

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | SATURDAY 17 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 3 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 1
Tithi: Prathamai
Star: Chithirai
Rahukalam:
9 am to 10.30 am
Yamagandam:
1.30 pm to 3 pm

PRAYERS

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

SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.00 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 6.19 AM

MOONSET TOMORROW 6.29 PM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+60,152)	(+800)
74,28,683	1,12,993

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+4,389)
TN: 6,79,191 | 10,529

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3,93,89,416

DEATHS

11,05,919

COUNTRIES,
AREAS WITH
CASES

214

worldometers.info

LS speaker replaces chairmen of 2 panels with their party colleagues

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday nominated BSP MP Ritesh Pandey as chairperson of a parliamentary panel, replacing his party colleague Shyam Singh Yadav. Similarly, the speaker nominated YSR Congress MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry as chairperson of parliamentary panel on the subordinate legislation in place of his party colleague Raghu Ramakrishna Raju. — PTI

Govt approves 14th tranche of electoral bonds; sale closes on Oct. 28

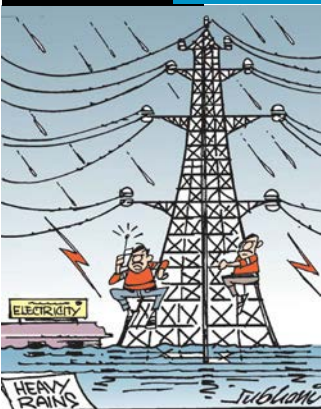
New Delhi: Ahead of the Bihar election, the government on Friday approved the 14th tranche of electoral bonds which will be open for sale between October 19 to October 28. The Election Commission of India accorded 'no objection' from the Model Code of Conduct angle on October 15 with certain conditions, a finance ministry statement said. — PTI

Hong Kong bars

Air India, Vistara flights till Oct 30

New Delhi: Hong Kong has banned Air India and Vistara flights from October 17 to 30 after a few passengers on their flights tested positive for Covid-19 post arrival, a senior government official said on Friday. This is the third time that Air India flights from India have been banned by the Hong Kong government for bringing passengers who tested positive for the infection after arrival. — PTI

COUNTER POINT



We will restore power once the rainwater recedes!



Don't want loE status for Anna varsity: Minister

CITY | 2



Televised town halls replace US Prez debate

WORLD | 5

SPORT | 6

Mumbai beat KKR by 8 wickets



Lokur panel to monitor stubble burning smog

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

The Supreme Court on Friday appointed a former judge of the court, Justice Madan B. Lokur, to monitor the implementation of various measures taken by Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to curb stubble burning in agricultural fields, which is a major source of choking air pollution in Delhi-NCR during winter every year.

The appointment of the Justice Lokur committee, with him as the sole member, was opposed by the Centre, but the court rejected the Centre's attempts to stall the committee's formation.

The Centre's resistance to Justice Lokur's appointment appears rooted in his addressing seminars and writing articles on free speech and the importance of dissent in democracy, that is seen as under stress due to questionable State actions.

Saying they were not inclined to take an assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken by the three states to curb stubble burning, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde, heading a three-judge bench that included Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian, said: "Nonetheless, it is necessary there must be some monitoring of stubble burning with a view to its prevention before it assumes abnormal proportions." "We are only concerned about the citizens of Delhi NCR (national capital region) being able to breathe in fresh clean air," said Chief Justice Bobde in the course of the hearing.



Chief Justice Bobde

Wimbledon plans return in 2021, with or without fans

Wimbledon, Oct. 16: The Wimbledon tennis tournament is planning its comeback in 2021.

Wimbledon was the only Grand Slam tournament canceled this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, but the All England Club announced plans Friday for its return next year.

"Staging The Championships in 2021 is our number one priority and we are actively engaged in scenario planning in order to deliver on that priority," All England Club chief executive Sally Bolton said. The tournament, canceled this year for the first time since 1945, is scheduled to run next year from June 28-July 11. — PTI

Navarathri begins



Women perform 'Dhunchi' dance on the arrival procession of Goddess Durga idol at their puja pandal ahead of 'Durga Puja' festival in Kolkata on Friday. — PTI

■Report on P2

AIADMK exhorts cadre to ensure 2021 poll victory

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs CHENNAI, OCT. 16

The AIADMK on Friday exhorted cadres to take a vow to see that the party wins the 2021 Assembly polls for the third time in a row, a "historic feat," to ensure it holds the reins of power during its golden jubilee celebrations (2021-22) and work towards it from now on. Sounding the bugle for Assembly polls due next April-May, AIADMK top leaders O. Panneerselvam and Edappadi K. Palaniswami said, "2021 will be a very important year for all of us."

On the eve of the party's foundation day celebrations, the two of them, in a letter to party workers,



recalled the electoral success reaped by party founder M.G. Ramachandran and late supreme J. Jayalalithaa and emphasised hard work to reprise victories. "Let us make the historic achievement of AIADMK remaining in the seat of power during its golden jubileecelebrations," they said and exhorted cadres to start work right from today.

Jayalalithaa had vowed in 2015 that the party would be in power during the centenary celebrations (2016-17) of party founder leader

MGR (1917-87) and she fulfilled her vow, they said and wanted party workers to take a similar pledge to see the party in power during the its jubilee fete.

Hailing the sacrifices of scores of cadres since its inception, Palaniswami and Panneerselvam said: "Let us start a new journey towards the golden jubilee year.Let us take a vow for continuance of the golden rule of the party."

The AIADMK was founded on October 17, 1972, by its iconic leader Ramachandran and the golden jubilee celebrationis due between 2021 and 2022.

Popularly known as MGR, Ramachandran became the Chief Minister in 1977 and was in power till his death in 1987.

School staff suspended over conversion

Erode, Oct. 16: The assistant headmaster and a teacher of a panchayat union elementary school have been suspended as they have allegedly been involved in religious conversion of students.

According to the education department officials, they got a complaint some days ago saying the two staff of the school near Modakurichi, Erode district, have been converting the students to a particular religion.

Based on the complaint, an enquiry was held and the two were suspended on Thursday by the district chief educational officer Balamurali, the officials said. — PTI

Govt will fix right age of marriage for girls: PM

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

Amid the alarming fact that India and China together contribute to 90 per cent of 1.2 million missing female births annually worldwide, mainly due to gender-biased sex selection, considered among the main reasons for the still prevalent child marriages in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday that the government will fix the "right age" of marriage as soon as a high-level panel submits its report.

"Discussions are underway to decide the right age for marriage of our daughters. From across the country, daughters have written to me asking why the concerned committee has not given its decision yet. I assure you that as soon as the report comes, the government will act on it," Mr Modi said at an event to release a commemorative Rs 75 coin to mark the 75th anniversary of India's longstanding ties with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN.

He also spoke of the steps taken for women's health and hygiene. "We are taking appropriate actions for our daughters' well-being. Through Jal Jeevan Mission, work is going on to provide water to every

ED attaches ₹8.6 cr assets of DMK MP

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 16

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized ₹8.6 crore worth properties belonging to Gautham Sigamani, son of DMK leader K. Ponmudy and a sitting MP representing Kallakurichi constituency, for alleged violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

According to the ED, Sigamani had illegally acquired foreign security without RBI approval. He

had made investments in March 2008 in two companies – one in Jakarta and the other in UAE.

The profits he earned through those investments were not repatriated to India.

ED is empowered to seize properties of the value of any wealth held abroad illegally and hence agricultural land, commercial and residential buildings, bank balances and shares totally valued at ₹8.6 crore had been seized, the ED statement said.

India gained decade of life expectancy, says Lancet study

New Delhi, Oct. 16: India has gained more than a decade of life expectancy since 1990, but there are wide inequalities between states, according to a new study which assessed more than 286 causes of death and 369 diseases and injuries in more than 200 countries and territories across the world.

The study, published in the *Lancet* journal, noted that life expectancy in India has risen from 59.6

years in 1990 to 70.8 years in 2019, ranging from 77.3 years in Kerala to 66.9 years in Uttar Pradesh. However, the researchers, including Srinivas Goli from the Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, said the increase in 'healthy life expectancy' in India has not been as dramatic as the growth of life expectancy since "people are living more years with illness and disability." — PTI

On October 28, Modi will address rallies in Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Patna, Fadnavis, the BJP's Bihar election in-charge, said. The prime minister will address rallies in Chhapra, East Champaran and Samastipur on November 1, he said. On November 3, he will speak at public meetings in West Champaran, Saharsa and Forbesganj, the former Maharashtra chief minister said. Screens will be put up in the nearby grounds and the assembly constituencies, Fadnavis said. — PTI

Modi set to address 12 rallies in poll-bound Bihar

Patna, Oct. 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address 12 rallies in Bihar where the three-phase assembly election will begin on October 28. Addressing a press conference on Friday, senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said the prime minister will address the first set of rallies in Sasaram, Gaya and Bhagalpur on October 23. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and other leaders of the NDA constituent parties will attend the rallies to be addressed by Modi, he said.

household. We are providing sanitary pads for one rupee each," he said.

The women and child development ministry had in June formed a task force under former politician Jaya Jaitly to examine matters related to the age of motherhood and lowering of maternal mortality rate (MMR).

The 10-member panel was due to submit its report to the government by July 31, but as is evident by the PM's remarks, it is yet to do

so. These alarming facts are part of the UN Population Fund's "State of the World Population Report 2020", that was released on June 30.

Determining the age of marriage for women is all the more significant as due to the lockdown from March 24 to check the Covid-19 pandemic, there were reports of several poor families marrying off minor children, mainly girls, due to lack of funds to teach them further.

IAF to get second batch of Rafale jets in November

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

The Indian Air Force will get the second batch of three to four Rafale fighter jets in the first week of November, boosting its firepower amidst the ongoing tensions with China. These fighters will arrive at the Ambala airbase in Haryana by the first week of November from France. The IAF is preparing to receive these fighters and will operationalise them as soon as possible.

India got the first batch of five Rafale aircraft in July, and these were inducted into the IAF in September. The first batch has already been operationalised and has carried out sorties in the Ladakh sector.

Sexual assault on girl: Parents get life term

Coimbatore, Oct. 16: A court here on Friday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for repeatedly sexually assaulting his minor daughter and also awarded life sentence to his wife for remaining silent over the incident.

Delivering the judgment, Pocco judge J. Radhika imposed a fine of ₹1,000 on the parents. The judge also directed the state government to pay a solatium of ₹5 lakh to the girl.

The prosecution case was that the 46-year-old man, working in a coconut farm, sexually assaulted his 14-year-old daughter repeatedly at Anamalai in the district.

Despite narrating the incident to the mother, she kept quiet, following which the man continued the sexual assault.

The girl informed her school mates, who in turn sounded their class teacher who lodged a complaint with police, based on which the couple were arrested in June 2019 and were out on bail. — PTI

ing with particular attention to organic farming."

On the Badaga language, the inscription says, "Badaga language is part of the Dravidian language family - One of the world's primary language families spoken by over 200 million people in south, central and north India."

The UNMP is a United Nations alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. UNMP is currently preparing an international data base of Indigenous Peoples.



Badagas in Nilgiris in late 1800s.

— File picture

Indigenous Mountain Peoples are defined by the UN based on the following criteria:

"The period they have

been living in a specific territory; their cultural distinctiveness including exclusive language, social organization, religion and

spiritual values, modes of production, laws and institutions; self-identification, as well as recognition by other groups, or by state authorities, as a distinct community and a history of struggle and exploitation. Their continued inhabitation, at least part of the year on a mountain, their continued use of traditional food systems around mountain ecosystems, and their clear connection to a particular mountain or range."

Based on these criteria, the Nilgiri Documentation Centre (NDC), a local research body with nearly

four decades of work, submitted the case of the Badagas of the Nilgiris for inclusion in the World's Indigenous Peoples Data Base, with all necessary supporting evidence and documents. The UNMP has accepted the application of the NDC and included the Badaga community in their Data Base of World's Indigenous Peoples, he noted and added that UNESCO has already included the Badaga language (which has no script) as 'Definitely Endangered' in the Unesco atlas of the 'World's Languages in Danger'.

SHORT TAKES

Policy review on waste management

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 16

Plastics not only destroy human beings but also other living creatures living like marine life, fish, turtles and whales, said C Ponnaiyan, Vice Chairman of State Development Policy Council (SDPC).

Chairing a policy review meeting on the implementation of 'The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended in 2018' in Chennai, Ponnaiyan said, 'to make Tamil Nadu free from plastic pollution and to bring in the ban on throw away plastics, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami had taken measures like conducting awareness campaigns to public through Eco Clubs, National Green Corps and District Co-ordinators involving NGO's and School students. He explained the actions taken by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board with regard to Plastic Management.

Passenger traffic increases at Chennai airport

P.A. JEBARAJ | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 16

Five months after domestic flights resumed operation in the country during lockdown, the Chennai airport has seen an increase in the number of travellers.

Officials of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said when domestic flights were resumed in the last week of May, an average of 1,500 passengers travelled a day. Only about 50 flights were allowed in a day as the state government had put a cap of only 25 Chennai-bound flights. In June and August, the flights to other cities within the state went up, and nearly 100 flights were handled at the airport daily.

In September, when the Central government lifted restrictions on e-passes across the country, the number of passengers arriving from other places in Tamil Nadu to the Chennai airport went up, with nearly 160 flights, incoming and outgoing. Thursday alone, Chennai airport had 15, 350 footfalls. This number is the highest since the resumption of flights. But passenger flow from other states decreased as the TN government made e-pass mandatory for the Inter-state travellers.

The AAI had been hoping the state government will cancel e-pass for Inter-state travellers as, it will increase the air traffic to some extent.

TAEI helps reduce trauma of road accident deaths

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 16

The Tamil Nadu Accident and Emergency Care Initiative (TAEI), introduced by the state government for effective trauma care in hospitals, has been playing a crucial role in the target of the government to reduce road accident death toll by 50 per cent by 2023.

Introduced in 2016 after Tamil Nadu became one of the top states which reports high number of road accident deaths every year, TAEI has helped to bring down death toll from 17,500 in 2017 to 10,500 last year.

On the occasion of World Trauma Day on Saturday, DC takes a look at how effective are the trauma care centres in achieving the target.

M. Selvakumar, state head, VK EMRI, said 80 TAEI centres including 24 in medical college hospitals, are currently working effectively across the state. Apart from this, as many as 1,200 '108' ambulances are helping to make trauma care available to accident victims during the golden hour (first 60 minutes).

"We are working hard to achieve the goal. And we are seeing the results. In the first step, we identified the accident hotspots with the support of many departments in the government and institutions including IIT-M. The state 108 ambulances outsourced to GVK-EMRI picked at least 100 cases of trauma every day from across the state in the post-lockdown period."

An audit by the health department revealed that more than 70 per cent of accidents happened on 8 per cent of roads, particularly highways, and deaths happened because accident victims were not able to reach hospitals and receive first aid. To reduce travel time, the state has set up emergency and trauma centres equipped

TRAUMA CARE MANAGEMENT STEPS

1. Primary assessment – Diagnosis of life-threatening injuries.
2. Damage control resuscitation – Treatment of shock and severe injuries.

Both are performed together which avoids loss of valuable moments of the golden hour essential for the patient's survival.
Resuscitation should be initiated simultaneously as the primary assessment is done which includes replacement of the blood loss in the injury with blood, blood products or blood substitutes.

As the resuscitation process is done simultaneously the immediate life-threatening injuries including brain injury and bleeding are identified.

Cases of abdominal or chest injuries especially with internal bleeding will require immediate surgical intervention to save the life and consequence of prolonged hypovolemic shock.

Complications from shock may occur if the person is not managed appropriately and expeditiously in the golden hour.

with ventilators, defibrillators and other lifesaving equipment, besides doctors and nurses on duty round the clock. These centres within 10 minutes of the accident spot act as a hub before the patient is taken to a tertiary centre, he said.

At the tertiary care centre patients are given treatment free of cost. They can move to a private hospital empanelled under the state health insurance scheme and continue free treatment.

An official working with the TAEI centre agreed that only effective trauma care and increasing number of TAEI centres can bring down deaths.

"TAEI centres are working in a systematic manner. As per protocol, ambulance technicians must alert a staff nurse before arrival. This pre-arrival intimation helps us keep a team ready for the critically ill," he said.

Dr Ramprasad J, head and director of Trauma, MIOT Hospital, Chennai explained the significance of the golden hour and ways to provide effective emergency care to vic-

tims.

"It is an established fact that chances of survival of the injured person are higher if they receive emergency medical care in the shortest period. The golden hour after a traumatic injury is the most crucial period that determines the patient's outcome. But unfortunately, in India, victims are unable to reach the right hospital within the golden hour due to lack of awareness and proper rescue facilities. As a progressive society, it is our collective social responsibility to be aware of this 'golden hour concept' which includes field triage guidelines, emergency medical services and rescue and transportation of trauma victims to tertiary care centre within the golden hour. We as a community should partner and associate with trauma care providers to save as many lives of people in our country," he said.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data states that a total of 4,21,104 people died in the country in 2019. During the same year, a total of 4,37,396

Gadkari lauds TN's efforts to reduce road mishaps

Amaravati, Oct 16: Lauding the Tamil Nadu government's efforts at reducing road accidents and related fatalities, Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari on Friday asked other states to take it as an example and work on a mission mode to decrease the mishaps and deaths. Gadkari said five lakh road accidents were happening in the country, resulting in the death of at least 1.5 lakh people every year. "Give highest priority to saving the lives of people. We have to reduce the number of accidents. This is very important," he said, addressing a virtual event from New Delhi wherein he dedicated several road development projects in Andhra Pradesh to the nation. "I am personally very much sensitive and will support you in this mission," Gadkari observed. The Union Minister pointed out that the Tamil Nadu government successfully reduced the road accidents and deaths by 25 per cent. "If you plan and take measures...there is a good example of Tamil Nadu. At the same time, World Bank and Asian Development Bank are helping us. They are ready to sanction Rs 14,000 crore for improving road engineering for black spots," Gadkari said.—PTI

cases of road accidents were reported which left 4,39,262 persons injured and caused 1,54,732 deaths. The highest deaths were reported in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala among young adult males in the 15-39 age group.



A deserted Mylapore road where people usually flock to buy Kolu dolls.

— DC

No Kolu hopping this year

A brief lowdown on Navarathri celebrations amid Covid scare

B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 16

Not many enquiries were made about new model of Kolu dolls arriving for this Navarathri festival, say artisans.

Footfall of Kolu shoppers to places like Mylapore and Nanganallur fell drastically this year.

Only a limited number of dolls hit the market because production had been suspended for a few months due to Covid outbreak.

Sales of Kolu dolls average, say shop-keepers.

People, reluctant to visit stores, preferred buying dolls online.

Online sale of dolls, Thamboolam and return gifts picked up this time. Many have readied hand-made masks for their Kolu guests.

Chennaiites have decided to limit the number of invites to their Kolu and keep hand sanitizers at the entrance of their homes.

Virtual Kolu contests have been organised among family and friends with participants sharing their Kolu photos or videos on social media platforms.

In apartments and gated communities, special virtual meetings have been planned to showcase dolls to all residents.

Some people have scaled down their 7-step Kolu to five or three as they cannot invite all their family and friends this time.

Bengali bizman dies of heart attack at Chennai airport

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 16

A Kolkata-bound passenger died on Friday following a heart attack at the Chennai airport, official sources said.

Mandal Chipdas (73), a Bengali businessman, collapsed at the airport when he came to board a

Spicejet flight.

According to the police, the victim, a cancer patient, came to Tamil Nadu two weeks back to get treatment at a hospital in Vellore. After he got discharged from the hospital on Friday, he came to Chennai to board a Kolkata-bound flight to get home. However, at

around 6:30 pm, when he was readying to board the flight, he suffered chest pain and collapsed. Doctors at the airport pronounced him dead due to cardiac arrest.

The airport police were alerted and a case has been registered. The body was sent to a nearby hospital for autopsy.

United colours of a protest to protect Anna University



G. Babu Jayakumar

Just spamming

Just as distant drum beats for the electoral battle in the state wait in, a strange thing is happening. Political parties of various persuasions and hues have joined hands to fight for a single cause. Stranger still is the coming together of the ruling party and the Opposition parties, presenting a unique united colours that point to the state's quintessential political milieu in which reservation is sacrosanct.

The apparent objective of the loosely united league of political parties, which incidentally does not include the BJP alone, is to 'save Anna University' and their common bogeyman is the Vice Chancellor of the university M. K. Surappa. Of course, Surappa began his innings as the Vice Chancellor of the prestigious university in April 2018 on a note of public dissent.

There was widespread resentment in the state's political and academic circles over his appointment as he was from outside the state. Some political parties even wondered if there were no academics in the state fit for the job. He once again faced flak in September 2019 when he sought to include Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads in the curriculum for B. Tech students. Beating a hasty retreat after protests, Surappa, while justifying the inclusion of religious texts as subjects of study, said that it was only optional.

Whatever it was, the public perception about the Vice Chancellor of the

biggest university in the state with 571 affiliated colleges is that he is an outsider. So when a news report appeared in an English daily broadly accusing him of trying to get the Institute of Eminence (IoE) status for Anna University without the state government's knowledge, all hell broke loose.

Political parties vied with one another to slam Surappa for trying to sell off the university to the Centre. Statements issued to the media by political leaders ran to pages. They all hit out at a man who was scheming, working in tandem with the Centre, going beyond his brief, endangering the educational prospects of future generations of students from Tamil Nadu and most importantly wrecking social justice.

Everyone who spoke about the purported indiscipline of the Vice Chancellor in not keeping the state government in the loop with regard to his communications with the Centre and Union human resources ministry with a view to elevating the university to an Institute of Eminence pointed to the possibility, or rather the certainty, of the 69 per cent reservation, now being followed by the university in admissions and recruitments, going away if Surappa has his way.

The bogey resonated well with the people in the state, who are watching the state's

political parties wrangling with despair over getting OBC reservation in admissions for medical and dental courses on the seats given to the Centre for its 'All India Quota.' The Centre, at the slightest opportunity, would rob the Backward Classes of their privileges and rights is the public perception. So, the fear of Anna University going into the hands of the Central government was dreaded by one and all.

Sensing the mood almost every political party jumped the bandwagon and expressed their displeasure over the way Surappa was conducting himself. In fact they all wanted him to be out. The DMK even held a protest with its Youth Wing and Students' Wing members raising slogans in front of Anna University and at venues across the state, demanding the ouster of Surappa.

But actually it is the ruling AIADMK that wants Surappa out. Not just because he went against conventions in corresponding with the Central government but because he

played spoilsport on the bonanza that it offered to all students having arrears in their respective courses. The government announcement that was purportedly made as part of the concessions given to students in view of the lockdown exempted lakhs and lakhs of students who had failed in the examinations from clearing the papers.

The manner in which the announcement was received with posters hailing the Chief Minister and so on, the move would have definitely gone down well as a vote-getter for the ruling party. Students who did not have to burn the midnight oil to clear all those arrear papers that they had piled up over the years and their dear ones would have voted for the party in the next elections.

But the Vice Chancellor ensured that the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) intervened and took a stand against letting students having arrears getting their degrees. Also there is a case pending in court

against the government move. So the government was not happy with the Vice Chancellor's style of functioning.

Another irritant for the government, or the ruling party, is that the Bill passed in the state Assembly bifurcating Anna University has not been signed by the Governor. The process that would have created a unitary university with a few prestigious institutions attached to it and a separate affiliating university out of the present Anna University was against Surappa's liking.

There is reason to believe that Surappa put pressure on the Governor not to give his nod. So, the ruling party wanted to discredit him. But to its advantage all opposition parties took its line unlike normal instances when an official not liked by the government would be the Opposition's favourite. That is because the fear of losing reservation in Anna University was effectively evoked through the Institute of Eminence bogey.



Members of SFI and AISF stage a demonstration to 'save' Anna University in the city on Friday.

—DC

Don't want IoE status for Anna varsity: Minister

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 16

Higher education minister K. P. Anbalagan said that action would be taken against Anna University Vice Chancellor M K Surappa based on the response to the explanation that had been sought from him on his correspondence with the Centre without the state governments' knowledge.

Speaking to the media at Dharmapuri, the minister made it clear that the government did not want the Institute of Eminence (IoE) status for Anna University as it would hamper the imple-

mentation of 69 per cent reservation in admissions.

Besides, going for the IoE status would tantamount to increasing the fee, entry of students from outside the state in large numbers and also the introduction of entrance examinations. The government did not want any of these things to happen.

If there could be the universal benefit to the university through the IoE status then the state government was prepared to provide them with its own funds, the Minister said.

He said the government was above the Vice

Chancellor, whose term was for just three years, Anbalagan said.

Reacting to the minister's statement, DMK president M. K. Stalin urged the government to recommend to the Governor the immediate dismissal of Surappa.

In a Facebook post, Stalin said the government had made the announcement on not going in for the IoE only after the DMK organized a protest through its Youth Wing and Students' Wing members.

The decision should be conveyed to the Centre openly through a letter immediately, Stalin said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 12 UBL 2020-21
Dated: 14.10.2020
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Sl.	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	Hubballi Division: Construction of mini integrated power supply system rooms to avoid blanking of signals in the face of approaching train and Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) for mid section interlocked Level Crossing Gates (Total 30 LC gates) over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 1,44,28,037.70
2	Hubballi Division: Supply of water can to level crossing gates and gang units under Assistant Divisional Engineer, Ballari for 18 months (Total 40 gang units and 42 gates).	Rs. 14,19,120/-

Up to 11:00 hrs. of 09/11/2020
Last date for submission of bids:
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager/Works
PUB165/AAV/PRB SWR/2020-21 Hubballi

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Procurement of Passenger Escalator :
CORRIGENDUM for Open Tender
Tender Notice No. 26 of 2019-20 at S.No. 01.

S.N.	Tender No.	Opening Date	Revised Date
01	12195080B	23.10.2020	03.11.2020

The same has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in interested parties may kindly check the details on the website. 2248/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
E-TENDER NO. 2820RS18743TC
Executive Director, Railways Stores(S), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 1,79,658 Nos. AAR approved Cartridge Taper Roller Bearings (CTRB) Class E(6"X11") for use on Freight Stock for Indian Railways to RDSO specification No. AB/RB-40-2016(Rev.1) of August, 2018 & latest amendments.
2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.
4.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 09.11.2020.
Director, Railway Stores (W),
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi,
for and on behalf of the President of India.
2250/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SHORT TAKES

₹82K, 150 paddy bags seized in DPC raid**R. VALAYAPATHY | DC TIRUVARUR, OCT 16**

The Vigilance and Anti-corruption wing police seized unaccounted money of ₹82,000 and 150 bags of paddy from a TNCS Corporation-run direct purchase centre (DPC) at Kannaarappettai near Mannargudi in the district, on Thursday.

Kuruva harvesting is going on full swing across the district and farmers who carried their paddy to the direct purchase centres alleged that TNCS officials who managed the DPCs were demanding ₹40 per bag as commission from farmers.

Based on the complaints of the farmers, vigilance and anti-corruption wing police led by Tiruvur district DSP Nandagopal, raided the DPC at Kannaarappettai and seized unaccounted money of Rs 32,000 from the clerk and another ₹50,000 from a lorry driver who parked his vehicle inside the DPC. Police also seized 150 bags of paddy from the same lorry, which was allegedly taken from the open paddy storage point at Ashesam.

Police alerted the TNCS and food security officials in the district, who are now holding an enquiry with the DPC staff and at the open paddy storage point at Ashesam.

Meanwhile, a group of DMK men led by Tiruvur district DMK secretary Poondi Kalaivanan MLA staged a demonstration in front of the DPC at Kannaarappettai on Friday, demanding immediate resignation of food minister R Kamaraj, owning moral responsibility of Thursday's cash seizure.

Kalaivanan told newsmen that in every DPC, 600 bags of paddy were being illegally snatched away from farmers per day, and the same brought to the DPCs for re-sale. Although thousands of paddy bags were stagnant across all DPCs in the district, DPC officials give priority for purchase of paddy from other districts, and also demand ₹40 as commission per bag of paddy from farmers.

Kalavanan appealed to Chief Minister Palaniswami to take action against food minister Kamaraj or at least change his portfolio, and take steps to purchase the stagnated paddy in the DPCs all over the region.

Rajinikanth pays tax to corporation for entire year

Chennai, Oct 16: Top actor Rajinikanth on Friday paid a property tax of ₹ 6.39 lakh for the second half year of 2020-21 for his marriage hall here to the Greater Chennai Corporation. A day after remitting ₹6.56 lakh property tax, including penalty, for the first half year (2020-21) for his Raghavendra Mandapam, the actor has now paid ₹ 6,39,846 to the civic body which is the property tax for the year's second six months. The actor had said an appeal should have been made to the corp. —PTI

Is BJP planning to go it alone?**G. BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, OCT 16**

Is the BJP planning to contest the 2021 Assembly elections in the State on its own? This was the doubt one had after listening to the party national general secretary C. T. Ravi, who was in Chennai to attend a high-level meeting at the party headquarters on Friday. Prior to the meeting, Ravi told the media that the party was strong enough to contest in all the 234 constituencies in the state, which sounded more like an indication that it would try its luck by going it alone instead of fighting the election as a minor ally of the AIADMK that has already finalized its

● **BJP national general secretary Ravi said the BJP was not against reservation as the DMK had been campaigning**

CM candidate.

Earlier, the BJP state president L. Murugan, speaking to the media at the party office, defended the actions of Anna University Vice Chancellor M K Surappa, thus taking a stand diametrically opposite to that of the AIADMK-run government. Murugan said that no one had the right to interfere in the work of Surappa as he had the powers to take his own decisions and also write

letters and added that some people were preventing him from working independently.

Those statements put the BJP and AIADMK on a collision course since the latter has been making an issue out of Surappa's alleged insubordination to the State government and had even sought an explanation from him. Murugan also said that after obtaining Institute of Eminence (IoE) status, Anna University would not have to give up its 69 per cent reservation policy. It was a wrong inference, he said, contradicting the AIADMK's claim that the university would lose its rights on the reservation issue if it was elevated to the IoE level. Even Ravi touched about

the reservation issue, attacking the DMK. He said the BJP was not against reservation as the DMK had been campaigning. Neither was the party against Tamil language and culture as the DMK claimed, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi respected Tamil and Tamil people, Ravi said, adding that persons like Nirmala Sitharaman and Tamilisai Soundararajan had been respected and given opportunities by the BJP. The BJP meeting was attended by top leaders like Murugan, L. Ganesan, H. Raja, Pon Radhakrishnan, C P Radhakrishnan, V P Duraisamy, Annamalai, Kesava Vinayagam, Nagarajan and K T Raghavan.

THREE YOUTH KILLED IN TWO ACCIDENTS**DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 16**

Three youngsters were killed in two accidents at Selaipur and Mathur on Thursday. In an accident in Selaipur, two women riding a two-wheeler were crushed to death under the wheels of an MTC bus. They have been identified as Mary Roselin (25) of Perungulathur and Kalaivaani (22) of Naduveerappattu. They had been working in a private company in Adambakkam.

According to the police, the tragedy happened on Thursday evening near Selaipur on the Velachery-Tambaram road. They were returning from work on a two-wheeler when a speeding MTC bus plying between Medavakkam and East Tambaram knocked down and ran over them. They died on the spot as the bus crashed their heads. The driver was caught and beaten up by the public. He managed to escape from the spot and surrendered before the Selaipur police.

Based on the alert, Chrompet traffic investigation police rushed to the scene and sent the bodies to the Chrompet government hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered and the driver is being questioned.

In another accident, a 23-year-old man working in a private company in Oragadam was killed on Thursday night when he was returning home on his two-wheeler on the Mathur service road.

The victim was identified as Parthiban, from Mathur in Sriperumbudur. After work, Parthiban was riding on the Mathur Service road, when a tipper lorry rammed his bike from behind.



MNM president Kamal Haasan participating in the executive committee meeting on Friday. — DC

Kamal's CM candidate**DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT 16**

Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) nominated its founder actor Kamal Haasan as the Chief Ministerial candidate of the party for the 2021 elections.

The decision was taken unanimously at a meeting of the party held in Chennai, in which members of the managing committee, executive committee and special

invitees attended.

The meeting resolved that all decisions related to the elections, including the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha by-elections, would be taken by Kamal Haasan.

Kamal Haasan thanked all those who contributed to the implementation of the 'Naame Theeru' (We are the Solution) scheme launched to help people affected by the pandemic and said that the scheme would continue.

He lauded the party functionaries for working hard for the success of the party in the elections by enrolling new members, strengthening the party and starting election work early.

Condemning the government for cancelling the grama sabai (village council) meetings by making a mockery of democracy and the Constitution, he wanted the meetings to be held immediately.

Soori moves HC for CBI probe**DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT 16**

Popular comedian-actor M. Soori has approached the Madras high court to transfer the investigation in the case registered based on his complaint against Ramesh Kudwla, a former IPS officer and Anbuvelrajan, a film producer, alleging that the duo had defrauded him to the tune of ₹2.7 crore in connection with a land deal, pending before the local police, to the CBI.

In his petition, Soori submitted that Ramesh and Anbuvel Rajan had deceived him and induced him to buy a property at Siruseri, claiming to be a residential plot and sold it to him based on a false fabricated Agreement Holder Document. Later, after buying the property, he came to know that the property was agricultural land and when asked about the same, Ramesh and Anbuvel rajan had given a dire life threat to him. Therefore, he sent a complaint to the Inspector of Police, Adyar Police Station. Since there was no action, he sent another complaint to the Commissioner of Police, Chennai. But there was no response. Hence, he filed a petition under section 156 (3) Cr.P.C and the IX Metropolitan Magistrate, Saidapet



● **He had complained against Ramesh Kudwla, a former IPS officer, and Anbuvelrajan, a film producer**

directed the Inspector of Police, Adyar Police Station to register an FIR. Based on the same, an FIR was registered on October 8, 2020 for cheating and subsequently the same was transferred to the Central Crime Branch, he added.

He alleged that the core accused in this case Ramesh was a police officer at higher rank and had retired very recently and thus it was so easy for him to influence the investigating agency or their supervising authorities. Justice T. Ravindran before whom the petition came up for hearing adjourned it to last week of November 2020.

Decision to re-open cinema halls soon: Min**ARULOLI M | DC TIRUNELVELLI, OCT 16**

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami will meet with theatre owners soon to decide the re-opening of cinema theatres, said Minister for information and publicity, Kadambur C. Raju, here in Kovilpatti.

"The meeting with the representatives of the theatre owners has been tentatively planned for next week," said Raju. He also positively responded to the demand of theatre owners for cancellation of operator license, as theatres have now adopted screening of films through power cube digital mode. He said, "The government is positively considering the demand of theatre owners."

The government had done a lot for the well being of the theatre industry right from reducing entertainment tax from 30 percent to eight percent. It was the government that took the initiative of bringing the slab system in the GST tax system, so that GST is fixed at 18 percent for tickets below ₹100 and 28 percent for tickets priced above Rs 100. "The CM is to hold a meeting with representatives of theatre owners next week to decide on the modalities."

SHRC directs cops to pay damages for assaulting driver**DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT 16**

The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has directed personnel in the Muthialpet police station in Chennai to pay a compensation of ₹1 lakh to an auto driver for abusing and assaulting him three years ago.

In the petition, A Subramani stated that he was a functionary of the Bahujan Samaj Party in Broadway, Chennai, and also a social activist. On September 4, 2017, he was waiting in the auto stand opposite the Muthialpet police station. A woman known to him came out crying from the police station. On enquiry, the woman said she was assaulted by a police woman and threatened her to withdraw the complaint against her husband.

When Subramani went to the police station to question the policewoman, he was assaulted by the cops and soon, two male

● **After perusing all documents, SHRC acting chairperson D. Jayachandran held that there was human rights**

police personnel also attacked him. He was stripped and assaulted.

However, the police personnel denied all allegations and stated that he had criminal antecedents and portrayed himself as a social activist to escape from the clutches of the law.

After perusing all documents, SHRC acting chairperson D. Jayachandran held that there was human rights violation by the police personnel and directed Kannagi, Inspector, Sumathy, woman police constable, Ramadoss and Manikandan to pay ₹1 lakh compensation to the petitioner and recommended to the government to initiate disciplinary action against the cops.

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SHORT TAKES

DHARMENDRA
CLEARS AIR ON
PENDING GST DUESAKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 16

Union minister and senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday cleared the air on the pending Goods and Services Tax (GST) dues of Odisha saying that the Centre had cleared the entire compensation amount for the financial year 2019-20 and a part of the dues for the for FY 2020-21 was also released.

“₹5,122 crore has been released as an entire GST compensation to the Odisha government for FY 2019-20. Similarly, of the ₹2,258 crore allocated for Odisha as GST compensation for the FY 2020-21, ₹1,129 crore has been released,” the minister told reporters in New Delhi.

The minister's clarification came in the wake of the state government raising the issue of non-clearance of the compensation on different occasions and platforms, ostensibly for scoring a few political brownie points.

The ruling BJD and BJP, though have supported each other on the floor of Parliament on passing many crucial Bills, are arch political rivals in state politics.

The minister's clarification is seen as a tactical move to rob the BJD of the opportunity to raise the pending GST issue during the forthcoming by-polls in Tirtol and Balasore assembly constituencies and portray it as an act of apathy by the Centre.

The minister went on to add that Odisha was also permitted to borrow an additional ₹2,858 crore at 0.50 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product for meeting the short-fall arising out of GST implementation.

Pradhan stated that the Modi government had provided ₹22,267.66 crore to the Odisha government in the forms of grants, materials and assistance to effectively fight the adverse situations caused due to the Covid crisis.

While the BJP is trying hard to retain the Balasore seat where its sitting MLA Madan Mohan Dutta died in July, the BJD is also working hard to defend its position in Tirtol. Tirtol's sitting MLA Bishnu Charan Das died also in July.

HYDERABAD
METRO OFFERS
DEEP DISCOUNTSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 16

L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited (LTMRHL) has announced four passenger fare discount options under its Metro Suvarna offer, beginning October 17.

The discounts range from 40 per cent to 50 per cent depending on the option. Three of the offers will go on till Sankranti. Passengers can avail one scheme at a time.

Under the flat 40 per cent offer, applicable on smart cards, paper and digital QR payments, passengers can avail the benefit on every journey. It is valid till October 31.

In the offer through smart card, passengers can get up to 50 per cent cash back on the number of trips. Passengers will pay for 14 trips and get cash back on 20 trips (valid for 30 days); for 20 trips passengers will get cash back on 30 trips (valid for 45 days) and those paying for 40 trips will get cash back on 60 trips (valid for 60 days).

For those opting to recharge their travel cards online, the recharge offer is 50 per cent of the value on the recharge made.

A passenger who recharges for ₹400 will get ₹200 additional value and this is valid for 75 days. This scheme starts from November 1.

Festive spirit



A worker gives a finishing touch to a display mask of Chhau dancers at a community puja pandal ahead of the Durga Puja festival in Kolkata on Friday.

— PTI

Assam SP held in
police job scam

Sanjit Krishna is the brother of Assam chief secy

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, OCT. 16

In a major breakthrough in the Assam Police job recruitment scam, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) busted the entire racket by arresting serving IPS officer Kumar Sanjit Krishna who also happens to be the brother of Assam chief secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna.

Pointing out that Sanjit Krishna was kingpin of recruitment scam as he was responsible for leaking question paper of the Sub-Inspector recruitment exams, security sources said that the CID sleuths have also succeeded in recovering more than ₹5.70 crore cash from the accused involved in selling the leaked question papers to aspirants.

Informing that Sanjit Krishna hatched the conspiracy to leak the question paper with a former DIG P.K. Dutta, security sources said that with his arrest one part of the investigation into the scam is complete.

Indicating that some more arrests were possible among those who were involved in

● **ASSAM CHIEF** secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna in social media post clarified that the law would take its course and his name should not be dragged in as his brother “is a mature, independent individual in a different profession”.

● **THE POLICE** have so far arrested over 50 people in connection with the case including a ruling BJP leader Diban Deka.

selling the question papers, sources said that police have already re-created the crime scene from where question papers were leaked and circulated on the WhatsApp, a day before the state-level SI recruitment test on September 20.

Sanjit Krishna, who was holding the post of SP (Karimganj), was transferred as SP of Foreigner Regional Registration Office, Barpeta, on Sunday after his name surfaced in the scam. Subsequently, he was summoned by the CID.

Sanjit Krishna was questioned by the CID on Monday and his residence in Guwahati

was also raided on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the CID raided the officer's Karimganj residence and interrogated five police personnel, including the driver of the former SP, the in-charge of the police guest house and the security guard of the SP's official residence. After this, CID officials produced the five police personnel at a local court in Karimganj.

Police are also investigating the involvement of PK Dutta, an APS officer who served as Sanjit's deputy in Karimganj.

Meanwhile, Assam chief secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna in social media post clarified that the law would take its course and his name should not be dragged in as his brother “is a mature, independent individual in a different profession”.

The police have so far arrested over 50 people in connection with the case including a ruling Bharatiya Janata Party leader Diban Deka (who has since been expelled from the party).

Former DIG Dutta and BJP leader Deka are alleged to have fleeced many candidates for the SI post by assuring them jobs in lieu of cash.

Actors ‘employed’ as
MNREGA workersRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 16

Bollywood stars Deepika Padukone and Jacqueline Fernandez have been given “employment” under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in a Madhya Pradesh village.

This may sound ridiculous but villagers in Piparkhedha Naka Panchayat in Khargone district have found to their shock that job cards carrying photographs of the actors have been issued by the local authorities under MNREGA scheme.

A job card issued to a member of the family of Monu Shivshankar carried Deepika Padukone's photograph. Similarly, a job card issued to a woman beneficiary carried a photograph of Jacqueline Fernandez.

Fake job cards carrying photo-

graphs of Bollywood stars and models have been issued in the panchayat under the anti-poverty scheme, enquiry by the local villagers have found.

The corrupt practices in the scheme have come to the fore when the local villagers started browsing the MNREGA site to know if wages under the scheme have been released to the beneficiaries, Sonu alias Sunil Singh, one of the beneficiaries of MNREGA in the panchayat said on Friday.

According to him, funds under the scheme have been siphoned off by issuing fake job cards as the website indicated release of wages to fake beneficiaries.

The villagers promptly took up the matter with the ‘zilla panchayat’ chief executive officer Gaurav Binal who ordered a probe into it. “Stringent action will be taken against the officers involved in the fake job card scam”, the CEO said.

MP CONG TO
RELEASE FRESH
POLL MANIFESTORABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, OCT. 16

A row has erupted in Congress over the absence of Rahul Gandhi's photograph on the cover page of the poll manifesto booklets released recently by the Congress for the November 3 by-elections to 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

The party is set to release the fresh election manifesto here on Saturday.

The Congress last fortnight released poll manifestos separately featuring Sonia Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and former CM Kamal Nath.

However, Rahul Gandhi was missing on the coverage page, causing consternation among a strong section in the party.

CAN YOU CHECK TV
NEWS BEFORE DAMAGE
IS DONE: HC TO CENTREDC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 16

The Bombay High Court on Friday asked the Union government to explain if there is any mechanism in place for checking the content broadcast by news channels before the damage is done. The court also said that if the media crossed the line, it is for the legislature to act.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Dutta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by several retired IPS officers alleging some media entities of maligning image of Mumbai police in Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case and simultaneously running media trials. Petition sought HC intervention to stop this practice.

The bench observed, “If public officers are removed for their wrong act, then same practice should be followed for private employment. Strict action needs to be taken for not behaving appropriately.”

Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, appearing for the Union government, argued that the Supreme Court has said in several judgements that the government must not interfere with the freedom of press. Mr Singh also submitted judgements before the court. After perusing those judgements, Justice Dutta said “These judgments are from 2012-2013. Time has changed. This is the most misused freedom now.”

The bench also referred to the Chief Justice of India's recent remark that freedom of speech is the most abused. The high court further said it was concerned with the efficiency of the present mechanism of regulation with regard to news channels. “Everyone seems to be having an unfettered license to say whatever they want....Before the so-called damage is done, is there any machinery to check that? Or do you act only when a certain news is disseminated and complaints are received?” the judges asked.

Vardhan warns of spread of
Covid-19 in festival seasonDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday sounded a note of caution in the festival season saying the next two-and-a-half months are going to be crucial in the fight against Coronavirus.

“The next two-and-a-half months are going to be very crucial for us in our fight against corona because of the winter season and the festival season. It becomes the responsibility of every citizen to not let our guard down and follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour to curb the spread of the infection,” Dr Vardhan said.

He said three vaccine candidates are progressing well in India with one of them in the advanced stage-III clinical trial and two others in stage-II trial.

Meanwhile, India's Covid-19 caseload rose to 73,70,468 with 63,371 new infections being reported in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 64 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 87.56 per cent, according to the Health Ministry data updated on

Friday.

The toll climbed to 1,12,161 with the virus claiming 895 lives in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Karnataka has 7,542 new cases: The Covid-19 tally in Karnataka touched 7,51,390 with the addition of 7,542 new cases on Friday, the day when 73 people died of the infection taking the toll to 10,356.

The day also saw 8,580 patients getting discharged after recovery, the health department said. Out of the fresh cases reported today, 3,441 cases were from Bengaluru urban alone.

Kerala reports 7,283 new cases: Kerala, which has of late recorded high test positivity rate for Coronavirus infection, reported 7,283 fresh Covid-19 cases, on Friday, taking the infection tally to 3,23,212 as the toll mounted to 1,113 with 24 new fatalities. The state has an active caseload of 95,008.

Malappuram recorded the highest number of new cases -- 1025, followed by Kozhikode (970), Thrissur (809), Palakkad (648), Ernakulam (606) and Thiruvananthapuram 595. The state's test positivity rate has

No relations with
Chirag; LJP is a
vote eater: BJPDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

Making it clear that it was contesting the coming Bihar Assembly polls with allies JD(U), HAM and VIP, the BJP on Friday claimed that it had “no relations” with the Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party, which it said was merely a “vote katua party” (which divide votes), and blasted the LJP for “creating confusion and spreading lies” with its statements.

Mr Paswan, who is in mourning after the death of his father Ram Vilas Pawan, the party patriarch, was criticising JD(U) president and chief minister Nitish Kumar while praising the BJP and its senior leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Paswan's statements, especially his praise of Mr Modi, has given rise to speculation that the LJP has a tacit understanding with the BJP.

“Chirag Paswan has decided his own path in Bihar and is not contesting with us... he is trying to create confusion with his statements praising senior BJP leaders but will not be successful with his lies. The BJP has no B, C or D team, but just one strong team consisting of the BJP, JD(U), HAM and VIP. We will win a three-fourths majority by defeating the unholy alliance of the RJD, Congress and CPI(ML),” said BJP leader and Union minister Prakash Javadekar. The minister said the LJP was nothing more than a “vote katua” (eating into others' votes) and it will not be able to make much impact.

BJP RELEASES
REPORT CARD FOR
CENTRE, BIHARNAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 16

The BJP on Friday released a report card to highlight the performance of the Centre as well as the state government ahead of Bihar polls. Assembly elections in the state are scheduled to begin from October 28 and the NDA comprising JD(U), the BJP and two partners HAM and VIP are in the fray against Opposition coalition led by the RJD.

The report card released by the BJP claims that the Centre, as well as the state government, extended all kind of support to the people who were stuck outside the state during the Covid period. The BJP also asserted that the state saw all-round progress under the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government.

The report card highlights that “the government spent about ₹30,000 crore to support people during the Covid period. ₹203 crore were transferred to the bank account of about 21 lakh people who were stranded outside the state”. While presenting the achievements of the state government, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the party is contesting polls in alliance with Nitish Kumar's JD(U) for the development of Bihar.

BRAVE | HEART

Balwinder Singh Sandhu fought terrorism in Punjab for years

Shaurya Chakra awardee shot dead

Amritsar, Oct. 16:

Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh Sandhu who fought terrorism in Punjab was shot dead by unknown assailants in Tarn Taran district on Friday, months after the government withdrew his security cover.

The motorcycle-borne men pumped four bullets into 62-year-old Sandhu when he was at his office adjoining his home at Bhikhiwind in the district and escaped, police said. He was taken to the hospital where doctors

declared him brought dead. Sandhu had fought against terrorism in the state for years, facing scores of terror attacks during the height of Khalistani militancy.

Singh's security cover was withdrawn by the state government a year ago on the recommendation of Tarn Taran police, his brother Ranjit said, adding their entire family had remained on the hit list of terrorists.

Balwinder's wife Jagdish Kaur said it was the handiwork of terror-

ists, maintaining that their family did not have any personal enmity with anyone.

The family always fought against terrorists. As many as 62 attacks were made on my family by terrorists. We made numerous requests with DGP Dinkar Gupta for the security cover but all in vain, she said.

Tarn Taran Senior Superintendent of Police Dhruvan Nimbale said the investigations were underway. He said those responsible for the mur-

der would be nabbed soon. The entire incident was captured by the CCTV, he said adding the footage was being checked.

The Tran Taran braveheart also featured in some documentaries. Inspired by Sandhu and his family, many people followed him and defended themselves from terror attacks. The Union government awarded him Shaurya Chakra in 1993.

Balwinder Singh Sandhu and his brother Ranjit Singh Sandhu are

opposed to the activities of terrorists. They were on the hit lists of terrorists. The terrorists so far have made 16 attempts to wipe out the Sandhu's family within in about 11 months, the citation for the gallantry award said.

The terrorists attacked them in groups of 10 to 200, but every time Sandhu brothers with the help of their brave wives Jagdish Kaur Sandhu and Balraj Kaur Sandhu have successfully foiled the attempts, it said.

— PTI

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, OCT. 16

Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh on Friday said that Mumbai police will investigate Vivek Oberoi-Sandip Ssingh angle to a drugs case related to the film industry if the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) doesn't act against them. A day after the Bangalore police searched the actor's Mumbai residence, a Congress delegation met Deshmukh and demanded investigation against the actor.

After meeting the Congress

delegation, Deshmukh said that the Bengaluru police has arrived in Mumbai to probe Vivek Oberoi and Sandip Ssingh's drug connection. But the NCB is not conducting the probe into it. “We will again urge the NCB to conduct the probe. What is a connection between Vivek Oberoi and drugs? If NCB will not conduct the enquiry appropriately, the Mumbai Police conduct a probe,” the Home Minister said.

The state government will wait for the next four to five days to see whether the NCB conducts a probe, he said.



Dominic Stafford Rosario
Born: 18th May 1978 Died: 17th Oct 2015
Remembering you Domz on your fifth death anniversary
In loving memory of a Darling Son & Brother Dominic Stafford Rosario.

SHORT TAKES

GUINEA'S PREZ,
SEEKS TO PROLONG
RULE FOR 3RD TIME

Conakry (Guinea), Oct. 16: Guinean President Alpha Conde, 82, is seeking a third term in office on Sunday, insisting his attempt to prolong his rule does not make him a dictator even as opposition protesters slam his candidacy as an illegal power grab.

The electoral campaign in this West African nation already has seen deadly protests, which some fear could explode after results are announced. More than 50 people have been killed in anti-Conde protests since October last year. Amnesty International said this month, urging the government to investigate.

Already the International Criminal Court at The Hague has said it is "deeply concerned" about the mounting tensions.

"These recurring episodes of election-related violence are deplorable," ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said.

POLICE GRILL
ANWAR OVER BID
TO BECOME PM

Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 16: Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was grilled by police on Thursday over his bid to oust the government, in what he called "political harassment" to thwart his attempt.

Anwar met the nation's king on Tuesday to show evidence that he has majority support in Parliament to form a new government and unseat Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, who has only a thin two-seat majority in the house.

Police summoned Anwar to give a statement Thursday after 113 complaints were lodged over a purported list of 121 lawmakers allegedly backing Anwar that has spread on social media.

THAI PM REJECTS
CALLS TO RESIGN

Bangkok, Oct. 16: Thailand's prime minister rejected calls for his resignation on Friday, while his government failed to stop student-led protesters

Televised townhalls replace US Prez debate

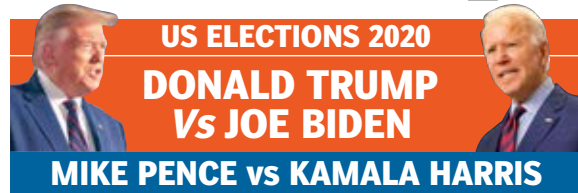
Greenville (US), Oct. 16: US President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden held simultaneous and separate televised town halls in lieu of the second presidential debate, taking questions from pre-selected individuals at sessions moderated by eminent television journalists.

While Trump's town hall was hosted by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in Miami, Florida, that of Biden was held in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia by the *American Broadcasting Company* (ABC) News. The second presidential debate had

originally been scheduled for on Thursday night. However, it was cancelled after Trump refused to participate in a virtual format of the presidential debate as amended by the independent debate commission following the president's Covid-19 diagnosis.

A final debate is still scheduled for October 22 in Nashville, Tennessee. The first debate was held on September 29 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Trump, 74, has recovered from a brief spell of Covid-19 after he and First Lady Melania Trump, 50, tested positive for the deadly viral infection on



October 1. Trump's doctors have now cleared him for his election campaigns. During the town hall, Trump defended his handling of the Coronavirus pandemic.

He also reiterated his stand on tax returns. However, Trump refused to denounce the QAnon conspiracy theory. According to QAnon, a far-

right group that has been labelled a terror threat by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Democrats are running a secret paedophilia ring. When asked by moderator Savannah Guthrie if he would denounce the QAnon theory and "just say it's crazy and not true", Trump said, "I don't know about QAnon." Wh-

en pressed further on whether or not he believed that Democrats were running a pedophile ring, Trump said, "I have no idea."

Biden's during his town hall said he would soon express his position on court packing, an issue that he has avoided so far. The 77-year-old democrat presidential nominee said he will come out with a clear position before Election Day about where he stands on expanding the Supreme Court, depending how the rest of the confirmation process of Judge Amy Coney Barrett is handled. President Trump has selected Judge

Barrett to succeed Supreme Court Justice late Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The Senate Judiciary Committee finished its confirmation hearings for Barrett earlier on Thursday. Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham said that the committee will vote on Barrett's nomination on October 22. If the committee approves her nomination, which is expected, it would be sent to the full Senate floor.

At the town hall with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, Biden said he is "not a fan" of court packing. When asked by

Stephanopoulos if he was open to increasing the number of judges on the court if Barrett is confirmed before the election, Biden said, "I'm open to considering what happens from that point on."

Republicans have repeatedly criticised Biden for not directly giving his view on court packing. "They do have a right to know where I'll stand and they'll have a right to know where I stand before they vote," Biden said, when asked whether voters had a right to know where he stands on the issue of expanding the court.

—PTI

China warns Canada over
asylum for HK protesters

Ottawa, Oct. 16: A top Chinese diplomat warned Canada on Thursday against granting asylum to Hong Kong democracy protesters, adding that doing so could jeopardize the "health and safety" of Canadians living in the southern Chinese financial hub.

The remarks by Cong Peiwu, Beijing's Ottawa envoy, prompted a rebuke from Canada's foreign minister, further escalating tensions between the two countries.

Cong was responding to reports that a Hong Kong couple who took part in last year's huge and sometimes violent protests had been granted refugee status.

The landmark decision makes it likely other Hong Kongers will be given sanctuary in Canada, which has emerged as a top destina-

CHINA DEFENDS CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES
NOW UNDER FIRE FROM TRUMP ADMIN

Beijing, Oct. 16: (AP) Following scathing political attacks from the Trump administration, China on Friday defended its Confucius Institutes as apolitical facilitators of cultural and language exchange.

The administration last week urged U.S. schools and colleges to rethink their ties to the institutes that bring Chinese language classes to America but, according to federal officials, also invite a

"malign influence" from China. Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian disputed that characterization and accused Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US politicians of acting out of "ideological prejudice and personal political interests" and having "deliberately undermined the cultural and educational exchanges and cooperation between China and the US."

—AP

tion for those fleeing Beijing's crackdown.

"We strongly urge the Canadian side not (to) grant so-called political asylum to those violent criminals in Hong Kong

because it is the interference in China's domestic affairs. And certainly, it will embolden those violent criminals," Cong said in a video press conference.

—AFP

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: The health of children or other relatives may lead to anxiety and incur expenses. Working women may be overburdened. Students may reap financial benefits.



Taurus: A professional victory is yours if you play your cards right. A financial boon is likely. Your creativity brings joy. High expectations at work and home may not be met.



Gemini: You'll reach an agreement on work and finances. You remain individualistic and strong when faced with competition at work or opposition at home.



Cancer: Seniors will be happy. Those looking for sponsors will succeed. Mind your words with your lover. Manage your finances well to keep your bank balance healthy.



Leo: If a superior asks for personal work, do it. You have great energy to achieve business goals. Take an expert's help in investing money.



Virgo: Energy increases as the day progresses. Complaints will be satisfactorily resolved. Check deeply before making changes. Complete official work before you enjoy personal time.

You share your b'day with

Eminem, American rapper. He is best known for his albums The Marshall Mathers LP, The Eminem Show, Encore, Relapse, Recovery, The Marshall Mathers LP 2, Revival, Kamikaze and Music to Be Murdered By.



Libra: Don't react emotionally. Stay away from activities that are not completely above-board. A friend will be supportive. Time for facing sensitive issues. A youngster reveals a problem you were unaware of.



Scorpio: Don't take criticism personally. A chance meeting with someone important will prove positive. Don't divulge too much to competitive colleagues.



Sagittarius: Real estate businessmen may face rough weather. Those planning to buy homes will face hurdles. You may be on the losing side today. Take care of your health.



Capricorn: The condition of those who are ill may deteriorate. You will meet new friends. Your financial status will improve soon.



Aquarius: Good property deals will be clinched. Initiate moves for a change of place or position. The unemployed will start a career.



Pisces: Robust health is indicated. Those who are ill, will improve. Legal problems may reduce. Love and concern from loved ones will keep you upbeat. You will find work enjoyable. Try to spend time with your family and friends.



bridge
PHILLIP ALDER

THE
POINTS
POINT TO THE
RIGHT PLAY

John Byrom, an English poet who coined the phrase Tweedledum and Tweedledee (in connection with what?), wrote, "The point is plain as a pike-staff."

In today's deal, the points pointed plainly to the best play for both sides — how?

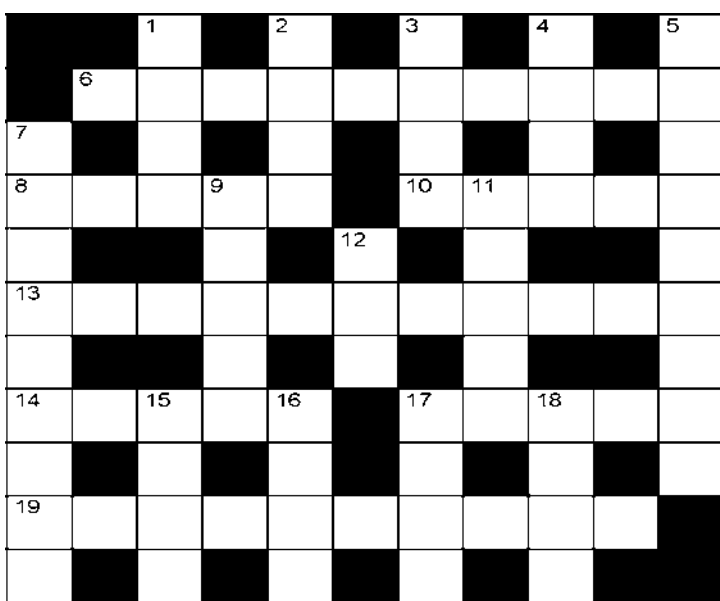
Against five diamonds, West led the heart nine. East overtook with his 10 and cashed the heart ace. What happened next?

In the auction, South's jump to three diamonds promised 9-11 points. North cue-bid three hearts in the hope that his partner could bid three no-trump with a heart stopper. When South could not, North went for game in the minor.

Suppose East shifts to a club at trick three. Declarer must find the diamond queen to make his contract. Whenever you buy the contract after an opponent opened the bidding,

North	South
♠ A K 7 4	♠ J 6
♥ A K 10 2	♥ 9 8 7 3
♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 5	♦ 4 3 2
♣ A 7 4 3	♣ K J 10 9 8 7 6 5
Deal: East	Deal: West
Contract: 3NT	Contract: 3NT
Score: 3NT	Score: 3NT
Lead: ♠ A	Lead: ♠ A
Tricks: 10	Tricks: 10
Down: 10	Down: 10
Score: 3NT	Score: 3NT
Lead: ♠ A	Lead: ♠ A
Tricks: 10	Tricks: 10
Down: 10	Down: 10

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across
6. Literary theft (10)
8. Bird of prey (5)
10. Might (5)
13. Bureaucracy (11)
14. Irritated (5)
17. Modify (5)
19. Eased (10)

Down
1. Standard (4)
2. Leer (4)

3. Complain pettily (4)
4. Opinion (4)
5. Off the cuff (9)
7. Assertion (anag) (9)
9. French river (5)
11. Lubricated (5)
12. Lively dance (3)
15. Assassinate (4)
16. Prima donna (4)
17. Not home (4)
18. Drastically eliminated (4)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 1. Dubbed, 3. Spot, 7. Pall, 8. Thrive, 10. Forceps, 13. Foresaw, 16. Exceed, 17. Ploy, 18. Show, 19. Browse.

Down: 1. Dupe, 2. Ballot, 4. Pair, 5. Trench, 6. Whopper, 9. Scooter, 11. Waders, 12. Tallow, 14. Echo, 15. Pyre.

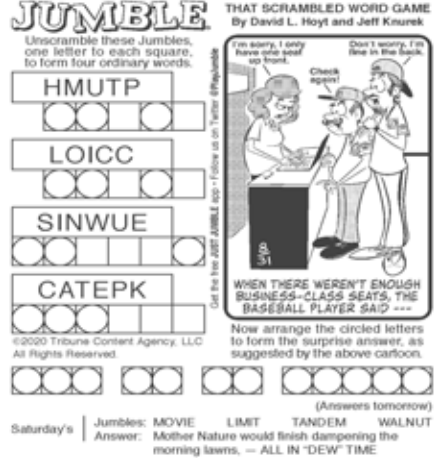
Word Mine

C
T
E
A
L
B
M
O
I

TODAY'S RATINGS: 30 AVERAGE: 34 GOOD: 38 OUTSTANDING

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

jumble



Saturday's Jumbles: MOVIE, LIMIT, TANDEM, WALNUT
Answer: Mother Nature would finish dampening the morning rains. — ALL IN 'DEW TIME

always count the high-card points. The dummy has 18 and declarer 10. That leaves only 12 for the opponents, but East opened the bidding: he must have the diamond queen. South plays a diamond to the king, then runs the diamond jack through East.

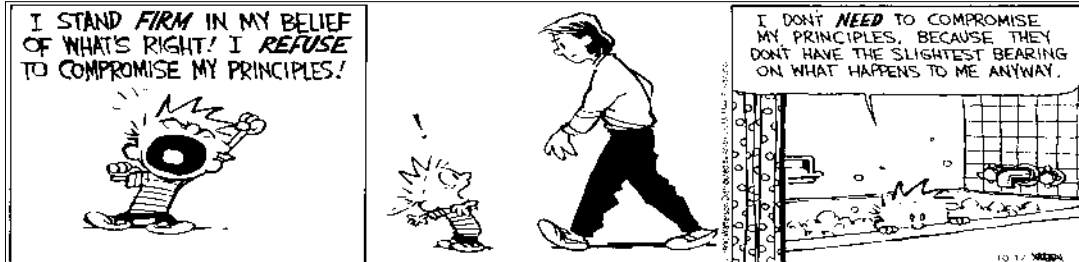
Now let East count the points. There are 18 on the board, and he has 12. That leaves only 10 for West and South. So West has at most the

useless club jack. But there is one chance. At trick three, East should lead the heart three. When West ruffs with the diamond three, declarer must overruff with dummy's 10, and now East gains a trump trick. It is a knockout uptrick.

Byrom was discussing the relative merits of composers George Handel and Giovanni Bononcini.

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CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



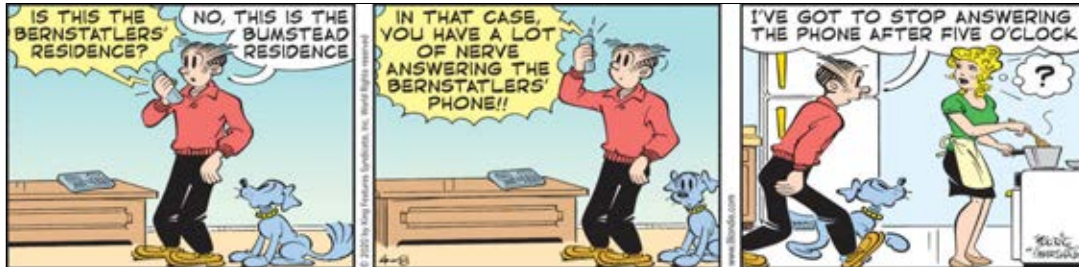
THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



quick
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,982.98	0.64
Nifty 50	11,762.45	0.70
S&P 500*	3,499.18	0.45
Dollar (₹)	73.34	0.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.87	0.36
Euro (₹)	85.90	0.06
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,704,324	0.62
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	0.742	0.008
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.935	0.037
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	42.92	-0.24

* As of 9:30 PM IST

FinMin kick-starts
budget making
exercise

The finance ministry on Friday kicked off the exercise to prepare the annual budget for 2021-22 amid the urgency to push economic growth. As per the finance ministry schedule, the nearly one-month long exercise to finalise the revised estimate (RE) for 2020-21 and budget estimate (BE) for 2021-22 began on Friday. The meetings will conclude on November 12, according to an official statement.

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■ Rough imports grow, orders pick up
Diamond hub
busy again

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 16

After a gap of seven months, rough diamond imports have seen positive growth in September. While the employment levels in polishing units are still lower than last year, import of polished diamonds by jewellery makers remains a worry.

Festive season orders from most key markets are coming at last year's levels, except from the US. The cutting and polishing industry imported Rs 9,905 crore worth rough diamonds in September against Rs 8,231 crore worth goods imported in the same month last year, thus, registering a positive growth of 20 per cent. In terms of carats, too, the imports were 7.5 per cent higher than the year ago month.

Imports have been declining from March. The nation-wide lockdown and the voluntary stoppage of imports by the industry to clear inventories have seen the imports declining for the past seven months. Even in August imports were down by 40 per cent. Easing of lockdown and an increase in festive season orders have supported imports in September.

According to Dinesh Navadiya, regional chairman, Gujarat, Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, the units in Gujarat are operating with 70 to 75 per cent employees. Despite polishing activity recovering to similar lev-



DIESEL SALES ABOVE PRE-COVID LEVELS

NIDHI VERMA
NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

India's diesel sales rose in October for the first time since March, signalling a pick-up in industrial activity.

Diesel sales by state-run fuel retailers rose 8.8 diesel year-on-year in the first half of October, provisional data compiled by IOC shows.

Sales of diesel totalled 2.65 million tonnes, up 24

per cent from September. An official at a state refiner, however, cautioned that diesel sales growth could be temporary.

"Typically, transportation of goods picks up ahead of festivals and dips during and after the key festivals. This year key festivals are towards the end of this month and early November; last year they were in October," he said.

—Reuters

els, imports of polished diamonds are still continuing. Import of cut and polished diamonds in September was 124 per cent higher than the same month last year and that by the SEZs were 244 per cent higher.

According to Colin Shah, chairman of GJEPC, jewellery manufacturing in SEZs has been happening with raw materials procured from overseas. The industry expects the import of polished goods to come down with the polishing activity picking up.

Another positive development is that festive season orders have started coming from the key markets. "Demand from China and Hong Kong has returned to normal levels. While orders are coming from the US, Europe and the Gulf region, the US demand is still down compared to last year," he said.

The industry expects the festive season sales to be 10 per cent lower than last year's. The total gems and jewellery exports for the year is expected to be 20 to 25 per cent lower.

Urban
consumption
sees worst fall
in 2 decades

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, OCT. 16

Urban consumption has contracted more than 25 per cent between April and August, witnessing the worst decline in two decades due to massive job losses and reduction in income levels.

Real private consumption expenditure declined 26.7 per cent in the June quarter against the same period last year. While urban consumption contracted 34 per cent, rural consumption shrank only 4 per cent. In July and August, while urban consumption declined 18 per cent, rural consumption was almost flat, says brokerage Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

From an average growth of 8 per cent during FY17-19, urban consumption declined 0.6 per cent for the first time in two decades in FY20 before collapsing by more than a quarter during April-August 2020. Rural consumption, on the other hand, grew at an average of 6 per cent during FY17-19 before easing to 3.4 per cent in FY20 and shrinking 4 per cent in during April-August.

According to Motilal Oswal, revival in private consumption is unlikely without a recovery in urban consumption. Covid-19 has affected the urban sector disproportionately, it said.

HCL Tech net up 18%,
to hire 9,000 freshers

New Delhi, Oct. 16: IT firm HCL Technologies on Friday posted 18.5 per cent rise in September quarter net profit at Rs 3,142 crore, and said it is looking at hiring up to 9,000 freshers in the second half of this fiscal on the back of strong growth momentum.

The Noida-based company had registered a net profit of Rs 2,651 crore in the year-ago period (as per US GAAP).

Its revenue grew 6.1 per cent to Rs 18,594 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 17,528 crore in the year-ago period.

"We delivered a solid performance in Q2. Our stellar performance is broad-based across verticals, service lines, geographies and Mode 1, 2, 3 offerings. Our new bookings remained very robust, it increased 35 per cent compared to the last quarter, we won 15 transformational deals," HCL Technologies president and CEO C. Vijayakumar told reporters in a virtual



C. Vijayakumar

briefing.

He added that the company's deal pipeline grew 20 per cent quarter-on-quarter, which is "an all-time high".

"We are implementing the salary increments effective October 1, up to E3 levels, and effective January 1, for E4 and above levels. This is only a one quarter shift from the regular increment cycles that we give our employees annually," he said.

The hikes—which were previously deferred amid business uncertainty on account of Covid-19 pandemic—will be similar to previous year. Last year, the company had offered

an average 6 per cent raise to its staff in India and 2.5 per cent increase in wages of overseas employees.

The board has declared an interim dividend of Rs 4 per equity share for the financial year 2020-21.

Sanjeev Hota, head of research at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said HCL Technologies reported strong quarterly results, beating its estimates on all fronts and its own margin guidance as well.

However, shares of the company fell 3.76 per cent on the BSE at Rs were trading at Rs 827.10.

In the second quarter, HCL Technologies recorded revenue growth at 4.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter in constant currency—higher than its estimate of 1.5-2.5 per cent sequential rise. It has maintained its revenue growth guidance of an average of 1.5-2.5 per cent increase quarter-on-quarter in constant currency for the third and fourth quarters. —PTI

Sanjeev Gupta targets Thyssenkrupp steel unit

CHRISTOPH STEITZ &
TOM KÄCKENHOFF
FRANKFURT/DUESSELDORF,
OCT. 16

Liberty Steel, founded by commodities tycoon Sanjeev Gupta, on Friday said it had made a non-binding offer for Thyssenkrupp's steel unit, hoping to forge a European champion to master the transformation towards carbon-

neutral production.

A deal would combine the continent's fourth- and second-largest steelmakers after a planned joint venture between Thyssenkrupp and Tata Steel was blocked in 2019.

"I truly believe in the future of European steel," Gupta told journalists during a call. "By investing in green steel I believe the industry can transform

and thrive in the long-term."

He said that steel as a business needed time, adding that was one of the reasons why belonged in private hands. Gupta shied away from putting a number on expected synergies.

Essen-based Thyssenkrupp said it would carefully study the offer, details of which were not disclosed. —Reuters

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

India in 4th spot
at Asian chess

Chennai: India enjoyed an unbeaten day with a win and two draws to move up to fourth place after six rounds in the Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Championship for men on Friday.

The top-seeded Indians, who were sixth after three rounds, were held to a 2-2 draw by a strong Kazakhstan team, seeded second, in the sixth round after having shared points with Iran in round four before beating Jordan 3.5-0.5.

In the India-Kazakhstan match, the talented 16-year-old Nihal Sarin and the experienced K Sasikiran scored wins over Rustam Khushnudiev and Denis Makhnev respectively. B Adhiban and captain Surya Shekhar Ganguly lost their games. — PTI

Srikanth bows
out in quarters

Odense: Top Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth bowed out of the Denmark Open badminton tournament with a 22-20, 13-21, 16-21 defeat to Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in the men's singles quarterfinals here on Friday.

The world number two Taipei player came back after losing the first game and took the next two to win the match in one hour and two minutes and storm into the semifinals.

With the defeat of Srikanth, seeded fifth, India's campaign ended in the \$750,000 Super 750 tournament, the only world tour event happening this year in a calendar thrown haywire by the Covid-19 pandemic.

QUINTESSENTIAL!

Quinton cracks whip as MI thrash KKR

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 16: The Mumbai Indians juggernaut rolled on unabated as they recorded their fifth straight win with an eight-wicket mauling of Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here on Friday.

A tidy bowling effort by Mumbai Indians ensured that KKR were restricted to 148 for 5 after an unbeaten 53 by pace spearhead Pat Cummins.

Then, the defending champions rode on a blistering 44-ball 78 by Quinton de Kock, to chase down the target with 3.1 overs to spare.

De Kock, who struck nine fours and three sixes and skipper Rohit Sharma (35 off 36 balls), laid the foundation for the emphatic win with their 94-run first-wicket stand.

The two openers took the KKR attack to cleaners with de Kock being the more aggressive one. The South African notched up his fifty in just 25 balls, with a maximum over deep-square leg.

It rained boundaries for Mumbai as the two dominated the KKR bowling attack. Pacer Prasidh Krishna (0/30) faced their brunt, conceding three fours in the third over and de Kock followed that up by hammering Cummins (0/28) for two successive fours, both pull shots, in the next.

—PTI



Quinton de Kock (right) of Mumbai Indians gestures after scoring a fifty against Kolkata Knight Riders during their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

DK HANDS OVER
KKR CAPTAINCY
TO MORGAN

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 16: Wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik on Friday stepped down as captain of the Kolkata Knight Riders team, handing over the reins to his English deputy Eoin Morgan hours before the IPL match against Mumbai Indians here.

Karthik told the KKR management that he wants to "focus on his batting and contributing more to the team's cause." Appointed skipper in 2018, the 35-year-old led KKR in 37 matches.

"We are fortunate to have leaders such as DK, who has always put the team first. It takes a lot of courage for someone like him to take a decision such as this," team CEO Venky Mysore said.

Morgan was widely tipped to take over at some point from Karthik given the topsy-turvy run. "...DK and Eoin have worked brilliantly together during this tournament and although Eoin takes over as captain, this is effectively a role swap and we expect that this transition will work in a seamless manner," Mysore said.

—PTI

Rejuvenated CSK
face in-form DC

Sharjah, Oct. 16: Their campaign is back on track, courtesy Mahendra Singh Dhoni's smart captaincy but a stiff test awaits Chennai Super Kings when they face a dominant Delhi Capitals in their next IPL match, here on Saturday.

Every tactic that Dhoni employed against Sunrisers Hyderabad, worked, and they are expected to continue in the same vein as they battle to salvage the season.

Whether it was promoting Sam Curran to the opener's slot or finishing pacer Deepak Chahar's quota upfront while using seven bowlers to dry up runs, every move produced desired result.

The three-time champions will look to build on the win over Sunrisers Hyderabad as the league phase moves towards the business end. However, they are up against a team which is high on confidence and well-served by the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje.

RCB to meet Royals

Royal Challengers Bangalore would aim to get their strategy right after some inexplicable decisions during the loss to Kings XI

Punjab when they take on an erratic Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Saturday.

The Virat Kohli-led RCB has won five of its eight games on the back of all-round performances but seemingly blundered in the eight-wicket defeat to lag-guards KXIP on Thursday.

Against KXIP in Sharjah, AB De Villiers, who has been in fine form, was sent in to bat at number six, a baffling decision by the RCB. The experiment didn't work as all three batsmen struggled with the South African scoring just two off five balls. However, Kohli and his men will look to shrug off the defeat.

On the other hand, the Royals' campaign this season has been marred by numerous top-order collapses, forcing the lower half to pull them across the finish line. After failing in his first match of the season, Ben Stokes hit 41 before he was run out against the DC.

Jofra Archer spearheads the RR bowling unit, along with the spin duo of Tewatia and Shreyas Gopal, who have consistently figured in an XI that has gone through a lot of chopping and changing.

—PTI

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: R. Tripathi c Suryakumar Yadav b Boult 7, Shubman Gill c Kieron Pollard b Rahul Chahar 21, Nitish Rana c Quinton de Kock b Nathan Coulter-Nile 5, D. Karthik b Rahul Chahar 4, Eoin Morgan not out 39, Andre Russell c Quinton de Kock b Jasprit Bumrah 12, Pat Cummins not out 53. Extras (LB-2, W-5) 7. Total (for 5 wickets in 20 Overs) 148.

Bowlers: I-18, 2-33, 3-42, 4-42, 5-61.

Batters: Trent Boult 4-0-32-1, Nathan Coulter-Nile 4-0-51-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-

0-22-1, Krunal Pandya 4-0-23-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-18-2.

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma c Dinesh Karthik b Shivam Mavi 35, Quinton de Kock not out 78, Suryakumar Yadav b CV Varun 10, Hardik Pandya not out 21. Extras (LB-5) 5. Total (for 2 wickets in 16.5 Overs) 149.

Fielders: 1-94, 2-111.

Bowlers: Chris Green 2.5-0-24-0, Pat Cummins 3-0-28-0, Prasidh Krishna 2-0-30-0, Andre Russell 2-0-15-0, CV Varun 4-0-23-1, Shivam Mavi 3-0-24-1.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	8	6	2	0	12	+1.353
Delhi Capitals	8	6	2	0	12	+0.990
Royal Challengers Bangalore	8	5	3	0	10	-0.139
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	4	4	0	8	-0.684
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	0	6	+0.009
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.390
Rajasthan Royals	8	3	5	0	6	-0.844
Kings XI Punjab	8	2	6	0	4	-0.295

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

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