues, battles, conquests and defeats in a land ruled by princes but terrorised by their tax collectors who were ruthless. To evolve into true modernity may have taken centuries but the book also places in perspective the power of one of Tamil Nadu's greatest sons - C. Rajagopalachari, whose primary education as a child was in Telugu, and who went on to shine on the national stage. The author brings out the secret of why Rajaji didn't rise to even greater prominence, which

is because Nehru treated him as a go-between to Sardar Patel and after Patel's untimely death simply ignored Rajaji.

The Governor General of India, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and once de facto head of the Congress and its freedom movement, may have been wrong in trying to thrust Hindi on Tamil Nadu.

But there are few in TN's history who could have matched his intellectual brilliance and his honesty to human principles as portrayed in his allowing an "untouchable" of his time to open a tap in the Brahmin quarters in Salem. He had also said, presciently, in 1919 - "Let it be clearly understood that we would oppose such legislation vesting in the Government the absolute right to suspect and imprison without trial even if the Government is democratic and purely Indian and not bureaucratic and foreign."

Look around us today and the import of those words will become obvious.



## IN BRIEF

## Museum on ex-Prez Pranab in the offing

**Berhampore:** A museum will be built in the memory of former president Pranab Mukherjee in West Bengal. It will come up at his residence in Jangipur of Murshidabad, former Congress MP and Mukherjee's son Abhijit Mukherjee informed. Pranab Mukherjee, who was a two-time MP from Jangipur and held several ministerial portfolios including finance and external affairs from time to time during the Congress rule at the Centre, died on August 31 in Delhi after a prolonged illness. At a condolence meeting in memory of his father at Rabintra Bhavan in Jangipur Abhijit said, "My father had built a house at Deuli on the outskirts of Jangipur and named it as Jangipur Bhavan. We have decided to build a museum at the ground floor of the house very soon." The leaders many photos and mementos received from foreign countries would be showcased in the museum.

## MAR THOMA CHURCH HEAD PASSES AWAY

**Thiruvalla, Oct. 18:** Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, the primate of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, died early on Sunday at a private hospital here after battling cancer, church sources said. The 90-year-old head of the Marthoma community was under treatment for pancreatic cancer and breathed his last around 2.30 am, hospital sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of the spiritual leader, saying the Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives of the poor.

"His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives of the poor and downtrodden. He was blessed with abundance of empathy and humility. His noble ideals will always be remembered. RIP," Modi tweeted.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the demise of the Metropolitan was not only a loss to the church but to the society as a whole. "He worked for the liberation and welfare of the homeless and marginalised people in the society. His involvement in rehabilitating children from the Red Street in Mumbai and uplifting transgender persons into the mainstream shows how he battled for the downtrodden," Vijayan said in a statement.

Born as P.T. Joseph to Alakunnathu T. Lukose and Mariamma couple at Maramonin Pathanamthitta district, Joseph Mar Thoma became Mar Thoma metropolitan in October 2007 after the then Mar Thoma, Philipose Mar Chrysostom, expressed his desire to transfer responsibilities of the church to his successor due to his deteriorating health.

## DOPPLER RADAR GOES PHUT AS HEAVENS OPEN UP

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 18

Just when it was needed the most, the Doppler radar at the Indian Meteorological Department's weather station at Begumpet is dead. The radar's ability to present real-time imagery of clouds and rain is something the GHMC depends heavily on to predict minute-to-minute, location by location and likely intensity of rain.

According to IMD director Dr K. Nagaratna, an electrical voltage issue caused problems due to which the radar was taken offline. "We have called a technician for repairs and the person is expected to arrive on Monday to attend to the equipment," she said.

"This could not have happened at a worse time for us," a senior GHMC official told Deccan Chronicle on Sunday. "The system has been on the blink since the rains started on Tuesday and has hit our ability to warn people as to exactly where the rain would occur and how intense it could be," the official said.

"On Saturday, we could not predict that some areas would get 18 cm of rain. If the radar was working, we would have been prepared for this," the official added. This has also impacted the predictive ability of the GHMC to position its relief and rescue teams in the most vulnerable areas.

## Sena trains guns on Centre

Says BJP uses governors, central agencies to destabilise non-NDA govts

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC**  
MUMBAI, OCT. 18

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has accused the BJP of using the governors as its "political agents" to destabilise all the governments run by the Opposition parties. This is not a sign of a good ruler, said senior Sena leader Sanjay Raut.

"In Maharashtra, the BJP has engaged in anti-government propaganda since there is a non-BJP government in the state. In fact, wherever there are Opposition governments, the BJP has trained its guns at them by appointing governors as their political agents," said Mr Raut in his weekly column in the Sena mouthpiece *Saamana* on Sunday.

The Sena leader cited

several states where governors are at loggerheads with the governments of Opposition parties. "In West Bengal, governor Jagdeep Dhankhar is seen posing daily challenges to chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who is not budging to him. In Delhi too,

there is a clash between Arvind Kejriwal and the lieutenant-governor. There is no trouble in Punjab due to the fear of invoking the wrath of the Sikh community. In Maharashtra, the Thackeray government is stable despite various attempts from the gover-

nor, whereas all efforts to destabilise the Ashok Gehlot government were foiled in Rajasthan," he added.

Mr Raut predicted that Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar will also meet the same fate after the Assembly polls. It is

the sole reason behind the decision of Chirag Paswan's party to contest independently, he said.

The BJP is ready to go to any extent to grab power. For this, it is using the CBI, the income-tax department and the Enforcement Directorate. This is even more terrible than China and Russia, the Sena leader said.

Meanwhile, Mr Raut has welcomed Union home minister Amit Shah's remark that Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari could have "chosen his words in a better way" while writing to chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on reopening places of worship in the state. He also said that with Mr Shah's statement, the Shiv Sena has put the issue to rest.

## NATH CALLS WOMAN MINISTER 'ITEM', SPARKS ROW

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC**  
BHOPAL, OCT. 18

Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Sunday joined ranks of politicians who have made crass, sexist remarks by reportedly describing Madhya Pradesh women and child welfare minister Imarti Devi, who hails from a

dalit community, as an 'item'.

Addressing an election meeting at Dabra under Gwalior district in MP, Nath, 74, said, "Who is she...(the crowd calls out Imarti Devi's name)... why should I take her name... you all should have warned me... what an item!". Shockingly, former minister and senior

Congress leader Bijoylaxmi Sadho who was present at the dais burst into laughter along with others while reacting to Nath's sexist remarks. Devi, who is contesting from Dabra Assembly constituency in the November 3 by-elections as a BJP candidate, was also a minister in the Nath government.

## Lights of victory



Iconic Howrah Bridge illuminated with the official colour of historical Mohun Bagan Club after the official handover of the I-League 2019-20 trophy to the champions Mohun Bagan at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kolkata on Sunday.

— PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

## BJP-Cong spar over Tharoor's remarks

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 18

Berating the Congress over its senior leader Shashi Tharoor's remarks at the recent Lahore Think Fest, where he criticised the Indian government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, "bigotry and prejudice" against Muslims and "problem with northeast citizens who look different," the BJP on Sunday said the Thiruvananthapuram MP had "demeaned and discredited" India at a platform in Pakistan.

Describing Tharoor's virtual address as a Congress "debut rally" in Pakistan, the BJP asked whether Congress leader Rahul Gandhi intends to contest elections in Pakistan. It said that henceforth, the Congress leader should be called "Rahul Lahori."

Hitting back, the Congress said that the BJP had always responded to substance and facts with "jumlebaazi (rhetoric)" and that such reactions from the ruling party "ridicule" the debate and "diminish us as a democracy."

Citing Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi's earlier statement on nullification of Article 370, P. Chidambaram's tweet on restoration of Article 370, Mani Shankar Aiyar's statement during a Pakistani TV debate in 2015 and Salman Khurshid's remarks at an event in Islamabad, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "We want to ask andhri whether he is planning to contest from Pakistan."

● **SHASHI THAROOR** at the recent Lahore Think Fest criticised the Indian government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, "bigotry and prejudice" against Muslims and "problem with northeast citizens who look different".

"...Tharoor said Gandhi should get credit which he is not getting in India or by the Indian media but seems he is getting much affection from Pakistan.. Tharoor has already held the debut rally(of Congress) there (Pakistan)," Dr Patra said. He questioned the need to discuss Indians from the northeast at a Pakistani forum while adding that "there is no country in this world as democratic and just as India."

Taking on the Congress over Tharoor's remarks on Indian Muslims, Patra asked did the Congress leader or its leadership ever dare to ask how minorities are treated in Pakistan and how Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and Sikhs are forcefully converted or killed.

Hitting back, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said, "The BJP has always responded to substance and factual facts with 'jumlebaazi'. The BJP has always believed in rhetoric, not substance. Yes, it does sometimes catch you by the eyeballs or the earbuds when you hear it, but, within seconds, logic takes over and tells you how empty a rhetoric the BJP is indulging in."

## Centre to strengthen war against drugs, tighten laws

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 18

The Union home ministry is working on an ambitious plan to deal with narcotics menace in the country. Sources claimed that Union home minister Amit Shah was monitoring the blueprint for this which includes further strengthening of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic (NDSP) Substances Act, substantially increasing the manpower of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and even providing them with sophisticated weapons, latest forensic

technology, opening more regional and zonal units of NCB among many other measures to deal with drugs menace in the country.

The role of the NCB has once again come into the limelight following its involvement in the probe into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. The NCB had questioned some actors during the course of its investigations into the case.

Ministry sources said the home minister has directed the top brass that there should be zero tolerance towards narcotics and the agencies con-

cerned, particularly the NCB, should be further strengthened and corrective measures taken with regard to strengthening of the NDPS Act.

Both the home and law ministries are closely reviewing the NDPS Act and some proposal are expected to be placed before the Cabinet to make it more stringent. In addition, it has been decided to further increase manpower of the NCB and open its regional offices in all places across the country. There is a proposal to set up a special academy to train NCB personnel, too.

## Minister confirms Covid community transmission

**New Delhi, Oct. 18:** Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Sunday said community transmission of the Coronavirus infection is restricted to certain districts in a limited number of states, clarifying that "this is not happening across the country".

The minister said this during an interaction with his social media followers on the sixth episode of "Sunday Samvaad".

He was responding to a question from a participant, who cited West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remark that there are instances of community transmission in her state and asked the minister which are the states that have witnessed community transmission of the disease.

"In different pockets across various states, including West Bengal, community transmission of Covid-19 is expected to occur, especially in densely-populated areas. However, this is not happening across the country. Community transmission is limited to certain districts, occurring in a limited number of states," Vardhan said.

He added that as yet, no mutation of the Coronavirus has been detected in India that is either more transmission-efficient or more pathogenic.

The Centre so far has denied community transmission of the Coronavirus infection in

● **HARSH VARDHAN** says community transmission of the Coronavirus infection is restricted to certain districts in a limited number of states and that this is not happening across the country.

the country. Health ministry officials had said the World Health Organisation (WHO) has not given any standard definition of community transmission.

It permits its member nations to assess the spread of the disease, based on their own analysis of the situation, and do their reporting, which the global body shows on its website.

Broadly, if it is not possible to trace the transmission chain, it means there is community transmission, officials said. The Centre has maintained that there are clusters of cases and there are pockets of localised transmission.

Meanwhile, with Kerala witnessing a spike in Coronavirus infections recently, Harsh Vardhan said the state was paying the "price for gross negligence" during Onam festivities when unlocking of services along with an increase in travel for trade and tourism led to the spread of Covid-19.

The minister said this ought to serve as a good lesson for all the state governments that were being negligent in planning for the festival season.

— PTI

## B'luru continues to be Covid hub

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU, OCT. 18

Bengaluru urban district continues to be the corona hub of Karnataka on Sunday, too, contributing more than half of the total infections 7,012 reported in the previous 24 hours and 25 of the 51 deaths. The state's cumulative caseload has increased to 7,65,586 and the toll to 10,478. Cumulatively, Bengaluru urban has reported 3,07,540 infections, 3,525 deaths and 2,39,579 discharges.

Meanwhile, Mysuru reported 404 fresh cases, followed by Mandya (308), Bengaluru Rural (288), Hassan (257), Chitradurga (226), Dakshina Kannada (183), Ballari (171), Bagalkote (138), Dharwad (135), Udupi (129) and Chikkamagaluru (119).

**Kerala has 7,631 new cases:** Amid concerns of high test positivity rate, Kerala reported 7,631 fresh coronavirus cases, taking the total number of infections to 3.39 lakh, on Sunday, which also saw 22 related deaths. The total Covid-19 toll in the state now stands at 1,161. Malappuram reported 1,399 cases followed by Kozhikode and Thrissur 976 and 862 cases respectively.

**1,436 new cases in TS:** Telangana recorded 1,436 new Covid-19 cases and six more deaths from the disease on Saturday, the state health department said on Sunday. This takes the total cases to 2,22,111, and the deaths to 1,271.

There were 22,050 active Covid-19 cases as on Saturday 8 pm, of whom 18,279 were in home or institutional isolation. As many as 41,043 tests were conducted between Friday and Saturday of which 18,059 were on primary contacts of people who had tested positive for Covid-19.

Of the 1,436 new cases, the highest number of 249 was reported from GHMC limits.

**AP tests cross 7 million:** The total number of corona tests conducted in Andhra Pradesh crossed 70 lakh mark on Sunday which also saw the lowest 23 Covid-19 deaths on a single day in the past three months on Sunday. The dropping of Coronavirus positive cases continued with the registration of 3,986 new positive cases against an earlier average of 10,000 cases per day.

(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad and Vijayawada bureaus)

**OFFICIAL | APATHY**

**Bridge built to ease transportation to local markets, hospitals**

## Villagers build timber bridge over river

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC**  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 18

Residents of Birindipada, a remote forest village under the K. Nuagaon block in Odisha's Kandhamal district, have built a timber bridge over the local Kalipan river to establish physical links with the local markets, hospitals, schools and colleges.

The locals on Sunday said they have been deprived of basic transport and communication facilities for decades and all their appeals to build a concrete bridge over the river always fell on "deaf ears" of the administration.

Despite repeated appeals

and petitions to the local representatives of the state administration, no step was taken to construct a bridge.

As a result, they always crossed the dangerous Kalipan river with the help of cables tied to the trees on both sides of the river.

"We have appealed to the local MLA and MP umpteen times. They have always assured us that they will look into our request. Unfortunately, they never made any move to build a bridge here. Pregnant women and ailing people were left to their fate as we could not carry them to the nearby hospitals," said the villagers.

They added that the gov-



The timber bridge constructed by villagers of Birindipada in Odisha's Kandhamal district.

— DC

was highlighted by the media, the administration removed the cables, pushing us to utter confinement. Our brothers and fathers collected logs from the forest and made this timber bridge. If the government removes it, we

will once again be stranded and will be paddling through water risking our lives," said a pregnant woman.

Though no government official was forthcoming on the allegation of apathy made by the villagers, sources said the government has constructed a bridge over the river six km upstream from the village. However, the villagers are not using that bridge as they have to travel that extra distance.

"The government is still considering building a bridge at Birindapada. We have drawn the attention of the higher authorities and a decision will be taken soon" a senior government official who did not want to be quoted said.



## IN BRIEF

**16 killed in Pak landslide**

**Islamabad:** At least 16 people were killed on Sunday when a bus they were travelling in fell into a deep ditch after being struck by a landslide in Gilgit-Baltistan region, according to a Pakistani media report. The bus was going from Rawalpindi to Skardu when it was hit by the landslide which was so massive that it pushed the vehicle into a deep ditch, killing at least 16 people in the Roundo area in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Radio Pakistan reported. Landslides are common in the region which is famous for its scenic beauty as well as treacherous roads.

**Plan to retrieve Titanic radio**

**Norfolk (US):** People have been diving to the Titanic's wreck for 35 years. No one has found human remains, according to the company that owns the salvage rights. But the company's plan to retrieve the ship's iconic radio equipment has sparked a debate: Could the world's most famous shipwreck still hold remains of passengers and crew who died a century ago? Lawyers for the US government have raised that question in an ongoing court battle to block the planned expedition. "Fifteen hundred people died in that wreck," said Paul Johnston, curator of maritime history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. "You can't possibly tell me that some human remains aren't buried deep somewhere where there are no currents." The company, RMS Titanic Inc., wants to exhibit the ship's Marconi wireless telegraph machine.

**UAE min accused of sex assault**

**London:** The chair of Britain's Hay literary festival said Sunday the event will not return to Abu Dhabi after one of the festival's curators alleged that she was sexually assaulted by the tolerance minister of the United Arab Emirates while working with him. Caitlin McNamara alleged she was attacked in February by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, a member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, the *Sunday Times* reported. The *Times* said McNamara, who had travelled to the UAE to work on the launch of the literary festival there, claimed she was assaulted by the sheikh when they met at a remote island villa. The Foreign Ministry of the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula also home to Dubai, said it does not comment on personal matters. When asked about the case, Britain's Metropolitan Police confirmed that a woman contacted the force on July 3 to report an allegation of rape, and said an initial statement has been taken from her. The *AP* does not usually name sexual assault victims, but McNamara agreed to be identified by the *Times*, which ran her picture on the front page. Festival chair Caroline Michel said her colleagues are committed to supporting McNamara.

**AFGHANISTAN CAR BOMBING KILLS 13**

**Kabul, Oct. 18:** A suicide car bombing on Sunday killed at least 13 people and wounded around 120 others in Afghanistan's western Ghor province, officials said. The head of a hospital in Ghor, Mohammad Omer Lalzad, said emergency staff were treating dozens of people with both serious and light injuries from the bombing. He expected the death toll to rise. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Aran said the car bombing struck near the entrance of the provincial police chief's office and other nearby government buildings in the area. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Ghor, which comes amid an uptick in attacks by the Taliban as representatives of the group and Afghan government officials hold their first-ever face-to-face talks in Qatar, where the Taliban have had a political office for many years. The negotiations are meant to end the country's decades-long war. Arif Aber, spokesman for the provincial governor in Ghor, said the blast was so strong that its sound could be heard across Feroz Koh, the capital city of the province. "It damaged and partially destroyed a few government buildings, including the police chief's office," Aber said.

# Covid vaccine deployment in UK by New Year: Report

The vaccine has a Serum Institute of India tie-up as it undergoes trials

## Living Covid found on frozen food packaging

**London, Oct. 18:** One of the UK's senior-most medical chiefs has indicated that a vaccine against Covid-19 could be ready to be deployed by the start of the New Year, according to a media report on Sunday. Jonathan Van-Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer and one of the government's advisers on the Coronavirus pandemic, has reportedly told members of Parliament (MPs) that the vaccine created at Oxford University and being manufactured by AstraZeneca could be ready for rollout soon after Christmas in December.

In India, the vaccine has a Serum Institute of India tie-up as it undergoes trials. "We aren't light years away from it. It isn't a totally unrealistic suggestion that we could deploy a vaccine soon after Christmas. That would have a significant impact on hospital admissions and deaths," *The Sunday Times* quoted Van Tam as telling the MPs during a briefing last week.

An MP who attended another briefing with Van-Tam told the newspaper that the medic was "very bullish about the third

**Beijing, Oct. 18:** China's health authority has confirmed the detection and isolation of living Coronavirus on the outer packaging of imported frozen marine fish in the port city of Qingdao, in what it described as the first detection of its kind on the cold food chain in the world. The authorities in Qingdao, where a new cluster of Covid-19 cases were reported recently, conducted tests on all of its about 11 million population. No new clusters of cases were found after the tests, the local authorities said. In July, China suspended imports of frozen

stage AstraZeneca results, which he expects between the end of this month and the end of next". "Van-Tam expects it to protect the elderly and vulnerable. He gave us to understand that it stopped the virus

shrimp after the deadly virus was found on packages and the inner wall of a container.

The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Saturday said it detected and isolated the living Coronavirus on the outer packaging of imported frozen cod (large marine fish) in Qingdao. The finding was made during an investigation to trace the source of recent infections reported in the city. It has proved that contact with packaging contaminated by living Coronavirus could lead to infection, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported,

'shedding' in the young. He said he would expect vaccination to start in January," the MP was quoted as saying.

It comes as the UK government introduced new laws on Friday that would

allow larger numbers of healthcare workers to administer flu and potential Covid-19 vaccines. "Covid-19 vaccines are being developed at speed which, if successful, will save lives," said Van-Tam. — *PTI*

quoting the CDC statement. It, however, did not mention the country from where the package was imported. It is the first time in the world that living Coronavirus has been isolated from the outer packaging of cold-chain food, the statement said.

The agency said the risk of cold-chain food circulating in China's market being contaminated by the Coronavirus is very low, citing recent nucleic acid test results for samples taken from the business. A total of 2.98 million samples had been tested across the country by September 15. — *PTI*

**AIRLINES PUSH FOR TESTS OVER QUARANTINES**

**Frankfurt, Oct. 18:** What will it take to get people flying again? International air traffic is down 92 per cent this year as travelers worry about catching Covid-19 and government travel bans and quarantine rules make planning difficult.

One thing airlines believe could help is to have rapid virus tests of all passengers before departure. Scattered experiments on improving safety are under way around the world, and a UN organisation is leading talks to set guidelines. There is a lot at stake.

With no end in sight to the pandemic, the near total halt to international travel will hinder economies as they try to bounce back from recession and return to normal levels of business activity. Millions of jobs at airlines, airports and travel related businesses are affected. — *AP*

## Don plays fear tactics to win Midwest states

**Janesville (Winconsin), Oct. 18:** President Donald Trump leaned into fear tactics Saturday as he accused the Left of trying to "destroy the American way of life" in a late reelection pitch to voters in Michigan and Wisconsin — two Midwestern states that were instrumental to his 2016 victory but may now be slipping from his grasp.

In back-to-back rallies, Trump accused the Left of wanting to "erase American history" and "purge American values". He claimed, with no basis, that Democratic rival Joe Biden would put communities at risk. Trump offered the dark message as he faces headwinds not only in national polling, which shows Biden leading, but also in key battleground surveys. His comments come after his campaign, with far less cash than Biden's, largely retreated from TV advertising in the Midwest, shifting much of its money to Sun Belt states such as Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Georgia, as well as Pennsylvania.

As he tries to energise his base and keep on the fence voters from turning against him, Trump sought to paint Democrats as "anti-American radicals" and said moderates had "a moral duty" to join the Republican Party. "The Democrat Party you once knew doesn't exist," he said. It was the same on issue after issue, as he claimed in hyperbolic terms that Biden's election would spur "the single biggest depression in the history of our coun-

**The left is trying to destroy the American way of life and purge American values. Democrats are anti-American radicals. Moderates have a moral duty to join the Republican Party.**

**DONALD TRUMP, US President**

try" and "turn Michigan into a refugee camp."

Addressing the Coronavirus crisis, Trump warned that Biden would "shut down the country, delay the vaccine and prolong the pandemic". Public health experts say the nation would be in far better shape had Trump's administration taken more aggressive action early on. And while he repeatedly predicted victory, Trump seemed to grapple throughout the day with the prospect that he could indeed lose in November. In Michigan, he quipped that, in January, he "better damn well be president". In Wisconsin, he wondered how he would process a loss. "Can you imagine if I lose? I will have lost to the worst candidate in the history of American politics," he said.

"What do I do?" Trump has continued to hold rallies despite the threat of the Coronavirus, which hospitalised him for several days earlier this month. Wisconsin broke the record for new positive virus cases on Friday — the third time that's happened in a week. — *AP*

## US, Israeli envoys in Bahrain to ink deals

**Jerusalem, Oct. 18:** A joint American-Israeli delegation headed Sunday for Bahrain, where officials will be signing a number of bilateral agreements following an announcement last month to normalise relations.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser, Meir Ben-Shabbat, led the delegation that flew out of Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. Israel's commercial El Al flight 973 — a nod to the international dialing code for Bahrain — will fly through Saudi Arabia's airspace en route to Manama, where dignitaries from all three countries will speak at a ceremony after landing.

US, Israeli and Bahraini flags festooned the tarmac before take-off. Ben-Shabbat, one of the key Israeli officials involved in negotiations with Bahrain, said ahead of take-off that the visit will "translate plans to actions and concrete agreements" with the signing of a range of deals involving finance, investment, trade, tourism, communications, technology and agriculture. Another Israeli official said the visit represents the official establishment of diplo-

● **AN ISRAELI official said the visit represents the official establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries with the sides expected to sign a joint statement establishing full diplomatic relations.**

● **THE DECISION to establish ties with Israel has outraged the Palestinians, whose leadership has blasted the Bahraini move, and a similar Emirati deal, as a betrayal and an undermining of the Arab stance.**

matic relations between the two countries with the sides expected to sign a joint statement establishing full diplomatic relations.

The decision to establish ties with Israel has outraged the Palestinians, whose leadership has blasted the Bahraini move, and a similar Emirati deal, as a betrayal and an undermining of the Arab stance that recognition of Israel should come only after Palestinians achieve an independent state of their own. Bahraini civil society groups and opposition figures have also spoken out against normalisation with Israel. — *AP*

**CHINA RESTRICTS SENSITIVE EXPORTS WITH NEW LAW**

**Beijing, Oct. 18:** China has passed a new law restricting sensitive exports to protect national security, allowing Beijing to reciprocate against the US as tensions mount between the sides over trade and technology. The law, which will apply to all companies in China, was passed on Saturday by the National People's Congress Standing Committee and will take effect on December 1.

Under the law, China can take "reciprocal measures" toward countries or regions that abuse export controls and threaten its national security. It will apply to civilian, military and nuclear products. — *AP*

### Parisians pay respects to Samuel Paty



People gather on Place de la Republique in Paris on Sunday, in homage to history teacher Samuel Paty two days after he was beheaded by an attacker who was shot dead by policemen. — *AFP*

**INDIAN-ORIGIN BUILDER WHO KILLED 3 FREED**

**London, Oct. 18:** An Indian-origin builder who was arrested in connection with the killing of three men, also of Indian origin, following a deadly knife fight on the streets of east London will not face any murder or manslaughter charges as the incident was deemed to be an act of self-defence. Gurjeet Singh, 29, had been arrested by the Metropolitan Police in connection with the killing of Narinder Singh Lubhaya, 29, Harinder Kumar, 30, and Malkit Singh Dhillon a.k.a. Baljinder Singh, 37, back in January.

The three murdered men, originally from Punjab, were found to have set upon Gurjeet Singh at Seven Kings in Redbridge area of London and were killed in the ensuing street fight. "Gurjeet Singh was arrested on January 20 on suspicion of murder. He was charged with possessing an offensive weapon in a public place and was remanded in custody to appear at Snaresbrook Crown Court, where he pleaded not guilty," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. "He appeared for trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court on August 19 charged with being in possession of an offensive weapon. Following trial, the jury found him not guilty," the statement said. — *PTI*

## UN arms embargo on Iran expires

**Tehran, Oct. 18:** A decade-long UN arms embargo on Iran that barred it from purchasing foreign weapons like tanks and fighter jets expired Sunday as planned under its nuclear deal with world powers, despite objections from the United States.

While insisting it planned no "buying spree", Iran in theory can purchase weapons to upgrade military armament dating back to before

its 1979 Islamic Revolution and sell its own locally produced gear abroad.

In practice, however, Iran's economy remains crippled by broad-reaching US sanctions, and other nations may avoid arms deals with Tehran for fear of American financial retaliation.

The Islamic Republic heralded the end of the arms embargo as "a momentous day for the international community... in defiance of the US

regime's effort".

The Trump administration, meanwhile, has insisted it has re-invoked all UN sanctions on Iran via a clause in the nuclear deal it withdrew from in 2018, a claim ignored by the rest of the world.

"Today's normalisation of Iran's defence cooperation with the world is a win for the cause of multilateralism and peace and security in our region," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

wrote on Twitter. The United Nations banned Iran from buying major foreign weapon systems in 2010 amid tensions over its nuclear programme.

An earlier embargo targeted Iranian arms exports. The US Defence Intelligence Agency predicted in 2019 that if the embargo ended, Iran likely would try to purchase Russian Su-30 fighter jets, Yak-130 trainer aircraft and T-90 tanks. — *AP*

## NAMES | OFF

**Immigration and passport panel directed to meet biannually**

## Pak removes 5K from travel blacklist

**Islamabad, Oct. 18:** Pakistan authorities have removed the names of over 5,000 individuals from the travel blacklist after the government took note of the problems faced by citizens whose names have been blacklisted for a long time, according to a media report on Sunday.

Interior Minister Ijaz Shah, in a meeting held recently, directed the review committee of the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports to meet biannually to review cases of blacklisted individuals. The meeting was held after a gap of almost four years. The previous meeting was held in December 2016. Taking note of problems faced by the blacklisted citizens, the minister directed the

## ‘Illegal’ hiring: PIA ex-MD held

**Islamabad, Oct. 18:** Pakistani International Airlines' former managing director Aijaz Haroon has been arrested on charges of illegal appointment of a Pakistani-American to a senior position at the national flag carrier at a huge salary package in violation of human resource department rules, according to a media report on Sunday. The Federal Investigation Agency on Saturday also arrested PIA's former human resource director Mohammad

Haneef Pathan along with Haroon, *The Dawn News* reported, quoting FIA Deputy Director Abdur Rauf Shaikh.

An FIR has been registered against the two former officials on charges of illegal appointment of Salim Sayani as deputy managing director (DMD) in PIA in 2009 in "clear violation of PIA HR rules", the report said.

Sayani has also been booked in the case. He was appointed on a monthly salary of \$20,000 along

with other perks and privileges that caused huge loss to the national exchequer. Sharing details of the perks and privileges, Shaikh said apart from the salary in US dollars, Sayani was allowed to stay at a five-star hotel for three months and his family was also provided accommodation in Dubai on PIA's expense. The "illegal appointment caused a loss between Rs 200 million and Rs 250 million to the exchequer", the report quoted Shaikh. — *PTI*

report in the *Dawn* newspaper. The committee reviewed the names of citizens falling in category B of the blacklist and removed the names of 5,807 individuals out of a list of 42,725 people.

The committee will consider rest of the cases in its forthcoming periodic review, the report said. There are two main blacklist categories- Category 'A' includes names of those involved in serious crimes like terrorism, money laundering and anti-state activities, whereas the 'B' category mainly has names of deportees who had either travelled abroad on forged documents or were found involved in crime in the host country, it said. — *PTI*

Immigration and Passports director general to immediately convene a meeting of the periodical review committee to consider cases on merit and remove names from the blacklist after the due process, according to a



# DECCAN Chronicle

19 OCTOBER 2020

## India shown poorly in global hunger index

The recent World Economic Outlook report of the IMF which predicted that Bangladesh's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) this year to \$1,888, a notch higher than India's \$1,877, was a shocker to many who believed in India's growth story. But the apologists of the government countered the report saying it is only one of the indicators of economic prosperity and there are many others for India to take relief from. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 published this week, instead of offering some relief, has delivered another shocker. It has put India behind most of its south Asian neighbours, including Bangladesh. GHI has ranked India at 94 among 107 nations in the GHI and placed it in the "serious" hunger category. Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan, ranked 75, 78 and 88, respectively, are also in the same category but are above India. Nepal, ranked 73rd and Sri Lanka 64th are better off and are in "moderate" hunger category.

GHI score is calculated on four indicators — undernourishment; child wasting or the share of children under the age of five years who have low weight for their height reflecting acute under-nutrition; child stunting or the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age reflecting chronic under-nutrition; and child mortality or the mortality rate of children under the age of five. The GHI reports says India recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate and 17.3 per cent wasting rate while the under-5 mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent. It also says 14 per cent of India's population is undernourished.

There are several factors which could have landed India and its people in this situation but population cannot be among them as China, the world's most populous nation, is among the top 17 nations with GHI scores of less than five.

Hunger is not a new phenomenon in India but the GHI signals the dire future that awaits the country. Three of the four indicators in GHI refer to the way how children are taken care of and this shows India in a poor light. The government, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, misses no opportunity to tell the world that India is poised to reap the demographic dividend. But the GHI offers solid data for the planners if they want to sustain the advantage to the next generation as well.

It is not that all is lost and the government makes no attempt to address the issue. One glimmer of hope is that the Indian score has been coming down from 32.2 in 2010 to 30.3 in 2019 to 27.2 in 2020. The National Nutrition Mission or Poshan Abhiyan, which aims at bringing down stunting of children to 25 per cent by 2022, should have helped make a difference. And this must be sustained with enhanced budgetary allocations. India has of late made a stunning performance in improving its score in the ease of doing business index thanks to a targeted approach; it should be able to repeat the feat in GHI, too, for we owe it to our future, that's our children.

## A win for liberal-left

The "super-Kiwi-socialistic-empire-of-Jacinda" has pulled off the Labour Party's biggest win down under — securing for it its largest vote share since the 1930s and the potential to become the first party to be able to govern alone since 1996, the year New Zealand's mixed member proportional system came about.

The Mary Poppins-esque New Zealand PM was judged and handed a report card by her people in which they gave her the highest marks in two subjects — her handling of a mass shooting last year by a white supremacist in Christchurch, with her inclusive "be strong, be kind" mantra and swift action to ban guns, and her "go hard, go early" coronavirus crack-down. The latter won her a Peace Prize nomination and led to her country becoming a global model in pandemic control, having lost only 25 lives. Ms Ardern had also won global praise for her response to the White Island volcanic eruption last December. The 40-year-old had promised supporters that she would build an economy that works for everyone; create jobs, train people, protect the environment and address climate challenges and social inequalities.

The incoming parliament now is set to be the country's most inclusive one ever. There will be an increase in the number of women, people of colour and LGBTQ+ members. Labour's Ibrahim Omer will be the country's first African MP and Terisa Ngobi has become the first Pasifika person to win the Otaki electorate. Labour's Vanushi Walters will become New Zealand's first Sri Lankan MP.

However, as far as her progressive agenda is concerned, though the Labour Party has now been given a much stronger hand, it is unclear whether Ms Ardern's government has the economic chops to push it through. Already, Ms Ardern is under fire from the Left for costly housing and a watered down climate bill. But little would she like to alienate the large number of her new centrist and right-of-centre voters.

All this shows that it is too early to tell whether a shift in the post-pandemic privation-stressed planet's political axis has occurred just yet. But Ms Ardern's second term is definitely a blow struck for liberals amid the march of right wing populism through the world.

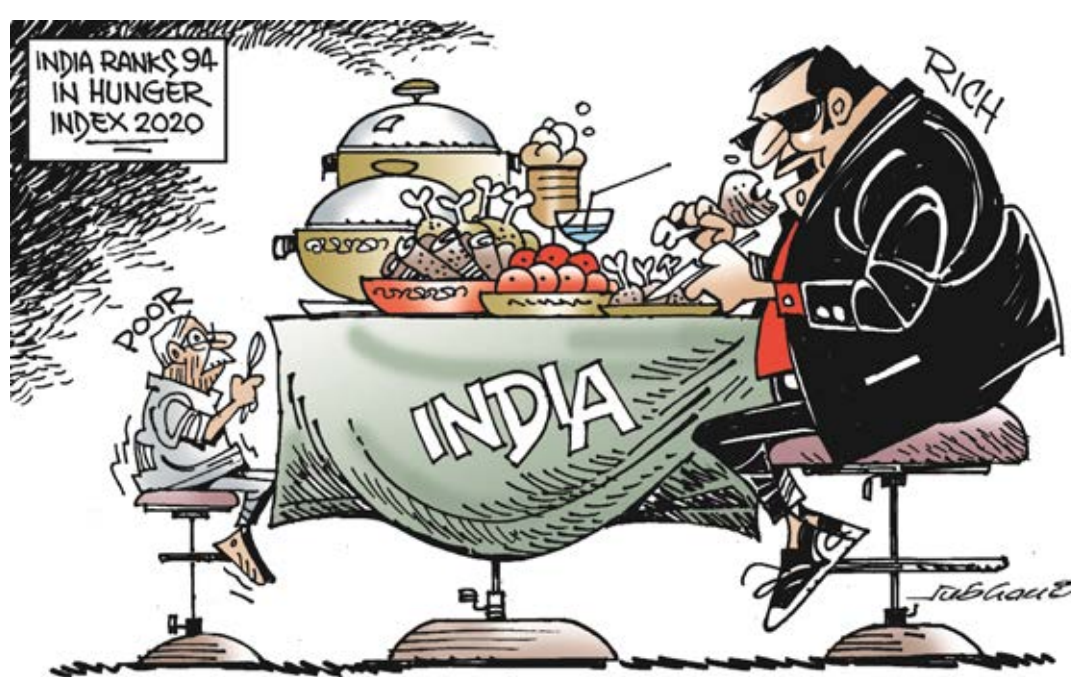
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## India must learn from others, shed its hubris



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

Can a "Vishwa Guru", a global leader offering lessons to the world, afford to get riled at the mere suggestion that another country in its neighbourhood may be catching up?

In the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and an economic crisis, a fracas has broken out over the purely statistical probability that Bangladesh may soon be doing better than us in terms of per capita gross domestic product.

Over the past week, economists, political analysts, lawyers and even cartoonists have waded into the topic triggered by the International Monetary Fund updating its World Economic Outlook.

"I've now checked the data. The IMF's estimate shows Bangladesh will cross India in real GDP per capita in 2021. Any emerging economy doing well is good news," tweeted Kaushik Basu, professor of economics at Cornell University and a former chief economist of the World Bank.

Dr Basu, who is a former chief economic adviser to the Indian government (2009-12), added that it was shocking that India, which had a lead of 25 per cent five years ago, was now trailing and that this calls for bolder fiscal and monetary policies.

The topic is tailor-made for a verbal slugfest of the kind that economists alone are equipped for. Not being an economist, I hesitate to get sucked into it.

But going through what various economists have been saying over the past few days, it is clear that many factors which catapulted Bangladesh, a country of over 165 million people with a turbulent history, to where it is today, are beyond conventional economics.

As analyst N. Chandra Mohan pointed out in a recent commentary piece for South Asia Monitor: "The kerfuffle over a

numbers game should not, however, deflect attention from Bangladesh's superior growth performance in recent years and it's model of development."

That is the backstory. Bangladesh's export-led model of development, its outward orientation and remittances are indeed key factors behind its growth and altered status from a basket case to an Asian tiger in-the-making, as many experts have pointed out.

But to look at Bangladesh only through the GDP lens is to miss the deeper storyline. Bangladesh has invested in strengthening its human capital, especially women, and this is paying off also in economic terms.

It has outpaced India in many social indicators, including female labour force participation.

As Bloomberg columnist Andy Mukherjee points out, Bangladesh has two out of five women of working age in the labour force, which is double of India's 21 per cent participation rate.

Women in Bangladesh not only have a huge presence in the country's textile and readymade garment sector, they are also employed in the agro-processing, jute mills, poultry and dairy industries.

Having a female political leadership at the top helps. But all these changes did not happen overnight. Since 2006, the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) has been tracking the extent of gender-based gaps in individual countries through health, education, economy and political parameters. The 2020 GGI report, which shows the progress of 153 countries and provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across and within regions, noted that Bangladesh has been the best-performing country in South Asia, having closed 72.6 per cent of its gender gap by 2020. India

is fourth in the region, having closed 66.8 per cent of its gender gap.

There are other markers. The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2020 by the United Nations indicates that the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) or the number of deaths per 1,000 live births is 31 for Bangladesh and 34 for India. The infant mortality rate (number of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births) is 26 for Bangladesh and 28 for India.

According to the Global Hunger Index 2020, India now ranks 94th among 107 countries in terms of hunger. The corresponding ranks for our neighbours are as follows — Pakistan (88), Nepal (73), Bangladesh (75), Sri Lanka (64) and Myanmar (78). Only Afghanistan fares worse, at 99th place.

It is nobody's case that Bangladesh is an utopia or that its economy and society have no problems. Nor can anyone seriously argue that India has no advantages. India's economy and trade mix are a lot more diversified, as experts point out.

But we must not shy away from acknowledging that Bangladesh has indeed made a lot of effort to improve social indicators like female workforce participation, life expectancy, health, nutrition and succeeded significantly. And this has contributed towards Bangladesh's progressively faster growth rate especially over the past two decades.

This is not to take away from the successes in social indicators in parts of India. But the point is that other countries are not sitting idle either and we must not luxuriate in the comfort of having been the world's fastest-

**To look at Bangladesh only through the GDP lens is to miss the deeper storyline. Bangladesh has invested in strengthening its human capital, especially women, and this is paying off also in economic terms**

growing large economy in the pre-Covid-19 period.

The pandemic has hit every economy and society; and it will deepen the challenges, including a decline in exports, lower private investment and job losses.

The countries which have invested more in their people are likely to cope better, be more resilient and bounce back sooner. Another Asian country which has leveraged its demographic dividend through effective investment in its people is Vietnam.

Vietnam's efforts to promote access to primary education and to ensure its quality through minimum quality standards have paid off. In the 2015 OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) — which tests high school students in maths, science, and other disciplines — Vietnam ranked eighth out of 72 participating countries, ahead of OECD countries like Germany and Netherlands, says a recent report by Brookings titled "Vietnam's manufacturing miracle: Lessons for developing countries".

India has lifted millions of people from abject poverty in recent decades. The World Health Organisation declared this country and the region free of polio in March 2014.

The Narendra Modi government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan campaign, despite the flawed implementation in many places and the hoopla, has accelerated access to basic sanitation in this country.

India is probably in no immediate danger of being overtaken by its eastern neighbour. Optimists believe that there will be a mild growth recovery in the coming months and India will eventually bounce back.

But we have to shed our hubris. This is a good moment to take a look at not just Bangladesh but the rest of the Asian region to see what we can learn from whom.

*The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com.*

## LETTERS

### RAJINI'S PITIFUL PLEA

'This is with reference to the news item, HC dismisses as withdrawn Rajini's plea. While it is a warning to those who rush to courts without taking recourse to other means available, one wonders how the petition had got listed for hearing ahead of other cases. On several occasions, even urgent cases do not get listed for hearing. How the listing does take place and who decides?'

V.S. Jayaraman, Chennai

### GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

The news that the alleged accused Swapna Suresh has linked the name of the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan before ED in the gold smuggling case is a shock, surprise and a shameful revelation. Her confession was that the CM has introduced her to the Principal Secretary and the investigation so far has come out with more dirt in the hands of Sivasankar, Principal Secretary of the State. The nation has heard of the alleged 'Golden Handshake' for the ones retiring from service and now the employment offered by the Kerala State to the accused Swapna Suresh with the knowledge of the CM appears to be an act of a newly defined meaning to the word — 'Golden Handshake' by Kerala CM

A.P. Thiruvadi Chennai

### LOSS TO CRICKET WORLD

In the passing of Kishore Bhimani a few days ago, Indian cricket has lost one of the finest ever commentators, whose deep knowledge of the game and the style of commentary in impeccable English was outstanding. Bhimani was a leading voice when it came to cricket commentary in the 80s and 90s. He was the commentator during the final moments of the famous tied Test between India and Australia at Chepauk, Chennai in 1986. Incidentally, during this Test, I had the rare opportunity to interact with Mr Bhimani at the pavilion terrace. He was so passionate about the vibrant culture and tradition of Chennai city, especially of the renowned Kanchipuram silk sarees. Later, he profusely thanked me when I explained to him about these sarees and the spirit of Chennai and its cultural history.

R. Sivakumar, Chennai

**Mail your letters to editor@deccanmail.com**

Palash Deb



## Evolve the right parameters to judge varsities

Recent media reports have highlighted that with the Technology opting out of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021, only two Indian universities feature among the world's best 400 universities. At a time the National Education Policy 2020 seeks to transform India into a global knowledge superpower by establishing world-class universities, the reluctance of established IITs to be associated with these rankings has drawn its fair share of criticism.

In a society still conscious of hierarchy, and where a growing sense of national pride demands global recognition in every sphere, conversations about rankings evoke opinionated arguments. University rankings have not just captured the imagination of higher education, but in many ways hold hostage higher education itself. Yet, some of the criticism against Indian universities seems misplaced if we consider the complexities of global university rank-

ings, and the imperfect correlation rankings have with a university's real performance.

University rankings are often a source of national pride and soft power. It appears that as more and more countries enter the global race to build so-called 'world-class universities', no self-respecting nation can afford to fall behind. There are about 20 global university league tables, of which the most popular are The Times Higher Education World University Rankings, The Academic Ranking of World Universities compiled by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings. Other notable rankings include the US News and World Report, the U-Multirank (which allows users to generate their own rankings based on their preferences), the Ranking Web or Webometrics Ranking developed by the Cybermetrics Lab, and the Universitas 21 (which ranks countries, rather than universities, on the

strength of their higher education systems). These rankings differ widely in the parameters they use (such as research output or reputation among academics and employers) and the weights they assign to the various parameters.

Some ranking parameters, such as university reputation, are based on perception, in addition to being opaque (a main allegation against the Times rankings) and procedurally faulty (the QS ranking allows universities to nominate who ranks them). Even supposedly objective metrics that capture the quality of research and teaching, such as publications in select journals, citation count, student-faculty ratio, and graduation rates, can be misleading. For one thing, these metrics cannot capture such intangible aspects of university education such as campus culture or student experience. The measures chosen are often based on ease of availability, and metrics such as student-faculty ratio or graduation rates are susceptible to manipulation by

university officials.

Rankings tend to favour research over teaching, creating perverse incentives for faculty members in research-intensive universities, many of whom treat teaching as a chore. Publishing in the best journals in a field is not always a transparent process, and one cannot easily brush aside the role of such external factors as courting editors or choosing esoteric research topics that are well-received by academic journals but have no real relevance to society. Rankings also favour the citation-heavy hard sciences, and prefer peer-reviewed articles over books or conference presentations. All institutions, irrespective of mission, are judged by the same parameters, which reduces institutional diversity by forcing all of them to prioritise certain common metrics. Rankings also do not come cheap, as universities need to provide substantial research support, develop infrastructure, and spend large sums on marketing and brand promotion. Finally,

rankings can foster social inequalities as the lion's share of government grants goes to a select few universities that are often attended by students from well-to-do families.

Given these limitations, one could possibly argue that institutional excellence is better gauged using socio-economic metrics such as the impact of faculty research on government policy, court rulings, or the development of critical indigenous technologies. One must recognise though that these may not necessarily improve a university's global rank. But if we are forced to choose between the two, our social and economic priorities must always take precedence. The main goals of Indian higher education policy should be human capital development, innovation, social equity, and economic growth. Rank will eventually follow, but until it does, we should not lose sleep over them.

*The writer is a professor of management at IIM Calcutta*



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,982.98	0.64
Nifty 50	11,762.45	0.70
S&P 500*	3,483.81	0.01
Dollar (₹)	73.34	0.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.87	0.36
Euro (₹)	85.90	0.06
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,704.324	0.62
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	0.742	0.008
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.935	0.037
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	42.92	-0.24

\* As of Friday/Saturday

## SECL plans 8 coal evacuation units worth ₹ 3,100 cr



Coal India-arm SECL is executing eight 'first mile connectivity' projects with an outlay of Rs 3,100 crore to evacuate the dry fuel, especially incremental production under the proposed plan to scale up the maharashtra firm's output to 1 billion tonnes. The move will also help power plants at farther most locations in northern and western regions to avail of recently notified rail concessions for distance beyond 1400 km.

## ■ Listing premium declines for latest IPOs Primary market losing appeal

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, OCT. 18

The phase of high retail and high net worth investor (HNI) interest in the primary market seems to have lapsed, considering the tepid response to the IPOs of UTI Asset Management Company and Angel Broking and the decline in their listing premium.

UTI AMC's IPO saw under-subscription of non-institutional investors' portion, comprising corporates and HNIs, at 93 per cent subscription while Angel Broking got even less demand from non-institutional investors at 69 per cent of shares on offer.

UTI AMC's shares listed below the issue price of Rs 554 and on Friday it closed 8.84 per cent below the issue price at Rs 505 against the all-time high it touched on the listing day at Rs 529.95.

Angel Broking shares also listed below the issue price of Rs 306 and never moved beyond Rs 296.70. It closed 20.09 per cent down from issue price at Rs 244.50 on Friday.

In most of the prior initial public offerings, the non-institutional category had received high subscriptions, as with Computer Age Management Services or Cams (111.85 times)-which is of similar size to the UTI AMC (Rs 2,160 crore versus Rs 2,242 crore of Cams) and having mutual fund industry as the main



### Performance of IPOs during the pandemic

Name of the company	Issue price (₹)	Current market price (₹)	All-time high price	Demand/Issue subscribed
UTI AMC	554	505.05	529.95	2.31
Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders	145	168.30	216.95	157.41
Likhitha Infra	120	139.80	143.30	9.51
Angel Broking	306	244.50	296.70	3.94
Cams	1240	1343	1489	46.99
Chemcon Speciality Chemicals	340	406.20	731.25	149.33
Route Mobile	350	707	988	73.30
Happiest Minds	166	325.90	394.95	150.98
Rossari Biotech	425	774	859	79.37

Source: NSE

driving force-Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (678.88 times), Happiest Minds (351.46 times), Route Mobile (192.81 times) and Chemcon Speciality Chemicals (449.14 times).

The premium over the public issue price of other recently listed companies like Route Mobile (current market price Rs 707/all time high on listing Rs 988), Happiest Minds (Rs 325.90/Rs 394.95), Chemcon Speciality

Chemicals (Rs 402.20/ Rs 731.25) Cams (Rs 1,343/ Rs 1,489) are also coming down gradually.

Nirali Shah, senior research analyst, Samco Securities, said, "The IPO party seems to have been punctured with the comparatively muted listings of UTI AMC and Mazagon Dock. This response seems to be in tandem with the recent swing in market sentiments from bullish to neutral."

## ₹ 3-L cr MSME credit line may end soon

New Delhi, Oct. 18: The government is unlikely to extend the Rs 3 lakh crore-Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSME sector beyond October even though the sanctioned amount so far is only nearly 65 per cent of the target, sources said.

The scheme is meant to provide financial support to businesses, primarily micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), impacted by the slowdown, triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

The sources said the objective is to provide support to all those affected and if there are no takers for the scheme, there is no need to extend the scheme even though there is some room left.

On August 1, the government widened the scope of the Rs 3-lakh crore scheme by doubling the upper ceiling of loans outstanding and including certain loans given to professionals like doctors, lawyers and chartered accountants for business purposes under its ambit.

To ensure more companies can benefit from the scheme, it was decided to increase the upper ceiling of loans outstanding as on February 29 for being eligible under the scheme from Rs 25 crore to Rs 50 crore.

The maximum Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line funding under the scheme was increased from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore.

—PTI

## Apparel exports turn positive in September

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, OCT. 18

Apparel exports have posted positive growth in the month of September. The export market has seen better recovery compared to the domestic market and is expected to close the year with lesser losses.

For the first time in the fiscal, apparel exports saw a positive growth of 10.22 per cent in September to \$1,190 million against \$1,079 million in September 2019. From a 90 per cent decline in April, exports have been recovering as the industry has been increasingly exporting medical textiles, said Apparel Export Promotion Council chairman A. Sakthivel.

According to him, apart from medical textiles, exporters have also started receiving orders for apparels for the festive season. "We expect exports to further grow in the coming months and make up for a large part of losses suffered in the first half of the year," he said.

Rating agency Icrs proj-



ects Indian apparel exporters to report a turnover decline of 20-25 per cent in FY21. However, the domestic market might see a steeper 30-40 per cent decline in revenues by the end of the year.

Domestic-focussed branded apparel retail companies had reported a steep fall of 84 per cent in revenues in the June quarter while garment-exporting companies reported a lower contraction of 50 per cent. From a near standstill in April 2020 amid lockdowns, apparel exports recovered in July and August to 78 per cent and 86 per cent of the year-ago levels. However, domestic retail sales are estimated to be at 40-50 per cent of

last year's levels.

The impact on domestic retailers has varied, depending on factors such as strength of online presence, segments being catered to and presence in tier-II and III cities and rural markets, which have performed better than metros and tier-I cities.

"Demand in H2 FY2021 is expected to gather support from extended online festive sales and further relaxations under Unlock 5.0 guidelines, effective from October 15, 2020 onwards. Developments such as a rollback of pay cuts by some corporate entities, government's festive advance scheme etc are also expected to result in improved cash flows in the hands of consumers, thereby supporting discretionary spending," said Jayanta Roy, senior VP and group head, Icrs Ratings.

As per a survey by the Retailers Association of India, 53 per cent of consumers are looking forward to shop apparels and fashion during the festive season.

## Shippers close to global deal to cut pollution

JESSICA SHANKLEMAN &  
EWA KRUKOWSKA  
OCT. 18

Nearly 200 countries are nearing a legally binding agreement to reduce pollution from the world's cargo ships, a step forward after two years of talks on how the industry should clean

up its emissions.

A series of virtual meetings will start on Monday hosted by the United Nations shipping agency over a new rating system that will measure the carbon intensity of 60,000 large ships that haul everything from containers to crude oil. After an historic

agreement in 2018 by the International Maritime Organization, its members are negotiating ways to get to their goal of cutting the industry's emissions in half by the middle of the century. All of them agree a ratings system is needed for the carbon intensity of ships.

—Bloomberg

# COFFEE-BREAK

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



**Aries:** Keep tabs on expenses and save for a rainy day. Some of you may consider ending a relationship. A trip can prove expensive and stressful.



**Taurus:** Home life may be turbulent. You will finally get much-needed rest. While implementing new projects, build consensus. Time management will help you.



**Gemini:** Romantic relationships are intense but you can ease tensions. Implementing something you have been imagining will be rewarding. Creative projects will be priority.



**Cancer:** Some may consider a career change. Patience will help resolve a difficult situation. Listen to everyone's problems to control the home front.



**Leo:** Minor differences can affect family life. Take care to keep stomach problems at bay. Be fair and just. Engage in some creative work.



**Virgo:** Finances show no sign of improving. Don't dwell on things you can't change. Instead, focus on commitments and deadlines. Those seeking job changes should be discreet. Romantic relationships will be good.

### You share your b'day with

Sunny Deol, Bollywood actor and the current member of parliament from Gurdaspur (Lok Sabha constituency) of Punjab State. He is best known for his roles in Ghayal, Damini, Gadar: Ek Prem Katha and Betaab amongst others.



**Libra:** A fresh perspective on an old situation is called for. A time for new beginnings. Making decisions under pressure comes easily to you. Delegating tasks and building a consensus will help meet targets.



**Scorpio:** You will be focused on meeting deadlines and commitments. Your recent efforts will lead to greater recognition from peers. Clear pending projects.



**Sagittarius:** Work towards creating equilibrium within you and your outside world. Trust your instincts but don't discuss things with others till you have relevant information.



**Capricorn:** Be diplomatic in differences at home. You will make an impact in important meetings if you are prepared with all the facts and options.

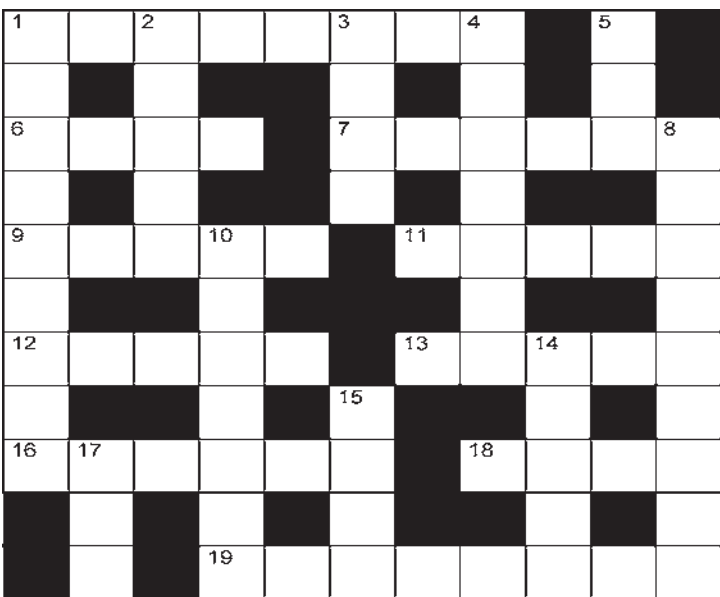


**Aquarius:** Romantic relationships will be smooth. Marriage plans are indicated. You may want to find ways to stop getting into a rut. Work can cause stress.



**Pisces:** Take note of practical details. Romantic relationships will bring joy. You may plan a short trip. Curtail frivolous expenses. Make yourself clear to loved ones to prevent misunderstanding. Spend time with children.

### QUICK CROSSWORD



Across  
1. Easy victory or achievement (8)  
6. Fluff (4)  
7. Bordering on (6)  
9. Sequence (5)  
11. Hearten (5)  
12. Children (5)  
13. Gorse (anag) (5)  
16. Cave (6)  
18. Flightless bird (4)  
19. Dawn (8)

Down  
1. Hospitable (9)  
2. Coated Internally (5)  
3. Air hole (4)  
4. Bad driver (7)  
5. Entirety (3)  
6. Criterion (9)  
10. Burst (7)  
14. Elevate (5)  
15. Snug (4)  
17. Uncooked (3)

### YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 6. Plagiarism, 8. Eagle, 10. Power, 13. Officialdom, 14. Irked, 17. Adapt, 19. Alleviated.

Down: 1. Flag, 2. Ogile, 3. Carp, 4. View, 5. Impromptu, 7. Senoritas, 9. Loire, 11. Oiled, 12. Jig, 15. Kill, 16. Diva, 17. Away, 18. Axed.

### Word Mine

Y  
EEC  
ARNNT

TODAY'S RATINGS: 13 AVERAGE: 15  
GOOD: 17 OUTSTANDING

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

North: 1. E, 2. C, 3. A, 4. R, 5. N, 6. T, 7. S, 8. P, 9. L, 10. D, 11. M, 12. H, 13. G, 14. I, 15. J, 16. K, 17. Q, 18. X, 19. Z, 20. V, 21. W, 22. Y, 23. F, 24. B, 25. C, 26. D, 27. E, 28. F, 29. G, 30. H, 31. I, 32. J, 33. K, 34. L, 35. M, 36. N, 37. O, 38. P, 39. Q, 40. R, 41. S, 42. T, 43. U, 44. V, 45. W, 46. X, 47. Y, 48. Z, 49. A, 50. B, 51. C, 52. D, 53. E, 54. F, 55. G, 56. H, 57. I, 58. J, 59. K, 60. L, 61. M, 62. N, 63. O, 64. P, 65. Q, 66. R, 67. S, 68. T, 69. U, 70. V, 71. W, 72. X, 73. Y, 74. Z, 75. A, 76. B, 77. C, 78. D, 79. E, 80. F, 81. G, 82. H, 83. I, 84. J, 85. K, 86. L, 87. M, 88. N, 89. O, 90. P, 91. Q, 92. R, 93. S, 94. T, 95. U, 96. V, 97. W, 98. X, 99. Y, 100. Z, 101. A, 102. B, 103. C, 104. D, 105. E, 106. F, 107. G, 108. H, 109. I, 110. J, 111. K, 112. L, 113. M, 114. N, 115. O, 116. P, 117. Q, 118. R, 119. S, 120. T, 121. U, 122. V, 123. W, 124. X, 125. Y, 126. Z, 127. A, 128. B, 129. C, 130. D, 131. E, 132. F, 133. G, 134. H, 135. I, 136. J, 137. K, 138. 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## SHORT TAKES

## Gold for Elavenil, Shahu gets silver

**New Delhi:** World number one Indian Elavenil Valarivan won a gold medal and Shahu Tushar Mane bagged a silver in the Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship, held virtually on Sunday. The championship was organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation. Thanks to her gold, Elavenil got richer by \$1000 while Shahu Mane pocketed \$700 for his effort. In the 60-shot competition in which shooters from six nations participated, including hosts Bangladesh and India, Elavenil shot a modest 627.5 to come out on top. Shiori Hirata took the silver with 622.6, while Indonesian Vidya Toyiyba took the bronze with 621.1. Japan, however, won the gold in the men's event as Naoya Okada shot a solid 630.9 to leave India's Shahu behind. Shahu shot 623.8 to settle for second place. — *PTI*

## Chelsea held in six-goal thriller

**London:** Southampton scored a stoppage-time equaliser to rescue a 3-3 draw at Chelsea in the Premier League on Saturday, highlighting how the home team's defensive vulnerability remains despite their off-season spending spree. Jannik Vestergaard glanced in a speculative shot from deadline-day signing Theo Walcott in the second minute of added-on time as Southampton rallied for a second time, having fallen 2-0 behind to Timo Werner's first goals in the league. Chelsea, who had already drawn two matches 3-3, missed the experience of one of their new recruits center back Thiago Silva, who was missing as he recovered from international duty with Brazil and also could have done with recent signing Edouard Mendy in the team. — *AP*

## Ibra scores brace as Milan pip Inter

**Milan:** Zlatan Ibrahimovic made a winning return after being sidelined with the coronavirus as AC Milan beat Inter Milan 2-1 in an entertaining derby match. Ibrahimovic only resumed training this week after recovering from the virus but the 39-year-old Swede scored twice early on. Romelu Lukaku netted for Inter in the 29th minute on Saturday. "I'm very hungry because they locked the wrong animal at home," Ibrahimovic said. "After two weeks at home, it's not easy. Mentally it's hard to be always at home. "Being stuck at home the tempo drops off completely and the body starts to tremble because it wants to work and to play." It was Milan's first win in the derby in the league since 2016 and left the Rossoneri top of the table. Milan are the only team with a perfect record, having won all four of their matches this season. — *AP*

## Dortmund labour, Bayern win big

**Berlin:** Borussia Dortmund needed substitutes to dig them out of a hole for a 1-0 win against Hoffenheim, while Bayern Munich had no such difficulties as they romped to another Bundesliga rout. Bayern beat Arminia Bielefeld 4-1 on Saturday in what seemed at times like a training match.

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** West Brom & Albion vs Burnley from 10 pm; Leeds United vs Wolverhampton from 12.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 2

**Italian League:** Verona vs Genoa from 12.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

## WWE RAW

Bouts from 5.30 am on Sony Ten 1

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## SUPER OVER SUNDAY

## Gayle, Mayank stun mighty Mumbai in Super Over 2

**Dubai, Oct. 18:** Kings XI Punjab beat Mumbai Indians via Super Overs in their IPL match here on Sunday.

After the first Super Over failed to separate the two teams, the match stretched to second Super Over where Chris Gayle and Mayank Agarwal made sure Kings XI Punjab prevailed.

Mumbai scored 11/1 in the second Super Over and in reply Kings reached the target with two balls to spare.

Earlier, Quinton de Kock continued his rich vein of form, scoring a 43-ball 53 before Kieron Pollard and Nathan Coulter-Nile provided the late flourish as Mumbai Indians posted 176 for 6 against Kings XI Punjab.

## SCORECARD

**Mumbai Indians Innings:** Rohit Sharma b Arshdeep Singh 9, Quinton de Kock c Mayank Agarwal b Chris Jordan 53, Suryakumar Yadav c M. Ashwin b Shami 0, Ishan Kishan c M Ashwin b Arshdeep Singh 7, Krunal Pandya c Deepak Hooda b Ravi Bishnoi 34, Hardik Pandya c Pooran b Shami 8, Kieron Pollard (not out) 34, Nathan Coulter-Nile (not out) 24. **Extras:** (b-4, lb-2, w-1) 7. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 176.

**FoW:** 23-1, 24-2, 38-3, 96-4, 116-5, 119-6. **Bowler:** Glenn Maxwell 4-0-24-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-30-2, Arshdeep Singh 3-0-35-2, Chris Jordan 3-0-32-1, Murugan Ashwin 3-0-28-0, Deepak Hooda 1-0-9-0, Ravi Bishnoi 2-0-12-1.

**Kings XI Punjab:** K.L. Rahul b Bumrah 77, M. Agarwal b Bumrah 11, C. Gayle c Boult b Chahar 24, N. Pooran c Coulter-Nile b Bumrah 24, G. Maxwell c Sharma b Chahar 0, D. Hooda (not out) 23, C. Jordan run out 13. **Extras:** (w-4) 4. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 176.

**FoW:** 1-33, 2-75, 3-108, 4-115, 5-153, 6-176. **Bowling:** T. Boult 4-0-48-0, K. Pandya 2-0-12-0, J. Bumrah 4-0-24-3, N. Coulter-Nile 4-0-33-0, K. Pollard 2-0-26-0, R. Chahar 4-0-33-2. **Super Over scores:** KXIP 5/2 vs MI 5/1.

**Super Over 2 scores:** MI 11/1 (1,1w-1,4,1w-1, 0, 2) lost to KXIP 15/0 (6,1,4,4).

De Kock hit three fours and as many sixes for his fourth fifty of the tournament to anchor the

innings before Pollard (34 not out off 12) and Coulter-Nile (24 not out off 12) added 57 runs off 21

balls in the death overs to lift MI past the 170-run mark.

Opting to bat, MI were at a spot of bother when they were reduced to 43 for 3 but De Kock and Krunal Pandya (34 off 30) shared a 58-run stand to steady the ship.

It was the pace duo of Arshdeep Singh (2/35) and Mohammed Shami (2/30) who provided the early breakthroughs, dismissing Rohit Sharma (9) and Suryakumar Yadav (0) respectively to reduce MI to 24 for two in 3.3 overs.

New man Ishan Kishan then became Arshdeep's second victim when he was caught at deep third man while trying to go for an upper cut as MI ended the powerplay at 43 for 3. — *PTI*



Mayank Agarwal and Chris Gayle celebrate Kings XI Punjab's Super Over win against Mumbai Indians in an IPL game on Sunday. — *BCCI*

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	9	7	2	0	14	+0.921
Mumbai Indians	9	6	3	0	12	+1.201
Royal Challengers Bangalore	9	6	3	0	12	-0.096
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	5	4	0	10	-0.607
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	+0.008
Kings XI Punjab	9	3	6	0	6	-0.262
Chennai Super Kings	9	3	6	0	6	-0.386
Rajasthan Royals	9	3	6	0	6	-0.778

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

## CSK, RR look to keep play-off hopes alive

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 18:** Sailing in the same boat, Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals lock horns in the Indian Premier League here on Monday with the knowledge that any more slip-up could dash their slim play-off hopes. Both CSK and RR have failed to live up to the expectations so far and are placed sixth and seventh on the points table in the eight-team competition.

The two struggling teams have six points from nine games, but the defending

champions are placed above on the net run rate. With just five matches each remaining for both the teams, the road ahead is definitely going to be a tough and tricky one, and they know that they cannot afford any more lapses from hereon.

Both teams lost their respective last matches on Saturday. While the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side lost to table toppers Delhi Capitals by five wickets, Rajasthan Royals were defeated by seven wickets by RCB. — *PTI*

## Lockie locks it for Knight Riders in another thriller

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 18:** A fast and furious Lockie Ferguson produced one of the most incredible bowling performances of this IPL edition to lead Kolkata Knight Riders to a thrilling Super Over win over Sunrisers Hyderabad, here on Sunday.

Ferguson proved to be the "Knight in Shining Armour" with his storehouse of variation as he dismissed David Warner and Abdul Samad in the Super Over, leaving KKR with only a three run target to chase.

This was after David Warner's unbeaten 47 and 18 runs off the final Andre Russell over saw Sunrisers level the scores at 163 with KKR in the stipulated 20 overs.

Ferguson was magnificent during the regulation 20 overs also as his 3/15 in 4 overs had SRH in all sorts of trouble. He bowled a first spell in which he dismissed Kane Williamson with a short ball, got rid of

## SCORECARD

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** S. Gill c Garg b R. Khan 36, R. Tripathi b Natarajan 23, M. Rana c Garg b V. Shankar 29, A. Russell c Shankar b Natarajan 9, E. Morgan c Pandey b Thampi 34, D. Karthik (not out) 29. **Extras:** (lb-2, nb-1) 3. **Total:** (for 5 wks, in 20 overs) 163.

**FoW:** 1-48, 2-87, 3-88, 4-105, 5-163.

**Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-27-0, B. Thampi 4-0-46-1, T. Natarajan 4-0-40-2, V. Shankar 4-0-20-1, R. Khan 4-0-28-1.

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** Jonny Bairstow c Russell b Chakravarthy 36, Kane Williamson c Rana b Ferguson 29, Priyam Garg b Ferguson 4, David Warner (not out) 47, Manish Pandey b Ferguson 6, Vijay Shankar c Gill b Cummins 7, Abdul Samad c Gill b Mavi 23, Rashid Khan (not out) 1. **Extras:** (lb-7 w-2 nb-1) 10. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 163.

**FoW:** 1-57, 2-70, 3-70, 4-82, 5-109, 6-146.

**Bowling:** Pat Cummins 4-0-28-1, Shivam Mavi 3-0-34-1, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-32-1, Andre Russell 2-0-29-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-15-3, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-18-0.

**Super Over scores:** SRH 2/2 (w,2,w) lost to KKR 3/0 (-,1,-,2lb).

Priyam Garg with a slower one and saw the back of Manish Pandey with a yorker.

His five wickets in the game got KKR the much-needed two points to take their tally to 10 while Sunrisers stay put on 6 points and are in serious danger of missing the play-offs.

Earlier, Ex-captain Dinesh Karthik's care-

## NARINE ACTION CLEARED BY IPL COMMITTEE

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 18:** Kolkata Knight Riders' West Indian spinner Sunil Narine was on Sunday cleared by the Indian Premier League's suspect bowling action committee after being reported last week.

Narine was reported for a suspect action during his team's clash against Kings XI Punjab last Saturday and another such instance could have led him to being barred from bowling in the league.

But, in a relief for the player as well as for his franchise, the IPL committee found his bowling action to be clean.

After being reported, Narine was placed on the IPL warning list. — *PTI*

## SEIFERT IN FOR INJURED ALI KHAN AT KKR

**Wellington, Oct. 18:** New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Tim Seifert has replaced injured USA fast bowler Ali Khan at KKR. According to *ESPNcricinfo*, Seifert has been roped in as replacement for Khan, whose maiden stint at the lucrative league ended without any game time due to a side strain that he suffered while playing in the Caribbean Premier League.

A report in *Stuff* had said Seifert's domestic team, Northern Districts, had "confirmed" that the cricketer "was another absentee" (for the upcoming Plunket Shield).

Khan was the first USA cricketer to be signed by an IPL franchise. — *PTI*

## Dhoni reveals Bravo was unfit

**Sharjah, Oct. 18:** The proven Dwayne Bravo was not available to bowl the final over against Delhi Capitals due to fitness issues, Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said after their heartbreaking loss here.

Instead, spinner Ravindra Jadeja was entrusted with the task and Delhi knocked off the 17 runs required to win the game on Saturday night.

Bravo, who was off the field, is normally very effective with his slower balls in crunch situations.

Axar Patel smashed three sixes off Jadeja to take his side past the finish line. "Bravo was not fit. He went out and didn't come back. The options were Jaddu and Karn. I went with Jaddu," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation.

The CSK captain admitted that fielders let the side down. "Shikhar's wicket was important but we dropped him quite a number of times. If he keeps batting, he will keep the strike rate high. Also the wicket played better in the second half, but we can't take the credit away from Shikhar," he said.

Dhawan scored his maiden IPL ton in Capitals' five-wicket win. Dhoni said the pitch behaved better when Capitals began their chase. "There wasn't a lot of dew, but there was just enough to make the pitch better. That makes a big

## DWAYNE MAY BE OUT FOR A FEW WEEKS

**Sharjah, Oct. 18:** Chennai Super Kings' death bowling expert Dwayne Bravo could be "out for a few days or a couple of weeks" due to a groin injury, according to head coach Stephen Fleming.

Bravo's inability to bowl the final over cost CSK their IPL game on Saturday as Delhi Capitals knocked off the required 17 runs.

"He (Bravo) seems to have a right groin injury, obviously it was serious enough to keep him from coming back to the field, he is just really disappointed that he was not able to bowl the final over, that's pretty much for what he is in the team for," Fleming said.

The seasoned all-rounder's injury would have to be reassessed going forward. — *PTI*

difference: minus 10 when you are batting, and the extra 10 for the team batting second," he said.

Dhoni was also impressed with the way young Sam Curran bowled under pressure in the 19th over. He conceded only four runs, making tough for DC. — *PTI*



Dwayne Bravo (centre) of Chennai Super Kings celebrates the wicket of Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer in an IPL match in Sharjah on Saturday. — *BCCI*

## Jamaican sprinter Blake slams MSD

**Sharjah, Oct. 18:** Star sprinter Yohan Blake said Mahendra Singh Dhoni had "made the worst decision in a long while", fuming in front of his TV set in faraway Jamaica as Delhi Capitals closed in on a remarkable win in IPL.

Blake, an ardent admirer of the sport, questioned the Chennai Super Kings skipper's move to give Ravindra Jadeja the final over on Saturday night.

He was oblivious to the fact that everyone's preferred choice, death bowling specialist Dwayne Bravo, was not fit to bowl the last over after walking off the field.

"I think Dhoni made the worst decision in a long while. Dhoni, that's a poor decision to bowl Jadeja at the last part. What happened to Bravo. Really?" he asked in a video posted on Twitter.

"Poor poor poor poor choice Mahendra Singh Dhoni. You just can't bowl Jadeja to the left hand batsman," Blake, the youngest 100m world championship winner, tweeted.

Engaging in a conversation on the social networking site, Blake later realised that Bravo was injured. The seasoned West Indian all-rounder suffered a groin injury and could be out of action for at least a few days to a couple of weeks.

But he was still not convinced with Jadeja bowling the final over with Delhi Capitals requiring 17 runs to win the game, which they did with a ball to spare.

"Ok everyone I get that Bravo was injured but I still wouldn't have bowled Jadeja when you have Shane Watson on the field that can bowl a heavy ball." However, the veteran Australian has been playing mainly as a batsman for some years now.

In another tweet, Blake said, "This is what happened when we all love the game so much. To all my india Flag of India family I love you. Let's keep supporting and keep enjoying the game of cricket Cricket bat and ball we love so much." — *PTI*

## JADEJA BOWLING FINAL OVER ADVANTAGE FOR US: DHAWAN

**Sharjah, Oct. 18:** Chennai Super Kings' left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja bowling the final over was an advantage for Delhi Capitals' left-handed duo of Shikhar Dhawan and Axar Patel, the senior opener acknowledged after his maiden IPL hundred.

"We knew (Dwayne) Bravo would not be able to bowl the last over and it would be bowled by Jadeja. We being left-handers, we had a certain advantage against Jadeja," Dhawan said at the post-match press conference.

With his death overs specialist Bravo walking off the field due to a groin injury, CSK skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni asked Jadeja to bowl the last six balls after Sam Curran conceded just four runs in the penultimate over.

"Sam Curran bowled well very in the 19th over, his yorker execution was very good, dew was also there and we took advantage of that as well," Dhawan said. — *PTI*

## Barca, Real both lose ahead of Clasico

**Madrid, Oct. 18:** Real Madrid and Barcelona will each head into the *Clasico* next weekend on the back of a defeat after La Liga's two title favourites were punished for slack performances on Saturday.

Zinedine Zidane made four substitutions at half-time but could not spark a lethargic Madrid into life as his team fell 0-1 at home to newly-promoted Cadiz.

Then two hours later on the opposite side of the city, Ronald Koeman tasted his first competitive loss as coach of Barcelona as they followed Madrid's example by being beaten 0-1 by Getafe at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez.

Madrid's was perhaps the more concerning display, the reigning champi-



Barcelona's Lionel Messi reacts next to teammate Antoine Griezmann (left) after losing their La Liga match against Getafe in Getafe on Saturday. — *AP*

ons managing just two shots on target against Cadiz, who could have scored more after

Anthony Lozano's early strike.

But Barca were not much better, with Lionel

## THE RESULTS

**Real Madrid** 0  
**Cadiz** 1  
(Lozano 16)

**Getafe** 1  
(Mata 56-pen)  
**Barcelona** 0

**Granada** 1  
(Herrera 82)  
**Sevilla** 0

**Celta Vigo** 0  
**Atletico Madrid** 2  
(Suarez 6, Carrasco 90+5)

Messi strangely quiet and the team failing to rebound after Jaime Mata's penalty gave Getafe the lead in the second half.

For Madrid, there was an injury concern too as Sergio Ramos spent the second half in the stands with ice strapped around his left knee.

Madrid said the injury was not serious but it puts in doubt Ramos' involvement in their first Champions League game against Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday, as well the Clasico three days later.

A prolonged absence for Ramos would cap a deflating night for the champions, whose dreary display certainly hands an early boost to their title rivals.

Even if Barcelona were unable to capitalise, Atletico Madrid had earlier beaten Celta Vigo 2-0, with Luis Suarez opening the scoring at Balaidos. — *AFP*