

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | FRIDAY 9 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 33°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 23
Tithi: Saphthami/ Ashtami
Star: Thiruvathirai
Rahukalam:
10.30 am to 12 noon
Yamagandam:
3 pm to 4.30 pm

PRAYERS

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

Mumbai cops name Republic TV for fake TRP scam

Mumbai: Mumbai police on Thursday claimed to have busted a Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulation racket, adding four persons have been arrested in this case. TRP is a tool to judge which TV programmes are viewed the most and also indicates the viewers' choice and popularity of a particular channel ■ **P4**

COUNTER POINT



They are back after some break!



Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan passes away

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

Ram Vilas Paswan, Union minister and founder of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), died on Thursday at a Delhi hospital where he was recuperating from heart surgery.

On Thursday evening, his 37-year-old son, Chirag Paswan, posted the news of his death on social media.

"Papa... Now you are not in this world but I know you are always with me wherever you are. Miss you Papa," he tweeted and shared a throwback photograph with his father.

The 74-year-old Dalit leader was already in hospital when his son Chirag decided to leave the NDA ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls. We will never find out whether junior Paswan's decision had the approval of his father who was often referred to as a "Mausam Vigyanik" because he could foresee winds of change and often managed to stay with the winning side. ■ **P4**

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Include Tamil in ASI institute, says CM



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Glück wins literature Nobel prize

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Sunrisers beat Kings XI Punjab by 69 runs



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TOP COURT CONCERNED

‘Freedom of speech most abused right’

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

The Supreme Court on Thursday slammed the government for filing an "extremely offensive" and "evasive" affidavit which claimed that there were no instances of biased reporting by certain news channels which used the Tablighi Jamaat congregation in Nizamuddin to target Muslim community. Freedom of speech, the court said, is among the most-abused liberties in recent times, while hearing a case related to media reporting on the Tablighi Jamaat gathering. Chief Justice Sharad A.

Bobde, heading a three-judge bench comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian, took strong objection to the contents of the affidavit and told solicitor general Tushar Mehta, "You can't treat this court the way you are treating it in this case."

Telling Mr Mehta that getting a junior ranking officer in the information & broadcasting ministry to file the affidavit is "extremely offensive and brazen", Chief Justice Bobde said that the government must tell the instances of bad reporting and what action it has taken in those instances so far.

Transfer of cops raises a ‘Periyar’ political storm

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 8

A transfer of three police constables from Cuddalore to Kallakurichi district, purportedly for taking a photograph of them standing in front of a statue of Periyar EV Ramasamy on his birth anniversary on September 17, has raised a political storm, besides generating widespread anger in social media.

Besides leaders like DK president K Veeramani, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) general secretary Thol Thirumavalavan and DMK leader TKS Elangovan demanding the

● **VCK general secretary Thol Thirumavalavan in his statement said that the cops were not on duty nor in uniform when the picture was taken**

withdrawal of the transfer order and the reinstatement of the policemen back in Cuddalore, DMK Youth Wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin and scores of social media users launched a broadside against the State government for its action.

Though the order issued by Cuddalore SP, M Sree Abhinav, on October 6

states that S Ranjith (Grade I PC), D Rangarajan (PC) and G Ashok (PC) were being transferred on 'administrative grounds,' the political leaders who have taken umbrage to it alleged that they were transferred only because they had paid homage to Periyar on his birth anniversary.

While no department enquiry was held against the three policemen, an official from the intelligence wing had questioned them in an intimidating manner and told them that it was inappropriate for them to have taken their picture with the Periyar statue as the backdrop. ■ **P3**

TN's grim Covid-19 death count crosses 10,000

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 8

The State's grim tally of deaths from Covid-19 crossed the 10,000 mark on Thursday with 68 more fatalities, while the case tally touched 6,40,943 with 5,088 fresh infections. The 10,052 deaths includes Chennai's 3,351, Chengelpet 584, Tiruvallur 573, Coimbatore 479, Madurai 395, Salem 365, Kancheepuram 341, a health department bulletin said, adding the remainder was spread across Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu became only the second State in the country after Maharashtra (39,072) to see deaths surpass the 10,000 mark but Karnataka is not far behind with 9,574 fatalities. Tamil Nadu's grim landmark came on a day when the Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan was imploring everyone not to drop their guard and urged them to follow all safety protocols for a few more months. 'The State's top health official was expressing his fear over the laxity among people who were ignoring warnings about the necessity to wear face masks in public all the time.

Pence and Kamala Harris let it ‘fly’ in debate

Washington, Oct. 8: The vice presidential debate on Wednesday had plexiglass barriers to prevent the spread of Covid-19, but they couldn't stop the night's most talked-about intruder — a giant stray housefly that perched on Vice President Mike Pence's cropped white hair for over two minutes, generating buzz online. While US President

Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus was the elephant in the room during the debate between Pence and his Democratic rival Senator Kamala Harris, it was Pence's six-legged companion and the pinkness in his left eye that lit up Twitter.

Pence never reacted to the fly taking up residence on his perfectly coiffed

● **On social media, the fly, which sat atop Pence's head for 2 minutes and 3 seconds, became the biggest star**

white hair and spent most of the 90-minute live debate answering questions posed by moderator Susan Page of *USA Today*, but the fly brought up a

slew of questions of its own.

On social media, the fly, which sat atop Pence's head for 2 minutes and 3 seconds, became the biggest star.

On Twitter, an account named @MikePenceFly swiftly gained thousands of followers. Harris' running mate, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, posted a picture of

himself with a fly swatter on Twitter, asking supporters to "Pitch in \$5 to help this campaign fly."

His campaign set up a website, flywillvote.com, to register voters. Within the hour, it was selling a "Truth over Flies" fly swatter for US\$ 10. Some Democrats took the opportunity to bring up President Trump's Covid-19 infection. — *PTI*

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SHORT TAKES

Two DMK cadres held for attacking SI

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

The city police on Thursday arrested two men on charges of attacking a sub inspector attached to Adambakkam police station under the influence of alcohol.

The accused identified as Vinoth Kumar (25) and Ajith Kumar (23), both residents of Kannan colony in Alandur, are affiliated to the DMK, the police said.

The duo and two other men were drinking in the Thillai Nagar subway creating ruckus on Sunday night.

Mohandas, a sub-inspector attached to the crime wing of Adambakkam police, who was riding his two-wheeler, questioned the drunk men for creating law and order issues by boozing in the subway.

Irked by this, they allegedly roughed him up. They attacked him with helmets and beer bottles even though he identified himself as SI.

The miscreants fled with his mobile phone.

The injured sub-inspector lodged a complaint with the Adambakkam police. On scanning the CCTV footage of the incident, the police identified and nabbed two men on Thursday from Alandur. They were lodged in prison.

Saplings planted for Miyawaki forests near Kumbakonam

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, OCT. 8

Collector M Govinda Rao on Thursday inaugurated the creation of Miyawaki forests by planting 21 species of saplings at Srinivasanallur on the Kumbakonam by-pass road near Kumbakonam on Thursday. The forest is coming up on 40,000 sq.ft belonging to Ayyanar temple said Rao. The aim of the project is to reduce global warming and to foster rain. Preservation of bio-diversity is also one of the objectives of Miyawaki forests. S Ramalingam, Mayiladuthurai MP, Balaji Babu, Rotary governor, Ramesh Babu, Rotary trainer and Balaji, rotary governor elect, were present on the occasion.

Tobacco products worth ₹8L seized

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

In a major haul, the Kanchipuram district police seized 400 kilogram of banned gutka and other tobacco products worth ₹8 lakh after intercepting two vehicles on the Bengaluru-Chennai National Highway in the early hours of Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, a special team of police from the Kanchipuram district, who kept a close surveillance on smuggling the banned products on personal vehicles from Bengaluru, intercepted three vehicles during the early hours, near Thimmasa mudram in the district.

On seeing the cops, two men fled the spot, abandoning the vehicle. However, the police team managed to nab them. Two vans and a car were seized by the police.

HC slams heavy dependence on imports from China

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

Expressing its deep concern over India's near-total dependence on imports from one single nation, viz. China, for basic ingredients of medicine-making, the Madras high court has directed the authorities to accord revival and facilitation to a Chennai-based company, manufacturing drugs to treat cancer patients.

Quoting a couplet from Thirukkural, which states that a country is one that strenuously guards against spiralling hunger, endemic diseases and ravages of the foe, Justice N.Kirubakaran said, "If so, what would become of a nation that leaves supply of its essential lifesaving medicines, livelihood of a tranche of its farmers to the mercy of its competing neighbour is the question that arises for consideration in these writ petitions".

The judge made the observations while allowing the petitions filed by Vinkem Labs Ltd, a generic research-cum-manufacturing industry in the cancer drugs segment, and setting aside the orders of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) and Bank of India, which

rejected the revival proposal of the company.

Justice Kirubakaran said, "India has emerged as a pioneer in pharmaceuticals. Yet, for the basic ingredients of medicine making, it is heavily dependent on imports from China. This dependency handicaps us in responding effectively to security and other breaches by the neighbour. It also makes our patients contend with spurious and sub-standard drugs and placing them in a vulnerable prospect of going with-out medicines if tensions escalate between the two countries, especially after the Galwan Valley tussle".

According to the petitioner, it has been promoted by a research chemist specialising in reverse engineering of hi-tech, high value, low volume life-saving molecules applied in cancer treatment. It had made strides in the market till 2004. Thereafter it went for expansion to cater to US and other niche markets. Nabard and Bank of India funded the USFDA (United States Food and Drugs Administration) project. However, the effort turned out to be an ordeal in many ways. Therefore, it requested the bank for restructuring and revival

under CDR mechanism. However, the banks rejected its request.

The judge said the petitioner has been able to supply 30 grams of candidate materials to US-Pharmacopeia for US\$66000 despite the banks terming its stocks obsolete and of no value. When petitioner holds such distinction in the target market even before applying for its approval, it was strange for the banks to deery the commercial viability. In all their pleas, the banks that denounce the USFDA worthiness of the project were conspicuously silent on the proven record of the petitioner, the judge added.

In order to ensure that the medicines of the petitioner reach the poor patients of India, the judge said, "Once the petitioner is enabled to be back on its feet and a mechanism is put in place for it to progress without further roadblocks, this court is of the view that necessary facilitation will have to be made for domestic procurement in a consultative process so that the benefits of world class medicines manufactured by petitioner are made available to our patients in a sustainable way in the near future."

HC sets 14 directions to help cancer drug making firm

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

Coming to the rescue of Vinkem Labs Ltd, a Chennai-based cancer drugs manufacturing company, which was struggling to continue its operation and begin its USFDA (United States Food and Drugs Administration) project for over 5 years, the Madras high court has issued 14 directions (which include according revival and facilitation to the company), to be complied with by the authorities and banks.

Allowing the petitions filed by Vinkem Labs, Justice N. Kirubakaran said, "This court is of the view that this is a fit case to invoke its constitutional powers taking into account the report and recommendations of Dr V. M. Katoch expert committee for bulk drugs and the report of Government of India, API Task Force for the petitioner, powers of the Union Government



under section 8 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act and section 5 (6) of the National Bank For Agriculture and Rural Development Act and directs the respondents to accord revival and facilitation to the petitioner".

The judge said to ensure that the twin goals of enabling the petitioner to become a global player getting foreign exchange for the country and ensuring self-reliance of India in cancer drugs, a committee shall be constituted within 8 weeks. The committee would facilitate all necessary requirements of the petitioner including fiscal and regulatory.

Every six months, this committee shall be provided by the company with reports of progress for the preceding six months and its plans for the succeeding 6 months, financial data as also its requests regarding fiscal, tax, subsidies and other benefits, licences, exemptions, extensions, refund, waivers reversals etc., the judge added.

The judge directed the Union government to advise/direct Bank of India and Nabard to release loan sanction to the petitioner for USFDA approval with requisite moratorium for the period of USFDA approval and sale in US, waive conditions of margins, capital contribution, additional security, FITL interest or other repayments during project implementation or other upfront fund from the petitioner as a pre-condition, apply interest subvention in the loan account to 7.5 per annum from the time of advance, apply simply interest with

waiver of penal and compound interest from the date of NPA, sanction requisite enhancements and release timely disbursement to the petitioner.

The judge said, "We are witnessing with pain the global impact of Covid virus on all facets of human life. There cannot be a more critical time than this to reflect and act upon the issue of self-reliance for essential drugs. The First Bench of this court has recently observed that non-availability of essential drugs is to be treated as national emergency and called upon the governments to hold discussions with all stakeholders to ensure their production within the country holding both the governments equally responsible. Hence, the governments and its various limbs are called upon to approach the matter with sensitivity and the petitioner is called upon to accomplish its scientific mission to provide succour to ailing patients.



Miyawaki model turns popular in city

N. SAMPATH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

The much-acclaimed Miyawaki model of forestry from Japan is gaining ground in Chennai. The Greater Chennai Corporation has created Miyawaki forests in three localities - Adyar, Valasarvakkam and Mugulivakkam. The corporation also plans to plant saplings along the waterways.

A total of 0.5 acres at Adyar Gandhinagar canal bank roadside (near Kotturpuram railway station) has more than 2,000 saplings in 45 varieties. Similarly, more than 700 saplings in 50 varieties were planted in 20 cents in Valasaravakkam. As many as 2,500 saplings in 50 varieties

planted in 60 cents in Mugulivakkam. Akira Miyawaki, a botanist from Japan, introduced the 'Miyawaki' afforestation method to address the environmental impact of deforestation. Trees in the Miyawaki style are 10 times taller and 30 times denser than other trees

eties were planted in 60 cents in Mugulivakkam. Akira Miyawaki, a botanist from Japan, introduced the 'Miyawaki' afforestation method to address the environmental impact of deforestation. Trees in the Miyawaki style are 10 times taller and 30 times denser than other trees.

So how does it work? "The pit is dug up to a depth of 3 feet across the

first selected terrain. Then fertile soil is dumped there to form a half-foot platform with straw. Subsequently the saplings are planted close together," said a corporation official, adding that fertilisers from the micro composting centres are used for the purpose.

Trees grown in the 'Miyawaki' system (approximately 2,000) consume 11 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year and provide 4 tons of oxygen.

These trees do not require much maintenance after the first 3 years. In the next phase, the corporation has started the process of creating a 'Miyawaki' system of dense forests in Pudukkottai and Sholinganallur.



Boy stages own kidnap, demands ₹10 lakh ransom

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

In a shocking incident in the city, a 14-year-old boy allegedly staged his own kidnapping and then sent a message to his father's mobile phone demanding a ransom of ₹10 lakh.

The boy, identified as Devendran, is a class nine student and a resident of Subatras Street in Triplicane. His father Thola Ram runs a two-wheeler spare parts shop in the locality.

According to Thola Ram, his son left the house on Wednesday evening for tuition. Later, the father received a message for ₹10 lakh ransom on his mobile phone. Soon after receiving the text message, Ram approached the Anna Square police station and registered a complaint of kidnapping. The police swung into action. Within a few minutes, Devendran called his father's mobile and informed him that the kidnappers dropped him near Chepauk Gate. The officials recovered him on Wednesday night.

The police held inquiries with the boy to identify the kidnappers. As he gave contradictory statements, police grew suspicious and questioned him further. The cops also checked the CCTV footage near Chepauk Gate. They found the boy was dropped at the gate by his friends in an autorickshaw. Following this, the boy confessed to have faked his own kidnapping for extorting money from his father.

Stop crowding during festival season

B. Vijayalakshmi

Viewpoint

While the Tamil Nadu government extended the lockdown in the state till October 31, the Central government rolled out some Unlock 5 guidelines which came into effect on October 1. With places of religious worship, markets, shops, restaurants, parks and malls reopened now, it is almost back to normalcy in the capital city. Most of the government and private company employees are back to work. Traffic snarls haunt motors on arterial roads.

Buses are crowded during peak hours. On the other hand, metro rail, which resumed services after six months amid strict safety norms in stations, is yet to see adequate response. With the auspicious Purattasi month on, temples are heavily

crowded especially on Saturdays.

As the festive season is nearing, the Union health ministry this week issued guidelines for celebrations. With Tamil Nadu government easing a number of lockdown restrictions, huge crowds are bound to throng shopping hubs like T Nagar, Mylapore and Purasawalkam before Navarathri and Deepavali.

Though wearing masks and maintaining social distance are mandatory, some simply ignore them. Multiple and separate entries and exits arranged for devotees in temples or visitors to malls/shops are not utilized properly. Visuals of a large number of people either not wearing masks properly or not wearing masks jostling with each other in markets or before shops which offer discount, are disturbing.

The government, during this festival time, must enhance the penalties for those who violate Covid-19 guidelines. With vaccine yet to be found, and Covid cases



A worker cleaning the seats at a theatre in Egmore on Thursday. The Central government has issued guidelines for the reopening of cinema halls on October 15.

rising, people venturing out for celebrations this year must change their shopping habits by wearing masks, avoiding crowds and following social-distancing norms.

8 stranded fishers reach Chennai from Myanmar

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

Nearly after two-and-a-half-month struggle, eight of the nine fishermen from Kasimedu, who had drifted to Myanmar while fishing in mid-sea after their boat developed a snag in July, returned to Chennai on Thursday. The fishermen were received by fisheries minister D Jayakumar by presenting shawls and bouquets, at the Chennai airport.

The eight fishermen boarded a Vande Bharat flight from Myanmar to Delhi on Wednesday and reached home on Thursday.

The nine-member team who left the Kasimedu fishing harbour in July lost contact with the shore after their boat developed a snag. The boat drifted towards the Myanmar coast due to inclement weather. They drifted at sea for



Fisheries minister D. Jayakumar poses with rescued fishermen at the Chennai airport.

-DC

over 50 days and were rescued by the Myanmar Coast Guard on September 14. But one of them, identified as Babu, fell into the sea while anchoring the boat a couple of days after being rescued in Myanmar.

Meeting the press at the Chennai airport, the fisheries minister said, the state government had written to the Centre and the neighbouring states asking them to share any information about the missing fishermen.

"Through the External Affairs Ministry, we sought the assistance of neighbouring Myanmar, Thailand and Bangladesh to trace them", he said.

"The Myanmar Coast Guard located our fishermen and safely brought them to Myanmar. The Indian mission in Myanmar has informed that the fishermen were doing well and provided them with food and other facilities," he said.

SHORT TAKES

Cop commits suicide

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARUR, OCT. 8

A 27-year-old police constable attached to the special police battalion here, allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison at his native Malaiyandipatti village near Kulithalai, in the district on Wednesday. Police said the deceased suffered from stomach pain for quite a long time and despite regular treatment, he was not cured. He came to his native last Sunday and fainted at his residence. He was rushed to a private hospital in Tiruchy, and from there, was referred to a private hospital in Tiruchy, where he died on Wednesday night. Kulithalai police are investigating.

Six stranded fishermen rescued

DC CORRESPONDENT
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT. 8

An Indian Coast Guard patrolling vessel rescued six fishermen stranded on a damaged boat 65 nautical off Thoothukudi shore. Acting on an SOS that a mechanised fishing vessel which ventured from Tharuvaikulam village with six men onboard, was sinking due to a damage hull, the coast guard patrol vessel 'ICGS Vaibhav' from Thoothukudi coast guard station, rushed to the rescue of the fishermen and rescued them. Those rescued were identified as Vimal, Vijay, Santhosh, Regan, Thenraj and Arockiyam. The Coast Guard vessel reached the spot on Wednesday evening, and its men repaired the damaged boat and towed it ashore by around 3 am on Thursday.

Man held on dowry charges

DC CORRESPONDENT
PUDUKKOTTAI, OCT. 8

The all women police on Thursday arrested a 35-year-old LIC employee along with his parents and relatives for allegedly harassing his wife for dowry. Police identified the accused as Senthilkumar of Gandarvakottai, Pudukkottai district, who got married with one Gokila in 2016. The couple did not children and frequently quarreled. It is alleged that Senthilkumar, his parents and relatives, demanded additional dowry of Rs 1 lakh in cash and 10 sovereigns of gold jewelry. Based on Gokila's complaint, Kavitha, Inspector, AWPS, Pudukkottai, registered a case against six persons including Senthilkumar, his parents and three other relatives, and arrested Senthilkumar, and remanded him to judicial custody.

CM thanks Ramadoss and Vasan

Chennai: Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami thanked PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss and TMC president G K Vasan for congratulating him on his being declared as the Chief Ministerial candidate of the AIADMK.

In separate tweets, Palaniswami said that the two leaders had called him over the phone and personally greeted him.

Include Tamil in ASI institute, says CM

A. ARUL PALANI | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the issue of neglecting Tamil language in admission of PG diploma in archaeology at Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

In a letter sent to Modi on Thursday, Palaniswami said, “ would like to bring to your kind attention that Archaeological Survey of India, under Union ministry of culture, recently published an advertisement for admission to the two-year PG diploma in archaeology course for 2020-2022 in the institute.”

While it is a laudable initiative to create a suitable talent pool in a consistent manner, which will unravel our glorious past in a professional way, some of the guidelines serve as entry barriers for the aspirants across the country especially for people from Tamil Nadu.

The advertisement had prescribed the minimum qualification criteria as master's degree in, among other relevant subjects, Indian classical languages such as Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic or Persian. Unfortunately,

CM to Yediyurappa: Fill vacancies of Tamil teachers in Karnataka

DC CORRESPONDENT,
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami requested his Karnataka counterpart B. S. Yediyurappa to take steps to fill vacancies of Tamil teachers in government and state-aided schools. Citing a representation from the Karnataka Tamil School and College Teachers Association, the CM made the appeal on Thursday. The association in the representation stated that there are many vacancies of Tamil teachers in government and government aided schools and the state government

among the listed languages, only Sanskrit has been declared as a classical language in 2005. Tamil, which was the first language in India, officially recognized as a classical language in 2004, has been completely ignored in the advertisement, he said.

He pointed out of 48,000 inscriptions in all the languages that have been published so far by vari-



had not given approval for opening new private Tamil schools.

Palaniswami said over the years, the Karnataka government had started many Tamil schools in various districts to enable Tamil students to study in their mother tongue. Besides granting

approval the government provided assistance to private Tamil schools.

He said Tamilians have been contributing significantly to the all-round economic development of Karnataka and they made immense contribution in developing Kolar Gold Mines, Hutti Gold Mines, Sandur Manganese mines, coffee estates in Chikmagalur and Mangalore. They have also been playing a major role in construction and agriculture sectors in Karnataka. Palaniswami also sent a copy of the representation received from the Association.

the national institute” he said.

The advertisement had sparked row over language in the state recently. DMK leader M. K. Stalin, MDMK leader Vaiko, Madurai MP Su Venkatesan and others condemned the ASI for neglecting Tamil from the classical language category and denying Tamil scholars from pursuing the course.

Hang rapists in public: Mahila Cong chief

ANANTH MATHIVANAN | DC
COIMBATORE, SEPT. 8

Mahila Congress TN president Sudha Ramakrishnan on Thursday urged the government to set special courts across the state to probe sexual harassment and child abuse cases.

‘Mahila Congress’ north district review meeting

Sudha also alleged that their party president Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were blocked and disrespected while heading to the house of a Dalit girl who was allegedly brutally raped and murdered in Uttar Pradesh

was held at Periyanaickenpalayam on the city's outskirts on

Thursday, in which Sudha Ramakrishnan presided. During her address, she emphasized the importance of setting up special courts across the state for dealing with womens' harassment cases, particularly, child abuse and brutal gang rape cases.

“The number of such crimes has consistently increased across the coun-

try including TN, even as the Central government remained blind eyed without adopting any stringent measure to check the crime. Such criminals should be hanged in public to avoid repeat of such crime. The state government also should consider setting up special courts for women across the state,” she said.

Sudha also alleged that

their party president Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were blocked and disrespected while heading to the house of a Dalit girl who was allegedly brutally raped and murdered in Uttar Pradesh.

Condemning the respective government and the administration for the incident, resolutions were passed on the issue in the

meeting. Sudha also urged party members to muster efforts to increase the number of women party members in and around the district.

Party district president M Sudar Vizhi, secretaries Muthu Laxmi, Jothi Laxmi, Cuddalore town party functionary, Amala Rani, and hundreds of women took part in the meeting.

Cops transferred over Whatsapp status

From P1

One of the policemen had put up the photograph as his WhatsApp status image, whose screenshot had been taken by somebody and sent to the higher ups. The intelligence department official had told the policemen that their higher ups were not happy with their behavior and wanted to find out how that had happened.

Then suddenly they were issued the transfer order, whose copy had been put up in the various social media posts, including that of Veeramani and Udhayanidhi Stalin. Those posts also carried the picture of four young men standing in front of the garlanded statue of Periyar, which the State government had found to be offensive.

The particular statue near the Anna bridge over Gadilam river was

unveiled by the late M Karunanidhi at the very spot where footwear was hurled on Periyar as he was leaving the town after a meeting one night, said Elangovan.

Thiruvamavalavan, in his statement, said that two of the transferred police personnel belonged to Scheduled Castes while the third one hailed from a Most Backward Classes community and all three of them had married outside their castes. They were not on duty nor in uniform when the picture was taken.

Did the TN onsidr the three men taking a picture in front of the statue of a man who dedicated his life for social justice and defended self-respect a crime, he asked, urging the government to prove that it was directed by the party of MGR and J Jayalalitha, who came the way of Periyar.

Stalin writes to 10 CMs

DC CORRESPONDENT,
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

DMK president M. K. Stalin thanked 10 Chief Ministers in the country who have declined to accept both the borrowing options proposed by the Centre at the GST council meeting on October 5.

In his letter to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry, Kerala, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand and West Bengal on Thursday, Stalin said: “Your efforts in standing united to uphold Federalism are greatly appreciated.”

When the Union had a moral and legal obligation to pay the states, proposing that the states should



borrow to substitute for their non-payment was a travesty of both states' rights and justice, he said.

“On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I truly appreciate your efforts so far, and urge you to stand firm even as our own Tamil Nadu government

In his letter to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry, Kerala, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand and West Bengal on Thursday, Stalin said: “Your efforts in standing united to uphold Federalism are greatly appreciated”

continues to betray its people. Your solidarity with the other states in fighting for the rights of all States in India, will not go in vain,” Stalin said.

He said the CAG report for the fiscal year 2018-2019 showed that the

Union Government has illegitimately transferred funds of Rs. 47,272 crore from the GST Compensation account to the Consolidated Fund of India during the 2017 - 18 and 2018 - 19 periods alone.

“In light of these facts, I urge you to hold the Union Government to its duty and its commitment to the CAG, reimburse this amount immediately, and initiate States' compensation payments from this deposit. The additional funds required to honour the Unions Legal Obligations for the year can be borrowed directly into the Compensation Account from the market or the RBI, with the Union Government serving as guarantor for its eventual repayment,” Stalin added.

Kodanad estate under public gaze again after I-T dept attached it

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT. 8

The ‘Kodanad estate’ — property of V.K. Sasikala, Ilavarasi and V. N. Sudhakaran — has once again become the cynosure of all eyes after the income tax department attached it. Sources said that the estate is a partnership firm and there is no ban on regular tea production works, as only three partners of the estate are barred from enjoying their share of properties in the estate.

The Kodanad estate was once a power centre with the late chief minister J. Jayalalithaa visiting it often. After her demise in 2016, the place hogged the limelight for several wrong reasons. In April 2017, the estate bungalow saw a dacoity attempt that ended in the murder of a watchman there. A few months later, a young computer operator in the estate

The Kodanad estate was once a power centre with the late chief minister J. Jayalalithaa visiting it often. After her demise in 2016, the place hogged the limelight for several wrong reasons. In April 2017, the estate bungalow saw a dacoity attempt that ended in the murder of a watchman there

committed suicide, setting tongues wagging about his suspicious death. In November 2017, the estate witnessed a week-long raid by income tax officials, triggering talks about money laundering, shady deals in acquisition of properties including a nearby tea estate, exchange of currency in a local area following the Centre's demonetization move.

During the DMK regime between 2006 and 2011, an inquiry was ordered into the construction of the present new bungalow to ascertain whether it was built as per permission and hill area building rules. In the same

period, there were frequent agitations by neighbouring villagers in Anna Nagar limits along Kodanad estate, over the closure of a village road that traverses via the estate. But, ever since Jaya and Sasikala and group acquired the nearly 900 acres, Kodanad estate in the early 1900s was shrouded in mystery.

A Toda tribesman, K. M. Alwas, who worked in Kodanad estate between 1980 and 1995, told Deccan Chronicle that the estate was developed in a small way from 1831, and it was named Kodanad estate in 1888. The ownership of the estate had been changing over the

years, he added.

Alwas had joined the estate as assistant manager under the ownership of Craig Jones, and he went to become the estate manager in 1990.

The estate, which is a partnership firm, was functioning under the name ‘Kodanad Tea Estates Private Limited’.

“Between 1992 — 93, Jayalalithaa and the Sasikala group made some moves to acquire the property. The deal dragged for some time due to various reasons. In 1994, one Udiyaar too became a partner in the estate. After some time, Jayalalithaa, Sasikala and Ilavarasi entered into an understanding with Jones and became the partners of the estate. It is still continuing as a partnership firm with change of partners all over the years. There are about eight partners in the estate,” he noted.

Don't lower your guard on Covid: Health secy

DC CORRESPONDENT,
CHENNAI, OCT. 8

Making it clear that the situation had not returned to normality vis-a-vis Covid19 infection, health secretary J. Radhakrishnan warned people against lowering their guard, urging them to follow the protocols to prevent the spread of the virus for another three to four months.

Expressing anguish over the apparent laxity among people, not following the norms like wearing of facemasks and maintaining social distancing, Radhakrishnan explained the various steps taken by the authorities after participating in a medical camp held at Anna Nagar to create awareness on the precautions to be taken against the spread of coronavirus.

Though the spread has been flattened in the State and the test positivity rate

was below 10 per cent, people needed to be careful for some more time, he told the media.

Every day, 90,000 RT-PCR tests were being done and 79 lakh people had already been covered, he said. On the conduct of camps to create awareness on the spread of the disease, he said they were concentrating in slums and in rural areas and more such camps would be held.

Doctors, nurses and other medical professionals had been prepared for the conduct of the camps, he said, adding that there were plans to hold camps in workplaces between 3 pm to 5 pm and between 5 pm and 8 pm in other areas.

In Chennai, 16 lakh persons had been tested, which formed 20 percent of the population, Radhakrishnan said.

Corporation Commissioner G Prakash said that the drive against those not wearing facemasks in

public places had fetched Rs 2.25 crore as fines. Though collecting fines was not what the Corporation wanted, the drive would be intensified as the months of October and November were critical.

Asked about political parties holding meetings without following the Covid-19 prevention norms, he said that a meeting was held with the parties and they had been instructed to strictly follow the protocols. Strict action would be taken against those found not following the norms, he said.

On the sudden increase in the number of containment zones, which were almost nil at one point, Prakash said that the Chief Secretary had issued new norms to declare a street to be under containment even if there were two or three cases. Earlier a street would be barricaded only if there were five cases.



A woman traffic cop wearing a pith hat with thermocol padding regulates traffic at Perambur on Thursday.

— DC

Pon's talk on BJP-DMK ties political stunt: Oppn

ARULOLI M | DC
KANYAKUMARI, OCT. 8

BJP leader Pon Radhakrishnan's statement about the possibility of BJP-DMK alliance in the 2021 assembly election is nothing but its tactics to create a confusion in the DMK - Congress alliance, said Congress workers.

DMK sources in the southern districts also ruled out any such possibility as the chore ideology of the DMK is to nip the BJP in the bud. “Former union minister Pon Radhakrishnan's talk

is the outcome of the BJP's frustration that no party in the state is willing to forge an alliance with it,” said T Kamaraj, deputy president, OBC wing of the Tamil Nadu Congress.

He also added that Dy CM O Panneerselvam and Chief minister Edappadi K Palanisami settling their issues, is also a slap on the face of the BJP, which he said, tried to create problems within the AIADMK, since the BJP knows it can set its foot in the state only if the AIADMK is vacated,”

added Kamaraj.

The DMK also viewed Pon Radhakrishnan's comments as a political mischief to baffle the parties in the DMK alliance. A DMK functionary, recalled a similar statement made by another BJP leader, Nainar Nagendran, who in an interview recently said his party was ready to align with TTV Dhinakaran's AMMK. “Having been left alone in the state, the BJP has just thrown in the bait to fish for alliance parties,” he added.

₹ 60L HAWALA CASH SEIZED BY NELLAI COPS

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUNELVELI, OCT. 8

The Tirunelveli city police on Thursday seized unaccounted money to the tune of ₹60 lakh which they suspect, could be hawala money. Intercepting a speeding car at Pettai in the city during the wee hours of Thursday, police seized Rs 16 lakh.

The occupants were identified as Kalyanakumar (42) of Tenkasi and Ramakrishnan (36) of Tirunelveli. Based on their confession, police conducted a raid at the residence of a North Indian businessman, Jeyanthilal (33), in the town and recovered Rs 44 lakh, for which Jeyanthilal was reported to have not maintained any accounts.

As police suspected it to be hawala money, the city police informed the income tax department. Assistant director, IT department, Kasi Shankar, also joined the interrogation along with the city police.

IIT-M launches

course on biz accounting process

Chennai: IIT-M Digital Skills Academy has launched a new online course on business accounting process. The objective is to upskill/re-skill students and professionals looking for a career in finance and accounting. The course will be available across the year and interested candidates can enroll at any point of time in a year. The course is completely online, interactive and 'job oriented.' For further information: <https://skillsacademyiitm.ac.in/program-inner.php?courseID=18&cart=>

Jumbo donated to temple

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRIRANGAM, OCT. 8

A Coimbatore-based industrialist has donated a 20-year-old female elephant to the Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, Srirangam, on Wednesday. According to temple sources, the elephant 'Lakshmi' popularly known as 'Premi' was with the industrialist for a short period and was brought from Kerala.

SHORT TAKES

BIRAJA RATH
YATRA GETS
ODISHA HC NODAKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 8

Odisha High Court on Thursday gave its nod for the age old rath yatra rituals of Goddess Biraja in Jajpur. Hearing two public interest litigations, the court has directed the Collector of Jajpur district to make arrangements for holding of rath yatra adhering to Covid-19 guidelines.

Last week, the High Court had sought response from the state government on conduct of the 9-day-long rath yatra scheduled from October 17.

Earlier, two PILs had been filed by Mukti Mandapa Sevayat Parishad of Maa Biraja Temple and Jajpur district lawyers' association in the court seeking permission for holding of the chariot festival of Goddess Biraja.

In a PIL, the servitors of the Biraja Temple Mukti Mandap had stated that rath yatra of the Goddess is an age-old ritual of the deity and it must be allowed to be observed this year also. Discontinuance of the religious observance will hurt religious sentiment of thousands of devotees.

ABDULLAH BRIEFS
PM ON TALKS
WITH TALIBANDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Afghanistan's Chairman of its High Council for National Reconciliation — who is currently on a visit to India — met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and briefed him on the talks in Doha that are going on with the Taliban and the Afghan peace process.

Modi reaffirmed India's long term commitment to further deepening ties between the two nations, "reiterated India's commitment towards sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and welcomed efforts towards a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Afghanistan", the MEA said in a statement.

Meanwhile, at a "special address" on "The Future of Afghanistan" at defence thinktank "Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses" in the capital, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah urged India to play a greater role in the ongoing intra-Afghan talks, adding that India can play a vital role in establishing lasting peace in Afghanistan and the region, the IDSA said in a statement on the event.

The Afghan leader reportedly described India as an important "strategic partner" of Afghanistan.

LACK OF DATA
STOPS LARGE-SCALE
SPUTNIK-V TRIALKANIZA GARARI DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 8

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has rejected Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd's petition for conducting large-scale human trials of Russia's vaccine Sputnik-V against Covid-19, as there is little data on the vaccine candidate.

CDSCO noted that safety and immunogenicity data of phase 1 and phase 2 studies is small. There is no data available on Indian subjects. The CDSCO subject committee, after detailed deliberation, stated that Dr Reddy's Labs should follow regulatory requirements and conduct phase 2 and phase 3 trials with proper monitoring for humoral and cell mediated immune response.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories has been asked to submit the data to the committee, which will further evaluate the stability data. Dr Reddy's refused to comment on the development.

Last month, the company had stated that they would begin trials for the vaccine in India after clearance from regulators. The company had planned 100 million doses of the vaccine that was to be supplied by Russia.

Meanwhile, the committee has also reviewed data of Covaxin, developed by Bharat Biotech Limited. The data of phase III clinical trial has been termed as satisfactory except for clarification on definition of asymptomatic.

The committee asked for initiation of an appropriate dose from the phase II immunogenicity data. Covaxin is an indigenously developed vaccine and drug controllers state that its development is being closely monitored.

INDIA REBUFFS
CHINA MISSIVE
TO MEDIA ON
TAIWAN POLICYSRIDHAR
KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

Stating that "there is a free media in India that reports on issues as it sees fit", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday administered a veiled snub to China after the Chinese Embassy issued a "letter" publicly earlier on Wednesday asking the Indian media to adhere to the One-China policy of the Indian Government on the Taiwan issue. The latest controversy arose ahead of Taiwan's "National Day" celebrations on October 10. The terse comment by the MEA spokesperson in New Delhi came in response to media queries for a reaction on the Chinese Embassy's "letter".

India, like most nations in the world, follows the "One-China Policy" and does not recognise Taiwan—an island territory off the coast of the Chinese mainland—as a sovereign nation. China has always considered Taiwan as a part of its territory and as a renegade province although Beijing has never exercised physical jurisdiction over Taiwan since 1949. In that year, the then (Chinese nationalist) Kuomintang (KMT) chief Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek had retreated to the island of Taiwan off the coast of mainland China after losing the civil war to Chairman Mao Tse-Tung's Communists. Taiwan somehow managed to survive as a de-facto separate entity due to the United States which has extended enormous support to it through more than seven decades.

On Thursday, the Chinese Embassy stated, "There is only one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. One-China policy is an international universal consensus and long-standing position of the Indian Government which China appreciates. It's wishful thinking to seek any 'Taiwan independence'."

Earlier on Wednesday, the Chinese Embassy in its "letter" had stated, "Regarding the so-called forthcoming 'National Day of Taiwan', the Chinese Embassy in India would like to remind our media friends that there is only one China in the world, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate government representing the whole of China."



Police detain and baton charge BJP activists during their march to state secretariat (Nabanna) in Howrah on Thursday. Defying Covid regulations, BJP mustered thousands of its workers on the streets of Kolkata and Howrah on Thursday for a march to the state secretariat over alleged worsening of law and order, provoking a crackdown by police which left scores injured, eyewitnesses and officials said.

— PTI

Paswan always read
writing on the wall

He wanted to write about the history of socialist politics

SREEPARNA
CHAKRABARTY | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

Ram Vilas Paswan was already in hospital when his son Chirag Paswan decided to leave the NDA ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls. We will never find out whether junior Paswan's decision had the stamp of approval from his father the *Mausam Vigyanik*.

For had the socialist leader vetted his son's decision we would have known which side the wind was blowing in the Bihar Assembly polls.

Mr Paswan, who was the Union Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs was considered to be one of the smartest politicians who along with Sharad Yadav and Lalu Prasad emerged as the young socialist brigade of Bihar as part of Jayaprakash Nayaran's movement.

Born in Khagaria in Bihar in 1946, he was first elected to the Bihar state legislative assembly in 1969 as a member of the Samyukta Socialist Party from a reserved constituency. In 1974, Mr Paswan became the general secretary of the Lok Dal.

He was personally close to the prominent leaders of anti-Emergency like Raj Narain, Karpoori Thakur and Satyendra Narayan Sinha. He parted

ways with Morarji Desai and joined Janata Party-S led by Lokbandhu Raj Narain as party's president and later as its Chairman.

He spent the entire period of Emergency beginning 1975 in jail. When he was released in 1977, the Dalit leader became a member of the Janata Party and won election a Lok Sabha election with the highest margin ever.

What also can make into the world records is the fact that he has been a Union minister in almost all the governments since then.

Paswan was re-elected to the 7th Lok Sabha in 1980 and 1984 from Hajipur constituency. In 1983, he established the Dalit Sena, an organisation for Dalit emancipation and welfare. It was from this juncture that he modeled himself as a Dalit face.

He was instrumental in implementation of the Mandal Commission report in 1990s.

The Dalit Sena was later headed by his brother Ram Chandra Paswan, who passed away a couple of years before.

Mr Paswan was re-elected to the 9th Lok Sabha in 1989 and was appointed Union Minister of Labour and Welfare in the Vishwanath Pratap Singh government. In 1996, he even led the ruling alliance or Proposition in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister was a member of the Rajya Sabha.

This was also the year when Paswan first became the Union Railway Minister. He continued to hold that post till 1998. Thereafter, he was the Union Communications Minister from October 1999 to September 2001 when he was shifted to the Coal Ministry, the portfolio he held till April 2002.

In 2000, Mr Paswan broke from the Janata Dal, to form the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP). Following the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, he joined the United Progressive Alliance government and was made the Union Minister in Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Ministry of Steel.

But with Narendra Modi's advent in 2014, he was quick to read the writing on the wall and joined the NDA becoming the Union Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs.

However, before the 2019 General Elections, Mr Paswan handed over the baton of his party to son Chirag and devoted himself just to the ministry.

In Delhi, his official residence 12 Janpath, which he retained most of his life, was an open House for party workers and journalists.

An old school politician, Mr Paswan maintained a personal relationship with the media. Rarely would a call or request for an interview go unanswered.

Many a times, reporters would sit late in his drawing room with Mr Paswan sharing political anecdotes from his over four decade old career.

In a recent interaction with this reporter, he had expressed interest in writing about the history of socialist politics in India.

Despite changing sides with political exigencies, he maintained a good personal rapport with politicians. The Union Minister never failed to send his greetings on her birthday to his long-time next door neighbour Sonia Gandhi.

With his death, Mr Paswan takes away a section of India's politics which was tolerant, rooted to the grassroots and remained modest till the very end. It remains to be seen whether Chirag Paswan can keep his father's legacy alive.

IAF HAS HONED
STRIKE POWER,
SAYS ITS CHIEFDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7:

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria in his address on Air Force Day said on Thursday that Air Force will evolve and be ready to safeguard nation's sovereignty and interests in all circumstances.

"I would like to commend all warriors for the quick response, in the recent stand-off on our northern frontiers, when we deployed our combat assets at short notice to handle any eventuality, and provided proactive support to all the requirements of deployment and sustenance for the Indian Army. We have clearly demonstrated our resolve, operational capability, and the will to effectively engage the adversary, should the need arise," said Air Force Chief.

He said that the recent induction of state of the art Rafale, Chinook and Apache aircraft, have added significantly to IAF's combat capability over its adversaries on the battlefield.

"Our offensive strike capability has been honed further, with up-gradations of our aircraft with weapons and sensors, ably supported by a networked decision making matrix. We have a large strategic air lift capability comprising of IL-76s, C-17s and C-130s and have also significantly enhanced our heli-lift capabilities," he said.

Mumbai police busts 'TRP scam',
Republic TV under scannerDC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 8

Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh on Thursday personally held a press conference to announce an investigation into the alleged "Television Rating Points (TRP) scam" by some television channels.

The commissioner named three TV channels, including *Republic TV* that claims to have the highest TRP among news channels, for their involvement in the alleged scam.

Republic TV's editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami dismissed the allegations and said the channel will file a criminal defamation case against the police commissioner.

● **Mr Singh said that a set of households where barometers were installed were paid money to tune to a particular channel. In one case, Mumbai's top police officer said, investigators found that a household comprising people who were not literate always had an English news channel switched on.**

treated as confidential so that the data isn't manipulated. Hansa Research approached the police against some of their employees who could have influenced households where barometers were installed in order to manipulate TRP data.

It is a cheating (breach of trust) complaint turned into an FIR, the police commissioner told reporters.

Police have arrested owners of two Marathi channels — *Fakt Marathi* and *Box Cinema* — and two former employees of

Hansa Research under sections 409 and 420 of IPC. Mr Singh claimed that *Republic TV* was also named in a BARC analytical report as a suspect. He said that owner, directors and promoters of *Republic TV* will also be probed in the case.

However, *Republic TV* dismissed the allegations as "false" and said it will file a criminal defamation case against the Mumbai police commissioner.

In a statement, Mr Goswami said, "There is not a single BARC report that mentions *Republic TV*. The people of India know the truth. Mr Parab Bir Singh's investigation in the Sushant Singh Rajput case is under a cloud and this a desperate measure because of *Republic TV's* reportage on Palghar (mob lynching of two Sadhus), the Sushant Singh Rajput case or any other case. This kind of targeting only strengthens the resolve of everyone at *Republic TV* to push for the truth even harder. Param Bir Singh stands completely exposed today, since BARC has not mentioned *Republic* in any single complaint. He should issue an official apology and get ready to face us in court."

Mr Singh said bank accounts of these channels are also being probed and people responsible for the TRP racket are being summoned by the police for further investigation.

"Based on these TRP ratings, advertisers pay to advertise on these channels and it is a game of thousands of crores. Manipulated TRP ratings result in miscalculated targeted audience and loss of hundreds of crores of rupees for the advertisers. We are also probing if the fund which came to these channels is from proceeds of the crime. Action will be taken accordingly," he said.

Mr Singh said that a set of households where barometers were installed were paid money to tune to a particular channel. In one case, Mumbai's top police officer said, investigators found that a household comprising people who were not literate always had an English news channel switched on. The households were paid about ₹400-500 every month, the police commissioner said.

"We suspect that if this was happening in Mumbai then it could be happening in other parts of the country as well," Mr Singh added.

ONE-FIFTHS OF
JD(U)'S PICKS
ARE WOMENNAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 8

The ruling JD(U) has landed into a controversy by fielding former social welfare minister Manju Verma from Cheria-Bariarpur Assembly constituency of Begusarai district.

Ms Verma, who was the state's social welfare minister till a few years ago, had to step down in disgrace when it was alleged that her husband had close ties with Brajesh Thakur, the prime accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sex scandal surfaced in July 2018.

Call data records revealed her husband Chandrasekhar Verma and Brajesh Thakur spoke to each other more than 17 times between January and May 2018. While Mr Thakur was arrested along with others in June 2018, Mr Verma had gone into hiding, causing embarrassment for the JD(U)-BJP government in Bihar.

The former minister was also arrested under the arms act case for the illegal procession of ammunition in November 2018. She was later suspended her from the party.

Muzaffarpur shelter incident was perhaps the first case in the state where 35 minor girls were physically and sexually abused.

Ms Verma is among the 22 women candidates being fielded by the JD(U).

JD(U) leaders in Patna said that the party has fielded around 20 per cent women candidates for this year's Assembly elections.

While the JD(U) and BJP remained tight-lipped over the development, sources said that the Opposition RJD may use it against the NDA during their poll campaign.

Assembly elections in Bihar for 243 seats are to be held in three phases, beginning October 28, and results will be declared on November 10. Besides, quite a few candidates happen to be wives of those with criminal backgrounds, whom the party may stand accused of trying to accommodate while appearing to maintain a distance.

One such candidate is Manorama Devi — a sitting MLC from Gaya district — whose late husband Bindeshwari Prasad Yadav was a local musclem. Her son's involvement in a road rage case four years ago had caused the JD(U) to suspend her from the party. She is now the party's official candidate from Sherghati in Gaya.

IN BRIEF

Kyrgyzstan leader missing

Bishkek: The whereabouts of Kyrgyzstan's pro-Russia president were unknown Thursday as a power vacuum persisted after disputed parliamentary elections plunged the Central Asian country into a new bout of political chaos. Sooronbay Jeenbekov has not been seen in public since unrest began over Sunday's vote which was won by his supporters but opponents as well as monitors said was marred by widespread vote-buying. Clashes have already left at least one dead and hundreds injured, with a decision to annul the results of the polls doing little to ease the tensions. The crisis is the latest political turbulence to sweep through the volatile ex-Soviet state bordering China which has seen two revolutions and three of its presidents either jailed or sent into exile since independence. Jeenbekov has called for a return to a rule of law.

Kuwait's crown prince sworn in

Kuwait City: Kuwait's new crown prince, Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, took his oath of office before parliament on Thursday, after being nominated by his half-brother, the new emir, Sheikh Meshal, 80, a long-serving top security official, was unanimously approved by the National Assembly. He swore to "defend the liberties, interests and properties of the people" and to safeguard the country's independence and integrity. Kuwait's new emir, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, was appointed on September 30 after his own half-brother, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, died at the age of 91 while being treated in hospital in the US. Sheikh Meshal, 80, has been deputy chief of the Kuwait National Guard since 2004, largely staying out of the political scene and away from disputes within the royal family. His appointment, rather than the selection of a next-generation candidate, is seen as a conservative choice.

Don: Afghan troop pullout by X'Mas

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday sought withdrawal of all American troops from Afghanistan by Christmas this year. "We should have the small remaining number of our BRAVE Men and Women serving in Afghanistan home by Christmas!" Trump said in a tweet Wednesday night. After an agreement with the Taliban on February 29 this year, the US reduced its force level to 8,600 and turned five bases over to its Afghan partners. This August, the president made a determination that the conditions in Afghanistan were sufficient to reduce the force presence to between 4,000 and 5,000 by November end. Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, David F. Healey, told lawmakers last month that Pentagon is making "prudent planning" to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by May next year.

OPEN PUBLISHER PAYMENT TALKS, GOOGLE TOLD

Paris, Oct. 8: A French appeals court upheld an order for Google to open negotiations with French publishers over payments to use their news content. The Paris Court of Appeal sided with France's competition authority, which had ordered the US tech company to discuss compensation with publishers and news agencies for reusing their material online.

French regulators had argued that Google must sit down for talks under a "neighbouring rights" law adopted after the European Union overhauled the bloc's copyright rules, which include allowing news companies to demand payments when search engines display snippets of their stories.

Google had balked and threatened last year to stop displaying snippets and thumbnail photos in its search results but French regulators said in April that the company was likely abusing its dominant position.

Google argued it shouldn't have to pay because news companies benefit from the millions of readers it sends to their websites. The company also unsuccessfully argued that the competition watchdog overstepped its authority. Google has at the same time been in more narrowly focused talks on digital copyright.



Democratic vice-presidential nominee and Senator from California, Kamala Harris and US Vice-President Mike Pence (R) stand after participating in the vice-presidential debate in Kingsbury Hall at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah on Wednesday. — AFP

Second debate going virtual

Move on debate a fallout of the President contracting Coronavirus

NOT GOING TO DO VIRTUAL DEBATE WITH BIDEN: DON

Washington, Oct. 8: The second presidential debate between President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden will take place virtually amid the fallout from the president's diagnosis of Covid-19. The nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates made the announcement Thursday morning, a week before the two were scheduled to face on in Miami.

The candidates will "participate from separate remote locations," while the participants and moderator remain in Miami, the commission said. Trump was diagnosed with the Coronavirus a week ago and said he looked forward to debating Biden on stage in Miami, saying, "It will be great!" Biden, for his part, said he and Trump "shouldn't have a debate" as long as the president remains Covid positive.

Biden told reporters in Pennsylvania that he was "looking forward to being able to debate him" but said "we're going to have to follow very strict guidelines." The Russia probe is back in the political spotlight. President Donald Trump this week ordered the declassification of all documents related to how the FBI and US intelligence agencies investigated Russian interference in the 2016 presidential race.

Democrats quickly called the move a political stunt in the middle of the president's heated campaign to defeat Democrat Joe Biden in the November 3 election.

Moreover, intelligence professionals blasted John Ratcliffe, the director of national intelligence and a Trump loyalist, for going along with the declassification, saying it was a flagrant example of using intelligence for political purposes. Ratcliffe has been working to declassify

Washington, Oct. 8: Donald Trump vowed Thursday not to participate in next week's debate with Democratic nominee Joe Biden after organisers announced that it will take place virtually because of the president's diagnosis of Covid-19.

"I'm not going to do a virtual debate" with Biden, Trump told *Fox News*, moments after the Commission on Presidential Debates announced the changes due to Trump's diagnosis. That cast serious doubts on whether the event will go forward, even as Biden's campaign vowed that its candidate will participate.

"Vice President Biden looks forward to speaking directly to the American people," deputy Biden campaign manager Kate Bedingfield said in a statement. It is more evidence that the race remains defined by the virus, even as Trump has attempted to underplay it.

The announcement from the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates cited a need "to protect the health and safety of all involved with the second presidential debate." The candidates will "participate from separate remote locations" while the participants and moderator remain in Miami. — AP

details about the Russia investigation, which culminated in the 2019 report by former special counsel Robert Mueller. Mueller's report found no criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia to tip the outcome of

Covid, China, jobs dominate

Washington, Oct. 8: The much-awaited vice presidential debate between Kamala Harris and Mike Pence saw the duo sparring on US President Donald Trump's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, jobs, China, racial tensions and climate change, less than four week's ahead of the election.

Harris, the Democratic Party's vice president nominee described the Trump's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic as the "greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history" of America as she opened the vice debate with a sharp attack on Vice President Pence, who leads the president's Coronavirus task force. Wednesday night's live debate at The University of Utah in Salt Lake City was a civil one between the two leaders, separated by plexiglass barriers, compared to last week's showdown between President Trump and his Democratic challenger and former vice president Joe Biden, which degenerated into insults and name-calling.

Pence, did not interrupt as much as Trump last week during the first presidential debate, but

when he did Harris interjected: "Mr Vice-President, I'm speaking, I'm speaking." During the 90-minute one-off debate before the November 3 presidential election, Harris, 55, and Pence, 61, stuck to their known campaign positions on major topics. Pence, who entered the debate as an underdog, was seen vigorously defending the actions of the Trump Administration during the past nearly four years.

Harris, who scripted yet another history, by becoming the first person of Indian descent to be on the stage of a vice presidential debate, charmed with her smiling face throughout while responding to answers to Pence with facts and figures with the same assertiveness as she started her career as a district attorney in San Francisco. "This administration has forfeited their right to re-election," she asserted at the start of the debate. "Biden wants to go back to the economic surrender to China that when we took office, half of our international trade deficit was with China alone," Pence fired back. — PTI

before the first presidential debate last week, it was announced that Ratcliffe had sent a controversial letter to Congress.

The letter said that the US, learned back in 2016 that Russian intelligence had information suggest-

HARRIS' 'I'M SPEAKING' ON T-SHIRTS

Washington, Oct. 8: Anything sells, if your business idea is one of a kind.

And this is unexpectedly becoming increasingly evident just after US Vice-Presidential Debate. Democratic vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris' snub to US Vice President Mike Pence during the debate is quickly becoming a buzzword online and people are already selling mugs and T-shirts.

"Mr Vice President I am speaking, I am speaking," was Kamala Harris' warning for Mike Pence to stop interrupting her.

Such was the force in her words and her gaze that Pence promptly stopped talking.

"I am still speaking" is appearing to be the buzzword everyone craves in the age of social media. Within minutes of Kamala Harris' snub, sellers started selling merch with the words printed on it.

Websites like Etsy were offering mugs, T-shirts and even coronavirus masks with words 'I am still speaking' printed on them.

Kamala Harris was criticising Trump administration's handling of coronavirus pandemic. — Agencies

ing Hillary Clinton had personally signed off on a campaign plan to "stir up a scandal" against Trump by linking him to the Russians who hacked into the Democratic National Committee.. — AP

Glück wins literature Nobel prize

Stockholm, Oct. 8: American poet Louise Glück won the Nobel Prize in Literature on Thursday for her "candid and uncompromising" work, which looks unflinchingly and with biting humour at the losses and traumas of family life. She joins a handful of American poets who have received the prize, which has been dominated by novelists throughout its 112-year history. The last American to win was Bob Dylan in 2016. She is also one of the few women — the 16th female Nobel Literature laureate.

The Nobel Committee praised Glück "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal" in the citation read during the announcement in Stockholm by Mats Malm, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy. New York-born Glück, 77, who is a faculty member at Yale University, made her debut in 1968 with "Firstborn," and "was soon acclaimed as one of the most prominent poets in American contemporary literature," the committee said.

Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel literature committee, said Glück's 12 collections of poetry were "characterized by striving for clarity." They include "Descent of Figure," "The



Louise Glück

Triumph of Achilles" and "Ararat." Olsson said her verses, which often draw on classical influences and examine family life, were marked by an "austere but also playful intelligence and a refined sense of composition."

Raised in a family with Hungarian Jewish origins, Glück has spoken of how a teenage struggle with anorexia, and the therapy she received for it, influenced her incisive writing. "Louise Glück's voice is unmistakable. It is candid and uncompromising, and it signals that this poet wants to be understood. But it is also voice full of humor and biting wit," Olsson said.

"This is a great resource when Glück treats one of our great topics, radical change, where the leap forward is made from a deep sense of loss." Glück is the recipient of Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships. — AP

Hostage deaths: UK IS members charged

Washington, Oct. 8: Two Islamic State militants from Britain were brought to the United States to face charges in a gruesome campaign of torture, beheadings and other acts of violence against four Americans and others captured and held hostage in Syria.

El Shafee Elsheikh and Alexandra Kotey are two of four men who were dubbed "the Beatles" by the hostages just

because of the captors' British accents.

The two men made their first appearance on Wednesday in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, where a federal grand jury issued an eight-count indictment that accuses them of being "leading participants in a brutal hostage-taking scheme" that resulted in the deaths of Western hostages. — AP

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2168/2020 Joint Director, Rly Stores(M), Railway Board		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

India: Don't misuse UNSC to frame innocents

United Nations, Oct. 8: The United Nations Security Council should not be misused by countries with "retaliatory intent to name innocent civilians as terrorist" without credible evidence by invoking non-transparent working methods and procedures, India has said, referring to Pakistan's failed attempt to get four Indian nationals listed under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee. Pakistan had submitted the names of Indian nationals Angara Appaji, Gobinda Patnaik, Ajoy Mistry and Venumadhav Dongara for designation under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

However, Pakistan's attempt was thwarted last month after the US, the UK, France, Germany and Belgium blocked the move in the Council to list Appaji and Patnaik. According to sources, no evidence was given by Pakistan in its case to get the individuals listed.

Similarly, an earlier attempt by Pakistan to list Mistry and Dongara was blocked by the Council around June/July.

"We believe that UN Security Council continues to be an effective forum for the maintenance of international peace

and security and combating terrorism.

"However, it should also be ensured that the forum is not misused by countries with retaliatory intent to name innocent civilians as terrorist without credible evidence by invoking non-transparent working methods and procedures," First Secretary and Legal Adviser in India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Yedla Umasankar said on Tuesday at the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on 'Measures to eliminate international terrorism'.

Without naming Pakistan, he said, "India has been and continues to be a victim of terrorism sponsored across our borders. We have had firsthand experience of the cruel link between transnational organised crime and terrorism."

"Our fight against terrorism should not only seek to eliminate terrorists and disrupt terrorist organisations/networks, but should also identify/hold accountable and take strong measures against states that encourage, support and finance terrorism, provide sanctuary to terrorists and terror groups," he said. — PTI

Dems flay Trump for H-1B curbs

Washington, Oct. 8: The Democratic Party has criticised President Donald Trump for announcing "sweeping changes" to the H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme in decades without public scrutiny, saying it is clearly an attempt to score last-minute political points ahead of the November 3 presidential election. In a move which will affect thousands of Indian IT professionals, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Tuesday announced the interim final rule, which, the Trump administration said, is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler on Wednesday said: "With less than 30 days to go before the elections, the Trump administration announced that it will implement the most sweeping changes to the H-1B visa programme we have seen in decades — and will do so by skirting the normal notice and comment process required by the Administrative Procedure Act".

The powerful Democrat from New York said while the programme can certainly benefit from reforms, the US laws require that the public be provided with

adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to comment before such reforms are implemented.

"This simply cannot be accomplished to the degree required through an interim final rule and the administration knows this. This is clearly an attempt to score the last-minute political points," Nadler said. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. Such a decision by the Trump administration will have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals.

Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the Coronavirus pandemic that has severely hit the US economy. Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee Chair Zoe Lofgren said that over the years, she had introduced several bills that would reform the H-1B programme to prohibit substandard wages and ensure that unscrupulous employers don't abuse the system to the detriment of US workers. — PTI

DECCAN Chronicle

9 OCTOBER 2020

LJP's Bihar poll games bare BJP's secret hand

The twist imparted to the upcoming Bihar Assembly election by the decision of the LJP, an NDA ally, to field candidates against chief minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), also an NDA ally, upends previous calculations about possible outcomes. It also invites us to reflect on the BJP's relationship with allies once the saffron party has gains in strength in a state with the help of those very allies.

Until recently it was thought that Mr Kumar would return as CM for the fourth term without difficulty, although in the face of the twin crises emanating from the return of the migrant workers and the rapid spread of Covid-19, Mr Kumar's government appeared at sea, confirming that the CM was not one for big ideas. But he wasn't one for small ideas either.

The government's grave inadequacies evident in dealing with the infamous shelter home case, which highlighted the cruel exploitation of young girls by the head of the NGO that ran the shelter, badly dented the CM's "sushasan babu" or Mr Good Governance image cultivated through propaganda. The social welfare minister whose husband had a nexus with the accused was forced to resign and was later arrested under the Arms Act, but she has once again been given the JD(U) ticket.

It also invites us to reflect on the BJP's relationship with allies once the saffron party has gains in strength in a state with the help of those very allies.

In 2015, Mr Kumar fought the election and became CM in alliance with Lalu Yadav's RJD. But he jumped ship in 2017 to be with BJP, the main Opposition party, and kept his job. The BJP was just grateful to be able to wiggle and get into government. Unlike in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, it didn't have to turn a hair, other than to spread the rumour that Mr Kumar is enabled to give his best as leader of government only when in alliance with it and not the RJD. In fact, the record of the BJP ministers in Bihar is as dismal as of the JD(U) but it can hide behind the CM's lack of imagination, and take succour from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image.

For all this, the prognosis was that of an easy ride for JD(U)-BJP. Being in jail, their principal foe Lalu Yadav is absent from the campaign. It's widely believed that the poll is being held in spite of the severe Covid crisis in Bihar because the government's opponents can't match its resources in running virtual rallies through thousands of television sets and other gizmos. LJP leader Chirag Paswan's decision has led to the view that he is dancing to BJP's tune in aiming to cut the CM's party to size to enable the saffron party to emerge as number one. With even senior BJP politicians queuing up for the LJP ticket, this suspicion thickens. If BJP-LJP are playing games, it will be interesting to see which way the JD(U) vote splinters, and if the ludicrously-named grand alliance of RJD-Congress-Left is in with a chance, after all.

Spare the commuter

The Supreme Court judgment on Wednesday making it unequivocally clear that public ways and spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely by protesters and that democracy and dissent must go hand in hand can be seen as an attempt to strike a fine balance between the right to freedom of speech and expression and the demands on governance in a democracy. The judgement came on a petition filed against a Delhi High Court order which refused to instruct the Delhi administration to clear the Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch which was occupied by protesters against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019.

The court was categorical in rejecting the argument that citizens have an absolute right of peaceful protest but was careful in not giving the government a carte blanche. It called Article 19, which confers on citizens two 'treasured rights' of freedom of speech and expression, one of the cornerstones of the Constitution, and that was a strong message indeed. "In a democracy, the opposition is not only tolerated as constitutional, but must be maintained because it is indispensable," it quoted Walter Lippmann, Pulitzer winning journalist. The court, however, reminded the protesters that the mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy. In the end, the demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in "designated places alone," the court ruled.

No democrat should find fault with such a balanced prescription. But the sad fact is that the courts do not come to adjudicate such issues in time all the time. The habeas corpus petitions the citizens of India from the fully-integrated Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have filed with the apex court are still pending in the court, unheard. Or the unaddressed plight of the guest workers during the lockdown. The courts must protect the constitutional rights of all citizens all the times; occasional interventions would hardly do.

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Subhani

Can 'Quad' grow into a force that China fears?



K.C. Singh

The foreign ministers of Australia, India, Japan and the United States met in Tokyo on October 6-7, a second time at the ministerial level, in a group that was christened the "Quad", or Quadrilateral, at the first meeting in 2007 at the additional secretary level.

Then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the driving force behind that meeting, held on the Asean Regional Forum sidelines in mid-2007. He fell months later and his successor Yasuo Fukuda, wishing to engage China, lost interest in the Quad. In December 2007, the Liberal Party lost power in Australia, ushering in Labour PM Kevin Rudd, an acknowledged Chinese-speaking Sinophile. US President George W. Bush, embroiled in stabilising Iraq and with one year of his presidency remaining, saw China as critical to handling the nuclear and missile proliferation of North Korea. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had in any case been a reluctant participant, as Sino-Indian relations were still in the phase of growing economic engagement, while maintaining peace and stability at the Line of Actual Control. Thus, the Quad went into hibernation.

Its revival over a decade later reflects the changed geopolitical context. Mr Abe was again Prime Minister and moving Japan away from its pacifist postwar constitution. India under Narendra Modi and the United States under Donald Trump now had populist-nationalist leaders. Australia was again under Liberal Party rule. Moreover, China under President Xi Jinping was brazenly asserting real and imaginary claims on the seas and land, impinging on the sovereignty of neighbours. Despite the 2016 ruling against its claims by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in a case

brought by the Philippines under the UN Convention on the Laws of the Seas, China proceeded to occupy, militarise and declare its artificially created islands as its territory with vast economic zones. China was now a revisionist power, scoffing at the rules-based global order and willing to use the threat of force to unilaterally enforce its claims.

Concomitantly, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), announced in 2013 as a benign infrastructure and connectivity project, began to be seen darkly as an instrument for debt traps and neo-colonisation. Meanwhile, chants grew in the developed world, starting with the US, that globalisation had become a Chinese weapon to de-industrialise Western manufacturing powerhouses. Of course, the European criticism was more calibrated as countries like Germany had a huge market in China. But President Trump made China the main whipping boy in his populist harangue on America's economic woes.

The Covid-19 pandemic, that spread from Wuhan in China, exacerbated the perception that China was not just a competitor but a strategic rival upending the rules-based post-World War II order. Thus, the Quad was no longer a projection of Mr Abe's vanity. It was a timely means to rally democratic, liberal nations in the Indo-Pacific to create a network to balance, or even contain, China's disorderly rise.

This week's Quad meeting was timely also because Japan had a change of leadership, with the ailing Mr Abe passing the baton to his confidant Yoshihide Suga, who spoke to the leaders of Australia, India and the US before engaging Chinese President Xi Jinping, signalling continuity in the Japanese commitment to the Quad. Chinese foreign minister and state council

lor Wang Yi, a former ambassador to Japan, will visit Tokyo later this month. Mr Xi's postponed visit to Japan is still up in the air. China may be belatedly realising the dangers of the revived Quad and thus may be trying to neutralise Japan. China should worry over Japan's \$2.27 billion outlay to enable Japanese businesses in China to shift to the homeland or elsewhere. Japan is also critical to the finalisation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), consisting of the 10 Asean nations and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. India has resisted joining that without adequate protection for its domestic industry. With the Sino-Indian confrontation in Ladakh and Chinese intrusions into contested or India-controlled areas, economic and trade issues are now intertwined with the strategic and military ones. The Quad reflects this reality.

There may have been no joint statement but tweets by participants revealed what was discussed. Other than the US, no one else named China, even though China was at the heart of the meeting. US secretary of state Mike Pompeo felt "the Quad shares a vision for peace, security and prosperity in a free and open Indo-Pacific". External affairs minister S. Jaishankar sought "respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes". All the four ministers supported what is coined as "FOIP", or Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

More than a group statement, their views were reflected in the bilateral meetings and earlier understandings. For instance, the Resilient Supply Chain Initiative (RSCI), driven by the post-Covid conflation of need to de-couple from China and diversify and secure sup-

ply chains for pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, telecommunications and automobiles etc. Chinese aggressiveness with neighbours, military confrontation with India, forcible occupation of Hong Kong and the threat to invade Taiwan have perforce added a security dimension to trade and economic issues. Mr Pompeo correctly berated the Chinese Communist Party's "exploitation, coercion and corruption in the South and East China Seas, the Mekong, the Himalayas and the Taiwan Straits".

Is the Quad the rough framework of a military alliance, being dubbed as an "Asian Nato"? Can it grow into Quad Plus with the addition of democracies across the region? Finally, what impact will the US presidential election have on the Quad's role. While the other three are already allies, India, even under the incumbent government which belittles nonalignment, would not like to be ensnared in a US-led alliance to counter China. A strategic convergence with specific areas for common action provides more room for manoeuvre. That will also make it easier to lure new entrants. For instance, South Korea avoids openly confronting China as does the Philippines and other Asean members. A non-formal framework of engagement, including military interoperability, may draw Vietnam and the Philippines. A Joe Biden administration may rebalance relations with China, relaxing trade sanctions in exchange for climate change cooperation. But the overall US distrust of China will persist. Under enlightened American leadership, the Quad can counter China across multiple domains ranging from technology to trade to defence.

The Quad remains a great concept. China fears, above all, the soft power of liberal democracies. But the Quad members must note that majoritarianism at home and liberalism abroad would significantly undercut its success.

A Joe Biden administration may rebalance relations with China, relaxing trade sanctions in exchange for climate change cooperation

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambicsingh.

LETTERS

WISE DECISION

It is "all is well that ends well" in AIADMK since the suspense and uncertainty of who should be the Chief Minister face in the coming elections has been cleared after hours of discussions among all the concerned. The decision to continue the status quo is perhaps the best and wisest one in the current political circumstances in which the ruling party has to meet the challenges of a formidable opposition party viz DMK whose morale is rising due to the unexpected victory in the Lok Sabha elections of 2019. The secret role of an ally of the ruling party in bringing the warring factions to the peace accord cannot be ruled out.

S. Nagarajan Iyer,
Coimbatore

QUAD MEET

EVER SINCE then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe articulated the concept of Indo-Pacific with a thrust on improved collaboration between US and three Asian democracies in India, Japan and Australia called 'Quad' to stabilise the new strategic geography in 2007, China did hardly hide its hostility and condescension towards such a strategic framework gaining ground. While dismissing Quad as a pitiful threat to rising China, it has conveniently forgotten that it was China's post-pandemic aggression on multiple fronts is driving Quad to turn from an abstract idea into a credible coalition. As there is no let-up in Chinese unilateralism and its brazen effort to establish regional and global dominance, the process of consolidation of Quad is gaining momentum. With China challenging India by altering the status quo along LAC, India has now emerged as a major contributor to the ongoing consolidation of Quad.

M. Jeyaraman, Sholavandan

CSK INCONSISTENT

THE DEFEAT of CSK at the hands of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) has disappointed CSK fans. A match that could have been won easily by CSK was lost due to improper planning and inconsistency. Even Dhoni seems to have lost his steam in recent times. Inconsistency seems to be the main drawback with CSK. Too much dependence on Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis is another reason. The team falls like nine pins once the above two players get out. It is high time the team sat together with the coach and discussed their shortcomings and evolved new game plans to remain in the race or else they may not reach even the play-off stage.

M.C.Vijay Shankar, Chennai

Mail your letters to
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Mahir Ali

How Lennon lives on, still giving peace a chance...

Back in the summer of 1980, a muckraking small-town newspaper in Michigan was in trouble with the forces of law and order. *The Flint Voice* irritated the authorities by exposing local instances of racism, corruption and the like. Its newsroom was under threat of being raided. Briefly, it became a cause célèbre in the United States.

One day, the newspaper's 20-something editor, Michael Moore — then a young journalist who had launched his first publication at the age of nine, today better known as an indefatigable filmmaker and activist — answered a phone call. "This is John Lennon," said the voice at the other end in a curious accent.

"Oh, Gary, really funny," responded Moore, and then hung up, convinced that he had been pranked. Moore was suitably apologetic when Lennon called again a little while later, having worked out by then that he had slammed the phone down on a Beatle.

According to Moore's delightful

early-life memoir, *Here Comes Trouble*, Lennon was graciously understanding, saying: "I know a little bit about police surveillance making your life a bloody hell." He went on to say he was wondering "if there was any way I could help. Maybe I could do a benefit or something for your legal fund or your paper".

He said he was working on a new album and probably wouldn't have time until the following year, then added: "Well, I've been sorta quiet for a while, being a dad and all. But I'm ready to get at it again, and now that I'm legally a resident of your fine country, I plan to be more involved and exercise my constitutional rights." In Moore's telling, the conversation concluded with Lennon saying: "Keep your spirits up, mate. I'll be around."

Tragically, he wasn't. Lennon was assassinated on Dec 8 outside his Dakota apartment block next to New York's Central Park.

It was rumoured at the time that the assassin might have been programmed by the CIA or some other

segment of the deep state to commit the evil deed in view of Lennon's radical proclivities and the risk that he might resume his subversive activism.

It seemed to be an absurd assumption, given that by then Lennon had seemingly relegated to the past the rabble-rousing instincts that guided him towards the end of the Beatles phase in the late 1960s and beyond, initially in Britain and then in the United States where he teamed up with the likes of Jerry Rubin and Stokely Carmichael, prompting the Nixon administration's concerted (but ultimately unsuccessful) effort to deport him.

There is still no reason to assume Lennon's assassination was part of a plot, but Moore's anecdote certainly puts paid to the idea that the ex-Beatle ever succumbed to the temptation of aligning himself with an establishment he frequently needed, and often irritated, ever since he announced the song 'Twist and Shout' at a royal command performance by The Beatles in 1963 by cheekily

requesting: "The people in the cheap seats, clap your hands. And the rest of you, if you'd just rattle your jewellery."

In his recent memoir, *Reporter*, the legendary American investigative journalist Seymour Hersh recalls, in a footnote, encountering "a pleasant Brit and his Japanese girlfriend" at a dinner party in the early 1970s. 'They sought his help, as a *New York Times* staffer, to press the case for a green card. "It turned out the Brit was John Lennon and his friend was Yoko Ono," Hersh deadpans. "How was I to know? Neither had anything to do with Watergate."

He notes that years later he visited the Lennons' New York apartment, which was "filled with dozens of framed drawings by the Beatle, all suggesting the world had yet to see the best of him".

The best of him is, in fact, never far off the radar. Until the Democratic Party establishment predictably scuttled Bernie Sanders' candidacy earlier this year, the "democratic socialist" candidate invariably

arrived on the stage at campaign rallies to the tune of *Power to the People*, an anthem Lennon composed in 1971 after an extended encounter with a pair of left-wing journalists (one of whom happened to be my brother, Tariq Ali).

Five years ago, I tracked down the original, graffiti-strewn Lennon Wall in Prague. Since then, 'Lennon walls' have appeared all across Hong Kong as part of the territory's quest for democracy. The latest recycled, remixed, remastered Lennon compilation is titled *Gimme Some Truth*, after one of the songs on his *Imagine* album, a timely reminder, in the age of fake news, of the artist's relentless quest in what would have been the year he became an octogenarian.

Had he survived, John Lennon would have turned 80 on Friday, October 9 — twice the age he was when his life was brutally cut short. But it's gratifying that his spirit and his ideals live on, and *Give Peace a Chance* is still sung.

By arrangement with Dawn

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40,182.67 0.76
Nifty 50	11,834.60 0.82
S&P 500*	3,441.56 0.65
Dollar (₹)	73.23 0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.95 -0.24
Euro (₹)	86.14 0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,153.82 0.16
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.19 1.20
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.015 0.001
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.772 -0.013

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Uday Shankar quits as Star, Walt Disney Apac chief

Global media and entertainment conglomerate The Walt Disney Company said Uday Shankar will step down as president of its Asia Pacific (Apac) business and chairman of Star and Disney India with effect from Dec. 31. Shankar has quit the posts he has held since Feb. 2019 to pursue entrepreneurial interests. The company said over the next three months, Shankar will work closely with Rebecca Campbell to identify his successor.

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Rally in IT stocks takes Nifty near 12K

Sensex spikes above 40K pts

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, OCT. 8

Led by a big rally in heavy-weight IT stocks, the Sensex settled above the 40,000 level, marking a fresh seven month high, while the Nifty-50 inched closer to the 12,000 level, as the market rally continued for the sixth session in a row.

Strong second quarter results of Tata Consultancy Services and its Rs 16,000-crore share buyback announcement at 10 per cent higher price was the main trigger for rally in IT stocks. Another buyback announcement by Wipro further cemented investors' positive outlook on the IT sector.

The Sensex closed at 40,182.67, up 303.2 points, after hitting a high of 40,468.88 while Nifty-50 closed at 11,834.60, up 95.75 points after touching 11,905.70 in intra-day trade.

The BSE' market capitalisation has bounced back to pre-covid levels at more than Rs 160 lakh crore.

TCS gained 3.19 per cent, closing at Rs 2824.80 after touching a high of Rs 2885 on the BSE. Other major IT gainers included Wipro (7.22 per cent), Infosys (2.57 per cent), HCL Technologies (2.63 per cent) and Tech Mahindra (1.62 per cent).

Mid-tier IT stocks L&T Infotech (7 per cent), Mindtree (5.77 per cent) and Mphasis (5.77 per cent) also made big gains and the BSE IT Index gained 2.99 per cent and Nifty IT



EQUITY MF REDEMPTIONS DOWN

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, OCT. 8

Redemptions from pure equity mutual funds are easing now even though outflows continued for the third consecutive month, data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) for September showed.

Overall, the MF industry's net asset under management (AUM) in September fell to Rs 26.85 lakh crore against Rs 27.49 lakh crore in August.

Growth or equity oriented schemes saw combined outflow of Rs 734.40 crore

compared with Rs 4,000 crore in August while hybrid schemes saw combined outflow of Rs 4,219.01 crore against Rs 4,819.45 crore in August.

The debt schemes saw a quarter-end outflow by Rs 51,962 crore, which led to overall MF AUM shrink by more than 2.3 per cent to Rs 26.85 lakh crore.

Index funds (Rs 552.41 crore) and other equity exchange traded funds (Rs 3543.96 crore) saw healthy inflows while gold ETF inflows stood at Rs 90.90 and fund of funds investing overseas at Rs 177.39 crore.

Index, 3.23 per cent.

The market is now poised to go higher with bullish patterns visible, said analysts. Shrikant Chouhan, executive VP-research, Kotak Securities, said, "The Nifty 50 Index has ended positive for the nine consecutive sessions, closing nearly one per cent higher at 11834.60.

Technically, with the index above the 11,794 levels indicates a bullish signal for the market and exhibits strength for the index to rally beyond 12000 levels."

Buying by foreign portfolio investors to the tune of Rs 978 crore held the market higher while domestic institutions' buying was muted at Rs 19.85 crore.

Automotive retail sales show signs of recovery

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 8

Passenger vehicles retail sales jumped 10 per cent year-on-year in September but two- & three-wheelers and commercial vehicles declined in double-digits.

Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Kia Motor and Mahindra, among others, had shipped 35 per cent more passenger vehicles to 2,75,137 units from factory gates to dealerships ahead of the festive season. Also, vehicle retail sales last month rose 11.45 per cent month-on-month but fell by -10.24 per cent year-on-year, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, or Fada, said on Thursday.

Automakers are now pinning hopes on the festive season for a pick-up in momentum.

On yearly comparison, 2-wheeler sales d-grew by -12.62 per cent, 3-wheeler by -58.86 per cent and commercial vehicles by -33.65 per cent. However, passenger vehicles for the first time grew by 9.81 per cent since unlocking began. Tractor registrations continued its upward journey with a magnificent 80.39 per cent growth, Fada said.

Entry level passenger vehicles saw good demand, Fada said. Dealer inventory for both 2-wheelers and cars are at the highest levels ahead of key festivals.

Millions facing poverty in South Asia: World Bank

INDIA'S GDP MAY CONTRACT BY 9.6% THIS FISCAL

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8



Millions in the South Asian region are being pushed into extreme poverty by the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Bank said on Thursday. The Washington-based multilateral lender also said India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal year.

The bank, which forecast an economic contraction of 7.7 per cent in South Asia this year, said workers in the informal sector are being hit the hardest and private consumption is unlikely to recover quickly.

"The impact on livelihoods will even be larger than the GDP forecast suggests," the bank said in its bi-annual South Asia Economic Focus report, adding that the region would experience a sharp increase in the poverty rate.

"India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year that started in March. However, the regional growth is projected to rebound to 4.5 per cent in 2021," the bank said.

"The situation is much worse in India than we have ever seen before. It is an exceptional situation in India...We have seen from the rapid survey that many people have lost their jobs and this is happening against a background when India's economy was already slowing down

before the pandemic. Besides, we had also seen a rise in non-performing loans. Those are all vulnerabilities that India has to deal with," Hans Timmer, World Bank chief economist for South Asia told reporters in a conference call.

While the central government has signalled its preparedness to support the economy, there has been no clarity yet about the timing or the extent of the next round of stimulus to pop up the economy. India has already seen around a 24 per cent contraction in its economy in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

The World Bank said the spread of the coronavirus and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India. "There's a big problem that the informal sector has no coverage in social insurance...What we see now is that especially the informal workers in the middle of the income distribution have lost their

jobs. There are no systems in place to support those people," Timmer said.

To a query he said what the Indian government has done with limited resources and limited fiscal space is very impressive. "We have seen a loosening of monetary policy. You have seen attempts to increase credit to the private sector to help a company survive," he said, adding that there have been big efforts in the health sector and expansion of a social safety net. But with every big crisis, I think, we have to realise that this will not go over anytime soon. And it will actually change the longer-term future also."

The report warned that South Asian economies could end up worse than the forecast as the pandemic continues to surge, making foreign investors more wary, limiting governments' ability to increase spending and putting more strain on banking systems already heavily burdened with bad loans.

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: This is the time to accept challenges on the professional front and deliver your best. Your reserved nature might prevent you from making friends.



Taurus: Those wanting to own a home might achieve their goal. You may have to wait for a call to go abroad. A good time to start a career.



Gemini: A family disturbance will affect higher study plans. Long distance trips and fruitless business proposals will lead to wasteful expense.



Cancer: The working week gets off to a fairly promising start. A chance to supplement your income will arise. Don't take the law into your own hands.



Leo: Someone may tattle about you to a senior. Don't be preachy, as you can hurt someone. Curb the tendency to insist on your position even if you are wrong.



Virgo: There are chances of a controversy at work. Stay clear of others' affairs. Avoid confrontations. A property issue may turn out to be a bad bargain.

You share your b'day with

Amjad Ali Khan is an Indian classical sarod player. Born into a classical musical family, he has performed internationally since the 1960s. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2001.



Libra: An excellent day both personally and professionally. A debt may be repaid. Your professional capabilities will see you selected for a prestigious assignment. Don't act hastily in financial matters.



Scorpio: Loved ones will help you in your pursuits. Some of you will get serious about your health. Desist from entering new business partnerships.



Sagittarius: Your finances will be sound. Go for a short outing with those you love. You may suffer from low-level anxiety today, but it will pass.



Capricorn: Love-at-first-sight is on the cards. Your accomplishments will be rewarding. Big plans for entertainment may fall through.

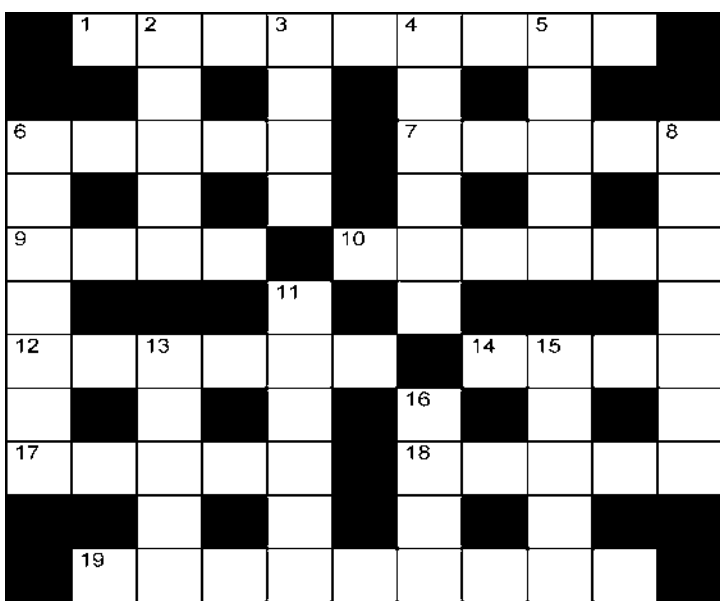


Aquarius: A severe shortage seems likely. You may succeed in owning a house with the help of a loan. Good news for those trying to go abroad.



Pisces: Your health will remain normal. Friends or colleagues may seek financial help. Working women may take a vacation to seek relief from stress, health, and productivity. Refrain from signing any sureties.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- Rules of social behaviour (9)
- Open public square (5)
- Hog-tie (5)
- Headlice eggs (4)
- Song of loyalty (6)
- Prophet (6)
- Go sour (4)
- Urg, encourage (3,2) (5)
- Earlier (5)

Down

- Drink to (5)
- Wharf (4)
- Draw out (6)
- Durable (5)
- Tiny aperture (7)
- Conference (7)
- Recoil (6)
- Inert gas (5)
- Employing (5)
- Gemstone (4)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 1. Liberate, 7. Organ, 8. Surly, 9. Eulogy, 10. Idea, 12. Task, 14. Indigo, 17. Ruler, 18. Adieu, 19. Browbeat.

Down: 1. Legal, 2. Benign, 3. Rash, 4. Tired, 5. Momentary, 6. Synagogue, 11. Enrage, 13. Solar, 15. Idiot, 16. Crew.

Word Mine

U
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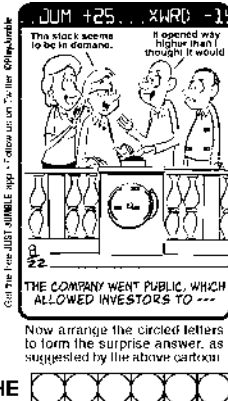
TODAY'S RATINGS: 40 AVERAGE: 45
GOOD: 50 OUTSTANDING

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.

West	North	East	South
10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

jumble

OHTOP
RUYHR
NEITVN
FASVEL
THE



Yesterday's Jumble Answer: The farmer and the huns thought the fox's lory into the henhouse was — EGG-REGIOUS!

opened the bidding and surely held the club ace.

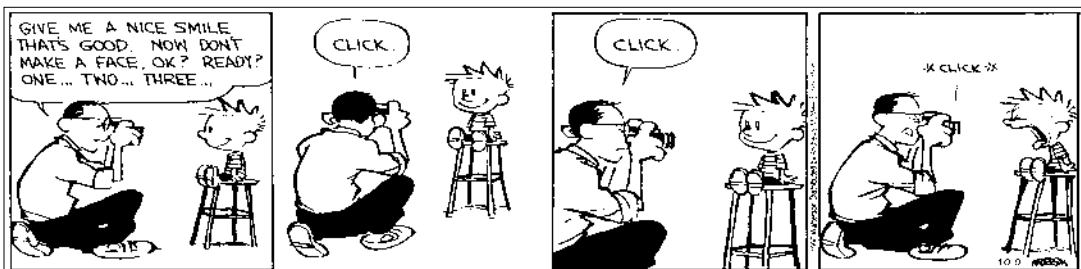
At trick five, the robot South immediately played a low heart to dummy's ace; but when East discarded, West had to take a trump trick to defeat the contract.

A human declarer realized that he had to avoid a trump loser. If the hearts were 2-2 or 3-1, that would be no problem. So he considered how to handle a 4-0 split. If East had all four, the con-

tract had no chance. But if West held them, they could be kept in check as long as South started with his heart queen. Then, when East did discard, declarer led another trump and captured West's 10 with dummy's king. Back to hand with a club ruff, South played a heart to dummy's nine, cashed the heart ace and claimed.

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CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



bridge
PHILLIP ALDER

THINK ABOUT PARTNER'S PROBLEMS

Louis Shalako, in his poem "Mr. Robot," included the verse, "I, robot / Don't have the capacity / To dream about tomorrow / But I never spell a word wrong." You would think that bridge-playing robots would never misplay a suit combination -- but you would be wrong! In today's deal, how should South have played in four hearts? West led the spade 10. East took two

tricks in the suit, cashed the club ace and exited with a second club. South had a close decision in the auction. Should he advance two hearts, in theory showing 0-8 points, or should he jump to three hearts, promising 9-11 points? He knew that an eight-card heart fit was guaranteed, and he liked his two minor-suit ruffing values. So he took the high road and reached a good game, given that East had

opened the bidding and surely held the club ace. At trick five, the robot South immediately played a low heart to dummy's ace; but when East discarded, West had to take a trump trick to defeat the contract. A human declarer realized that he had to avoid a trump loser. If the hearts were 2-2 or 3-1, that would be no problem. So he considered how to handle a 4-0 split. If East had all four, the con-

West	North	East	South
10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Opening lead: ♠ 10

SHORT TAKES

SA cricketer's brother shot dead

Cape Town: A brother of South African cricketer Vernon Philander was fatally shot in a street in Cape Town on Wednesday, his family said. "Tyrone Philander, a younger brother of Vernon, was killed metres from the family home in the neighborhood of Ravensmead. He was shot while delivering water to a neighbor," South African media reported. Vernon Philander said in a statement issued by the family that they were "coming to terms with the brutal murder." "There are no details around the incident at the moment and speculation will make it very difficult for us as a family to mourn in peace," Vernon Philander said. Police said the shooting happened around lunchtime on Wednesday and are investigating the case as a murder. No arrests have been made. — AP

Coe weighs in on racial justice

Tokyo: Dressed in a blue suit and speaking in a light drizzle, Sebastian Coe stood at the edge of the track at Tokyo's new National Stadium on Thursday and repeated his support for the right of athletes to advocate for social or racial justice at next year's postponed Olympics. Coe spoke out in direct opposition to Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter, which says "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas." "I've been very clear that if an athlete chooses to take the knee on a podium then I'm supportive of that," Coe said, giving a boost to Black Lives Matter protests and other social -and-racial-justice movements that are determined to use Tokyo as a stage. — AP

Track king Joshua scripts record

Valencia, Spain: Joshua Cheptegei smashed the 10,000m track world record and Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey set a new mark for the women's 5,000m on a heady night of athletics in Valencia on Wednesday. All the talk in the run-up to the meet was of Cheptegei's assault on Kenenisa Bekele's time of 26min 17.53sec established in 2005 in Brussels. The 24-year-old 10,000m world champion surpassed expectations, running the distance in 26 mins 11.00 seconds to cement his standing as the new middle distance maestro. This was his third world record this year. Ethiopia's Gidey ran the earlier 5,000m in 14 minutes 6.62 seconds. She was lowering the previous mark of 14min 11.15 held by her compatriot Tirunesh Dibaba since 2008 by over four seconds. — AFP

Hero riders power through Stage 2

Villamartin, Spain: Hero MotoSports Team continued their run at the Andalucia Rally in Spain on Thursday with mixed results in the second stage. Sebastian Buhler impressed with his consistent performance and finished the day at the 13th place. Joaquim Rodrigues, who had a stellar run on Wednesday, hit a technical snag right at the start of the stage and the team decided to bring him back to the bivouac, avoiding any unnecessary risks. C. S. Santosh found his rhythm and was looking to bring home a good stage, when he stopped to help Rodrigues in getting out of the stage and consequently lost some time. Despite this stop and a navigation error in the second part of the stage, he achieved a commendable 23rd place finish.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FORMULA ONE

German Grand Prix: Practice 1 from 2.25 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD; Practice 2 from 6.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

TENNIS

French Open: Matches from 6.30 pm on Star Sports 2

WWE SMACKDOWN

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

BASKETBALL

NBA Finals (Game 5 of best-of-7): Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Six, HD

Bairstow blitzkrieg

Jonny's brilliant knock floors Kings XI Punjab by 69 runs

Dubai, Oct. 8: Sunrisers Hyderabad rode on a whirlwind 97 from opener Jonny Bairstow and his 160-run partnership for the first wicket with captain David Warner to beat Kings XI Punjab by 69 runs in their IPL match here on Tuesday. Batting first, the Sunrisers put up an imposing 201 for 6 and then bowled out the Punjab Kings for 132 in 16.5 overs for an emphatic victory that took them to third on the points table. Bairstow smashed 97 off just 55 balls — during which he hit seven fours and six sixes — while Warner made 52 off 40 balls as KXIP bowlers did not have a clue how to get a breakthrough till the 15th over.

At that stage, SRH were 160 for no loss.

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/29) then removed both Bairstow and Warner in the space of three balls in the 16th over before Arshdeep Singh (2/33) dismissed Manish Pandey for 1 in the next over to trigger a brilliant turnaround.

It was a welcome change for KXIP to concede just 41 runs in the last five overs and take six wickets in the process. But the flying start provided by Bairstow and Warner ensured SRH cross the 200-run mark.

— PTI



Jonny Bairstow of Sunrisers Hyderabad plays a shot against Kings XI Punjab during their Indian Premier League match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. — BCCI

SCORECARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner c Glenn Maxwell b Ravi Bishnoi 52, Jonny Bairstow lbw b Ravi Bishnoi 97, Abdul Samad c Arshdeep Singh b Ravi Bishnoi 8, Manish Pandey c & b Arshdeep Singh 1, Kane Williamson not out 20, Priyam Garg c Pooran b Arshdeep Singh 0, Abhishek Sharma c Maxwell b Mohammed Shami 12, Rashid Khan not out 0. **Extras:** (LB-1, NB-1W-9) 11. **Total (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 201.** **FoW:** 1-160, 2-160, 3-161, 4-173, 5-175, 6-199. **Bowling:** Sheldon Cottrell 3-0-33-0, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 4-0-39-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-40-1, Glenn Maxwell 2-0-26-0, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-29-3, Arshdeep Singh 4-0-33-2.

Kings XI Punjab: K. L. Rahul c Williamson b A. Sharma 11, M. Agarwal run out 9, Simran Singh c Garg b Ahmed 11, N. Pooran c Natarajan b Rashid Khan 77, G. Maxwell run out 7, Mandeep Singh b Rashid Khan 6, Mujeeb Ur Rahman c Bairstow b Ahmed 1, Ravi Bishnoi not out 6, M. Shami lbw Rashid Khan 0, S. Cottrell b Natarajan 0, A. Singh c Warner b Natarajan 0. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-2) 4. **Total (all out in 20 overs) 132.** **FoW:** 1-11, 2-31, 3-58, 4-105, 5-115, 6-126, 7-126, 8-126, 9-132, 10-132. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-27-0, KK Ahmed 3-0-24-2, T. Natarajan 3.5-0-24-2, A. Sharma 1-0-15-1, Rashid Khan 4-1-12-3, A. Samad 1-0-28-0.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	0	8	+1.060
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	+0.232
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	3	2	0	6	+0.002
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	3	2	0	6	-1.355
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.371
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	0	4	-0.826
Kings XI Punjab	6	1	5	0	2	-0.431

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

Batsmen let team down: MS

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 8: Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the batsmen let the team down after a spirited comeback by the bowlers in their Indian Premier League game against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday.

Chasing 168, Shane Watson struck his second successive fifty to give CSK a perfect start, but the team choked at the back end of the innings and was restricted to 157 for five to suffer its fourth defeat in this IPL. "In the middle overs, there was a phase when they bowled two-three good overs. Then we lost two-three wickets in a row. If our batting was different during that period, the result would have been different," Dhoni said.

"Initially we gave away a few too many with the new ball. Karn (Sharma) did really well. The bowlers did well to bring them down to 160-odd. As a team we should have achieved the target but the batsmen let the bowlers down," Dhoni further added. — PTI



Chennai Super Kings captain M. S. Dhoni (left) poses with Varun Chakravarthy of the Kolkata Knight Riders.

GETTING DHONI WICKET SURREAL, SAYS VARUN

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 8: If playing against him was not enough, Varun Chakravarthy ended up bowling Mahendra Singh Dhoni out and described the moment as "surreal", three years after watching him from the stands at Chepauk with big dreams in his eyes.

Chakravarthy capped off what was a memorable day for him in the IPL by getting photographed with the World Cup-winning skipper.

Representing KKR, Chakravarthy dismissed Dhoni at a crucial stage in their IPL match against CSK here on Wednesday.

"I used to come just to see Dhoni batting. Now I bowled against him. It was a surreal moment for me," Chakravarthy said. — PTI

Fleming explains Kedar strategy

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 8: Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming said Kedar Jadhav was sent ahead of Ravindra Jadeja and Dwayne Bravo in a tense run chase against Kolkata Knight Riders because of his ability to play spin well.

However, Jadhav laboured to seven off 12 balls as KKR won the game by 10 runs here on Wednesday.

"At the time, we thought that Kedar could play the spinner well and dominate, while Jadeja was there to come and finish. But in the end there was too much work to do and we fell short," Fleming said.

Jadhav was trolled heavily on social media following the defeat.

The New Zealander rued that their batsmen let it "slip" despite having so much resources. The team added just 14 runs from 11-14 overs, a period when they lost both Shane Watson and an in-form Ambati Rayudu.

"If we could have got one

At the time, we thought that Kedar could play the spinner well and dominate, while Jadeja was there to come and finish. But in the end there was too much work to do and we fell short.

— STEPHEN FLEMING
CSK head coach

of those players to 75-plus and continued that partnership for another maybe four or five overs, the game might have been a lot different. Kolkata hung in there long enough to put pressure on us and we just couldn't accelerate. We feel disappointed that we let it slip. "But the performances like today, with the experience we have got, we should have put it away. We have got a lot of batsmen anyway so the balance is very good with the six bowlers. I don't think an extra batsman is going to help," he added. — PTI

RR look to steady boat against DC

Sharjah, Oct. 8: Struggling to figure out their best eleven, Rajasthan Royals will need to come up with some quick-fix measures to snap their three-match losing streak when they take on a formidable Delhi Capitals unit in an IPL match here on Friday.

The Royals were off to a flying start, winning both their games at Sharjah but they have struggled to adjust to the bigger grounds of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, slipping to three successive defeats.

Led by Shreyas Iyer, Delhi have looked solid in all three departments, winning four out of their five matches.

For Rajasthan, time is running out as they still have not been able to find their best playing XI. While the return of Ben Stokes will give them hope but the England allrounder is currently in quarantine and will be available only after October 11.

The sudden loss of form of skipper Steve Smith and Sanju Samson — who did bulk of the scoring in the first two matches, is as much a reason for their failure.

However, the good news for RR is the return to form of opener Jos Buttler, who scored a fine 44-ball 70 in their last game.

In bowling, Jofra Archer and Tom Curran have been left to do the heavy lifting. Delhi, on the other hand,

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 20
- Rajasthan: 11
- Delhi: 9

MEETING IN 2019

- Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 6 wickets at Jaipur.
- Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 5 wickets at Delhi.

FOR THE RECORD

- Shikhar Dhawan who smashed 99 sixes in 163 innings of 164 matches, needs just one six to become the 20th batsman to complete a century of sixes in IPL.

- Steven Smith who hit 97 sixes in 173 innings of 197 matches, needs three sixes to complete a century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

have been a well-oiled machine, boosting of a solid bowling unit which is well supported by the batsmen.

While skipper Iyer has been in good form, opener Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant have done their job well. Marcus Stonis too have produced two smashing fifties so far.

On the bowling front, Kagiso Rabada has looked ominous with 12 wickets to emerge as the best bowler in the IPL so far.

A fit-again Ravichandran Ashwin, who replaced injured Amit Mishra, also returned with one wicket for 26 in his comeback game. — PTI

Table toppers MI aim for perfection

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 8: Perched at the top of the points table they might be but Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene says there are several aspects of the game that his team needs to improve as it guns for a second consecutive IPL title.

Mumbai recorded their third consecutive win, beating Rajasthan Royals by 57 runs on Tuesday. They have so far accumulated four wins and two losses from six matches overall.

"...right now we have played some consistent cricket, and executing a lot of the skills really well with the ball and bat. So, things are going well but we can still improve, there are certain areas but make sure that everyone is

focused on each and every day," Jayawardene said in a video posted by the team's official Twitter handle.

He, however, did not specify the areas which require improvement.

On Tuesday, handing the new ball to pace spearheaded Jasprit Bumrah worked wonders as Mumbai bundled out RR for 136 after putting 193/4 on the board. "We had a tough week where we had three back to back games, so we get a bit of a break now, so it is good to go into the break with three consecutive wins," former Sri Lankan captain signed off.

Mumbai now play on Sunday next when they take on in-form Delhi Capitals in an evening game. — PTI

SUNNY PROPOSES TWO BOUNCERS A OVER IN T20

New Delhi, Oct. 8: The legendary Sunil Gavaskar believes that T20 cricket doesn't need much tinkering as it is in "pink of health" but custodians of the game can consider allowing two bouncers per over, moving ahead.

Does he foresee see a rule change to ease the pressure off bowlers?

"The T20 game is doing very well and there's no need to tinker with it," Gavaskar said during an exclusive interview from the UAE where he is working as a broadcaster for the Indian Premier League.

But the iconic figure did put forth a few suggestions. "It is loaded heavily in favour of the batsmen for sure. So, give a fast bowler two bouncers per over and yes the boundaries can be easily longer, if the ground authorities want it. Also look at giving an extra over to the bowler who takes a wicket in his first three overs. But seriously there's no need to bring any changes at all," he further added. — PTI

Camavinga shines as Ukraine perish

Paris, Oct. 8: France's 7-1 thrashing of Ukraine was the pick of the European friendlies on Wednesday as Spain clung on for a draw in Lisbon and Turkey saved pride with a late goal against Germany in Cologne. At the Stade de France it was teenager Eduardo Camavinga and veteran Olivier Giroud inflicting much of the damage for Didier Deschamps' world champions on Covid-19 hit Ukraine.

Mykolenko, Corentin Tolisso, Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann also scored a goal each for France.

European champions in 2016 Portugal return to the Stade de France in the

Nations League on Sunday and used a friendly with their Iberian rivals Spain to warm up. Cristiano Ronaldo and Renato Sanchez both struck the woodwork for Portugal. — AP

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Novak busts Busta, in semifinals

Paris, Oct. 8: Novak Djokovic recovered from dropping his first set at this year's French Open and overcame a bothersome left arm to defeat Pablo Carreno Busta on Wednesday and set up a semifinal showdown with Stefanos Tsitsipas. Djokovic beat Spanish 17th seed Carreno Busta 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the last four of a major for the 38th time as he chases a second French Open and 18th Grand Slam title.

In women's singles, teenager Iga Swiatek became the first Polish woman in 81 years to reach the French Open final on Thursday as she demolished Argentine qualifier Nadia Podoroska 6-2, 6-1.

THE RESULTS

Men's singles quarterfinals (number in brackets denotes seeding): Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Pablo Carreno Busta (ESP x17) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x5) bt Andrey Rublev (RUS x13) 7-5, 6-2, 6-3.

Women's singles semifinals (number in brackets denotes seeding): Sofia Kenin (USA x4) bt Petra Kvitova (CZE x7) 6-4, 7-5; Iga Swiatek (POL) bt Nadia Podoroska (ARG) 6-2, 6-1.

The 131st-ranked Podoroska is the lowest-ranked woman to reach the last four at Roland Garros. She broke Andrey Rublev, avenging last month's loss to the Russian in the Hamburg final. — AFP

The 19-year-old Swiatek will now face Sofia Kenin, who got the better of Petra Kvitova 6-4, 7-5 and will attempt to capture a second Grand Slam of the year following her Australian Open triumph.

World No.1 Djokovic required treatment on his upper left arm after losing the opening set and looked vulnerable against an opponent who was the beneficiary of Djokovic's disqualification at the US Open.

Earlier, Tsitsipas, the Greek fifth seed, made his second Grand Slam semifinal with a 7-5, 6-2, 6-3 win over 13th seed Andrey Rublev, avenging last month's loss to the Russian in the Hamburg final. — AFP



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta during their men's singles quarterfinal match of the French Open tournament in Paris on Wednesday. Djokovic won 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. — AFP