

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | SUNDAY 4 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32°C
Min: 21°C
Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 18
Tithi: Thrithiyai
Star: Ashwini/ Bharani
Rahukalam:
4.30 pm to 6 pm
Yamagandam:
12 noon to 1.30 pm

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.48 am
Zohar: 12.07 pm
Asar: 3.19 pm
Maghrib: 6.00 pm
Isha: 7.11 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.57 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 7.44 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 8.29 AM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+74,124)	(+876)
65,46,058	1,01,751

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+5,622)
TN: 6,14,507 9,718

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3,49,95,784

DEATHS
10,35,553

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
214

worldometers.info

Navy officer dies in paraglider crash

Bengaluru: A Navy officer died in an accident involving a paraglider he was flying while his instructor escaped at Karwar, 500 km from here, on Friday, police said. The navy officer and his instructor were flying off the Rabindranath Tagore beach when the paraglider developed a snag and fell into the sea, official sources said. The deceased was Madhusudhan Reddy (56) hailing from Andhra Pradesh. He was posted at the naval base in Karwar. — PTI

Suicide attack kills 13 in eastern Afghanistan

Kabul: A suicide truck bomb attack on Saturday killed at least 13 people in eastern Afghanistan, government officials said. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian says that at least 38 people were wounded in the blast in Nangarhar province's Ghanikhail district, when it hit near a mosque as locals were gathering for the afternoon prayers. — PTI

COUNTER POINT



Concerning signs despite word Trump is doing ‘very well’

Bethesda, Md. Oct. 3: President Donald Trump's doctor insisted Saturday that he is doing “very well” as he is treated for Covid-19 at a military hospital. But Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley and other doctors raised more questions than they answered at a briefing, leaving unclear whether the president has ever required supplemental oxygen.

Conley/s assessment was contradicted by an account provided by a person familiar with Trump's condition, who

said some of his vital signs over the past 24 hours were “very concerning” and that the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care. The person was not authorised to speak publicly and spoke to *The Associated Press* on condition of anonymity.

Conley said Trump has been fever-free for 24 hours as he updated the nation on the president's condition from Walter Reed Medical Center Saturday afternoon.

Trump was admitted Friday after testing positive for the

coronavirus and has been undergoing treatment.

While Conley said the president is not currently on oxygen, he refused to say whether the president had ever been on oxygen, despite repeated questioning.

“Thursday no oxygen. None at this moment. And yesterday with the team, while we were all here, he was not on oxygen,” he said. He said that Trump's symptoms, including a cough and nasal congestion “are now resolving and improving.” — AP

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More DPCs to be opened, says minister Kamaraj



Didi: BJP is the biggest pandemic of the country

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Take legal step to bring Nawaz: Imran



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Atal: World's longest highway tunnel opens

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 3

At a time of heightened tensions with China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated strategically important all-weather Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh which connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley and will reduce travel time to Leh by 4 to 5 hours.

Atal Tunnel, which is world's longest highway tunnel is part of government effort to improve connectivity to Line of Actual Control (LAC) so that forces and ammunition reaches to forward areas faster. The 9.02 km long tunnel built by Border Roads Organisation connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with defence minister Rajnath Singh, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and other dignitaries inaugurates the Atal Tunnel, in Manali, on Saturday. — PTI

Centre ready to waive compound interest on loans

New Delhi, Oct. 3: In a relief to individual borrowers and medium and small industries, the Centre has agreed in the Supreme Court to waive compound interest (interest on interest) charged on loans of up to ₹2 crores for a six-month moratorium period announced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It said the government will seek due authorisation from parliament for making appropriate grants in this regard and “the endeavour shall be over and above the support of ₹3.7 lakh crore to MSMEs, ₹70,000 crore for home loans etc. already extended through the Garib Kalyan and Aatma Nirbhar packages announced by government earlier”.

In an affidavit filed by Union finance ministry on behalf of the Union of India, it said that the relief to all borrowers in respect of compounding of interest during the period of moratorium would be admissible to the categories specified irrespective of whether the borrowers had availed the moratorium or not. “The government, therefore, has decided that the relief on waiver of compound interest during the six-month moratorium period shall be limited to the most vulnerable category of borrowers. — PTI

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

An eerie calm prevailed at the AIADMK camp after it was rocked continuously for a few days by the turbulence caused by the infighting over the question of the next chief ministerial candidate as Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam left Chennai, driving off to his home town Theni on Saturday.

Panneerselvam is expected to hold discussions with his supporters at the sprawling farmhouse in which he was staying. Hearing about his arrival at the farmhouse, his supporters started gathering outside, purportedly to egg him on to continue with the fight.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami had asked his ministerial colleagues to be present in Chennai for three days from Monday. When asked about it, tourism minister Vella-mandi N Natarajan told the media that it was purely for official purposes.

Other Ministers, too, sought to play down the raging dispute, saying that an amicable decision would be taken before October 7.

Revenue minister RB



Udhayakumar said Palaniswami and Panneerselvam were like Ram and Laskshman.

Speaking to the media at Madurai, Udhayakumar said the two would think alike and take the same decision and that it would be known on October 7.

Dairy development minister KT Rajenthra Bhalaji said that tranquility prevailed inside the AIADMK and what one may perceive from outside was not the true picture of the situation.

The buzz is that an agreement had been reached between the two groups and that Panneerselvam would hold the reins of the party and Palaniswami would run the government. Also the steering committee would be formed to oversee the functioning of the party as demanded by Panneerselvam.

Besides, most of the MLAs of AIADMK have seemingly gravitated towards the Palaniswami



camp as their priority was to complete the term. They were not in favour of the rebellious Panneerselvam pulling down the government at his point of time with his adamant attitude and firm demand to be announced as the next chief ministerial candidate.

Apart from a few senior functionaries holding no prominent positions in the party or government, most of Panneerselvam's supporters are from the grassroots level, predominantly from his locality.

Even if they had aspirations of seeing him as the next Chief Minister, Panneerselvam would have to abide by the decision taken by the other MLAs and leaders.

So, his stay in the farm house would be spent explaining to the supporters that the party was more important and without winning the elections as a united party, they could achieve nothing.

Gandhis go to Hathras to meet victim's kin

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 3

In what could be their “Belchi” moment, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday capped a day-long struggle by meeting in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh the family of the 19-year old Dalit girl who was allegedly gang-raped and later passed away at Delhi's Safdurjang hospital.

She is also alleged to have been cremated without the family's permission on the night of her death.

An all out political drama broke out Saturday morning when the UP police turned the Noida-Delhi border at the DND flyover into a virtual fortress anticipating trouble over the Gandhi siblings attempt to reach Hathras.

Hundreds of Congress workers from the party's frontal organizations like Mahila Congress, around 35 Members of Parliament and other top Congress leaders assembled at the Noida-Delhi border.

At around noon Priyanka Gandhi Vadra drove her brother Rahul Gandhi to the Noida border and soon an argument ensued with the police personnel present.

There were also many minor skirmishes between Congress workers and police followed by a mild lathi-charge.

Ms Gandhi Vadra was seeking jumping in to save a Congress worker. The visual shared widely on social media by the party would haunt the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh and possi-



Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi meet the family members of a 19-year-old Dalit woman who died after being allegedly raped two weeks ago, at Bulgadi village in Hathras, on Saturday. — PTI

ble the BJP for the long time to come.

There were comparisons of Saturday's visit with the 1977 visit of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on foot to Bihar's Belchi—the site of a Dalit massacre.

The incident is largely credited with having brought Mrs Gandhi, who was out of power then, to the political forefront again.

At the DND flyover Saturday, soon negotiations began with the Gandhis and they were informed that they could proceed to Hathras but only in a smaller group.

The Gandhis then left along with senior leaders K C Venugopal, Mukul Wasnik and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary.

However, a cavalcade followed.

During the nearly 45-minute long meeting of the Gandhis with the family, Priyanka sat with the mother and aunts and con-

soled them while Rahul spoke with the brothers and the father.

He is understood to have asked whether the family thought they would get justice to which the brother replies he was hopeful now.

Mr Gandhi also asked the family whether they wanted a CBI probe to which the kin said they would prefer a judicial investigation instead.

The permission to the Gandhis to visit Hathras ended a two-day standoff. The administration removed barricades outside the victim's village to allow the media to meet her family.

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were detained on Thursday when they tried to go to Hathras.

The 19-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped on September 14 in an assault by four men that left her with grievous injuries.

VIRAT KOHLI ROARS BACK TO FORM



Virat Kohli returned to form with an unbeaten 72 off 53 balls as Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Rajasthan Royals by eight wickets in an IPL game in Abu Dhabi on Saturday. Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal (63 off 45) shared a 99-run stand for the second wicket to achieve the target of 155 with ease. ■ **Report on P8** — BCCI

CRIME Vs WOMEN 2 more held in Tirupur rape case

Coimbatore: Two persons allegedly involved in the gang-rape of a woman (22) in Palladam in nearby Tirupur district were arrested in the early hours of Saturday, police said. Already, three have been arrested while search was still on for another in connection with the crime that took place on September 28, the police said. The victim, hailing from Assam and a resident of Coimbatore, lodged a complaint stating that she was raped by five people after being taken to an isolated spot by Rajeev on a motorcycle, they said. Rajeev's brother Rajeshkumar had asked the former to drop the woman at a bus-stand after she went to their house to talk about a job that Rajeshkumar had promised, they said.

AIIMS report rules out Rajput murder theories

New Delhi, Oct. 3: The AIIMS' medical board has ruled out murder in the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, terming it “a case of hanging and death by suicide,” the premier institute's forensic chief Dr Sudhir Gupta said on Saturday.

In its conclusive medico-legal opinion to the CBI, the six-member team dismissed the claims of “poisoning and strangling”, with Dr Gupta saying the panel did not find any trace of poison and drugs in the viscera.

““It is a case of hanging

and death by suicide. We have submitted our conclusive report to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI),” Dr Gupta, who is also the chairman of the forensic medical board, said.

There was no injury on the body other than that of hanging.

Also, there was no mark of struggle and scuffle.

The ligature mark on the neck was consistent with hanging, he said.

The doctors' panel did not find any trace of poison and drugs in the viscera, Dr Gupta told PTI, but



refused to divulge any further details stating the case is subjudice.

Rajput, 34, who made his silver screen debut in the critically acclaimed ‘Kai Po Che’ seven years ago,

was found dead in his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14.

The CBI had taken over the probe from Bihar Police into the alleged abetment to suicide case filed by the actor's father KK Singh in Patna against Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her family.

Earlier this week, the central probe agency had said that it has not reached any conclusion in Rajput's death case and that all aspects were under investigation. — PTI

Deshmukh: CBI should make public probe report in Sushant case

Nagpur, Oct. 3: Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Saturday said the CBI should soon make public its inquiry report into Sushant Singh Rajput's death so that people know whether it was a case of suicide or murder. The Maharashtra government was waiting for the CBI probe report in the case. — PTI

Mask, social distancing norms thrown to wind

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

As Covid-19 continues to spread across the city, adding over 1,000 new cases every day for last 10 days, people are seen moving without wearing masks and following social distancing on the streets, coffee cafes and shopping centres.

People take these two rules lightly when the authorities paste posters in every meter gap reminding the public about the importance of wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. Fine also has been imposed on the violators.

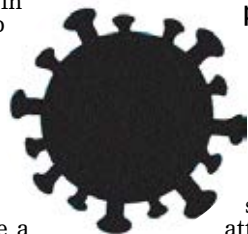
However, if you take a walk through Thiruvalluvar Salai road, one of the most congested highways in Ramapuram, people including women and children could be seen gathering without maintaining Covid protocols.

The street vendors are selling their goods flouting the mask rule. Santhi, a flower

1,000 new cases recorded every day

Authorities say they had registered over 60,000 cases of protocol violations including those related to institutions. "We have collected around ₹ 1 crore in

finer. "Efforts are on to make people aware of the fact that they are not only putting themselves at risk but others too," an official said.



vendor on the road-side, was shouting to attract customers without wearing the mask.

A few meters away, a wayside food stall is surrounded by a crowd of men and women. They eat food in the open space without maintaining social distancing. "I don't have any fear of Covid-19 now. I am only scared of the money lenders who come

to me every evening for daily collection. If I am afraid of Covid, I cannot repay them. That will be more dangerous to my health than Covid infection," she quipped.

Saptathy, a street vendor who sells fruits without wearing the face mask properly, asks how he could earn money if he is scared. "We have been going through a tough time without sales for several months. Now people started bustling the roads. So we have to draw the attention

of customers by shouting. Mask is always a barrier for it. That is why I placed the mask under the chin," he added.

P. N. Viswanathan, a local resident, says the people have now taken all rules by the authorities for granted. "If you go and do a reality check at the Arasaram junction at 6pm, you can see at least 50 people who don't have a face mask or kept it misplaced. The commuters often can't move without touching each other as the road is congested. So authorities should strictly impose rules against the violators. Otherwise the Covid situation will remain the same," he said.

Concerned about new infections crossing 1,000 every day for 10 last days, he pointed out that the spread can't be contained without strict implementation of rules especially at a time when the city unlocked economic, commercial, social and other activities after months of strict lockdown.



Makeover magic

N. SAMPATH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

A major surprise is awaiting the students of Chennai corporation schools when they return to classes next year. Renovated toilets, wall murals, rainwater harvesting and digital classes beckon them. In collaboration with Chennai Corporation, World Vision India, a not-for-profit organisation, is revamping 14 schools in Chennai city and two schools in Chengalpattu district.

"Quality education is not just teaching. It is also interlinked with good infrastructure and modern technologies. Learning becomes enjoyable when teaching approaches are exciting, and it can be attained by embracing new age learning with the emerging times". World Vision India is relying on the CSR funds for the completion of the project.

Besides technologically advanced features, the schools will have kitchen gardens to provide hands on experience to the students about gardening. The adolescent girl students will get an awareness on menstrual hygiene management also.



Strong, engrossing and hard-hitting

Review

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

Among the recent female-centric films that had a digital release owing to the pandemic lockdown and uncertainty in the reopening of theaters, director Virumandi's Ka Pae Ranasingam packs quite a punch. Featuring Aishwarya Rajesh in a feisty power packed role with Vijay Sethupathi lending great support, this is an OTT release that you ought to not miss.

Streaming on ZEE 5 as a pay-per-view Rs199 flick, KPR is a deftly dealt film with quirky tones and it conveys a hard-hitting message that would have made a bigger impact had it been released in cinema halls.

Based on true-life characters and incidents, the film is set at the backdrop of a small village in Ramanathapuram. Ranasingam (Vijay Sethupathi) is an educated social activist who protests for various issues including water scarcity in neighboring villages. He develops a liking for Ariyanachi (Aishwarya Rajesh), and after a few initial mix-ups, the duo gets married under unusual circumstances despite having the approval of their families.

Ranasingam's nature of putting the plight of people before his own or his family's leads to a condition, when Ariyanachi asks him to look for a job in the UAE and the former also leaves for Dubai to work in a chemical plant.

Just as things seemed peaceful, Ariyanachi gets the shocking message from Dubai that Ranasingam has passed away while he was



KA PAE RANASINGAM
CAST: Vijay Sethupathi, Aishwarya Rajesh, Bhavani Sre

Direction: Virumandi

RATING: ★★★★★

involved in a local protest there. However, a colleague of Ranasingam spills the beans that he had indeed met with an accident in the plant.

Now, Ariyanachi is determined to bring back the body of her beloved husband from Dubai. The rest is all about the distraught wife's struggle who is forced to run from pillar to post, knocking at every government office to get Ranasingam's body. She even approaches the court,

but in vain.

An experimental de-glam role is not something new to Aishwarya Rajesh. Here too Aishwarya's performance is topnotch. She infuses life to the character and watching her speak the Ramanathapuram dialect (she dubs her own voice) is a treat not to be missed. As usual Vijay Sethupathi floors us with his natural acting. The screenplay shuttles back and forth between timelines, thus Virumandi is trying to make us believe that VSP is there throughout. But this technique leads the story astray. All others like Arunraja Kamaraj, Ranagaraj Pandey, Poo Ram and Bhavani Sre lend their support.

The climax reveal is shocking and deeply disturbing.

Shanmugam Muthuswamy's dialogues are sharp and a big plus. The film draws a parallel between how the government acts swiftly to bring back the remains of actress Sridevi from Dubai and how they ignore a common man like Ranasingam.

Virumandi is successful in reflecting the reality of today's political, social and bureaucratic insensitivity and inadequacies. But his long drawn approach and length of the film (180 minutes) are matters of concern and would make you tired.

Ghibran's music and cinematography by Ekambaram elevate the mood of the theme. Despite its minor flaws, KPR bankrolled by KJR Studios is worth your time and money.



Shall we tell the DMK president?



G. Babu Jayakumar

Just spamming

Suddenly Tamil Nadu seems to have been pulled into the vortex of an election season even before the fear of coronavirus has dissipated. Going by the monthly calendar, there are a few more pages to flip before reaching that point in history when the usual dogfights between parties and alliances would begin to regale the people.

But right now, the fight is happening inside a party itself, which, besides being a harbinger of the elections, could also impel people to make lasting political decisions. The noisy brawl between the two top honchos of the ruling AIADMK became so loud that it was heard everywhere and the state is now expected to wait with bated breath for

Wednesday to know who would be the Chief Ministerial candidate when the elections come in 2021.

Whether one knows who it will be or not on Wednesday, the state, nay the electorate, already knows that the party is in a mess. And everyone knew that the two leaders were not quibbling over any policy matter of the government or on any ideological difference over the way the party was being run. It is just a personal power struggle between two leaders who do not enjoy any popularity or charisma personally.

Is it the right kind of knowledge that voters should have about the party when they go to the polling booths? To put it otherwise, was it prudent on the part of

the leaders to have fought it out openly? Will it help them as individuals or as a political party in the elections?

The same question could be asked to the state unit of the BJP, too. No, not because there is any open fight in Kamalalayam but for the scuffles they had on the streets with the DMK over the use of wall space for painting political graffiti and the drama they enacted with a few party cadre posing for photographs with bandages smeared with red paint.

Does the BJP leadership in the state believe that by showcasing a few men and women with bandages, purportedly to display the 'injury' they had suffered by going for a street fight with another party, they can garner the votes of the people? Can the party, by organising protests in public places with crowds transported from somewhere, win the hearts of the common man? How will the BJP benefit from enrolling people with criminal antecedents? Well, the crim-

inals with their penchant for violence can be used to attack others or organise a riot and not get votes.

When the BJP itself believed that they could evoke public sympathy and get support by circulating pictures of a few of its members in bandages smeared with red paint to create an impression that they were attacked by others, how can rowdies and criminals and whatever they could engineer be useful in appealing to the same public for support and votes?

That garnering public support is different from enrolling members is something that even an established party like the DMK has not understood. By telling the world that you have a billion members you cannot make another person vote for you. Also, there is no guarantee that members enrolled through modern methods like applying online or giving a missed call to a particular mobile number would help get votes, something which the BJP would vouch for.

Before the BJP went for the 'missed call' enrolment drive in the State some time back, even the Congress was inviting people to become members of the party. Application forms sold like hot cakes and many young people, lured by the charm of Rahul Gandhi, enrolled themselves. But we all know the party showed no growth in the State. So, how much will the ongoing online enrolment of the DMK help the party in the 2021 elections?

As of now it has provided comic relief to the people with news reports coming out with accompanying visuals of membership cards being issued to people like Donald Trump, Edappadi K. Palaniswami and M. K. Alagiri. Though the identity of the pranksters who enrolled Trump and Palaniswami with actual details about them – the only fake information was Trump living somewhere in the Egmore Assembly constituency limits – is not known, the person who gave expelled member Alagiri a new member-

ship is known and he did it on purpose.

The Alagiri supporter had done that to help his leader attend DMK meetings. So, we do not know how many such persons had enrolled their relatives, friends and acquaintances in the DMK even without their knowing about it. Also is there any guarantee that all those who enrolled themselves under what is known as the 'Ellorum Namudan' (All With Us) scheme would vote for the DMK.

The common people already have started talking about the DMK's recent propaganda methods. In fact, a common man, who is not actually averse to the idea of the DMK staging a comeback in 2021, wondered what 'Ellorum Namudan' meant. If all are with the DMK, why issue them a card with a photograph. If people may aspire for the membership card with a view to flaunting it after the 2021 elections if the party captures Port St George, then it is not a good idea to be encouraged, feel some people.

As of now, some new members of the BJP have said that they get 'more respect' in police stations by introducing themselves as members or functionaries of the party ruling at the Centre. Will the DMK cards, too, help in such misuse of influence? What the DMK needs to do is to capture the imagination of the younger generation by telling them about its achievements of the past like getting social justice, providing gender equality through legislation, establishing educational institutions, playing a pioneering role in developing digital technology and so on.

But what it is now doing, rue some supporters, is using technology to create and circulate memes and trolls. Perhaps keeping with the times when people have to 'share' or 'like' or 'subscribe' anything they watch on the screen and can also make money based on such hits that their creative works uploaded on YouTube get, the DMK has come to believe that social media is the way to people's hearts.

By interpreting data, they plan to win the elections, complain a DMK supporter, who does not want the online membership card. Another supporter points to an identified die-hard Hindutva acolyte being part of the I-PAC team that is working towards charting DMK's victory in the elections.

How can such a strident right winger – whose personal social media posts supporting the Hindutva ideology and BJP government at the Centre had prompted him to block him – draw up a campaign for the DMK, asks the supporter.

He wonders how many more such persons are in I-PAC working for the DMK campaign just because they get paid for the job. How many of the youth there have any real knowledge of the state and its political dynamics to help the DMK. Is the I-PAC team a viable alternative to the ideologically-driven band of party cadre, they wonder. And those supporters ask: Shall we tell the DMK president?

SHORT TAKES

Gold seized by Chennai customs

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

The Chennai airport customs on Saturday seized gold worth ₹6.93 lakh.

Based on the intelligence that gold was likely to be smuggled from Dubai, Mohamed Saleem Sulthan, 32, of Madurai who arrived from Dubai by Indigo flight 6E 8497 was intercepted at exit of custom arrival hall.

On his personal search two bundles of gold paste were from rectum.

On extraction 133 grams of gold valued at ₹ 6.93 lakh was recovered and seized under Customs Act, 1962. Further investigations are underway.

Anantha Jyothi fete from October 2 to 9

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, OCT. 3

Observing the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the remembrance day of Arutchelvar Dr N.Mahalingam, the Kumaraguru Institutions has slated week-long activities from October 2-9, under the aegis of Anantha Jyothi, as a mark of respect to these two statesmen.

The signature event of Anantha Jyothi hosted on the virtual mode is the distribution of Mahatma Gandhi merit scholarship worth ₹1.146 crore to 1,146 students, according to a press release. The scholarship winners include meritorious students from Kumaraguru College of Technology, KCT Business School, Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture and Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science. So far as many as 14,000 students have benefited from this scholarship.

The graduating students, who have showcased qualities of initiating, exploring and creative approach in academics, sports, arts and social service, will be bestowed with the Achievers' Award on October 9 in the virtual mode.

The virtual launch of N Mahalingam Tamil Research Grant Scheme was held on October 2. It was launched by N Mahalingam Tamil Research Centre (NMTRC), a wing of Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science (KCLAS), situated on Kumaraguru campus. The NMTRC was instituted for creating a valuable hub for researches, publications, and facilitating with a treasure trove of large and rare collection of books and palm leaf manuscripts.

25-yr-old man held for abducting, raping minor

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

The police have arrested a 25-year-old man, under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, for kidnapping and sexually assaulting a minor girl. Police rescued the victim and handed over her to the

family.

The accused has been identified as Suresh (25), from Maduravoyal, a call taxi driver. Due to unemployment during the lockdown, he sold vegetables in a cart in the Anakaputhur area.

According to the police, on September 28, the victim, a 16-year-old girl in the city, who went to her

school to get hall ticket to reappear for class 12 examination, did on return home until night. As the girl went missing, her family lodged a complaint with the Shankar Nagar police.

Subsequently, the police team traced the girl and found Suresh has detained her at his house. They rescued the girl and reunited

her with her family. Later she was sent to the government hospital for medical examination. Suresh was arrested by the Shankar Nagar police and handed over to the Tambaram all-women police station for further inquiries. He was booked under the Pocso Act and lodged at prison, the police said.

Seven arrested for killing man over illicit affair

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

The Thiruporur police on Friday arrested seven persons for murdering a 26-year-old man at a birthday party in Chengalpet district late on Thursday night.

Police identified the accused as J. Gubendran (22), Shanmugam (19), R. Manikandan (22) of Nellikuppam, Sridhar (23), A. Zarif (25) of

Pozhichalur, N. Krishna Moorthy (29) of Maduravoyal and K. Lokesh (25) of Guduvanchery.

The victim, Suresh Kumar, was invited to the birthday party of Gubendran. When Suresh came to Nellikuppam to attend the party, the accused stabbed him with beer bottles and fled. Thiruporur police registered a case.

Based on the inputs from

the deceased's mother, police arrested Gubendran and six others. During interrogation, the gang confessed to have murdered Suresh.

Police said Suresh was in love with a woman in Gubendran's family. Even after the accused warned the victim several times, he continued the affair. Irked Gubendran and his friends invited Suresh to the party and eliminated him.

Govt to HC: Garbage removed from Sithalapakkam lake area

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

The state government has informed the Madras high court that the garbage has been removed from the Sithalapakkam lake area at Sithalapakkam village panchayat in Chengalpet district and a separate location has been identified as a dumping ground.

Special government pleader A.Sriyanthi made the submission when a Public Interest Litigation filed by K.Muthukumar, which sought a direction to the



Chennai police commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal interacts with a boy during his visit to Ambattur police quarters on Saturday. — DC



Devotees waiting in a queue at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam temple in T Nagar on Saturday. — DC

Corpus fund of ₹3 cr for minority welfare

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, OCT. 3

The government has created a corpus fund of ₹3 crore for undertaking repairs and renovations of mosques and dargahs in the state, said Backward Class and Minorities Welfare Minister S Valarmathi.

Speaking at a function for distributing ₹8.75 lakh financial assistance to 171 muslim beneficiaries here on Saturday, Valarmathi said the government also has enhanced the monthly

pension for Ullamas from ₹1,000 to 1,500.

The government has also enhanced rice allotment to more than 3,000 mosques across the state from 4,900 metric tons to 5,145 MT for the preparation of gruel (nonbu kanchi) during Ramzan.

The government has formed Muslim Women financial assistance sangams in all district under the leadership of the respective district collectors to assist needy Muslim women, for which

the government provides joint subsidy up to Rs 20 lakhs in 1:2 ratio for the collection of donations for these sangams.

Distributing the cash assistance to Muslim women, Tourism Minister Vellamandi Natarajan said the government is committed to uplift the Muslims, Christians and other minorities.

In his address, the district collector, S. Sivarasu, listed out the various welfare measures given to the minorities in the district.

Building work supervisor held for robbing ₹1 L

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, OCT. 3

The police have arrested a 27-year-old construction work supervisor for robbing ₹1 lakh from the car of a building contractor. According to police, Manickam, 60, a building contractor residing at Kuri-chi-Sidco area, had been involved in a construction near Madukkarai in suburbs of Coimbatore.

Manickam had carried ₹1 lakh in cash on Saturday for giving wages to the labourers. After reaching the site, Maickam went to supervise the work after keeping the cash in the car. A few minutes later Manickam returned to the car and found the hand bag along with the cash missing. He also noticed the site supervisor Srinivasan missing from the workplace. He rang up the Madukkarai police and sent a picture of Srinivasan. The police on patrolling duty blocked Srinivasan at Madukkarai market area while he was trying to escape with the cash.

Police arrested him and recovered the cash. Srinivasan was imprisoned at Coimbatore Central prison after being presented before the court.

Motorist helps stranded python cross road

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE OCT. 3

The video of a rock python struggling to cross the busy Mettupalayam-Coimbatore highway road and a motorist helping it

cross the road. After entering the road halfway, the snake with a full stomach struggled to cross the road. Seeing the high intensity light of a truck on the road, the reptile was stuck in the middle without able to move further.

While motorists and public panicked seeing the struggle, a brave motorist took a big stick from the roadside, came near the snake and hit the ground with the stick.

Observing the vibration the snake started to move while vehicles switched off lights for helping the reptile cross the road. After a few minutes the snake crossed the road and entered a nearby bush.

Traffic on the stretch was affected for a few minutes.

The video went viral praising the motorist who averted a man-reptile conflict

1,374 solar-power houses built in Nagai dt

Nagapattinam: Under the Chief Minister's solar powered green houses scheme, 1,374 houses were constructed across the district at a cost of ₹2887.50 lakh during the last two years, and distributed to 410 Adi Dravida people, and rest of the houses distributed to others. In a release here on Saturday, Collector Praveen P Nair said 697 houses constructed during the year 2017-2018 at a cost of ₹1465.80 lakh and 677 houses constructed during the year 2018-2019 at a cost of ₹1421.70 lakh, he added.

Healthcare services hit as docs, nurse protest assault by cop

Puducherry, Oct. 3: Healthcare service here was hit on Saturday after doctors, nurses and other workers went on a sit-in protest seeking action on a policeman and his kin who had allegedly assaulted a duty doctor and a nurse.

The protesters resorted to a sit-in agitation seeking action on the inspector and his relatives who allegedly attacked the duty doctor and the nurse in the Indira Gandhi Government Hospital (GH) after the inspector's 80-year-old father died a few days ago in the hospital. The Action Committee of the Unified Health

Employees and Staff committee comprising the health staff went on protest immediately after the attack and continued the stir today.

Medical Superintendent of GH Vasudevan said he had filed a complaint with the police against the inspector and his relatives. The assailants also snatched a mobile phone of a nurse during the altercation. Police sources said cases were registered under different sections of IPC against the inspector and those involved in the assault. A spokesman of the Action Committee said the cases were registered under bailable sections.

"The government should make use of the provisions of the recently passed legislation to protect the medical personnel," the spokesman said. "We are continuing the agitation to press for our demand," he said.

Health staff, however, carried on their work in the COVID-19 hospitals by wearing black badges in protest. Meanwhile, the Territorial Health Minister Malladi Krishna Rao convened a meeting with the health staff to bring the stir to an end. The out-patient department in the GH remained closed, putting the patients to hardship. — PTI

Make new banking safeguards optional not mandatory



Sanjay Pinto

A few months ago, a customer of ICICI bank was agast when she got a debit SMS even before she could complete swiping her debit card and without entering her PIN, for home delivery of groceries from a neighbourhood store. With justifiable apprehension of a security glitch, she reached out to her bank pronto, only to be asked if it was a Wi-Fi enabled card. Guess what? It wasn't.

Neither did the customer ask for a Wi-Fi card, nor was there a related symbol on it. Despite writing to the bank, making telephonic reminders and follow up emails, the bank which initially promised to investigate the matter, has later maintained a stony silence.

The Reserve Bank of India, invoking Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, had issued a directive to banks on a new 'Positive Pay' system. It involves a process of "reconfirming key details of large value cheques" such

as the beneficiary, date and amount, to be sent electronically by the customer to the drawee bank.

These details are meant to be cross checked with the presented cheque via the Cheque Truncation System (CTS). The National Payments Corporation of India has been asked to develop the Positive Pay facility. In turn, banks have been instructed to offer this option to customers for cheques to the tune of fifty thousand rupees and above. For high value cheques of five lakh rupees and above, the proposal is to make the Positive Pay system mandatory.

The new security measure is slated to be implemented from the beginning of next year. RBI warns that "only those cheques which are compliant with above instructions will be accepted under dispute resolution mechanism at the CTS grids." Such sweeping dictates may not stand judicial scrutiny and are liable to be challenged in court.

It's all very well for RBI to put in place new, well meaning security features for transactions. But a question arises. How about plugging existing breaches? That involves promptly addressing issues flagged by customers like the mysterious



JUSTICE FOR ALL

transaction cited above. How often do banks respond on email to customer grievances? Many prefer the easy route of having a nameless, faceless centralised so called 'Help' Desk which dishes out automated replies.

The RBI directive lists "channels like SMS, mobile app, internet banking, ATM" for the electronic submission of details for high value cheques. What is the preparedness of banks for acknowledgement of these intimations? This is bound to trigger I submitted, no you didn't sort of disputes between banks and customers. For instance, with the 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) compliance, did any bank issue receipts? Haven't banks been sending out template demands for KYC documents even to those who have already submitted

them? How will 'Positive Pay' be any different?

The latest RBI circular was sent to banks more than a week ago. Clause 5 has a clear advisory to banks "to create adequate awareness among their customers on the features of the Positive Pay system through SMS alerts, display in branches, ATMs as well as through their web-site and internet banking."

How many of you have heard of this Positive Pay system? On the other hand, how many of you have been inundated with unsolicited marketing mails from our banks offering credit cards, loans and discount or cash back offers on a range of third party products and services, despite opting out of such promotional stuff?

That's not all. There is another safety feature being rolled out. The objective is "to improve user convenience and increase the security of card transactions." This measure has options, like "card not present", "card present" and "contactless transactions."

Just like you can switch off your mobile phone, this facility enables users to switch off and switch on their cards for safety, and set or modify transaction limits, within the overall param-

eters, for domestic and international use. Banks have been authorised to disable these options for existing cards "based on their risk perception."

Here's the rub. The circular says "existing cards which have never been used for online (card not present) / international / contactless transactions shall be mandatorily disabled."

So if you have never used your debit or credit card for an online transaction, that option with effect from this month, no longer exists.

Is it prudent to bring in this arrangement during the pandemic? Covid and the lockdown has changed the way we live. For common services today like renewal of Netflix subscription or ordering a google internet product directly, only card routed payments are accepted. This is where customers will be hit.

How many banks have sent out communication to customers? Or have we all read about these changes only in news reports? Banks always feather their own nests. Customers are on their own.

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



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Highways department clears the drain near Mudichur and Maduravoyal bypass ahead of monsoon to avoid rainwater stagnation. — DC

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SHORT TAKES

SR loads first rake of gypsum to Bidadi

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

The Chennai division of Southern Railway on Saturday loaded its first rake of gypsum for Saint Gobain from Kamarajar Port (Chennai) to Bidadi, nearly 30 km away from Bengaluru.

A total of 2,835 tonnes of gypsum was loaded, generating a revenue of Rs 14,05,480 for railways. The consignment was loaded in 45 BOST wagons (an open top wagon used for transporting coal, coke etc) from Chennai to Bidadi.

Around 55,000 tonnes of gypsum have been unloaded at Kamarajar port which arrived from Oman. The leftover gypsum will be loaded in wagons to Bidadi which will bring more revenue to railways.

Two more die of coronavirus in Pondy, toll rises to 534

Puducherry, Oct. 3: Two more people succumbed to COVID-19 in Puducherry on Saturday, pushing the toll in the union territory to 534.

Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said in a release that 225 fresh infections were reported raising the overall tally to 28,752.

The new cases were identified after examination of 3,410 samples, he said.

Of the 28,752 overall COVID-19 cases, 4,874 were active while 23,344 patients recovered and were discharged.

The Director noted that the fatality rate was 1.86 percent while recovery rate was 81.19 percent.

The Health department has so far tested 1.99 lakh samples and it was found that 1.66 lakh out of them were negative.

The result of the examination of remaining samples was awaited.

The Director said 396 patients were discharged from hospitals during the last 24 hours.

One of the two patients who died of infection had co-morbidity.

While one patient who died in Puducherry was 54 year old, the other patient in Karaikal was 60 years of age, the official said.

Puducherry region accounted for 191 fresh cases out of the total cases, followed by 21 in Karaikal, 7 in Yanam and 6 in Mahe region.

— PTI



Stone tools used by ancient people to hunt were found near Tirupattur. Speaking about the findings, Tamil professor Prabhu, Holy Cross College, Tirupattur district, told reporters that the tool can be estimated to date back to 3,000 years. The stone measuring 11 cm in length was tied to the end of a pole like a spear, and probably was used for hunting, was found in the land of farmer Chinnaswamy (64). Another spherical grind stone of the same era measuring 16 cm in length and 12 cm in width was also found.

— K. Senthil Nathan

Compensation for fall in GST collection
PIL filed to direct Centre
release ₹12,250.50 cr to TNDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

A PIL has been filed in the Madras high court to direct the Union government to implement the provisions of Section 7 of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, in letter and spirit and release a sum of ₹12,250.50 crore to the state of Tamil Nadu towards compensation for the shortfall in GST collections accrued during the period from April 1, 2020, to August 31, 2020, immediately.

The PIL filed by G.Sundarrajan, a social activist is likely to come up for hearing early.

Petitioner's counsel M. Radhakrishnan submitted that section 18 of the Constitution (One hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 reads: "Parliament shall by law, on the recommendations of the Goods and Services Tax Council, provide for compensation to the States for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax for a period of five years". Pursuant to the amendment of the Constitution, the Parliament enacted the Goods and Services



Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017. The Act was notified by the Union government on July 1, 2017, he added.

He said as per the provisions of section 7 (2) of the Act, the compensation payable to a State shall be provisionally calculated and released at the end of every two months period, and shall be finally calculated for every financial year, after the receipt of final revenue figures, as audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. The press release issued by the state of Tamil Nadu on August 31, 2020, for the information of the public was that the text of a D.O letter dated August 31, 2020, addressed by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to the Prime Minister of India. This press release states that the state of Tamil Nadu

had agreed to the implementation of GST and to support the legislation concerned on the basis of the unequivocal commitment given by the Government of India to compensate the state of Tamil Nadu for any revenue loss, which compensation was clearly assured in the said Constitution Amendment Act and the GST Compensation Act, he added.

Radhakrishnan said the said press release reveals that no GST compensation has been released by Union of India to the State of Tamil Nadu for the shortfalls in revenue collection since April 1, 2020. It was also revealed from the press release that as on August 31, 2020, a total sum of ₹12,250.50 crore was due to Tamil Nadu as compensation for the shortfall in GST collections, of which ₹11,459.37 crore has accrued from April to July 2020. Since Union of India has not acted as per the provisions of Section 7 of the GST Compensation Act and has not released a sum of ₹12,250.50 crore accrued for the period from April 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 this writ petition was preferred in public interest, he added.

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC
NAMAKKAL, OCT. 3

In Namakkal region, the price of an egg rose by 20 paise, costing ₹5.25 per egg, on Saturday.

The Namakkal regional consultative meeting of the National Egg Coordinating Committee (NECC) was held under the chairmanship of Dr P Selvaraj.

At the meeting, it was during the month of

Puratasi that the consumption of eggs among the public is increasing, and their sale is increasing day by day as the price continues to rise in other regions, and eggs play an important role for a healthy diet.

As production declines, demand increases, pushing up the price. Now, egg prices have been raised by 20 paise.

The meeting was told that further price hikes

Egg prices up by 20 paise

Melody & the music

The melody of 'Flutteria', an anthem for butterflies, which has three stanzas and an equal number of choruses in between, starts with "Upon the grey and darkest ashes, I found a drop of snow, And on the ink that bled all blue ... I felt a silent flutter around me, a solo music note, Filling my heart with a rhythm of shadows, a million melodies too, My songs, my tears, are my anecdotes, You are the voice within my soul," and ends with chorus 'Let us find love in everything. A sweet reminder, to see a purpose in all we do, Your life a testament, Butterfly let's fly along with you, tonight.'



Nilgiri Tit



Jackal and monitor lizard in the jungles.



Gen secy Duraimurugan regrets his flippancy

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

DMK general secretary Duraimurugan expressed regret over his alleged flippancy in addressing leaders of the alliance parties and said that he had changed his style of speech and also functioning after taking over as party general secretary.

In a statement on Saturday, he said to a question from mediapersons as to who would be with the DMK in the next elections



he had replied that some may come from there and some may go from here and it cannot be stated for sure now.

This was reported in the media with the accusation that he addressed the alliance party leaders disrespectfully. Duraimurugan said, adding that he might have been heard in a wrong way because he was wearing a facemask.

He said the parties had shifted alliances even in the last minute in the past and that was what he meant when he spoke to the media after attending the 'people's sabha' meeting on October 2.

Expressing regret over

some alliance party leaders being distraught over his alleged disrespectfulness, Duraimurugan clarified that he did not mean anything demeaning of anybody.

"If it had happened I express my regret for that and assure you that it would not happen again," he said.

He had great respect for all and those who knew him well know that and would have taken his remarks in the right spirit, he added.



CPI to protest Centre's farm bills

DC CORRESPONDENT
PUDUKKOTTAI, OCT. 3

State CPI secretary R Mutharasan said that farmers can benefit only if the Centre fixed profitable prices for agricultural products as per recommendations of the M S Swaminathan Committee.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Mutharasan said the CPI was going to organise a statewide agitation on October 12 in protest against the Centre's farm bills.

He appealed to the government to open more number of direct purchase centres for the benefit of paddy farmers.

While flaying the state government for cancelling grama sabha meetings on October 2, he said that the state had become a 'rowdy raj', and also slammed the UP police for arresting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

More DPCs to be opened, says minister Kamaraj

G. SRINIVASAN &
R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
THANJAVUR/ TIRUCHY,
OCT. 3

Food minister R Kamaraj has said that all collectors have been asked to open additional Direct Purchase Centres (DPCs), wherever necessary and procure all the paddy brought by farmers.

Inspecting a DPC at Ammapettai, 20 kms from Thanjavur on Saturday, the minister said that at present 557 DPCs are functioning in the state.

In Thanjavur district, 227 DPCs are functioning, in Tiruvarur district 189 are functioning, in Nagapattinam district, 126 and in Cuddalore dis-

trict, 43 are functioning.

"From October 1, we are procuring paddy giving Rs 53 more per quintal. During the last kharif season which ended on September 30, TNCSC has procured 32,41,000 tonnes of paddy from farmers which is a record of sorts. A total of six lakh farmers have been benefited and a sum of Rs 6,120 crore paid to them," said Kamaraj. Collector Govinda Rao accompanied the minister.

In Tiruvarur, Food minister R Kamaraj said on Saturday that the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation has for the first time 32.41 lakh metric tonnes of paddy through its direct purchase centres (DPCs) dur-

ing the current Kharif season.

The minister was accompanied by Collector T Anand and others, as they inspected DPCs in Alangkottai, Athikkottai and Needamangalam near here on Saturday.

Stating that 189 DPCs were functioning in Tiruvarur district, Kamaraj told newsmen here that the government had instructed DPCs to increase procurement of paddy up to 1,000 bags per day as against the existing practice of procuring 600 to 800 bags. For the benefit of farmers, DPCs would remain open today (Sunday) to compensate for Gandhi Jayanthi holiday.



Congress protests against attack on Rahul Gandhi

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 3

About 100 Congress workers, who made an attempt to besiege the BJP state headquarters in T Nagar

to protest against the ill-treatment meted out to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Uttar Pradesh, were arrested by the police and later let off.

The group, led by north

Chennai Congress president M. S. Thiraviyam, started from Parry's Corner to go in a rally to T Nagar when they were stopped by the police near the starting point itself.

Wildlife Week in Nilgiris

Fall in jackal, monitor lizard count worrying
Now, an anthem for butterfliesB RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT. 3

While the Wildlife Week celebrations are underway in the country, activists and experts are aiming to garner support for wildlife conservation which is vital to maintain ecological equilibrium. Wildlife experts here are trying to focus on increasing the population of rare wild animals like jackals and monitor lizards in the jungles.

Once found in abundance in the Nilgiris jungles, the wild jackal population has drastically dwindled, making it a rarely sighted animal now.

Adviser, WWF-India, N. Mohanraj, an expert in wildlife studies, said the drop in jackal population in the Nilgiris is a mystery. "The jackal population here was so rich in the past that the animal could be sighted even within the town limits of Ooty. Now, it is a rarity. The reason for the decline in its population is not known. Eco-toxicological factors, fragmented ecosystem, loss of con-

B RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT. 3

The Wynter Blyth Association (WBA), headquartered in Coonoor near here, an eco-organization that is dedicating its studies on butterflies and their conservation, has launched an anthem for butterflies christened 'Flutteria' to make it special for this year's Wildlife Week celebrations and to pay tributes to butterflies, the tiny winged wonders of nature.

A trustee of WBA, Manoj Sethumadhavan, detailing on 'Flutteria - An Anthem for

Butterflies', said that passing on the love for nature to the next generation is of utmost importance. With this in mind, the WBA decided to make a song about butterflies, a key biological indicator of healthy ecosystems. With the pandemic forcing people to stay indoors, media and arts which take people back to nature are sorely needed.

"Flutteria was composed with this in mind. This anthem for butterflies, a new approach to charm humankind towards the love for butterflies, was composed by VibeTamers

added that jackals also play a vital role as ecological scavenger. Attempts can be made to relocate jackals from other parts of India to the Nilgiri jungles, after studying the animal's behaviour in quarantine in the hills, which will help increase the jackal population in the hills. This may pay rich divi-

Studios, Coonoor. With consistent inputs and support from WBA, an ensemble of artists here was assembled. The result was a great song to which some endearing visuals were added. The video was launched on Gandhi Jayanthi day on Friday to mark the beginning of the Wildlife Week and the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of peace and a great nature lover. The media is available on Youtube and also will soon be available in all music streaming platforms," he added.

dends in future," Mohanraj suggested. Assistant Professor, Zoology and Wildlife Biology, Government Arts College here, Dr K Kannan said that of late, the population of monitor lizard (Udumpu in Tamil), is also found to be on the decline in the Nilgiris.

"The Bengal Monitor Lizard, a common species

in the country was found to be living in good numbers in the lower plateau of the Nilgiris. They are often found moving around the forest fringes. Clandestine poaching in the past was one of the reasons for its population to decline as it was generally poached for its meat. Habitat loss and pesticide contamination in the forest-farmland fringes could also be the reasons for the fall in its population. But, a detailed study on this is yet to be made. Hence, attempts can be initiated to study more on monitor lizards, its present habitat, behaviour and the factors that threaten its survival, and other eco-toxicological factors that pose a threat to its survival," added Mohanraj.



Tamil Yeoman

SHORT TAKES

RJD MP MOVES SC AGAINST NEW FARM LAWS

New Delhi, Oct. 3: RJD MP Manoj Jha has moved the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the newly enacted three agriculture laws, saying they are “discriminatory and manifestly arbitrary” and will expose marginal farmers to exploitation by big corporates.

Parliament has recently passed the three Bills - the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020. These have come into effect from September 27 after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent.

Jha, a Rajya Sabha member of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), has filed the plea in the top court through lawyer Fauzia Shakil.

Besides Jha, Congress Lok Sabha member from Kerala TN Prathapan and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Rajya Sabha member from Tamil Nadu Tiruchi Siva had moved the top court against the farm laws.

WORLD'S LONGEST TUNNEL OPENS IN HIMACHAL

From Page 1

Earlier the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall. The tunnel reduces the road distance by 46 kms between Manali and Leh and the time by about 4 to 5 hours.

Launching an attack on Congress, Prime Minister said that country has also seen a time when defence interests were compromised and cited delay in buying modern fighter aircraft (Rafale) for Air Force, plan to tip indigenous aircraft Tejas in cold storage, lack of modern Rifles for armed forces, and not strengthening Ordnance Factories.

Prime Minister said that the construction of the Atal tunnel had also been delayed once the former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government went out of power.

“Atal Ji laid the foundation stone of approach road of this tunnel in 2002. Once his government went out of power, this job was most likely forgotten. Till 2013-2014, progress was made only on 1.5 kms of this tunnel. Experts say that if the pace of progress had continued at the same rate then the tunnel would have likely been completed by 2040. After 2014, the project progressed with unprecedented pace. Every problem which BRO faced was removed. Earlier every year 300 metre tunnel was being constructed but after 2014 it was increased to 1,400 metre per year. We completed 26 years work in just six years,” said Mr Modi.

He said that while the initial estimation for completion of the tunnel was ₹950 crores, it had been completed at a cost of over ₹3,200 crores, at over three times the initial value.

Prime Minister said many strategically important projects were meted out the same treatment as the Atal Tunnel.

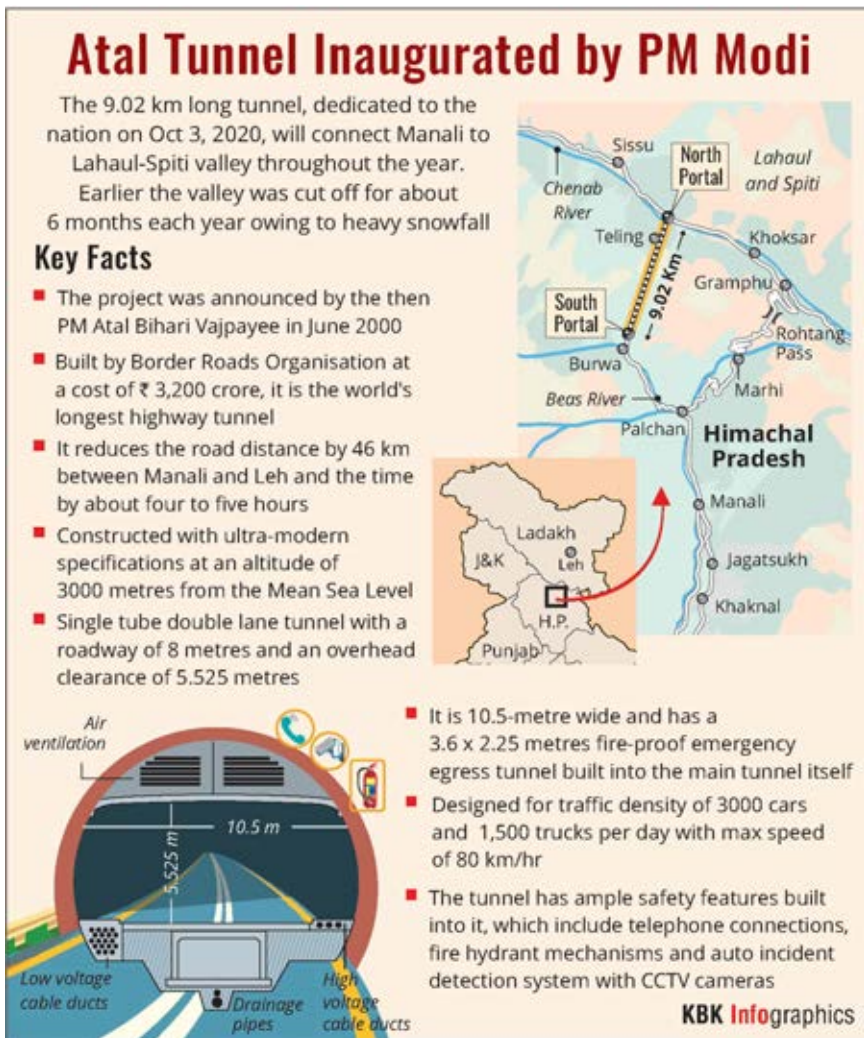
“The strategically important Daulat Beg Oldi airstrip in Ladakh remained closed for 40-45 years. Air Force was able to start the airstrip due to its own efforts. There was no political will in it,” said Mr Modi.

“Nothing is more important for us than the defence of the country. But for a long time, the country has also witnessed an era when the defence interests of the country were compromised. The Air Force of the country kept demanding a modern fighter plane, while they kept opening and closing files after files, and kept playing around with those files,” he said.

“Be it ammunition, modern rifles, bulletproof jackets, equipment that are used in cold weather conditions, everything was kept in abeyance. There was a time when the strength of our ordnance factories would make many jittery, but the country's ordnance factories were left on their own,” he said.

Prime Minister said the situation now changed and in the last six years the border infrastructure - be it roads, bridges or tunnels - is being developed with full impetus and great speed.

Mr Modi said that Atal Tunnel is going to be a lifeline for a large part of Himachal Pradesh as well as the new Union Territory of Leh-Ladakh and would reduce the distance between Manali and Keylong by 3-4 hours.



India sees 79,476 more Covid positive cases, 1,069 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT
WITH AGENCY INPUTS
NEW DELHI, OCT. 3

It's official now. India's Covid-19 death toll crossed one lakh on Saturday, a day which saw 1,069 persons giving in to the coronavirus taking the toll to 1,00,842. The infection tally climbed to 64,73,544 as 79,476 new infections were reported in the preceding 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 54 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 83.84 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The total recoveries have surged to 54,27,706, while there are 9,44,996 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28.

Kerala records 7,834 cases: Kerala on Saturday recorded 7,834 cases of Covid-19 taking the total number of cases so far to 2,21,333 even as 4,476 persons recovered from disease during the last 24 hours. The state also reported 22 more deaths

● **INDIA'S COVID-19** tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16 and crossed 60 lakh on September 28.

taking the official death toll to 813.

1,718 new cases in Telangana: There were 1,718 new cases of Covid-19 and eight deaths due to the disease in the state on Friday, according to the health department bulletin issued on Saturday. The caseload stands at 1,97,327 cases and the toll at 1,153 deaths.

A total of 49,084 samples were taken for testing as against the average of 53,000 which was noted on weekdays. A total of 31,53,626 samples have been tested in Telangana state so far.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation recorded 285 new cases, Ranga Reddy district 129, Medchal-Malkajgiri 115, Karimnagar 105 and Nalgonda district recorded 103 new cases on Friday.

AP reports 6,224 new cases: Andhra Pradesh registered 6,224 new coronavirus cases on Saturday,

raising the overall tally to 7,13,014, apart from 41 deaths of infected patients during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 5,941.

State health authorities reported that out of a total number of 60,21,395 samples tested so far in the state, 6,51,791 patients have been discharged after recovery, while 55,282 patients are undergoing medical treatment at various hospitals.

Among daily new Covid-19 positive cases, West Godavari has topped with the highest number of 890 cases, followed by 827 in Chittoor; 824 in East Godavari, 619 in Prakasam and 558 in Nellore.

Karnataka has 9,886 new cases: Karnataka on Saturday reported 9,886 new cases of Covid-19 and 100 related fatalities, taking the total number of infections to 6,30,516 and death toll to 9,219. The day also saw the total number of recoveries in the state breaching the 5 lakh mark, with 8,989 patients getting discharged.

Out of 9,886 fresh cases reported, 3,925 cases were from Bengaluru urban alone. As of October 3, cumulatively 6,30,516 positive cases have been reported in the state.

SLOW PACE OF WORK ON KARTARPUR IRKS INDIA

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 3

India expressed its displeasure on Saturday on the utter lack of progress by Pakistan for construction of a bridge at the Budhi Ravi Channel on the Pakistani side of the border “for safe and hassle-free movement of pilgrims” bound for the Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara near the border in Pakistani Punjab despite the lapse of a year in time-period.

India has already constructed the bridge on its side of the border, New Delhi said.

In response to a reported proposal by Pakistan for re-opening of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor, India raised the above issue, adding that “a decision on re-opening of the corridor would be taken in accordance with the Covid protocol and easing of restrictions”.

It may be recalled that movement of pilgrims on the corridor was suspended in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak. Pakistan had “temporarily closed” the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor on March 16 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said, “At the time of opening of the Kartarpur corridor last year and in the bilateral agreement signed in October 2019, it was decided that both sides shall establish requisite infrastructure including construction of a bridge at Budhi Ravi Channel at the earliest for safe and hassle-free movement of pilgrims. One year hence, Pakistan is yet to construct the bridge while it is ready at our end. A technical meeting with Pakistan was also facilitated and two teams met on 27 August 2020. There is, however, no progress on part of Pakistan.”

TELUGU FILM IND. TO CUT PAY OUT BY 20%

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 3

The Telugu movie industry which has been feeling the pinch with the prolonged Covid-19 shutdown that threw its finances into turmoil, has decided to cut the remuneration received by actors and technicians by 20 per cent.

The Movie Artists Association (MAA) and the Active Telugu Film Producers Guild on Saturday announced that both groups have agreed to the reduction on the pre-lockdown rates. The Guild said with many unknowns lying ahead, there was a need to resume work by taking decisions that will ensure that the Telugu movie industry can sustain itself till the situation normalises.

Theatre occupancy, a zero foreign theatrical market, and decrease in revenue realization on account of the impact of Covid-19 have impacted the industry. “After fruitful discussions with the MAA, we have been able to arrive at an understanding that will set the tone and help us lift ourselves from the present situation,” the Guild said.

MP gangrape victim ends life

Cops had not registered victim's FIR

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 3

An alleged gangrape victim in a Madhya Pradesh village committed suicide over non-registration of FIR in the case by police.

The 33-year-old woman, who was allegedly gangraped in her village of Gotgoria under Narasinghapur district on September 28, was found hanging in her house on Friday, police said on Saturday.

Her husband said she took the extreme step when police refused to file an FIR in the case, besides harassing her relatives for asking to register an FIR in the incident.

Two police officers were arrested for not registering a case in the incident.

“In-charge of Gotgoria police outpost Misrilal Koddape and in-charge of Chacheli police station Anil Singh were arrested for lapses in registering the case. They were booked under section 166-A (non-recording of information) of Indian Penal Code.

Besides, three other people were arrested on charges of rape and two others arrested for instigating suicide (of the victim)”, Narasinghpur district superintendent of police Ajay Singh said.

The deceased's husband told the police that his wife was gangraped by three local villagers, Parsu, Arvind and Anil, when she was cutting standing crops in a farm land on September 28.

She narrated the incident to the family members when she returned home. Later, the family members took her to the Gotgoria police outpost to lodge a complaint on the night of the fateful day.

Gotgoria police, however, said an FIR would be registered after her medical examination.

However, the complaint was not registered by Gotgoria police on September 29 also.

They then approached Chichli police station to lodge the complaint.

Later, instead of registering the case, the deceased's husband and her brother-in-law were locked up in the police station, her husband said.

The harassment by the police provoked her to end life, he added.

Didi: BJP is the biggest pandemic of the country

Kolkata, Oct. 3: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Saturday took out a protest rally in the city against the Hathras alleged gangrape case and launched a scathing attack against the BJP, which is in power in Uttar Pradesh, calling it the “biggest pandemic” torturing Dalits the most and running a “dictatorship” in the country.

Banerjee said she would stand by the Dalit community till the end as her caste is “humanity” and she does not believe in differentiation on the grounds of caste and religion.

The rally, the first by the fiery TMC supremo since March when the nationwide lockdown was declared to break the coronavirus infection chain, covered the 2 km distance between Birla Planetarium to Gandhi statue on Mayo Road here.

Sharpening her attack, Banerjee, who has been a strident critics of BJP, said, “Covid-19 is not a big pandemic. BJP is the biggest pandemic. It is the biggest pandemic of atrocities against Dalit and backward communities.”

“We should stand up against these atrocities ... The kind of atrocities that are taking place is completely unacceptable. The kisan samaj, youth, students, minorities, Dalits are being pushed towards



TMC Supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee participates in a rally to protest over the death of Hathras victim in Kolkata on Saturday. — PTI

India reiterates no first use of nuclear weapons

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 3

India on Saturday reiterated its nuclear doctrine of “No First Use” against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. India also reiterated its “long-standing and unwavering commitment to universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons”.

New Delhi's position was reiterated by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla at the “High-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of

● **INDIA'S REITERATION** of its nuclear doctrine is significant, as it comes at a time when the armed forces are on alert at the borders, both at the LoC with Pakistan and the LAC with China.

Nuclear Weapons”.

India's reiteration of its nuclear doctrine is significant, as it comes at a time when the armed forces are on alert at the borders, both at the LoC with Pakistan and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, and also in readiness for any contingency to face a “two-front war”, an euphemism for a hypothetical Sino-Pakistani joint attack on India. Both

these neighbours also possess nuclear weapons.

Shringla said, “India espouses the policy of “No First Use” against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. India reiterates its unwavering commitment to universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, in line with the Final Document of the First Special Session of the UNGA on disarmament.” He added, “We believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an multilateral framework.”

SALUTING THE BRAVE

Memorial located in eastern Ladakh mentions the heroics of the ‘Gallants of Galwan’

Army builds memorial for soldiers killed in Galwan Valley

New Delhi, Oct. 3: The Indian Army has built a memorial for its 20 personnel who were killed while valiantly fighting Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on June 15, official sources said on Saturday.

The memorial, located at Post 120 in eastern Ladakh and inaugurated earlier this week, mentions the heroics of the ‘Gallants of Galwan’ under operation ‘Snow Leopard’ and the

way they evicted the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops from the area while inflicting “heavy casualties” on them in “hand-to-hand combat”.

China is yet to disclose the number of its soldiers killed and injured in the clash though it officially admitted to have suffered casualties.

According to an American intelligence report, the number of

casualties on the Chinese side was 35.

Post 120 lies along the Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) road. The names of all the 20 Indian Army personnel were inscribed at the unit-level memorial.

Colonel B. Santosh Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, was among the Indian Army personnel killed in the clash that had significantly escalated the border tension between the two countries

with India calling it “a premeditated and planned action by China”.

The Chinese soldiers used stones, nail-studded sticks, iron rods and clubs in carrying out brutal attacks on Indian soldiers after they protested the erection of a surveillance post by China around patrolling point 14 in Galwan Valley.

Giving a brief account of Operation ‘Snow Leopard’, the Army mentioned in a

plaque at the memorial that Colonel Babu led the ‘Quick Reaction Force’ of 16 Bihar Regiment and attached troops tasked to evict a group of Chinese troops from the general area in ‘Y nala’ (a junction) and stop them from moving further to Patrolling Point 14.

“The column successfully evicted the PLA OP from Y Nala and reached PP14 where a fierce skirmish broke out between

the IA (Indian Army) and PLA troops. Col B Santosh Babu led from the front and his troops fought gallantly in hand-to-hand combat, causing heavy casualties to the PLA. In the ensuing fight twenty ‘Gallants of Galwan’ achieved martyrdom,” the Army wrote.

The list of 20 personnel in the memorial included three naib subedars, three havildars and 12 sepoy. The defence ministry has

also started the process to inscribe the names of Colonel Babu and other soldiers at the National War Memorial in Delhi.

During a visit to Lukung forward post in eastern Ladakh on July 17, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh personally conveyed his appreciation and compliments to the troops from the Bihar regiment for displaying exemplary grit and courage in fighting the Chinese troops.

DECCAN Chronicle

4 OCTOBER 2020



Shreya Sen-Handley

Off the beaten track

A Kolkata 'Kumroween' & other Covid sacrifices

I could murder a malpoa right now. And that potoler dolma I've been drooling over in my dreams, the shorshe illish that dance in my peripheral vision, disappearing like chimera (or Nemo) when I look them in the eye. Some nights I wake in a chom chom sweat, and dig around my kitchen cupboards to find my dalmut hoard sadly depleted. Nor can Tesco's mango chutney fill the yawning achaar-shaped chasm in my gut. And when I think of mishti doi — oh boi. I melt into a puddle of yearning. My dwindling pile of panchphoron too, in its steel tiffin box, is not to be sneezed at (what will I have left then?).

It's been more than a year since we last travelled to Kolkata, the city of my birth, of my parents and oldest friends, of the spices, sweets, books and great memories I bring back yearly, and our stocks are all but gone. Cold turkey they call this sudden, enforced withdrawal, but it's kosha mangsho for me. As merry as our Sherwood curry may be, there are jhaals, jhols and ombols that can't be concocted outside Bengal. Not without an infusion of its tangy winter smog, monsoon winds that roll from the Bay, and Rabindrasangeet saturating the air no matter what the weather. Sniff as hard I might, I can smell none of this now.

Sure sign of Covid you say, but these notun gurer cravings and maacher muthia longings are symptoms of homesickness instead. Evading the former has unfortunately required the renunciation of the akash, batash, and barir ranna of Kolkata this year. Abetted by inept, often unfeeling governments, the Coronavirus has harvested death and deprivation everywhere. In Bengal alone so far there are a staggering 216,000 cases, and nearly 5,000 deaths, with Kolkata accounting for 70 per cent of it.

But just for a moment, shall we dwell on the lesser tragedies? Like the suspension of flights to Kolkata from much of Britain and the hijacking of my annual trip home. Since moving to Britain two decades ago, I have returned home for the harvest every year. Of a very different crop usually; the diurnal glide of crisp blue skies and mellow sun, long addas over favourite foods, slow, smoky evenings with family and friends, and pilgrimages to fondly remembered haunts. Including the biggest and brightest of festivals.

This pandemic has put paid to even that. It has hijacked not just my homecoming but mighty Durga's too. Kolkata's Durga Puja is an extravaganza so massive, so magnificent, so, er, mingly, it can only be a shadow of itself this socially-distanced year. The ocean of humanity that swamps the resplendent pandals and eye-popping illuminations won't be welcoming the Mother Goddess with their customary rapture this year, because they will, hopefully, stay home to prevent further dissemination of the killer virus. Which is as it should be. But because it is indeed the high point of the year for many and in these dismal times, a tonic for the soul, some puja organisers have been exploring alternatives, from virtual pujas to portable ones. Bearing the Devi round in a bedecked palanquin in Jodhpur Park, for people to see from the safety of their homes, is one such I gather. As if Corona Devi, flexing her spiky muscles to demonstrate her might, instructed the good folks of Kolkata — "Koro na!" But Kolkata peeps replied (ccing Durga), "OK tata, but y' know? Ashche bochor abar hobe!"

The high point of our trip back however is quite another tradition. Timing it so the bulk of our visit is post-puja; quiet and contemplative after the fervour and din, we finish every trip with the tiny, homegrown celebration we've come to know as 'Kumroween'. It all started with October being the best time for us to visit India, but the kids didn't want to miss the trick or treating of an English Halloween. So we devised our own little fusion festival, a best-of-both-worlds hybrid that was all treats and no trick, incorporating an array of Bengali delicacies and bonhomie, with fancy dress, eerie party balloons and trim (on which we had fun scrawling a scary range of faces), and the pièce de résistance - a glowing Jack o' Lantern carved from an almost invariably misshapen kumro. Thus 'Kumroween', an invariably misshapen but always entertaining tradition was born. Over the years, patched together Gupis and Baghas have rubbed shoulders with Professor Lupin and Harry Potter, a cobbled Captain Hook has sung along with affable, unthreatening crocs, whilst pleasantly plump skeletons tucked into kochuri, aloor dom, and goja. Most of all, it has given us the opportunity to gather our family and friends round, to say hello, thank you, and au revoir, so quickly do our fortnights in Kolkata fly. Two splendid weeks of breaking bread, or indeed luchi, with family, catchup addas with friends lasting half the day, and storytime and play for our children with their beloved but rarely-seen Dida and Dadu, coalescing one last time on spooky, sparkling, slightly sad Kumroween night.

There can be no Kumroween this year. No festivities of any sort for us in Kolkata. In fact, no trip at all. Just sadness and long distance anxiety as every day brings the names and images of people we once knew, or knew of, who have succumbed to the marauding bug. With more to come. But malpoa, madugga, Mababa, and my mother city; you are on my mind. And if it is OK tata for this year, horn please, because ashche bochor abar hobe.

Shreya Sen-Handley is the author of the recently published *Strange: Stories, the award-winning Memoirs of My Body, and a forthcoming book of travel misadventures*. Her Twitter and Insta handle is @shreyasenan.



The writer's children celebrate Halloween in Kolkata. — STEPHEN HANDLEY

Subhani



Napping media awakes, puts Yogi on the spot



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

The horrific Hathras rape outrage raises some deeply disturbing questions. First and foremost, is the role of the UP government and police. Why was the victim's body taken away forcibly from her home and cremated against her family's will in the dead of night? The family wanted to perform the last rites in the morning and then cremate her. But her parents and brothers were locked in their house.

Quite apart from the legal propriety of cremating the body when another autopsy was clearly warranted, there is a shocking insensitivity to this episode. The family of the young Dalit girl was in trauma. They had just lost a daughter to one of the most brutal rape incidents seen in recent times. To take away the dead body against the family's will, lock up family members, and forcibly carry out the cremation at 2:30 am, shows an unpardonable callousness to basic human emotions.

Why was the UP sarkar in such a tearing hurry? Quite clearly, there must be a reason. If it thought that with her cremation the matter may quickly die a natural death, the outcome was just the opposite. Thanks to the media, most of them brave young women, the entire nation was sickened by the pitiless, cruel and high-handed behaviour of the police. The visuals of the mother wailing at not being able to even see the face of her dead daughter were appalling.

The UP government seemed to have only one priority, which was to

claim that the girl was not gangraped. The state police cited the report of the Forensic Science Lab in Agra, which apparently said that no trace of semen was found. Surely, the police would know that the absence of semen is no proof that rape did not take place. Moreover, as against the forensic report, there is the dying declaration of the girl herself where she says that she was raped. Is this not proof enough? In the light of the victim's confirmation of rape, why was the body not subjected to a fresh examination by a panel that would include a senior gynaecologist? Was this the reason why the body was cremated in such unseemly haste?

There is also the visual of the district magistrate of Hathras obviously trying to intimidate the victim's family. The media will go away in a day or two, he can be heard telling the family; only the police will remain, so it would be better if you change your statement. This raises the question of why the UP police want to whitewash this gruesome incident. Who is UP chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, trying to protect? Is there a caste angle to this dastardly crime, which has something to do with the fact

Why was the UP sarkar in such a tearing hurry? Quite clearly, there must be a reason. If it thought that with her cremation the matter may quickly die a natural death, the outcome was just the opposite.

Who is the Yogi trying to protect? Is there a caste angle to this dastardly crime, which has something to do with the fact that the four accused are allegedly of the dominant Thakur caste, the same caste as the UP CM?

that the four accused who have been arrested are allegedly of the dominant Thakur caste, which is the same caste as the UP CM?

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), nearly 10 Dalit women are raped every day, with UP recording the largest number, 14.7 per cent of India's total. No doubt, UP is the most populous state in the country, but the fact remains that even nationwide — again as per NCRB data — crimes against Dalits have increased by 47 per cent in the period between 2014 and 2018. The rivalry between the BJP and the Congress has triggered a "competitive rape politics" where a rape in Rajasthan — a Congress ruled state — is being compared to the Hathras incident. This is deeply shameful. Both incidents were heinous and gruesome. But Yogi Adityanath, who dresses in saffron and calls himself a Yogi, must answer for the condemnable manner in which his administration and police acted in Hathras. Even now the victim's family is being barricaded by the police, their phones are being illegally tapped, and journalists or politicians of Opposition parties are not being allowed to meet them freely. Why?

The brutal Nirbhaya rape led to national outrage because it happened in the capital of the Republic. But the Nirbhaya of Hathras was not that fortunate. She was fatally assaulted on September 14, and — as per her own state-

ment — raped, her neck broken and her tongue cut. But national media hardly took any real notice of this shocking incident, until her death on September 29. On electronic media we were presented frenzied accounts of which actresses allegedly smoked hash, Rhea Chakraborty's bail application, and Kangana Ranaut's verbal tantrums. If the media had paused from its breathless chase of Bollywood actresses and focused on this case, perhaps the victim would have got better medical attention, and her life could have been saved.

The minimum that should be done now is to immediately suspend the Hathras DM. The Superintendent of Police (SP) has been suspended. The accused should be tried through a fast-track court in a time bound manner, and if found guilty, hanged like the Nirbhaya perpetrators. There is a demand that an investigation into the rape and murder should be entrusted to the CBI. But, a "caged parrot" may not be the solution. What this case needs is a time bound inquiry by a Supreme Court designated judge, which must also fix responsibility for the highly suspect role played by the UP government and the police. It would be good if the UP CM is asked a few questions, not only by his political opponents, but in a judicial process.

The writer, an author, is a former diplomat and in politics

What this case needs is a time bound inquiry by a Supreme Court designated judge, which must also fix responsibility for the highly suspect role played by the UP government and the police

LETTERS

COVID-19 PROWESS

That the President of United States Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump tested positive for Covid-19 proves the prowess of coronavirus and its ability to infect everyone irrespective of their caste, class, socio-economic and political status. Vulnerability of people to the virus would increase manifold when they throw caution to the winds and fail to comply with scientifically proven health protocols. No doubt it is a huge setback electorally to Mr Trump who had not only downplayed the threat from Covid-19 pandemic, but also poured scorn on scientists, saying they were mistaken on the severity of the situation. For months, he refused to wear a mask on all but a few occasions and repeatedly questioned its effectiveness while mocking others including his opponent in the presidential race, Joe Biden, for wearing one. Having tested positive, Trump will find it difficult to change the focus of the presidential campaign from Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on US economy to political terrain he considers more favourable. Aside from the campaign, the symbolism of a president being infected with virus could rattle both the governors of the state and the business owners who are now trying to restore a semblance of normal life.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan

LET US BURY THE HATCHET

APROPOS YOUR balanced editorial *Babri verdict ignores breach of rule of law* (Oct. 2). For 28 years the Babri demolition case was in limbo and at last it was closed. You should admit the Kar seva was permitted by the courts and volunteers of various Hindu outfits assembled. And Section 144 was not imposed. The accused 32 may be present but did not instigate the kar sevaks. It was the frenzied mob, swayed by sloganeering, that indulged in destruction. No doubt a few leaders had jumped with joy but it does not mean that they had conspired. Moreover, the Babri structure was a dilapidated one where 'Namaz' was not performed for 7 decades. Recently, the Shiv Sena leadership had boasted that its sainiks had demolished it within minutes. Hence, let us bury the hatchet and welcome a magnificent Ram temple and a grand mosque in Ayodhya.

A. Seshagiri Rao, Chennai

GANDHIJI'S SILENCE

THIS HAS reference to your edit page article *How Gandhiji used silence as a weapon to ensure peace* (Oct. 2). His peace movement is recognised worldwide. True, Babuji spoke less and acted more. Through a meaningful silence, he touched the hearts of the people and leaders worldwide and depended on fasts, marches and satyagraha to make his point. His ideas influence both who admire and who do not. He was having confidence in his concept that there are several ways to express peace. His ideal of peace is still an inspiration for the betterment of the society. He showed the path for a compassionate India and of truth and peace.

V.V. Suresh, Vellore

Hope alive for those shown the door in BJP reshuffle

Great expectations

The BJP organisational reshuffle has not disappointed anyone. It seems all those shown the door are hoping for "better" options. The party's former vice-president, Vinay Sahasrabudde, is said to be angling for a Union Cabinet berth. Mr Sahasrabudde is currently head of ICCR, enjoying a Cabinet rank. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would accommodate him as the country's education minister. Another axed vice-president, Prabhath Jha, is hoping to get a gubernatorial assignment. Ram Madhav, who was a party general secretary and a player in the north-eastern states and Jammu & Kashmir, is aspiring to head the party in his home state Andhra.

Swamy's allegation

Subramanian Swamy filing yet another complaint against Congress president Sonia Gandhi for allegedly giving "wrong"

information on her educational qualification is not news. In a letter addressed to the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Mr Swamy observed, "In our country, the educational qualification is highly valued and obtained after much effort. Hence our culture has given such high value to educational qualifications." Mr Swamy's focus on obtaining a higher educational qualification is being viewed with a lot of interest. Some cynics wonder why Mr Swamy, an astute politician, currently unhappy with the BJP leadership for its failure to "discipline" in-house Swamy-baiter Amit Malviya, has written this. Mr Malviya heads the BJP IT cell and weeks before the BJP organisational reshuffle, Mr Swamy had boasted that Mr Malviya would be removed. Nothing happened.

The controversy around Sonia's educational qualification was first raked up in 1999 when the Congress president reportedly attributed her English language course obtained in Cambridge to the University of Cambridge. Sonia had apologised, pointing that it was a "typing mistake".



By WAQYANAWIS

Man of many bosses

He has been described as an 'eighth wonder' of the world. Uttar Pradesh's senior bureaucrat Navneet Sahgal has a knack of bouncing back. The former principal secretary to chief minister Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav, has now become head of the information and public relations department under

chief minister Yogi Adityanath after the Hathras gang-rape outrage. Yogi, struggling to counter adverse media coverage, had no choice but to think of Mr Sahgal as his Man Friday. Mr Sahgal also holds the distinction of serving as personal secretary to Union minister Akhilesh Das who had belonged to the Congress during Manmohan Singh era. In a state where bureaucrats get marked over their alleged political affiliation, Mr Sahgal, currently additional chief secretary, is proving to be an exception. Exceptional.

Midnight 'news' alerts

Journalists covering the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) are both intrigued and annoyed for getting WhatsApp messages on almost a daily basis post-midnight. The message, attributing information to a prominent LJP leader, makes sensational claims such as LJP walking out of NDA or fighting all Bihar Assembly seats independently. While it disturbs the sleep of many scribes, mornings usher in business as usual within the NDA.

Abandoned Kamal Nath

All is not well between former Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath and senior party leader Digvijaya Singh. At one point when the Congress was in power for 15 months from December 2018 to March 2020, the Nath-Digvijaya jodi was a *bada bhai-chhota bhai* pair. But now that crucial Assembly by-polls have been announced in 28 seats, Digvijaya is not to be seen. Kamal Nath, at 72, is fighting a lone and grim battle to regain a foothold in MP politics. Chances of dislodging Shivraj Singh Chouhan regime are slim as the BJP needs to win barely one third of the seats going to polls while the Congress would need almost all of them: the 20 out of 28 seats for Congress is seen as a figure that would rattle everyone in the BJP from Bhopal to New Delhi. The Nov. 10 verdict is keenly awaited when results of these by-polls would be declared along with the Bihar Assembly outcome.

The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power

IN BRIEF

**Reunification:
German anniv**

Berlin, Oct. 3: Germany is marking the 30th anniversary of its reunification on Saturday, drawing a generally positive picture of the progress made in knitting together east and west amid celebrations that are low-key because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Germany was reunited on October 3, 1990, after four decades of Cold War division. East Germany joined the western federal republic less than a year after the east's Communist rulers — under pressure from growing protests — opened the Berlin Wall and the rest of the highly fortified border between the two states. While much progress has been made since then, economic and other differences between the west and the less-prosperous east still persist.

**Sudan, rebels
seal peace deal**

Juba: Sudan's transitional authorities and a rebel alliance signed on Saturday a peace deal initiated in August that aims to put an end to the country's decades-long civil wars, in a televised ceremony marking the agreement. "The next biggest challenge is to work with all local and international partners to preach the agreement and its benefits," Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok tweeted on Friday upon his arrival at Juba, the capital of South Sudan. Reaching a negotiated settlement with rebels in Sudan's far-flung provinces has been a crucial goal for the transitional government, which assumed power after a popular uprising led the military to overthrow President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. Sudanese civilian leaders hope the deal will allow them to revive the country's battered economy by slashing military spending, which takes up much of the national budget.

**Afghan car bomb
attack: 15 killed**

Jalalabad: At least 15 people were killed and more than 30 others wounded in a car bomb attack that targeted a government building in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, officials said. The explosion occurred at an administrative building that also housed some military facilities in the Ghani Khel district of Nangarhar province, the governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani said. "The car bomb detonated at the entrance of the district headquarters building. Several armed attackers tried to enter the building after the attack but were killed by security forces," he said. Provincial police spokesman Farid Khan confirmed the details. He said most of the victims were Afghan security force members but several civilians were also among the dead. No one had so far claimed responsibility for the attack but Khan blamed the Taliban. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in the region.

**RICK MORANIS
PUNCHED
IN ATTACK**

Los Angeles, Oct. 3: "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" star Rick Moranis was assaulted in an apparently random street attack in New York.

The 67-year-old actor was punched in the face by a random passer-by when he was walking on Central Park West near 70th Street, reported *New York Post*. A CCTV video footage, released by the police, showed a man dressed in black hoodie with a backpack on his shoulder punch Moranis with a closed fist directly into the face. Afterwards, the actor fell to the ground and the suspect nonchalantly walked away.

Moranis, who suffered pain in his head, back and right hip, went to a local hospital to be evaluated, police said. He later filed a complaint with the police. In a statement, Moranis' spokesperson said that the actor is doing "fine".

"Rick Moranis was assaulted on the Upper West Side yesterday. He is fine but grateful for everyone's thoughts and well wishes," the representative said. Moranis rose to prominence with his work on Canadian comedy sketch series "Second City Television".

He later became one of the most sought-after comic stars in the 1980s and 1990s.

His film credits include 1984's "Ghostbusters" and its 1989 sequel, "Spaceballs", "Parent-hood" and "The Flintstones" remake.



A demonstrator holds up a placard reading "Fake news Trump tested positive" to protest against masks and virus restrictions during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic in Konstanz, southern Germany, on Saturday. — AFP

Cavalier WH approach to Covid catches up to Don

Jinping wishes Trump, Melania speedy recovery

Washington, Oct. 3: Masks were rarely spotted in the West Wing. Crowds of people gathered shoulder to shoulder on the White House South Lawn. And Air Force One streaked across the sky from one massive campaign rally to another. With ready access to testing and the best public health minds at his disposal, President Donald Trump should have been the American safest from Covid-19. Instead, he flouted his own government's guidelines and helped create a false sense of invulnerability in the White House, an approach that has now failed him as it did a nation where more than 200,000 people have died. Marine One, the presidential helicopter, lifted off Friday to take Trump to a military hospital from the same White House lawn that less than a week earlier had been the site of his celebratory nomination of a new Supreme Court justice as he charged toward the November election.

Several people at the event, including a US senator, have since tested positive for the Coronavirus. Trump is now ensconced at Walter Reed Medical Center after running a fever and feeling fatigued following his early-morning revelation that he had tested positive for the virus. "He let the country down by disregarding the CDC, ignoring federal guidelines and acting like he was Superman," said presidential historian David Brinkley. "He did not just downplay the virus, he paraded around like a peacock, making fun of those who took it seriously."

From the pandemic's early days, Trump, by his own admission, played down the severity of the virus. He repeatedly suggested it would "disappear" and for a while was pushing for the American economy to fully reopen by Easter, just a month after the pandemic fully engulfed the nation. And he soon began resisting the advice of public health experts on his own coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx. He publicly clashed with the

Beijing, Oct. 3: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday wished a speedy recovery to his US counterpart Donald Trump and first lady Melania who have tested positive for Coronavirus.

In a message to Trump, Xi, 67, said that after learning President Trump and Melania have tested positive for Covid-19, he and his wife Peng Liyuan extend sympathy to them and wish them a speedy recovery, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported.

Leaders and prominent figures from around the world on Friday sent their best wishes to Trump and his wife. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pre-

sident Ram Nath Kovind wished Trump and the first lady a quick recovery. "Wishing my friend @POTUS @realDonaldTrump and @FLOTUS a quick

recovery and good health," Modi tweeted. "Our prayers and best wishes are with you during this time," Kovind said.

In a message posted on his official web page, Russian President Vladimir Putin wished Trump well, saying: "I am sure that your inherent vitality, good spirits and optimism will help you cope with the dangerous virus."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, also sent well wishes. "My best wishes to President Trump and the First Lady. Hope they both have a speedy recovery from Coronavirus," Johnson tweeted. — PTT

Trump's age, health woes raise his risk for Covid-19

Washington, Oct. 3: President Donald Trump has several strikes against him — age, obesity, elevated cholesterol and being male — that could put him at greater risk of becoming seriously ill from the Coronavirus infection he disclosed early Friday.

Here's what experts say about Trump's outlook and next steps.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS: Infection causes mild or no symptoms in about 80 per cent of cases. About 15 per cent of people become seriously ill and 5 per cent get critical-

ly ill. Symptoms, when they do occur, usually appear two to 14 days after infection and can include loss of smell or taste, coughing, a sore throat, trouble breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea and fever.

Up to half of patients who are hospitalised don't have a fever when admitted but nearly all develop one. How people fare varies widely — some seem to be recovering and then suddenly worsen. Pneumonia, often with a specific appearance on X-rays, some-

times develops but complications in virtually every organ of the body have been reported. Doctors also increasingly recognize that some people have long-lasting symptoms.

TRUMP'S RISKS Older age, being male and having any other health problems increase the chance of severe illness, and Trump has those. At 74, "his age would be the primary risk factor," said Dr. David Banach, an infectious diseases physician at the University of Connecticut's health system. — AP

ads of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over everything from the risks associated with opening schools to the timetable for a potential vaccine.

Those on the White House staff dared not break with the president, who wanted to embody a nation on the way back, not

one fixated with health guidelines that would remind a nervous public about the virus rather than an economic resurgence. Experts urged the widespread use of masks, including CDC Director Robert Redfield, who testified before Congress last month that face coverings could be a more effective safeguard than a vaccine.

The fact that sexual and gender minorities are victimised by people close to them at such higher rates "does kind of raise questions hopefully future research can address about the nature of these incidents and the nature of these relationships," Flores said. "There are certain socialisations that goes in that. I think many people are so-

cialised and have a certain disdain for trans and queer people," said Tori Cooper of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a national organisation that advocates for the LGBTQ community. Cooper is the director of community engagement for the organisation's Transgender Justice Initiative. A survey of more than 12,000 LGBTQ teens around the country released in 2018 by the Human Rights Campaign found that 67% report they've heard family members make negative comments about LGBTQ people. Cooper said transgender people are particularly vulnerable, especially by partners or people close to them.

The HRC has documented the killings of at least 30 transgender or non-gender conforming people in 2020 alone. The majority were Black and Latina transgender women. "The-

re's an incalculable amount of transphobia ... that plays into these relationships," Cooper said. The new study didn't have a large enough sample of surveys by transgender people to come to a conclusion about their specific victimization rates, but Flores said other research has shown they are particularly vulnerable.

The study also found that sexual and gender minorities are burglarized at twice the rate of other households, and that they're more likely to be victims of other types of property theft.

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2 US SENATORS, TRUMP EX-AIDE TEST VIRUS +VE

Washington, Oct. 3: Two US Senators, a former adviser to President Donald Trump, his campaign manager and three White House journalists have tested positive for Covid-19, joining several officials working at the presidential palace to have contracted the infection.

Republican Senators Thom Tillis from North Carolina, and Mike Lee from Utah confirmed they have been tested positive for Coronavirus.

"Over the last few months, I've been routinely tested for Covid-19, including testing negative last Saturday, but tonight my rapid antigen test came back positive," Tillis said.

Hope Hicks, 31, is the closest aide of the President to have tested positive. Former White House counsellor Kellyanne Conway also announced on Twitter that she has been tested positive. Trump Campaign Manager Bill Stepien tested positive as well. The White House Correspondents Association confirmed that three member journalists have tested positive. — PTT

PENCE-HARRIS DEBATE ON

Washington, Oct. 3: The vice presidential debate between Mike Pence and Kamala Harris next week will go on as scheduled after President Donald Trump tested positive for the Coronavirus on Friday. An official with the Commission on Presidential Debates confirmed that no changes are anticipated to the Wednesday night debate in Salt Lake City. Both Pence and Harris underwent tests for the Coronavirus on Friday and tested negative. Pence's physician said in a memo that the vice president was not considered a "close contact" of anyone infected with Covid-19. — AP

Azerbaijan Prez criticises mediators; fighting rages on

Baku, Oct. 3: Heavy fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan continued Saturday in their conflict over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, while Azerbaijan's president criticised the international mediators who have tried for decades to resolve the dispute. Fighting that started September 27 is the worst to afflict Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas since the 1994 end of a war that left the region in Azerbaijan under the control of ethnic Armenian local forces backed by Armenia.

Shushan Stepanian, a spokeswoman for the Armenian Defence Ministry, said that "intensive fighting is taking place along the entire front line," and claimed that Armenian forces had shot down three planes. Azerbaijan's defence ministry did not respond to the claim of planes being shot down, but said Armenian forces had shelled civilian territory within Azerbaijan, including the city of Terter.

Nagorno-Karabakh officials have said more than 150 servicemen on their side have been killed so far. Azerbaijani authorities haven't given details on their military casual-

ties but said 19 civilians have been killed and 55 more wounded. Nagorno-Karabakh was a designated autonomous region within Azerbaijan during the Soviet era. It claimed independence from Azerbaijan in 1991, about three months before the Soviet Union's collapse. Full-scale war that broke out in 1992 killed an estimated 30,000 people. By the time it ended in 1994, Armenian forces not only held Nagorno-Karabakh itself but substantial areas outside the territory's formal borders.

Several United Nations Security Council resolutions have called for withdrawal from those areas, which the Armenian forces have disregarded. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said in a television interview that the forces must withdraw from those areas before fighting can stop.

In the interview with al-Jazeera, a transcript of which was distributed Saturday by the presidential press office, Aliyev criticised the so-called Minsk Group of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has tried to mediate a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. — AP

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NEW STUDY

Killings of at least 30 transgender or non-gender conforming people documented in 2020

Sexual, gender minorities more likely to be crime victims

Phoenix, Oct. 3: The first study of its kind found that people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or gender non-conforming are nearly four times as likely to be victims of violent crime than those outside such communities.

Although other research has long shown that LGBTQ people and gender minorities are disproportionately affected by crime, the study published in *Science Advances*, a multidisciplinary journal, on Friday looked at data that has only been collected since 2016, making for the

first comprehensive and national study to examine the issue. It found that members of such communities, referred to as sexual and gender minorities, experienced a rate of 71.1 violent victimisations per 1,000 persons a year, compared with 19.2 per 1,000 a year among non-sexual and gender minorities. But it was the fact that sexual and gender minorities are victims of such a variety of crimes at such disparate rates — and who they're victimised by — that surprised researchers, said lead author Andrew R. Flores, an assistant profes-

sor at American University. For example, researchers found that such a population is much more likely to be victimised by someone they know well than a person who is a non-sexual and gender minority.

The fact that sexual and gender minorities are victimised by people close to them at such higher rates "does kind of raise questions hopefully future research can address about the nature of these incidents and the nature of these relationships," Flores said. "There are certain socialisations that goes in that. I think many people are so-

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SHORT TAKES

IPL player reports corrupt approach

New Delhi: A cricketer, competing in the Indian Premier League in the UAE, has "reported a corrupt approach", putting BCCI's anti-corruption unit (ACU) on a high alert. The 13th edition of the IPL in being held in the UAE in a bio-secure environment, which has significantly reduced the chance for persons with dubious credentials approaching the player directly. The threat though still remains by and large due to the online network of corruptors. BCCI ACU chief Ajit Singh confirmed the development to PTI. "Yes (a player has reported approach)," Singh, the former DGP of Rajasthan Police confirmed the news. "We are tracking him. It will take some time," he said when asked if the alleged corruptor or "person of interest" has been nabbed. As per anti-corruption protocols, the name of the player (Indian or overseas) or franchise is not revealed for confidentiality purposes. — PTI

Tsitsipas through to fourth round

Paris: Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced to the fourth round of the French Open on Saturday after his opponent Aljaz Bedene retired with an ankle injury while trailing 6-1, 6-2, 3-1. Slovenian Bedene, who defeated Tsitsipas in straight sets when they met at Rotterdam earlier this year, first called for the physiotherapist on Court Suzanne Lenglen to get treatment on his right ankle after going down 5-0 in the opening set. After returning to court Bedene won the first game to get on the scoreboard and then got his ankle strapped before the start of the second set. Tsitsipas, the reigning ATP Finals champion, kept his focus and went about his business smoothly, hitting 28 winners and breaking the 56th-ranked Bedene's serve five times before he decided he could no longer continue. — Agencies

James shines in Everton's win

Liverpool: James Rodriguez scored twice and assisted fellow Colombian Yerry Mina's header as Everton beat Brighton 4-2 in the Premier League on Saturday for a fourth successive win at the start of the Premier League season. Coupled with progress in the League Cup, Everton has made its best start to a season since the 19th century with seven wins out of seven. Everton, which last won the English championship in 1985, is top of the early standings. Everton has the leading scorer across Europe's top five leagues after Dominic Calvert-Lewin headed the hosts in front in the 16th minute with his ninth goal of the season in all competitions. The prolific form has earned Calvert-Lewin a first call-up to England but there was less joy for another member of Gareth Southgate's squad — goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. The England No. 1 was at fault for Neal Maupay's equalizer, failing to hold Leandro Trossard's volley hammered into the turf. — AP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 3.30 pm; Kings XI Punjab vs Chennai Super Kings from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

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

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Leicester City vs West Ham from 4.30 pm; Arsenal vs Sheffield United from 6.30 pm; Manchester United vs Tottenham Hotspur from 9 pm; Aston Villa vs Liverpool from 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

Italian League: Atalanta vs Cagliari from 4 pm; Lazio vs Inter Milan from 6.30 pm; AC Milan vs Spezia from 9.30 pm; Juventus vs Napoli from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

BASKETBALL

NBA Finals (Game 3 of best-of-7): Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 5 am (Monday) on Sony Six, HD

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DELHI DHAMAKA

Shreyas leads from front as DC down KKR in run-feast

Sharjah, Oct. 3: Shreyas Iyer showed his class with a captain's knock and pacer Anrich Nortje honoured his skipper's heroics by bowling a splendid penultimate over in Delhi Capitals' 18-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders in a thrilling IPL match here on Saturday.

Iyer's (88 no off 38 balls) magnificent power-hitting after Prithvi Shaw's opening act propelled Delhi Capitals to an impressive 228 for four after being put into bat first by Dinesh Karthik.

If Iyer and Shaw weren't not enough, Rishabh Pant (38 off 17 balls) dusted off his rustiness with a quickfire knock.

The target was difficult but not impossible but Delhi produced the best effort by a pace bowling unit on a placid track with KKR finishing at 210 for 8.

Harshal Patel, as Ishant Sharma's replacement, did well enough to finish with 2 for 34 in 4 overs while the ever-improving Nortje (3/33 in 4 overs) was also

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: P. Shaw c Shubman Gill b Nagarkoti 66, S. Dhawan c Morgan b Varun 26, S. Iyer (not out) 88, R. Pant c Shivam Mavi b Russell 38, M. Stoinis c Varun b Russell 1, S. Hetmyer (not out) 7. **Extras (w 2) 2. Total (for four wickets in 20 overs) 228.** **FoW:** 1-56, 2-129, 3-201, 4-221.

Bowling: Cummins 4-0-49-0, S. Mavi 3-0-40-0, C. Varun 4-0-49-1, S. Narine 2-0-26-0, A. Russell 4-0-29-2, K. Nagarkoti 3-0-35-1.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shubman Gill c Pant b Mishra 28, S. Narine b Nortje 3, N.

Rana c sub (AR Patel) b HV Patel 58, A. Russell c Nortje b Rabada 13, D. Karthik c Dhawan b HV Patel 6, E. Morgan c Hetmyer b Nortje 44, P. Cummins c HV Patel b Nortje 5, R. Tripathi b Stoinis 36, K. Nagarkoti (not out) 3, Shivam Mavi (not out) 1. **Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 2, w 5) 13. Total (for eight wickets in 20 overs) 210.** **FoW:** 1-8, 2-72, 3-94, 4-117, 5-117, 6-122, 7-200, 8-207.

Bowling: K. Rabada 4-0-51-1, Nortje 4-0-33-3, R. Ashwin 2-0-26-0, M. Stoinis 4-0-46-1, H. Patel 4-0-34-2, A. Mishra 2-0-14-1.

impressive.

However, it was Kagiso Rabada (1/31 in 4 overs), who dismissed the dangerous Andre Russell (13) cheaply, was taken to task by Eoin Morgan (44 from 18 balls) and Rahul Tripathi (36 off 16 balls) in

the 18th over that got KKR 23 runs.

With 31 to get from 12 balls, Nortje bowled a superb 19th over getting rid of Morgan and only giving five runs in the process.

With 26 needed off the last over,



SHREYAS IYER			
R	B	6s	4s
88	38	6	7

Delhi skipper Shreyas Iyer in action against KKR. — BCCI

Upbeat Sunrisers take on MI

Sharjah, Oct. 3: Boasting an explosive batting line-up that complements their effective death bowling, Mumbai Indians will have their nose ahead in the IPL match against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Sunday.

To add to SRH's worry, doubts remained over lead seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's participation in the match. Bhuvneshwar picked up an injury on Friday night and was unable to complete his final over in the game against Chennai Super Kings. He walked off the field with the help of the team physio.

In the event the experienced seamer misses out, table-toppers Mumbai will fancy their chances more at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, whose boundaries are much shorter than Dubai and Abu Dhabi and have been a paradise for power-hitters.

The defending champions, having humbled a strong Kings XI Punjab in their last game, are unlikely to make any



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Priyam Garg (left) and Abhishek Sharma. — BCCI

changes to the winning combination. Skipper Rohit Sharma is in sublime form and he can pummel any attack into submission on his day. Rohit has scored 170 runs from four games this season.

While the poor form of Quinton De Kock is worrisome, the prolific Suryakumar Yadav would be more than keen to convert his starts. The

biggest positive for the defending champions is that their middle-order has finally delivered with Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard launching into opposition attacks with their big-hitting prowess. Young Kishan has been the find for MI, after his blistering yet responsible knock against Royal Challengers Bangalore. — PTI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 13
● SRH won: 7
● Mumbai: 6

MEETING IN 2019

● Mumbai beat Sunrisers by 40 runs at Hyderabad.
● Mumbai beat Sunrisers in Super Over at Mumbai.

FOR THE RECORD

● David Warner holds the record for the most number of 50+ scores in IPL. He has made 48 fifty plus scores (four hundreds and 44 fifties) in 130 innings.

● Trent Boult who has played 99 matches since 2009 will complete his century of matches in T20.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

Hopefully, this year shows these kids what they're capable of.

— **DAVID WARNER**
SRH captain on performance of youngsters Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma

CHENNAI SEEK TURNAROUND IN CLASH OF KINGS

Dubai, Oct. 3: Hit hard by a start that least defines them, Chennai Super Kings would be desperate to find answers to their predicament when they take on Kings XI Punjab in an IPL match here on Sunday.

So used to be on top of their game in the previous editions, sitting at the bottom of the points table now with three losses in four matches is an unknown territory for the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side.

Nothing has worked for them despite having the resources. They even made three changes to their playing XI against Sunrisers Hyderabad but neither comeback of Ambati Rayudu nor the presence of Dwayne Bravo could lift the gloom. A misfiring top-order, save Faf du Plessis, combined with inadequate run-flow in the middle overs and the habit of leaving way too much for the climax, proved to be their bane.

— PTI



Kohli back in form, RCB win

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 3: Captain Virat Kohli roared back to form with an unbeaten 72 and stitched a 99-run stand with Devdutt Padikkal (63) to power Royal Challengers Bangalore to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Saturday.

This was after wrist spinner Yuzvendra Chahal snared three wickets in an impressive bowling show that helped them restrict RR to 154 for 6.

Kohli's knock came off 53 balls with seven fours and two sixes. It was RCB's third win in four matches.

Padikkal yet again produced an impressive innings before he was dismissed by Jofra Archer in the 16th over, after hitting six fours and one six.

The young RCB opener allowed his captain to get in and settle down before Kohli produced some of his trademark shots later on to accelerate.

The RCB needed 31 runs after Padikkal's dismissal and another in-form batsman AB de Villiers (12 not out) ensured that his side reached the target with five balls to spare.

Having failed to score big in his earlier three innings (14, 1, 3), Kohli took time to settle down and scored mostly in ones and twos initially.

Padikkal continued his good form having scored 56, 1, 54 in his three earlier innings. He reached to his

SCORECARD

Rajasthan Royals: Jos Buttler c Padikkal b Saini 22, Steve Smith b Udana 5, Sanju Samson c & b Chahal 4, Robin Uthappa c Udana b Chahal 17, Mahipal Lomror c Padikkal b Chahal 47, Riyan Parag c Finch b Udana 16, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 24, Jofra Archer (not out) 16. **Extras (LB-1, NB-1, W-1) 3. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs) 154.** **FoW:** 1-27, 2-31, 3-31, 4-70, 5-105, 6-114.

Bowling: I. Udana 4-0-41-2, Washington 4-0-20-0, N. Saini 4-1-37-1, Y. Chahal 4-0-24-3, A. Zampa 3-0-27-0, S. Dube 1-0-4-0.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Devdutt Padikkal b Archer 63, Aaron Finch lbw b Gopal 8, Virat Kohli (not out) 72, AB de Villiers (not out) 12. **Extras (B-1, W-2) 3. Total (for 2 wickets in 19.1 overs) 158.** **FoW:** 1-25, 2-124.

Bowling: J. Archer 4-0-18-1, J. Unadkat 3-0-31-0, S. Gopal 4-0-27-1, T. Curran 3.1-0-40-0, R. Tewatia 4-0-28-0, R. Parag 1-0-13-0.

fifty in 34 balls. He was the dominant batsman in RCB's opening stand of 25 runs with Aaron Finch who was out in the third over with a score of 8.

Earlier, Chahal returned with figures of 3/24 from his four overs to restrict RR to 154 for 6.

Chahal jumped to joint top spot in the bowlers' chart with Kings XI Punjab's Mohammed Shami on eight wickets. — PTI

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	4	3	1	0	6	+0.588
Royal Challengers Bangalore	4	3	1	0	6	-0.954
Mumbai Indians	4	2	2	0	4	+1.094
Sunrisers Hyderabad	4	2	2	0	4	-0.084
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	2	2	0	4	-0.121
Rajasthan Royals	4	2	2	0	4	-0.317
Kings XI Punjab	4	1	3	0	2	+0.521
Chennai Super Kings	4	1	3	0	2	-0.719

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

NUMBERS GAME — CSK vs KXIP

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 22
● CSK won: 13
● Punjab won: 9

MEETING IN 2019

● Chennai Super Kings defeated Kings XI Punjab by 22 runs at Chennai.
● Kings XI Punjab beat Chennai Super Kings by six wickets at Mohali

FOR THE RECORD

● Mohammed Shami who has taken eight wickets at an average of 14.75 in four innings is the joint highest wicket-taker this edition.

● M.S. Dhoni who has smashed 299 sixes in 287 innings of 321 matches needs just one more to become the 21st batsman to complete a triple century of sixes in T20 cricket

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

Young guns manifest the richness of Indian cricket



Ayaz Memon
Over The Top

Insane hitting by batsmen, especially in the death overs, has been one of the major talking points of the IPL's second week. Power-hitters like Rohit, Rahul and Samson from the top order, and Pollard and Hardik Pandya as finishers, have peppered the grounds with sixes galore.

Then there is Rahul Tewatia, who hit five sixes in an over to transform defeat into victory for Rajasthan over Punjab, making a Himalayan tar-

get of 223 look like a stroll in the park. And Watson, Warner, Russell, Bairstow, Morgan and Pant — who binge on sixes — haven't yet got into full throttle!

Interestingly, while flat pitches, fast outfield and small grounds (Sharjah) have enabled several scores of 200+ plus already, apart from two stirring Super Over finishes, bowlers haven't exactly been rendered inconsequential.

Shami, Cummins, Rabada among pacemen

and Chahal and Rashid among spinners have been quite superb. If they've sometimes still finished on the losing side, it is because their batsmen failed them.

For India's superstars, it's been a mixed bag so far. Rohit has hit splendid form and, after losing the first match, has inspired Mumbai to the top of the table as much with his batting as tactical nous in crunch situations.

M.S. Dhoni was able to lift his batting form against Sunrisers yet is still short of the vigour of old that would help him win matches off his own bat. His problems are compounded by the fact that CSK are also bottom of the points table currently.

That RCB were able to

clinch a thrilling Super Over climax against Mumbai Indians, and the he hit the winning shot, is only small redemption for Virat Kohli. He's otherwise had three batting failures in a row, and despite two victories, RCB still look undercooked.

The highlight of the past week for me, however has been the performance of young Indian players, manifesting the richness of cricket talent in the country as well as the role played by the IPL in exposing them to the world.

Take the match between CSK and SRH on Friday. While Warner and Rashid played big roles in the team's success, it was the rollicking partnership between 19-year-old Priyam Garg and 20-year-

old Abhishek Sharma which turned things around.

All looked lost when Warner and Williamson were dismissed off successive deliveries before Garg and Sharma played with great intertidity to break CSK's stranglehold. SRH's young bowlers Natarajan, Khaleel and Samad played their part splendidly too.

This is not an isolated example where India's youngsters have shone. KKR, who have invested in Shubman Gill, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Shivam Mavi and Varun Chakravarthy have started reaping rewards already.

Gill is becoming widely regarded as India's best young batsman. Coach Ravi Shastri, who I spoke to, thinks very highly of

him and sees him as someone who should be a "regular fixture for India in all formats."

Leg spinners Ravi Bishnoi (Punjab) and Rahul Chahar (Mumbai) have caught the eye too even if they haven't claimed as many wickets as Chahal or Rashid.

Getting into a slightly older age group, there is Navdeep Saini, Sanju Samson, Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer who are also serving their teams with great efficiency, some of them with excellence.

A bulk of these players have come from the under-19 teams, but the IPL showcases their talent to India's selectors, coaches and captain whose business it is to track performances of

players, especially youngsters. The importance of the IPL in fast-tracking players into the Indian team is evident from what's happened in the past 12 years: R. Ashwin, Rahane, Jadeja, Rahul, even Rohit and Kohli to an extent have benefited from playing in the league.

Of course, not everybody who has excelled in the IPL has made it to the India team or been able to sustain a place, as the examples of Paul Valthaty, Manpreet Gony, Pawan Negi and several others highlight.

Having got the platform and the attention, it is still up to the player to make the most of the opportunity. An India career does not come free, whatever the earnings in the IPL.