THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | THURSDAY 29 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 13 **Tithi:** Thrayodashi Star: Uthiratathi/ Revathi Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm Yamagandam:

6 am to 7.30 am **PRAYERS Fajar:** 4.49 am Zohar: 11.58 am **Asar:** 3.14 pm Maghrib: 5.46 pm **Isha:** 6.58 pm

CORONA CUNT

(+30,633)

(+256)80,19,738 1,20,311

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,516)TN: 7,16,751 11,018

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES



worldometers.info

Vanathi made BJP

women's wing chief Chennai: Vanathi Srinivasan has

president of BJP's women wing (Mahila Morcha) with immediate effect, according to a notification from the BJP national secretary Arun Singh. The 50-year-

been made the national

old politician from Coimbatore had held many posts in her political career that reportedly started with the ABVP during her college days She was made a vice-president of

SC refuses to hear plea

for disbursal of central funds to TN local bodies

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to entertain a PIL seeking direction to the Centre to release grants for Tamil Madu local bodies from 2016 till date. The plea alleged that on an average ₹4,000 crore annual funds for local bodies in the state have not been released since 2016 by Union ministries of finance and panchayati raj, stopping of devel-



New range, tough and costs less... to throw at candidates!

STATE | 3 Boiler blast: SC refuses to entertain plea challenging NGT order



WORLD | 5 Don slams media for Joe graft case censor

SPORT | 7 Mumbai Indians beat RCB by 5 wickets



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ARMY COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE

53.53% voter turnout recorded in first phase of Bihar polls

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

NAYEAR AZAD | DC

Around 53.53 per cent of voting was recorded during the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections on Wednesday.

According to reports, the highest turnout was recorded in Jamui district at 57.41 per cent followed by Kaimur at 55.95 per cent and Lakhisarai at 55.44 per cent.

The NDA was locked in a tough fight with RJD led grand alliance on at least 41 of 71 seats that went to polls in the first phase.

The elections were held in 71 constituencies spread across 16 districts of Bihar amid tight security and Covid-19 guidelines.

A total of 1,066 candidates were in the fray in the first phase of the elections. As many as 33 constituen-

cies were declared as "sensitive or hypersensitive" by the state administration. Among the prominent

political leaders who were in the fray during the first phase of polls were HAM chief Jitan Ram Manjhi and eight ministers of Nitish Kumar cabinet. Another key candidate

whose fate is at stake in the first phase is ace shooter Shreyasi Singh



People wait outside a polling booth to cast their votes during the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections, in Gaya, on Wednesday.

from Jamui seat. She is making her debut at the age of 27. She is contest-ing on BJP ticket and pitted against RJD sitting MLA Vijay Prakash, who is the brother of former Union Minister Jai Prakash Yadav, a close aide of Lalu Yadav.

Reports suggest that Chirag Paswan's party LJP has extended support to Miss Singh on Jamui

Among the political par-

ties, the ruling JD(U) had fielded 35 and its partner BJP 29 candidates.
The opposition RJD and

Congress had fielded 42 and 20 candidates during the first phase of polls.
Chirag Paswan's LJP
which broke away from
the NDA citing ideological

differences with Nitish Kumar had fielded 41 candidates in the first phase. In a statement after the first phase of polls, HAM spokesperson Danish Rizwan said, "Seeing the turnout of people our party is confident that Nitish Kumar led NDA is going to form a government in Bihar'

Most of the seats were declared as sensitive by the administrative officials and special security arrangements were made for the Naxal affected areas. Officials said that most of the state's Naxalhit areas went to polls in the first phase.

Talks with China to continue, troops standing firm: Rajnath

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 28

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said Wednesday that while Army troops were standing firm at the northern border with China, the ongoing talks for a peaceful resolution of the standoff will continue.

Addressing the ongoing Army commanders' conference in New Delhi, being held from October 26 to 29, Mr Singh said there were no budgetary constraints for capability development and meeting other requirements of the

The eighth round of the corps commander-level talks between India and China to resolve the sixmonth military standoff in eastern Ladakh is likely to

be held soon.
With initial snowfall reported in Ladakh, he said the best weapons and winter clothing will be provided to the troops. "It is our national responsibility to ensure availability of the best weapons. equipment and clothing to troops braving extreme weather and hostile forces to defend our territorial integrity," said Mr Singh.



The commanders are deliberating on all aspects of the existing security scenarios, the situation in the hinterland and challenges for the security apparatus.

Referring to the situation along the western border, he complimented the Indian Army's response to cross-border terrorism and ceasefire violations. "I compliment the excellent synergy Central between the armed police forces, the police and the Army in tackling the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. It is due to the synergised operations in the Valley that the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is moving to a stable and peaceful environment conducive for overall growth and development," said Mr Singh.

Border standoff with India bilateral issue, says China

Beijing, Oct. 28: China on Wednesday said its border standoff with India in eastern Ladakh is a bilateral issue, and asked the US to "stop" its Indo-Pacific strategy, terming it as an attempt to impose American hegemony in the region.

The remarks by Chinese Foreign Ministry came a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo assured India that the US stands firmly with it to confront threats to its sovereignty.

Reacting to the US push for closer defence ties with India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Wednesday that "the border affairs between China and India are matters between the two countries."
"The border situation is

generally stable at the moment. Both sides have unimpeded channels for communication, and are properly handling matters through consultation and

CM: 35% not wearing masks, ensure compliance of norms

A. ARUL PALANI I DC CHENNAI, OCT. 28

Chief Minister Edappadi K. ensure the strict implementation of safety protocols as about 35 per cent of people in the state do not wear masks, one of the prevenmeasures against Covid-19.

Addressing a review meeting on the pandemic with top bureaucrats and district collectors on Wednesday, Mr Palaniswami said lack of awareness has prompted people to throw caution to the wind and directed the district administrations to take steps to ensure its compliance by all.

Many people even the state capital Chennai did not comply with the mask

DC CORRESPONDENT

DMK president M.K.

Stalin, several political

mon people came down

heavily on the appoint-

Subbiah, a Chennai-based

oncologist who recently

landed in a women harass-

ment case, to the manag-

ing committee of the All-India Institute of Medical

Shanmugha

CHENNAI, OCT 28



rule ahead of the Deepavali season, the chief Minister observed and directed the officials, especially the police, to step in and create awareness. Spraying disinfectants at regular intervals in the virus affected areas was among the key measures to prevent the spread of the contagion, he said.

Controversy over AIIMS nominee

Sciences (AIIMS) that is to

Urging Chief Minister

Edappadi K. Palaniswami

to write to the Prime

Minister Narendra Modi

to remove Dr Subbiah

from the committee and

Parliament from the State,

Mr Stalin said Dr Subbiah,

ABVP's national presi-

dent, had indulged in inde-

cent behavior in front of

his neighbour's apartment

appoint Members

come up in Madurai.

so spent ₹7,372.25 crore on prevention, treatment and relief activities. Holding fever camps in all districts, conducting door-to-door checks for symptomatic

itivity rate was a low 7.39

10,983 deaths while the active cases were 27,734

following a fight with the

woman over the use of the

parking lot allotted to her.

The incident that hap

pened in July had created

a sensation then as several

allegations against him

came out when the

women's harassment case

had hit media headlines.

The woman neighbor was

also forced to withdraw

the complaint, which

allowed the doctor to get away from the case. ■ P3

persons, doing RT-PCR tests and isolating the infected people and treating them had resulted in a dip in fresh and active cases, he He said the state's test pos-

per cent and credited doctors for the achievement. As many as 6,75,518 people have been cured of the disease and the recovery rate was 94.57 per cent while the fatality rate was 1.53 per cent. The daily infections have been less than 5,000 for the past 17 days and dipped

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 28

The national capital Delhi appears to be reeling under a major second wave of coronavirus cases, as a substantially high number of were reported Wednesday. Delhi saw 5,673 n inst a day, that prompted the Delhi government to keep all schools closed for now, till further notice.

Delhi had on Tuesday recorded its then all-time high of 4.853 new cases. The

Among other states which are reporting a spurt in cases are Kerala, West Bengal, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

Delhi reports second wave of pandemic

4,000 mark was on September 9, when 4,473 cases were detected in a single day. Worried over the Union health ministry is expected to hold a meeting with top Delhi government officials on Thursday to restrategise containment measures.

Among other states which

Bengal, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In fact, Kerala has overtaken highest number of fresh

cases, though both states are still contributing more than 5,000 new cases. Health ministry officials said 79 per cent of new infections are still coming from 10 states

Health ministry officials said the festive season, the opening up of public places and the onset of winter has possibly led to a spurt in these states. However, laxity on part of people who are now shunning distancing and mask rules due to pantributing factor. I

In Delhi, the numbers are also high as people from nearby areas are rushing to the big city for testing and treatment, thus adding to Delhi's own numbers.

HC orders CB-CID probe into below 3,000 in the past four irregularities in med PG courses The state government has The active cases in the state were less than 30,000. As on Tuesday, Tamil Nadu's total coronavirus cases stood at 7,14,235 with **SELF-FINANCING MEDICAL COLLEGES**

CHENNAI, OCT. 28

The Madras High Court has ordered a CB-CID probe into the alleged irregularities in the admissions to the postgraduate courses in selffinancing medical colleges for the academic year 2020-2021. Justice Anand

Venkatesh directed the director-general of police to allot the case immediately to the CB-CID which shall consist of a team headed by an officer not below the rank of an assistant commissioner. They shall conduct an enquiry as to whether there was a conspiracy

between the officials of the directorate of medical education and the selffinancing colleges in filling up the stray vacancies on August 31, the amount received from each candidate and any other matter that unfolds during investigation. The report shall be submitted before the court on or before January 30, 2021, the court added.

Passing interim orders on a petition filed by Dr M. Keethanjali, the judge had on September 24 directed the authorities to answer three queries relating to 'Mop Up' counseling for post graduate medical courses under management seats 2020 in private colleges. Accordingly, the authorities have filed counter affidavits answering the queries and providing data with regard to the list of candidates who were given admission in

private medical colleges.

After perusing the same Justice Venkatesh in his order said the analysis clearly demonstrates as to how the private colleges have virtually given admissions to candidates for some of the important clinical courses, who otherwise do not deserve admission through regular counseling.

ED arrests suspended **IAS officer Sivasankar** in gold smuggling case

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday took Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's former principal secretary M. Sivasankar into cus-Thiruvananthapuram minutes after Kerala High Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea in the gold smug-The ED officials took the

senior IAS officer under suspension into custody from an Ayurveda hospi-Thiruvananthapuram

where he was undergoing treatment.

Southwest monsoon withdraws, northeast monsoon sets in: IMD

G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 28

The AIADMK and the DMK, the two major political parties in the State, have started gearing up for the 2021 Assembly elections adopting one common strategy: to divide their party districts and forming one district for every two Assembly con-

stituencies. Chennai, AIADMK hitherto had three districts North namely

bringing two constituencies under one district secretary, electioneering could be easily monitored and that the secretaries would be able to spend more time and energy in each of the constituencies

South. Now, release on Wednesday, six districts have been carved out of them for administra-

South Chennai (West),

The DMK, increased its districts from 65 to 72 and plans are afoot to add more districts with a to bringing two constituencies under one district, headed

Otherwise, the DMK had already called for booth committee meetings at the various districts and the party high command had been meeting district level office-bearers in Chennai for the past 10 days in batches.

president M.K. had already Partv addressed the district level leaders through video conference and met the district secretaries and office-bearers in Chennai, zone-wise. The series of meetings concluded on Wednesday with Northern zone leaders meeting the president.

Apart from Mr Stalin, top leaders of the party like general secretary Durai Murugan, treasurer T.R. Baalu, principal secretary K.N. Nehru and other deputy general secretaries took part in the discussions in which district level functionaries were encouraged to come up their observations, views and ideas on winning the next elections.

New Delhi, Oct. 28: The southwest monsoon finally withdrew from

the entire country on Wednesday, 13 days after its normal date of retreat, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. With this, the north-

east monsoon, a phenomenon that brings rainfall over Nadu, Puducherry, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala during October to

menced, it said. "In view of significant reduction in rainfall activity over most parts of the country, the southwest monsoon has withdrawn from the entire country today October 28." According to the weatherman, a cyclonic circulation lies over southwest Bay of Bengal, off north Tamil Nadu coast in lower and mid tropospheric levels.

December, has

Dividing districts, a new poll strategy Both the AIADMK and the DMK feel that by

Chennai South, South Chennai North and South Chennai according to a party press

tive convenience. Now, the districts go by the names North Chennai South (East), North Chennai South North (East), South Chennai Chennai South (East) and South Chennai South (West) and each of them have different district secretaries

by a secretary.

Both the parties feel that

by bringing two constituencies under one district secretary, electioneering could be easily monitored and that the secretaries would be able to spend more time and energy in each of the constituen-

SHORT TAKES

Potential DMK candidates to be identified

From P1

They were told to sort out internal differences within the dis-trict units of the party by approaching Nehru, who would bring about rapprochements between warring groups. The functionaries were also asked to inform Stalin about other local issues if they were out of control.

It is said that party leadership was concerned about reports over DMK cadre switching over to other parties, particularly the BJP, due to differences with local leaders.

The leaders were also asked about their preferences for

alliance partners.

During the deliberations, some wanted a tie up with the PMK while others were against it. Those from the southern districts were against handing over a large number of seats to the Congress, which, they said, could lead to the coalition yielding more seats to the rivals.

I-PAC, the election strategy organisation, engaged by the DMK, had also been asked to identify potential candidates in all the constituencies. It is learnt that they had been advised to name one party member, one youthful candidate and one public figure in every constituency. Of the three nominees would be selected by the high command in consultation with the district secretary

Pondy logs 102 new coronavirus cases, two more deaths

Puducherry: Puducherry posted 102 new Covid Wednesday, taking the infection count to 34,583 in the union territory. Two more people, including a 55-year old woman, died of the illness during the last 24 hours raising the toll to 590. Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said in a release that the two deceased had complaints of diabetes and hyper-

64 successful deliveries amid corona



Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chennai, conducted 64 deliveries successfully on Tuesday. Among them, 34 were male and 22 female. On the same day, four kids were born to mothers positive for Covid-19. The Covid-19 deliveries included three male and one female new-borns. Dr Vijaya, director of the institute, thanked the doctors, nurses and other healthcare staff for the effective functioning of the hospital.

190 bitten by strays on IIT-M campus in 2020

T. SUDHEESH I DC CHENNAI, OCT. 28

As many as 490 inhabitants inside the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IITM) campus have been administered anti-rabies injections for the last couple of years. The data was revealed in a report submitted by the IIT-M administration to the Director, State Animal Husbandry Veterinary Services on October 21.

The report says 300 people inside the campus were bitten by strays in 2019 and 190 so far this year. A statement issued the IIT-M Wednesday says the administration had submitted a detailed report to Director, State Animal and Veterinary Services outlining the Animal Welfare

Board of India norms implemented along with

the data on number of they had issued dog feeder stray dogs on campus, anti-rabies vaccines administered to humans on campus, deer or blackbuck deaths and complaints received from students, residents and visitors along with photographs.

This report comes at a time when the National Green Tribunal Chennai Bench on February 26 this year directed to protect the wildlife within the campus.
The IIT-M administra-

tion has, however, clarified that they had not relocated any stray dogs on the campus. But a fulltime veterinarian has been engaged, especially to take care of the sick, injured and old dogs along with animal birth control measures and anti-rabies vaccinations.

As part of the remedial measures, according to chased and bitten by and that nobody is IIT-M administration, groups of feral dogs. Due to visit the facility.

cards to the interested parties on campus, and allocated them feeding zones. 'Only dog feeder card holders have been allowed to feed the stray dogs at the designated location. The administration has also been feeding the dogs for the last one year and will continue to do so as long as it is required. The dogs are taken care well and treated by an AWBI-recognised Veterinary agency. The activities of

'In the past few years, the stray dog menace to the deer and blackbuck has been severe on the campus due to the steady increase of stray dogs. Students, residents, children and motorists are also getting

Passenger held for smoking on

the agency are also being monitored by IIT-M for

compliance as per the AWBI norms', the IIT-M

bers, the dogs are often found in classrooms and academic buildings, and students are finding it difficult to continue their research at labs during late hours for fear of being chased by dogs', said IIT

It may be recalled the AWBI had last week asked the Registrar of IIT-M and the Tamil Nadu Animal Husbandry

Services Director to immediately investigate the Animal Birth Control programme conducted by the IIT administration based on a complaint registered by Tryphena Dudley, an alumna, alleging that the dogs captured for sterili-sation are not released back to the campus. She had alleged that strays are impounded in a concealed area inside the campus and that nobody is allowed

Plea to disqualify Thiruma

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 28

A Chennai-based advocate has appealed to Parliament to disqualify leader and MP Thol.Thirumavalavan for his alleged willful disruption of nation's social tranquility by way of misrepresentation Manusmriti and denigrating women.

In his representation. addressed to the President of India, Prime Minister of India, the Speaker of Lok Sabha and ministry of Parliamentary affairs and various other dignitaries, S.Kasiramalingam, hav-



ing 40 years of good standing at the Bar said a citizen of India after getting elected as a Member of Parliament takes constitutional oath of office by solemnly affirming that "...I will bear true faith

QUICK CROSSWORD

14

19

Across

6.Fanciful hopes (10)

14. Sacked (5)

8. Written composition (5) 10. Social blunder (5)

17. Agitate vigorously (5)

19. Cost-effective (10)

1. Pretentions (4)

13. Made to look young again

Word Mine

TTE

RAROD

GOOD; 45 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.

Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter". Thirumavalavan, an MP under the constitutional oath, forgetting his duties and responsibilities, by misrepresenting as if he was a scholar in Sanskrit has misinterpreted the scripts in Manusmriti as denigrating the value and respect of women. Not only he failed to appropriately refer, distinguish and veri-fy Hindu Dharma and

Manu Dharma but also

and allegiance to the went on to say that every woman was created that way (parathayar) by God as if the same was quoted in Manusmriti, which was even

> Amidst pandemic and several issues that have been boggling the entire country as to its development, the said MP even being the leader of VCK with a clear ill-intention have capriciously taken up a totally irrelevant issue merely to defame Hindus in one form or the other and to create social unrest to destabilize the integrity of the nation for political gains, Kasiramalingam added. political

lighter.

board Chennai-Patna flight was taken under custody by the CISF officials and

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 28

A passenger from Patna was arrested for allegedly smoking a cigarette on board an Indigo flight on Wednesday morning. This has also put a question mark on the airport security arrangement wherein the accused passenger should not have been able to pass through with a matchbox or a cigarette

The man who was aboard the Patna-bound flight has been identified as Pravin Kumar Sharma (40) who belongs to Bihar

later handed over to the airport police.

According to sources, Pravin had boarded the private airlines' flight on Wednesday morning. A few minutes before the take-off from Chennai, Pravin reportedly ignited a cigarette on board. It created panic among the crew as well as passengers. The crew immediately stopped him from smoking and alerted the ATC. At first, Pravin Kumar Sharma was detained by the Central Industrial

Security Force (CISF),

which is responsible for airport security. He was then taken to the airport police station where he was booked with relevant sections for smoking inside the aircraft. As per Section 25 of the Aircraft Act, No person shall smoke — in any part of an aircraft or its vicinity, in which a notice is dis-played indicating that smoking is prohibited. anywhere in an aircraft during take-off, landing or refuelling or during a period in which a notice is temporarily displayed indicating that smoking is

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: Focus to achieve your goal. Your name will get a boost. You may travel abroad. Guests will prove expensive. You may be involved in



Faurus: Moral will be high. Patience will pay off. Beware of business rivals. A financial crunch is likely. Clear up issues that have been bothering

emini: Old friends/contacts may be helpful.



Improve your skills at work. Avoid controversies with loved ones. A gainful journey is likely. Your finances will improve. cancer: A legal tangle will be resolved, bringing property. Banks will provide loans. Your career will progress. Self-employed will

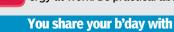


.eo: Your academic graph will rise. Your activities may distress your life partner. You will get new contacts. Children will boost your morale.

attract new clients.



Virgo: Those in real estate can expect big deals. Plans to shift from your present position will come to a halt. Harmony at home and synergy at work. Be practical about work issues.



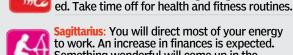
Winona Ryder, American actress. She is best known for her roles in Lucas, Heathers, Mermaids, Edward Scissorhands, Bram Stoker's Dracula, The Age of Innocence, Little Women, Star Trek, Stranger Things and Black Swan.



will become health conscious. Business affairs will bring good fortune. Love, kindness and bounty in personal relationships energise you.

Scorpio: A social event could mark an end to romantic troubles. A new beginning is indicat-

ibra: Others will keep their commitments. You



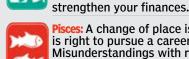
to work. An increase in finances is expected. Something wonderful will come up in the midst of despair. Capricorn: People will try to annoy and distract you. Don't get involved in things that don't

agittarius: You will direct most of your energy



concern you. You may find something you lost. uarius: Funds from far away will boost finances. Written-off dues may come in.

Alternative sources of income could



Pisces: A change of place is likely. The time is right to pursue a career abroad. Misunderstandings with relatives or colleagues are indicated. You may take steps to expand your business. Health is good.

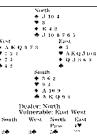


WITH MANY WINNERS, WHY GO ON **DEFENSE?**

offense and defense are very similar between chess and football. team back in those days."

Some chess players love to play hand is usually more suitable for either offense or defense. Knowing in robots at Bridge Base Online.

Said, "The strategies of a strong influence during the auction. Look at today's East hand. Does it initially suggest offense or defense? Chess really brought closeness to the North passes, East opens one heart, South overcalls two clubs, and West offense; one example was Mikhail or more hearts and at least game-Tal. Others prefer defense; Anatoly invitational values. After North leaps Karpov springs to mind. In bridge, a to five clubs, what should East do? This predicament faced three



Amazingly, they all passed. Five clubs was passed out and went down three (losing three spades, one heart and one diamond). Minus 150 gave North-South 93.3% of the matchpoints.

That East hand screams offense, not defense. So why did the Easts pass? I have no idea! I must admit, I pair bid six hearts in the BBO dupliwould have been tempted to jump cate.) straight to six hearts, hoping partner had, say, the spade ace and diamond king. Here, the slam would have

2. Flock of quails (4)

4. Orphan (4)

5. Going up (9)

9. Severe (5)

11. Flooded (5)

12. Long seat (3)

16. Grim fate (4)

jumble

NTEIP

DEIUG

TEROBT

WORDAT

17. Stylish (4)

15. Civil disorder (4)

18. American state (4)

3. Wind resistance (4)

7. Paralysed with fear (9)

the club ace, I would have ruffed, drawn trumps and taken all 13 tricks. But if South had led the diamond ace and worked out that North's four was high, he would have played a second diamond to defeat the contract. (No

ORY IN TIME, HE'D NEED TO

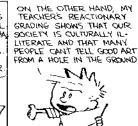
YESTERDAY'S ANSWE

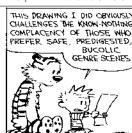
Across: 1. Permit, 3. Nous, 7. Luck, 8. Squall, 10. Planned, 13. Buzzard, 16. Sleuth, 17. Fine, 18. Duty, 19. Regent.

Down: 1. Poll, 2. Recall, 4. Oval, 5. Solved, 6. Squeeze, 9. Annuity, 11. Cursed, 12. Praise, 14. Zest, 15. Kept.

CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson

ON THE ONE HAND, IT'S A GOOD SIGN FOR US ARTISTS THAT, IN THIS AGE OF VISUAL BOMBARDMENT FROM ALL MEDIA STILL HAVE POWER



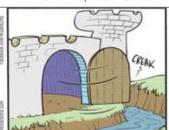




prohibited.

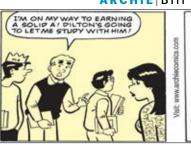
THE WIZARD OF ID|Parker and Hartsd







ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







BLONDIE Dean Young and John Marshall





ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs







Integrated farming scheme a success in Thanjavur

G. SRINIVASAN I DC THANJAVUR, OCT. 28

The integrated farming scheme, implemented in Thanjavur district from 2018, has benefited a large number of farmers, said M.Govinda Rao, Thanjavur district collector, on Wednesday.

In a press release, he said that during 2020-21, so far 400 farmers in Pattukottai, Peravruani, Thanjavur and Budalur blocks benefited from the scheme with a disbursal of ₹2.40 crore as subsidy. During 2018-19, 500 farmers in Thiruvonam block gained from the scheme and a subsidy of ₹5 crore was disbursed.

During 2019-20, 300 farmers in Papanasam and Ammapettai blocks benefited and a subsidy of ₹3 crores was disbursed.

The collector said the scheme aims at creating income for farmers throughout the year by utilising farm wastes, growing fodder, growing horticulture crops along with paddy etc.

Farmers are also encouraged to rear cattle, poultry etc. Farmers with 1 to 2.5 acres of land are eligible and they will get Rs 1 lakh as subsidy for taking up activities permitted under the scheme.

Onion price in Southern districts stabilise

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUNELVELI, OCT. 28

Tamil Nadu government's measures to stabilise onion prices by enhancing the supply from outside the state has impacted positively on the price of the commodity in the southern districts.

The onion price at the Central market in Tirunelveli on Wednesday witnessed a slight dip by Rs 10 from the skyrocketed price price up to Rs 120. The wholesale rate of onion at the vegetable market in Nagercoil, Kanyakumari, district on Wednesday was between ₹80 and ₹100. This is because of the stringent measures taken by the state government, according to Ravichandran, joint registrar of cooperative societies, Thoothukudi district.

As a price control measure, the Tamil Nadu government through its cooperative department initiated the sales of onion at a subsidised rate of Rs 45 per kg through its farm fresh retail outlets. In addition to this, the department too directly procured onion from Maharashtra and Karnataka to enhance the supply of the comin the open market against hoarding, said the cooperative department official, who said that 20 tonnes of from Nasik in shtra have been onion Maharashtra brought to Thoothukudi on Tuesday.

Of this 20 tonnes, Thoothukudi district got an allocation of 10 tonnes to be sold at Rs 45 through the 15 cooperative societies run Farm fresh retail outlets, while Kanyakumari district was allotted tonnes and Tirunelveli district two tonnes, according to the joint registrar of cooperative societies, who too added that more loads of onion is expected from Maharashtra and Karnataka as the northwest monsoon Traders are optimistic that prices will come down before Deepavali.

As a price control measure, the Tamil Nadu government through its cooperative department initiated the sales of onion at a subsidised rate of Rs 45 per kg through its farm fresh retail outlets

CM launches scheme to provide stipend to young advocates

Minister K. Palaniswami on Wednesday launched a scheme to provide monthly stipend of ₹3,000 to young advocates in the state. He announced the initiative in July this year with a view to helping junior lawyers from poor background, as it would take about four years for them to start practising after completing various formalities, including formalities, including enrolling in the Bar Council, an official release

here said. Eligible advocates will get the sum for a two year period. The chief minister handed over the stipend orders to nine advocates at the Secretariat here to mark the rollout of the added. Palaniswami had in July

CM handed over the stipend orders to nine advocates at the Secretariat here to mark the rollout of the

announced that monthly stipend will be paid to newly enrolled junior lawyers for two years to help them overcome financial difficulties in pursuit of their profes-

Many young advocates could not realise their ambition due to lack of income during their initial years of practice and many of them, mostly with rural or poor background, find it difficult to sustain and as a result change profession, he had



Chief Minister K. Palaniswami hands over a petition for various highway projects in the state to Union road transport and highways and MSME minister Nitin Gadkari in

Boiler blast: SC refuses to entertain plea challenging NGT order

New Delhi, Oct. 28: The Court Supreme Wednesday refused to entertain a plea against an NGT order imposing an interim penalty of $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{?}{\sim}} 5$ crore on NLC India Ltd in connection with a boiler blast at Neyveli Lignite Power Plant in Tamil Nadu in which 13 workers died and 10 were injured

A three-judge bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi asked the petitioner to approach the

The petitioner then withdrew the plea with liberty to approach the high court

high court in the matter. The petitioner then withdrew the plea with liberty to approach the high court. The apex court was hearing an appeal filed by Meenava Thantai K Ř Selvaraj Kumar Meenvar Nala Sangam against the order of the National

Green Tribunal slapping an interim penalty of ₹ 5 connection with a boiler blast at Neyveli Lignite Power Plant. The tribunal had said independent verification of facts in the incident is necessary and the industrial unit is liable to pay interim compensation on the principle of 'Absolute Liability'. The green panel had said an interim compensation of ₹30 lakh be paid to each deceased pending final

Bid to smuggle processed shark fins foiled at airport

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 28

Processed shark fins worth ₹16.5 lakh were from Dubai-bound passengers at the Chennai Airport on

Acting on specific information that some wildlife/marine products were likely to be smuggled to Dubai, a special alert and vigil were maintained by Customs officers at the departure terminal to nab the smug-The officers noticed that

two passengers were moving suspiciously with a carton box each in the departure area. A close watch was kept on their movement and they were intercepted after they had cleared immigration and were proceeding towards security check. From their boarding passes and passports the passengers were identified as Sathackkathullah (52) of Chennai and Abbas (29), of Tiruchirappalli, who were bound for Dubai by Fly Dubai FZ 8518, a press reľease said.

They were questioned about the contents of their carton box. As they were evasive in their

reply they along with their checked-in luggage were brought in detailed examination. On opening the carton boxes, three white gunny bags were found inside and on opening 9.5 kgs from one gunny bag and 14 kgs from two gunny bags of suspected wildlife products similar to shark fin were recovered.

The suspected shark fins were examined by WildLife Crime Control Bureau officials who cer-tified that same as "processed shark fins" and there was a probability that these belonged to a

CITES-listed species.
As the export of shark fins is prohibited as per the Foreign Trade Policy, worth Rs. 16.5 lakhs were seized under the provisions of Customs Act. 1962 read with FT (D&R)

Shark fin soup is an expensive delicacy served in high-end restaurants abroad. The Chinese consider it a symbol of prosperity and conferrer of good health. The practice of finning is causing the collapse of shark populations around the world. Further investigation is under progress.



Seize shark fins.

Parties seek doc's immediate removal

to meritorious'

Inspector General of Registration.

'Purchasing

From P1

power injustice

Dr P. Shankar, IAS, Director, DIPR, takes charge as

Candidates who have really worked hard and secured higher marks than these candidates will surely get an impression that there something beyond merit that can secure admission to a candidate and which was the purchasing power.

The judge said if this situation was allowed to be continued year after year and no one takes any steps to redress the same, it results in injustice to meritorious candidates.

Obviously, these seats carry a lot of monetary value to it and a student with the necessary contact and financial wherewithal can purchase this seat and undergo the course along with students who had toiled and burnt the midnight oil to secure these seats on pure

The judge said if this situation was allowed to be continued year after year and no one takes any steps to redress the same, it results in injustice to meritorious candidates

her letter to Union harassment of th woman by Dr Subbiah.

Demanding his immediate removal from the committee, TNCC president K.S. Alagiri said a massive protest will be organised by the Youth Congress if it was not In a statement, Alagiri

recalled that it was the Tamil Nadu Congress student wing president Aswathaman who complained to the police about the continuous

DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi tweeted, "This is an endorsement of indecent behavior and also an incentive for other BJP cadre to follow Many other Twitter users posted their comments against the appointment of Dr Subbiah that the hashtag #AIIMS started trend-

ing.
Congress MPJothimani reproduced

Health Minister Harsh Varadhan referring to the past behavior of the AIIMS committee member while dealing with his lone woman neighbour. Even news channels started referring to Dr Subbiah as the doctor who 'urinated at the woman's door', the image of which was caught in CCTV cam-

Interestingly among

against the appointment were some doctors, who Subbiah was the only doctor from the State to be appointed for the proposed AIIMS. Meanwhile, a Twitter

user pointed out that Dr Subbiah has been appointed as one of the directors for the pro-posed IIT in Palakkad, asking, "Does a premier institute in require a thug like

3 AIADMK men, 7 others held for DMK worker's murder

on Wednesday arrested 10 persons including three AIADMK activists in connection with the murder of a DMK functionary. On Saturday when Balachandran (35) of Mathur was feeding his cattle, an unidentified gang came in a car and fatally attacked him with deadly weapons and fled. The Mathur police registered a case and formed a special squad.

Pudukkottai: The police The police arrested 10 persons including AIADMK functionaries Balamuthu, Muruganandham Nandhakumar.

Balachandran was the deputy organiser of the Pudukottai north district unt of the DMK youth wing. He was facing 7 criminal cases in Mandaiyur and Tiruchy Cantonment police stations. His marriage was fixed

for October 30.

Two men killed in road mishaps vehicle against a contain-

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 28

Two men were killed in two separate accidents in Sriperumbudur, Kancheedistrict

In the first incident, a senior technician working with a private firm died after he collided head-on with a container lorry near Mannur, Sriperumbudur. According to the police,

the deceased has been identified as Krishnan resident Manavalan Nagar in Thiruvallur district. On Tuesday night, after work at a private company in Irungattukottai Sriperumbudur, the victim was heading come on his two-wheeler, when the accident happened. Police said, when he was

crossing Mannur Erikarai road, he rammed his

er truck. He died on the spot. Based on the alert, Sriperumbudur police rushed to the scene and sent the body for postmortem. A case has been registered and the driver is being questioned.

In another incident, a 22-year-old man working at a private courier company was killed on Tuesday night when he was returning home on his two-wheeler of Mannur Erikarai road. The victim was identi-

fied as Srinivasan, from Thodukadu in Tiruvallur. On Tuesday evening, after work, he was riding on Mannur Erikarai road, when a van rammed

He was rushed to the Chengalpet government hospital, however, he passed on the way. Police registered a case and

PEW SFIZES 330 KG GANJA

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 28

The St.Thomas Mount PEW (Prohibition Enforcement Wing) have seized around 330 kilograms of ganja transported from Andhra Pradesh in a vehicle, near Alandur in the early hours of Wednesday, amid an ongoing crackdown on drug networks across the city. The city police commissioner appreciated the team which made the recovery.

In a drive against drugs, the St Thomas Mo-

unt PEW team headed by Inspector Rajalakshmi and SI Jayaraman, and other officers inspected the vehicles in Asarkana, Alandur, on Tuesday night. Police said based on a specific tip-off, the team, at 3 am, stopped a Tata Ei-cher transporting dried fish from Andhra Pradesh to the city. The team said, as the occupants of the vehicle gave contradictory statements when questioned, the officials checked the vehicle and found a huge quantity of ganja hidden inside dried fish baskets. M. Mahesh (29), Mut-

hu Krishnan (36) from Red Hills, S. Murali (30), Puzhal and B.Magudeeswaran (35) were arrested and handed over to the St Thomas Mount police. Around 330 kilograms ganja, Rs 2,80,000 in cash, four mobile phones and the Tata eicher were seized from the accused.

On Wednesday, city police commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal rewarded the St.Thomas Mount PEW team for good work done by making an unprecedented seizure of 330 kg of ganja.

Childless for years, Covid patient delivers twins in TN

Erode(TN), Oct 28 (PTI) her pregnant through artificial insemination woman, who was underword and IVF method. hospital said. going treatment for Covid-19, successfully delivered twins at a government hospital here.

Besides handling a Covid-19 patient, the doctors also encountered complications during the caesarean surgery as the woman started bleeding.
A few months back, the

Later, she contracted coronavirus and was admitted Perundurai Government Medical College hospital here. On October 25, the

woman went into labour and a team of doctors conducted the C-section.
She was delivered of twins and both the mothchildless woman con-sulted doctors who got condition, and healthy, er and babies are in good

authorities

The woman was affect ed with various gynaecological problems for 15 years and a surgery was performed for removal of fibroid from her uterus, they said.

In a press statement Erode district Collector C Kathiravan said a special team of doctors was attending to the woman and her twins round the

SC refuses to hear plea for disbursal of **Central funds to Tamil Nadu local bodies**

New Delhi, Oct. 28: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to entertain a PIL seeking direction to the Centre to release grants for Tamil Madu local bodies from

2016 till date. The plea alleged that on an average Rs 4,000 crore annual funds for local bodies in the state have not been released since 2016 by Union ministries of finance and panchayati raj, stopping of develop-ment works. Non-disbursal of funds is premised on the ground that the elections for local bodies have not been held since 2016, the plea said. A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and

V Ramasubramanian asked lawyer C R Jaya Sukin to withdraw the plea and approach the Madras High Court. In a



hearing conducted through video conferencing, the bench asked the lawyer about his "locus standi" to raise the grievances. On being told that it has been filed in the capacity of a citizen, the bench said, "We all are cit-izens of India...If you want to go to the high court, you withdraw this. Otherwise we will dismiss it". "I will withdraw this with liberty to go to the High Court," the lawyer said. "That Petitioner filed this Writ Petition...for issuance of a writ of man-

Respondents No.1 and No.2 (union ministries) to release Local body funds to Tamil Nadu State from 2016 to till the date," it said. All such funds remain unspent and all development works are stopped for last four years in Gram Panchayats, corporations, municipalities and town panchayats of entire state, it said. "There are a lot of issues on a daily basis that can be solved at the local level but the Union of India had not given funds, " it said. The plea said the since October 1, 2016, the seats in local-bodies are vacant. "On December 6, 2019, the apex court directed the state election commission to hold the panchayats election in all levels expect nine districts," it

farm produce even for tourists who visit the Nilgiris. Generally the price of Ooty carrot hovers around Rs 40 per kg. Now, for the past couple of weeks there had been an unprecedented upward trend as a kilogram of carrot began to fetch

B. RAVICHANDRAN I DC

The price of Ooty carrot has touched the three-figure

mark. Packed with a rich

quantity of vitamin-A, the

Ooty carrot, which is known

for its brilliant colour and

taste, had become a must buy

between Rs 100 and Rs 110. Though the carrot price has begun to pinch the common man, it has brought unexpected tidings for the farmers. R. Rangasamy, the



Ooty carrot fetches windfall for farmers

president of the Nilgiris that a couple of factors Vegetable and

including the climate and Growers Association, said lockdown effects brought a

carrots arranged new high for carrot price this

Fresh Ooty grown

year."
"Due to transportation

issues after lockdown quite a few farmers stopped cultivating carrots. That resulted in carrots being cultivated in small acreage. The heavy rains in August and September in Ooty also played spoil-sport with the carrot sowing season. So, the farmers who braved these odds to take up carrot cultivation are yielding rich dividends now. This trend may continue for some more time" he elaborated.

Minor dead, 12 hurt in C'garh road-rage

Raipur: Two persons, one of them the son of a local Congress leader, have been arrested for allegedly driving a car into a group of vil-lagers, killing a four-yearold boy and injuring 12 others, in Gariaband village of Chhattisgarh, the police said on Wednesday. According to the police, Romit Rathore (25), the son of a local woman Congress leader, and his friend Saurabh Kutare (26) were arrested on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday night in Malgaon village under City Kotwali police station area, when villagers were returning from a Dussehra celebration, said Sukhnandan Rathore, additional superintendent of police. Infuriated over one of the locals touching his car, the accused drove his speeding car into the crowd, killing the boy and injuring 12 others, the official said. — PTI

Sena's Parbhani MP

alleges threat to life

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP from Parbhani Sanjay Jadhav has filed a police complaint alleging threat to his life and claimed a contract of ₹2 crore has been given to a gang to eliminate him, a police official said on Wednesday. The Lok Sabha member along with his sup-porters went to Nanalpeth police station in Maharashtra's Parbhani district on Tuesday and lodged the complaint. As per the complaint, Jadhav got infor-mation on October 18 that an influential person man had given "supari (contract)" of ₹2 crore to a gang in Nanded, the police official said. The police have started an investigation into the complaint and so far no offence has been registered, he said. - PTI

Abducted dentist

rescued, 7 arrested

Hyderabad: A doctor from Hyderabad was rescued from Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh a day after he was allegedly kidnapped from his clinic here by a seven-member inter-state gang, the police said on Wednesday. The kidnappers, demanded ₹10 crore as ransom to be paid in bitcoins for the release of the 56-year-old dentist, the police said. The prime accused is a close relative of doctor's wife, they said. After learning about the dentists finanhatched a plan along with other gang members from Maharashtra, Karnataka and from Hyderabad to abduct him to extort money by threatening him and his family, the police said. - PTI

1 more arrested in

TRP rigging scam

Mumbai: The Mumbai police on Wednesday arrested one more person in the **Television Rating Points** (TRP) manipulation scam, an official said. This is the eleventh arrest in the case. Ashish Abidur Choudhary (50), a resident of Thane, was arrested by the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) which is probing the scam, the police official said. Choudhary is accused of paying bribes, on behalf of some TV channels, to households where "barometers' recording viewership data were installed to put on those particular channels. The police has alleged that some channels were paving bribes to boost TRP fraudulently so as to increase advertising revenue. - PTI

Man gets life in jail for killing mother

Hyderabad: A court on Wednesday sentenced a 45year-old man to life imprisonment for killing his octogenarian mother in July 2016. The XIV ADJ (additional district judge) court convicted the man under relevant IPC sections and sentenced him to undergo life imprisonment besides imposing on him a fine of Rs 2,000, a press release from the Rachakonda police commissionerate said. The convict, a native of Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, had come to Hyderabad along with his 80-year-old mother and other family members. As the man was facing financial problems he had asked his mother some money but she refused because of his vices, the police said. — PTI

Telangana, Kerala see spurt in Covid cases

Kerala reports 8.790 new cases; TS numbers double

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

In a setback of sorts, new Covid-19 cases clambered back in most south Indian states on Wednesday with Telangana and Kerala

reporting a surge.

The Telangana health department reported 1,481 fresh cases on Wednesday. The rise in cases, from 837 on Monday, also reflects an increase in the number of

in Bihar on Wednesday

against Congress leader

Rahul Gandhi with the Election Commission,

charging him with violat-

ing the model code of con-

duct by "asking for votes'

in a tweet on a polling day. State BJP legal cell head S.D. Sanjay shot off the

written complaint to the

Chief Electoral Officer of

Bihar requesting "legal action" against Mr Gan-dhi, who also addressed a

couple of rallies in the

As per the complaint,

Mr Gandhi had "issued a

state earlier in the day.

complaint

BJP says Rahul violated

code, sends plaint to EC

tests that rose from 21,099 on Monday to 40,081 on

There were four deaths in the last 24 hours. While the total Covid-19 cases in Telangana 2,34,152, the cumulative fatalities reached 1,319. As many as 2,14,917 people have so far recovered from the disease.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area recorded 279 new

ing for votes... today. The

time for making appeal

for the first phase of polls was over 28 hours earlier".

According to Mr Sanjay,

who is a former addition-

cases, followed by 138 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, and 111 in Ranga Reddy dis-Khammam and Nalgonda districts each had 82 fresh cases, while Karimnagar

Bhadradri-Kothagudem

recorded 79 cases each. Covid numbers in Kerala too showed a surge after a brief lull on Wednesday when it reported 8,790 new cases, including 94 health workers, tak-

ing the total count to 3.98 lakh. The death toll climbed to 1,403 with 27 more fatalities.

The state had reported 5,457 cases on Tuesday and 4287 on Monday. The total recoveries have gone up to 3,16,692, with 7,660 getting cured today,the minister said in a press release.

Andhra Pradesh registered 2,949 new Covid-19 cases scaling up the tally to 8,14,774 and 18 deaths

उक्रमित मध्य विद्यालय अलीप्र

taking the toll to 6,643 in the last 24 hours.
Of a total of 77,73,681

samples tested so far. 7,81,509 patients were discharged after recovery while 26,622 are are undergoing treatment. Among daily cases of Covid-19, West Godavari topped the state with 492 followed by 457 in Krishna.

(With inputsThiruvananthapuram, Vijayawada)

Youth & farmers angry with Modi, Nitish, says Rahul

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 28

As first phase of polling began in Bihar on Wednesday, the Congress launched an all out attack on the JD(U)-BJP combine with former party president Rahul Gandhi saying there was anger among small shopkeepers, youth, farmers and labourers against Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the national level and chief minister Nitish Kumar in the state.

Congress also attacked the state government over the Munger firing incident in which one person was killed, likening chief minister Nitish Kumar to General Dyer of Jallianwala infamy. Mr Gandhi said it was

sad that the Prime Minister's effigy was burnt in Punjab on the occasion of Dusshera.

'You didn't get to see it perhaps because Nitishji and Modiji control the media," he claimed. In one of the many ral-

lies he addressed in the state, the Wayanad MP said the people of Bihar gave 15 years to Nitish Kumar as chief minister and six years to Mr Modi as Prime Minister yet "Bihar is the poorest

Earlier in the morning,

The Shiv Sena demanded

This time for justice, employment, farmers-workers, your vote should be only for 'Mahagathbandhan

— Rahul Gandhi, Cong leader 1

Mr Gandhi tweeted that the current elections in Bihar were about the states future and if the Grand Alliance of which the Congress is a part come to power, it will be a government of all castes and religions.

"This time for justice, employment, farmersworkers, your vote should be only for 'Mahagath-bandhan' (grand allian-ce)," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

In Delhi, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi alleged that in Munger, the state police beat up devotees taking out Durga idols "cruelly and mercilessly'

One person was killed and over two dozen people, including security personnel, were injured in firing and stone-pelting during the immersion of Durga idols in Munger on

C'garh brings agri bill to counter farm laws by govt

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, OCT. 28

Amid opposition to the Centre's new farm laws, the Bhupesh Baghel gov-ernment has brought a agriculture amendment bill providing to regumarket prices of farm produce to protect farmers from exploita-

The bill christened as Krishi Upaj Mandi (amendment) Bill, 2020, was passed in the Chhattisgarh Assembly on Tues-day after a 2-day-marathon debate on it.

The bill aims to protect the farmers from fluctuating market prices and payment risks, Chhattisgarh agriculture minister Ravindra Choubey said while tabling the bill in the Assembly.

The bill did not violate any Central law, thereby avoiding confrontation with the Union government, he added. He said 80 per cent of

farmers in Chhattisgarh are small and marginal farmers who lacked capacity to store grains or bargain for fair prices. "Hence, it was neces-

sary to establish deemed mandis and electronic trading platforms for them," he added. The bill allows the gov-

ernment to establish deemed mandis (agricul-ture markets) or declare private markets as deemed mandis for regulation of marketing notified agriculture produce, he added.

Chhattisgarh Swabhiman Manch chief Raj Kumar Gupta, however, criticised the state government for not ensuring guarantee of MSP of farm produce in the bill as was done by Punjab government in its recently legislated bill.

solicitor-general of India, such an appeal made on the day of polling was "in utter violation of Model Code of Conduct, warranting

action against him". Polling took place for 71 constituencies of the 243member Assembly in the first of the three-phase election on Wednesday.

— PTI

BHAGWAN PARAB

The Colors TV channel on

Wednesday issued an apol-

ogy to the Maharashtra

government over the controversial remarks used

towards the Marathi lan-

guage in its popular reali-

ty show *Big Boss*. We had

no intentions of hurting

the sentiments of the peo-ple of Maharashtra, said

"We have received objec-

Pilot skirts Cong's

'gaddar' criticism

in Scindia bastion

tions regarding the refer-

RABINDRA NATH

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Wednesday refused to toe his party

line to call Jyotiraditya

Scindia whose rebellion

dislodged the Kamal Nath

government in March this year, a "gaddar (trai-tor)", saying, "One is free to decide which party one

wants to be in and it is the

public which judge one's

Replying to queries by reporters in Gwalior as to

whether he supported the

"gaddar" tag given to Mr

Scindia by his party col-

leagues in Madhya Pradesh, Mr Pilot said, "I

believe one is free to

decide which party one

should be in and it is the

public which ultimately

decides if one is right or

wrong."
Asked why he made no

mention of Mr Scindia while campaigning for

his party in Gwalior-Chambal, considered a Scindia bastion, he said,

'Whatever I want to say, I

say it emphatically and I

know what I don't want to

actions"

CHOUDHURY

BHOPAL, OCT. 28

MUMBAI, OCT. 28

Colors TV sorry for 'anti-Marathi' remark ence to Marathi language during the episode broad-

> objections and have taken corrective measures of the removing said part from all future broadcasts of the episode," Viacom18 Media, the par-ent company of Colors, said on Twitter.

casted on 27th October

2020 on Colors channel. We

have taken note of these

It added, "We hereby apologise if we have inadvertently hurt the feelings

I believe one is

which party

one should be in

which ultimately

decides if one is

right or wrong

and it is the public

— Sachin 🖣

Pilot,

Congress

leader

say". Asked what transpired in the meeting

between him and Mr

Scindia in Gwalior air-

port on Tuesday, he quipped, "What is news

for you; it may be no news

for me. I am working for

my party and he (Mr

Scindia) is working for

Congress has made the issue of Mr Scindia

pulling down the Kamal

Nath government by lead-

ing rebellion against for-

mer chief minister Kamal Nath, its key poll

plank in the November 3

byelections to counter Mr

his party'

Incidentally,

free to decide

Maharashtra due to the broadcast of the said comment in relation Marathi language. We value the audience and the patronage of the Marathi speaking audience and respect all lan-guages of India in the same manner.'

Voters undergo thermal screening at a polling booth as they stand in queues to cast

their votes for the first phase of the Bihar Assembly polls, amid the Covid pandemic,

The recent episode of Big Boss 14 found itself in controversy when one of contestants Jaan Kumar Sanu, the son of well-known singer Kumar Sanu, asked actor Nikki

PARMOD KUMAR

NEW DELHI, OCT. 28

The Supreme Court on

Wednesday permitted a PIL petitioner to approach

Madras high court for

seeking direction to the

Centre to release funds to

Tamil Nadu government

for funding the local bodies in the State from 2016

Giving liberty to the PIL petitioner lawyer C.T.Jaya

Sukin to approach Madras

high court, a bench com-prising Chief Justice

Tamboli to not speak in Marathi with fellow contestant Rahul Vaidya saying "mereko chid hoti hai (it irks me)." The comments evoked

angry reactions from the MNS and the Shiv Sena, who threatened to stop the shooting of the show if Jaan did not apologise. Ameya Khopkar, who heads the MNS film workers union, challenged Jaan to make a career living in Mumbai after his

SC allows lawyer to approach

HC to seek funds from Centre

Sharad A. Bobde, Justice

A.S. Bopanna and Justice

V. Ramasubramanian dis-

missed the PIL as with-

appeared in person seeks

leave of this Court to

withdraw the writ peti-

tion with liberty to approach the high court.

The writ petition is dis-

missed as withdrawn with

liberty as prayed for", the

The PIL petitioner lawyer Jaya Sukin told the

court that on an average

court said in its order.

who

drawn.

"Petitioner

that Bigg Boss' shooting permit be cancelled. Adesh Bandekar, head of the party's Chitrapat Sena tweeted, "Bigg Boss man-agement and the person must immediately apologise to Maharashtra and Marathi people. The person should be immediately evicted from the show... Maharashtra Home min-

ister Anil Deshmukh also said that an inquiry will be conducted in this

Famil Nadu annually

₹4000 crores from the

Centre for funding devel-

opmental activities by the local bodies including

gram panchayats, corpo-

rations, municipalities

He said that the same

has not been released

since 2016 as elections to

local bodies had not taken

All the developmental

work, Jaya Sukin said has

come to halt in the absences of Central

and town panchayats.

FIR against Sushant's kin quashed **SAURABH JOSHI** MUMBAI, OCT. 28

CBI wants

Γhe Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday expressed their objection to the FIR filed by Mumbai police against the sisters of deceased actor Sushant Singh Rajput adding that the same should be quashed. The case was filed by actor cum Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, who is also prime accused in the suicide case being probed by the CBI. The tug of war continues between the CBI and the state government and Mumbai police. The Maharashtra govern-ment had recently revoked general consent for the central agency to take over a case from the state police for probing it without the state's nod.

The officials asserted that the case was bad in law and vitiated which is why the agency opposed it in the Bombay high court. The agency also told the court that the complaint was presumptive and speculative. The officials added that all angles involving the death of the actor were being probed by the CBI and hence Chakraborty should have informed them about the same. The CBI contended that a separate case was uncalled for.

The case and its facts could already be the part of the case being probed by the CBI and other central agencies," CBI told the court.

The case was filed against Priyanka and Meetu Singh, sisters of Rajput. Rhea's complaint is based on the chat records, from a web-based appliand one of his sisters

A woman selects a clay idol of Goddess Lakshmi ahead of the Diwali festival in

■ 'Farming ingrained in my blood, gives me satisfaction', says Odisha leader As House session adjourned, MLA back to farm

Gwalior-Chambal.

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO

NABARANGPUR, OCT. 10

After the recent adjournment of the Monsoon Session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, Nityananda Gonda, the BJP MLA from the tribal heartland of Umerkote in Nabrangpur district, is back in his occupation farming. He is spending all the time harvesting paddy from the farmlands

and carrying the crop on his head to his home. What is quite interesting is that his wife works as

his constant companion. "The MLA Nityananda Ganda is seen keeping himself busy in his ancestral farmland for a week now, with a sickle in his hand. He works alongside other daily wagers to cut the ripe crop while his wife helps to tie those in bundles and mount in stacks," says Ramachan-



Odisha MLA Nityananda Gonda at his farm.

dra Behera, a local resi-Mr Behera also informed

that the MLA and his wife treat the daily wagers as their family members and serve them tea and snacks in the morning and a complete meal in the launch," added Mr Behera.

The farmer's leader, as he prefers to call himself, shyly told this newspaper that he always loved farm-ing as it gave them much satisfaction.

'I have got a passion for farming. In fact, I can't dissociate myself from this

activity as I feel it is deeply ingrained in my blood. Working in the farmland helps me to remain grounded. At the same time, it boosts the morale of my fellow farmers," says Mr Gonda, who otherwise is a

lawyer by profession.

Despite taking a plunge into electoral politics, or taking up legal profession as a practicing lawyer for a livelihood, the lawmaker said farmers are the real nation builders.

6 BSP MLAs rebel in UP, hint they may leave Maya's party

Lucknow, Oct. 28: In a papers were forged jolt to the BSP on One of the rebels a Wednesday, four of the 10 MLAs who had proposed the name of the party's lone candidate in next month's Rajya Sabha polls withdrew support amid hints that they may switch sides. The four MLAs were

reportedly accompanied by two others when they met the returning officer, submitting in writing that their signatures on senior party leader Ramji Gautam's nomination

One of the rebels admitted that she met SP president Akhilesh Yadav, while some others in the group of six, a third of BSP's total strength in the Assembly - expressed dissatisfaction over the way their own party treated them. They, however, did not specifically target BSP supremo Mayawati.

Without taking names, a BSP leader indirectly laid the blame for the dramatic development on the Samajwadi Party. -PTI



IN BRIEF

Examination at airport: Probe on

Dubai: Qatar apologised Wednesday after authorities fo rcibly examined female passengers from a Qatar Airways flight to Australia to try to identify who might have given birth to a newborn baby found abandoned at the airport earlier this month. Under pressure after Australia condemned the searches Qatar's government said it had begun an investigation into the treatment of the

women who were taking Qatar Airways Flight 908 to Sydney on Oct. 2. Qatar offered no immediate explanation of how officials decided to perform invasive vaginal examinations on the women. HR activists describe such examinations as equivalent to sexual assault.

Guru gets 120 years in jail

New York: Disgraced selfimprovement guru Keith Raniere, whose NXIVM followers included millionaires and Hollywood actors, was sentenced to 120 years for turning some adherents into sex slaves branded with his initials and sexually abusing a 15-year-old. US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis on Tuesday called Raniere "ruth-less and unyielding" in crimes that were "particularly egregious" because he targeted girls and young women in the sex-trafficking conspiracy that resulted in Raniere's conviction last year. He hand-ed down the unusually stiff sentence in Brooklyn federal court after hearing 15 victims call for a long prison term to reflect the nightmares and anguish they'll confront the

rest of their lives. As he announced the sentence, Garaufis noted that Raniere labelled some of the victims' claims lies. The judge told a woman who Raniere ordered to be kept in a room for two years when she was 18:

"What happened to you is not your fault." He said that went for the other victims too. Raniere, who looked at victims, maintained his defi-

Local address of

expats in passport

Dubai: Indian expats in the UAE and elsewhere can now provide their local address abroad in their passports, an official at the Indian Consulate in Dubai has said. The Indian government has decided to allow its overseas citizens to add their local address in their country of residence mainly to aid those who do not have permanent valid addresses in India, Siddhartha Kumar Baraily, consul, Passport and Attestation, at the Indian Consulate in Dubai told the Gulf News. "We understand that many people who have been staying for a long time in the UAE don't have a valid address in India. They may add their local UAE address in their passports," he said. Change in address cannot be made in existing passports, the official clarified. Indian passport holders have to apply for a new passport in which the change in address can be made. The facility can be availed by Indian expats living in both rented or selfowned accommodations, the report said. Those wishing to

HEATHROW NOT BUSIEST IN EUROPE

give their UAE address sho-

uld provide certain docum-

ents as proof of residence.

London, Oct. 28: London's Heathrow Airport says it has lost its place as Europe's busiest air hub to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris after the Covid-19 pandemic grounded flights and Britain failed to approve passenger testing that could scale back quarantine requirements. Heathrow said Wednesday that it expects pas-senger numbers to fall more than previously forecast this year and rebound more slowly

The airport now expects to serve 22.6 million passengers this year and 37.1 million in 2021, down from a June forecast of 29.2 million and 62.8 million. The forecast for this year represents at 72% drop from 2019. Commercial aviation plunged this year as governments implemented travel restrictions and passengers cancelled flights amid efforts to control the spread of Covid-19. "The UK's hub airport is no longer the busiest airport in Europe, competitors such as Charles de Gaulle have exceeded us in terms of passenger numbers," Heathrow said in a statement.



President Donald Trump pumps his fist as he walks off stage after speaking during a campaign rally at MotorSports Management Company, in West Salem, Wisconsin on Tuesday.

Don slams media for Joe graft case censor

Trump alleges that Biden got \$3.5 million from Russia

Choice of super recovery or Biden depression: Prez

and freezing cold.

instream American media and big tech companies for blocking the alleged corruption charges against his opponent Democratic challenger Joe Biden. Milkwaukee (US), Oct. 28: US President Donald Trump has said that the They have accused each other of serious corruption charges during the election campaigning, with 2020 presidential election the president alleging that is a choice between a "su-Biden got \$3.5 million from Russia and it came through Russian Presideper" economic recovery led by his administration or a "Biden depression" as he targeted his Democrant Vladimir Putin because he was very friendly with tic challenger Joe Biden. the former mayor of Moscow. Biden has denied With just seven days left for the most crucial Amethe allegations.
Trump, before leaving for a campaign trail on rican presidential election in recent memory, Trump intensified his campaign Tuesday, told reporters at by having as many as thrthe White House that the ee rallies on Tuesday, with

Milwaukee (US), Oct. 28:

US President Donald Trump has slammed the ma-

mainstream media was

not showing corruption against Biden. "Nobody

has ever seen anything

like we're witnessing right

now. I think it's a very sad

time and it'll go down as a

very sad era for the media

and certainly for big tech (companies). "I think

what is going on with all of

very badly because they've been so restrictive... when they don't want to show corruption, like you have with Biden — that's totally corruption and everybody knows it — and they're trying to protect. those companies — I think because he can make them they've hurt themselves wealthier, whereas they

one of them being in rain

"Seven days from now, we are going to win this state and we are going for more incredible years in the White House," Trump said in identical speeches in three battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Nebraska. "This election is a choice between a Trump super recovery or a Biden depression. That's what you are going to have with the raise of

taxes, the biggest tax incr-

ease in our history. It's ri-

diculous. It's a choice bet-

understand me," Trump "They understand where I'm coming from. It's very unfair. Nobody has ever seen anything like it. It's not freedom of the press... it's the opposite. And, site. And, of course, the media is in the same bag," Democratic Party. said the president.

ween a Trump boom or a Biden lockdown. Let's lock it all down and by the way speaking of lockdowns, let's get your governor to open it up. Let's get them to open it up," Trump said.

Seeking his second fouryear term, Trump is currently trailing in latest polls against Biden. However, Trump looked confident of his electoral victory on November 3, asserting that he is experiencing a wave-like situation across the country.

At a separate election rally in the battleground State of Wisconsin, his eldest son Donald Trump Jr alleged that the media and the big tech companies are now campaigning on benaif of Biden and the

CONFRONT ISLAMOPHOBIA, **SAYS IMRAN**

Islamabad, Oct. 28: Imran Khan on Wednesday wrote a letter to the leaders of the Muslim states, asking them to make collective efforts to confront growing trend of Islamophobia.

"The recent statements at the leadership level and incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran are a reflection of this increasing Islamophobia that is spreading in European countries where sizeable Muslim populations reside," according to the letter posted on Khan's official

Twitter account. The letter came in the wake of publication of caricatures on the Prophet in France and comments made by French President Emmanuel Macron, who defended such depictions as protected under the right to free speech. "We won't renounce the caricatures," Macron said last week. Khan urged the leaders of the Muslim countries to "collective-ly take the lead in breaking this cycle of hate and extremism, which nur-tures violence and even death". The prime min-ister said that blasphemy against any prophet, including those of Chr-istianity and Judaism, was not acceptable to the Muslims. On Monday, Pakistan summoned French Ambassador Marc Barety to lodge a "strong protest" against the publication of caricatures and President Macron's comments. — PTI

Border stand-off bilateral issue with India: China

Beijing, Oct. 28: China on Wednesday said its border standoff with India in eastern Ladakh is a bilateral issue, and asked the US to "stop" its Indo-Pacific strategy, terming it as an attempt to impose American hegemony in the region. The remarks by the Chinese Foreign Ministry came a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo assured India that the US stands firmly with it to confront threats to its sovereignty.

Pompeo's remarks came after the third edition of the Indo-US dialogue in New Delhi during which the two sides deliberated prominently upon the Sino-India border row and situation in the Indo-Pacific region. Reacting to the US push for closer defence ties with India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Wednesday that "the border affairs between China and India are matters between the two countries". "Now the situation across the border is generally stable and the two sides are in resolving relevant issues through consultations and negotiations," he said, in apparent reference to the military and diplomatic level talks between India and China to resolve the standoff. In a blunt criticism of China, Pompeo cited the killing of 20 Indian Army personnel in the Galwan Valley in eastern CHINESE FOREIGN Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin sharply criticised the US' Indo-Pacific concept, saying "the Indo-Pacific strategy proposed by the US is preaching outdated Cold War mentality and preaching confrontation and geopolitical game.

Ladakh in a clash with the Chinese military and said the US stands firmly with India in confronting threats to its sovereignty.

"Our leaders and our citizens see with increasing clarity that the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) is no friend to democracy, the rule of law transparency...I am glad to say that the US and India are taking steps to strengthen our cooperation against all manner of threats and not just those posed by the Chinese communist party," Pompeo said.

Wang sharply criticised the US' Indo-Pacific concept, saying "the Indo-Pacific strategy proposed by the US is preaching outdated Cold War mentality and preaching confrontation and geopolitical game. It is aimed to uphold the hegemony of the US. This runs counter to the common interest for the region and we urge the US to stop this".

US' Lanka vision different: Pompeo

Colombo, Oct. 28: America's vision on Sri Lanka is "very different" from that of "predator" China, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said here on Tuesday as he met the leadership here and reaffirmed US' commitment to the island nation's sovereignty and security. Addressing a joint press conference with his Sri Lankan counterpart Dinesh Gunawardena after bilateral talks, the top US diplomat said that the US and Sri Lanka shared

a democratic vision. a strong sover■ THE US will open an embassy in Maldives, **Secretary of State** Mike Pompeo announced on Wednesday as he held extensive talks with leadership of the strategically located island nation in the Indian Ocean.

stage. It can be a beacon for a free Indo-Pacific. "The Chinese Communist Party is a predator. The US comes in a different way, we come as a friend. eign Sri Lanka is a posi- Pompeo said in response tive partner on the world to a question.

TURKEY FLAYS CHARLIE HEBDO ERDOGAN TOON

Ankara, Oct. 28: Turkish officials on Wednesd ay railed against French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo over its coverpage cartoon mocking Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and accused it of sowing "the seeds of hatred and animosity".
The cartoon could furt-

her heighten tensions between Turkey and France, which erupted over French President Emmanuel Macron's firm stance against Islamism following the beheading of a teacher who showed his class caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad for a free spee-ch class. The Prophet cartoons upset many in the Muslim world. But it was Erdogan who led the charge against France and questioned Macron's mental state. France then recalled

its ambassador to Turkey for consultations, a first in French-Turkish diplomatic relations. "We strongly condemn the publication concerning our president of the French magazine, which has no respect to faith, the sacred and values, Erdogan's spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, wrote on Twitter. Kalin said: "The aim of these publications, that are devoid of morality and decency, is to sow seeds of hatred and animosity. To turn freedom of expression into hostility towards religion and belief can only be the product of a sick mentality." "I condemn this incor-

rigible French rag's immoral publication concerning our president," Turkish VP Fuat Oktay wrote on Twitter. -AF

Tech giant CEOs grilled over bias

Washington, Oct. 28: The CEOs of Twitter, Facebook and Google are facing a grilling by Republican senators making unfounded allegations that the tech giants show anti-conservative bias. The Senate Commerce Committee has summoned Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Google's Sundar Pichai to testify for a hearing Wednesday.

The executives agreed to appear remotely after being threatened with subpoenas. With the presidential election looming, Republicans led by President Donald Trump have thrown a barrage of grievances at Big Tech's social media platforms, which they accuse without evidence of deliberately suppressing conservative, religious and anti-abortion views. The chorus of protest rose this month after Facebook and Twitter acted to limit dissemination of an unverified political story from the conservative-leaning *New* York Post about Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, an unprecedented action against a

major media outlet. The story, which was not confirmed by other publications, cited unverified emails from Biden's son Hunter that were reportedly disclosed by Trump allies. Beyond questioning the CEOs, senators are expected to examine proposals to revise longheld legal protections for online speech, an immunity that critics in both parties say enables the

companies to abdicate

FOR TOO long, social media platforms have hidden behind Section 230 protections to censor content that deviates from their beliefs.

> ROGER WICKER, Senate Commerce Committee chairman

their responsibility to impartially moderate content. The Justice Department has asked Congress to strip some of the bedrock protections that have generally shielded the tech companies from legal responsibility for what people post on their platforms. Trump signed an executive order challenging the protections from lawsuits under the 1996 telecommunications law.

"For too long, social media platforms have hidden behind Section 230 protections to censor content that deviates from their beliefs," Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., the Commerce Committee chairman, said. In their opening statements. Dorsey Zuckerberg and Pichai addressed the proposals for changes to so-called Section 230, a provision of a 1996 law that has served as the foundation for unfettered speech on the

Zuckerberg said Congress "should update the law to make sure it's working as intended." "We don't think tech companies should be making so many decisions about these important issues alone," he said.

Expert: 1st vaccines imperfect

London, Oct. 28: The first set of Covid-19 vaccines that clear clinical the deadly virus are likely to be imperfect and might not work equally for everyone, the chief of the UK government's Vaccine Taskforce has warned. Kate Bingham, Chair of the UK's Vaccine Taskforce set up earlier this year to coordinate global efforts in search of a viable vaccine against the Coronavirus, said it is important to manage expectations as the early discoveries are unlikely to prove the "silver bullet" that the world is hoping for to get to grips with the pandemic.

"The first generation of vaccines is likely to be imperfect, and we should be prepared that they might not prevent infection but rather reduce symptoms, and, even then, might not work for everyone or for

GERMANY, FRANCE GEAR UP FOR NEW LOCKDOWNS AS VIRUS SURGES Berlin, Oct. 28: Germany sed evening address to the

and France were bracing for new lockdowns Wednesday, as governments sought to stop the fast-rising tide of Coronavirus cases that are beginning to fill European hospitals. French markets opened

lower on expectations that President Emmanuel Macron will announce tough measures during a televi-

an article for the medical journal *The Lancet* this Highlighting that the

long," Bingham writes in

United Kingdom is at the "forefront" of a huge international effort to develop clinically safe and effective vaccines, she also struck a note of caution Covid-19 patients and medical staff are under increasing strains.

that there are no guaran-

tees that a successful vac-

Doctors in France are

calling on the government to impose a new nat-

ionwide lockdown, noting

that more than half of the

country's intensive care

units are now occupied by

cine will be found at all. 'No vaccine in the history of medicine has been as eagerly anticipated as that to protect against severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2 or Covid-19).

UN: OVER 2 MN VIRUS CASES IN JUST ONE WEEK

London, Oct. 28: The World Health Organisation said countries globally reported more than 2 million confirmed Coronavirus cases last week — the shortest time ever for such an exponential increase since the pandemic began.

In a weekly analysis of Covid-19, WHO said for the second consecutive week, the European region accounted for the biggest proportion of new cases, with more than 1.3 million reported cases or about 46% of the worldwide total. The UN health agency said deaths were also on the rise in Europe, with about a 35% spike since the previous week. — AP

GIANT ISIZE 20-feet wingspan birds evolved after extinction of dinosaurs

Fossil of 50-mn-year-old bird identified

Scientists have identified the fossil of a giant bird that lived about 50 million years ago, with wingspans of up to 21 feet that would dwarf today's largest bird, the wandering albatross.
The fossils recovered

from Antarctica in the 1980s represent the oldest giant members of an extinct group of birds that patrolled the southern oceans. By comparison, today's largest bird, the wandering albatross has a wingspan of 11 and-a-half-foot. Called pelagornithids,

Los Angeles, Oct. 28: the birds filled a niche Scientists have identified much like that of today's albatrosses and travelled widely over Earth's oceans for at least 60 million years. Though a much smaller pelagornithid fossil dates from 62 million years ago. one of the newly described fossils - a 50 million-year-

old portion of a bird's foot shows that the larger pelagornithids arose just after life rebounded from the mass extinction 65 million years ago, when the relatives of birds, the dinosaurs, went extinct. A second pelagornithid

fossil, part of a jaw bone, dates from about 40 million years ago, according to the study published in the journal Scientific Reports. "Our fossil discovery, with its estimate of a 5-to-6-metre wingspan nearly 20 feet — shows that birds evolved to a truly gigantic size relatively quickly after the extinction of the dinosaurs and ruled over the oceans for millions of years," said Peter Kloess, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley in

The last known pelagor-nithid is from 2.5 million years ago, a time of changing climate as Earth cooled, and the ice ages began, they said. Pelagorni-thids are known as 'bony-toothed' birds because of the bony projections, or struts, on their jaws that resemble sharp-pointed teeth, though they are not true teeth, like those of humans and other mammals. The bony protrusions were covered by a horny material, keratin, which is like our fingernails, the researchers said.

Called pseudoteeth, the struts helped the birds snag squid and fish from the sea as they soared for perhaps weeks at a time over much of Earth's oceans, they said. Large flying animals have periodically appeared on Earth, starting with the pterosaurs that flapped their leathery wings during the dinosaur era and reached wingspans of 33 feet, according to the researchers. The pelagornithids came along to claim the wingspan record in the Cenozoic, after the mass extinction.



Chronicle

29 OCTOBER 2020

Why India must not put all eggs in the US basket

The third edition of the India-US dialogue in the "2+2" format — the annual event at which the foreign ministers and defence of the two countries take stock of the international security affairs — which was held in New Delhi last Tuesday had the obvious context of the Chinese aggression in Ladakh, and this enabled both sides to orchestrate extreme

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, in his opening remarks, spoke of China's "reckless aggression", perhaps implying that our northern neighbour's military venture in eastern Ladakh was foredoomed. This is good for national morale, and apparently rests in no small measure on assurances of US support. As if to confirm this, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, who likes to sound hawkish on China, noted in the joint press conference after the meeting

that the US would do everything in support of India's "sovereignty".

This sounds a shade condescending, and may suggest to some that in the US reckoning India may not be altogether prepared to defend its borders entirely on its own. However, the current Indian leadership will just have to pocket the superciliousness. It has just finished signing — also on Tuesday — the Basic Cooperation and Exchange Agreement (Beca), the last of the four "foundational agreements" on which the US insists when it enters into a deep partnership with a country involving close defence relationship. The external affairs minister, S. Jaishankar, pithily summed up the discussions when he informed the media that the conversations had a strong "political military"

An assertion of such a nature is unlikely to be tested in the severest of conditions any time soon in the event that the China's "People's Liberation Army" (threatening currently to 'liberate' Ladakh without solicitation) changes its mind in view of the growing international hostility it may sense to its militaristic designs over a large swathe of continental and maritime territory. But India will do well not to overlook history, although contexts may change from era to era. In 1962, Prime Minister Nehru had specifically sought "air support" from the Kennedy administration to ward off Chinese aggression in our northeast, but this was denied although Washington did extend

When President Donald Trump paid an official visit in February this year, India and the US had escalated their relationship to that of Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, the closest India can think of getting to "strategic ally" (of the Nato variety) in the age of multi-polarity, and in the just ended "2+2" conversation, it was decided, according to the joint statement that was issued, to expand this framework in order "to realise the full potential" of the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. Perhaps it is a foregone conclusion that greater purchase of American military platforms and equipments will ensue and greater clarity lent to the "shared vision" of India and the US for the Indo-Pacific which was first introduced into the India-US relationship during the visit of President Barack Obama in PM Narendra Modi's first term.

World must follow Macron

Tt has been a watershed moment in the over two-decade-old clash of civilisations of which the intelligentsia world over has now sat up and taken note. When a enager beheaded a teacher about two weeks back for showing the provocative Charlie Hebdo cartoons to his students only as the best example of freedom of expression, all of France rallied for the country's famous principle of *laïcité* (secularism) and celebrated culture of discourse wherein any opinion whatsoever is open to scrutiny and vigorous, non-violent debate. But what made the show of support different was the fact that during its course for the first time a head of state openly called upon immigrants rather than the existing population to integrate with French multiculturalism.

This newspaper unequivocally stands behind President Emmanuel Macron to uphold the democratic values of freedom of expression, an activity at the heart of knowledge, freedom of conscience, human dignity and equality between men and women. It also applauds Mr Macron's plan weeks before to draft a law to fight "Islamist separatism" which will counter the favouring of personal laws over France's republican values that adversely affect women's rights. So far, these have been compromised by putative liberals and in the very name of multiculturalism. And that is ironical, as human rights are a universal declaration (Paris, 1948).

Mr Macron's drawing of distinction between "French Islam" and other forms is also significant in the light of his country's intensifying brushes with Islamism culminating in the Nice attack of 2016 killing 87. Close on the heels of that attack, families were beaten up in Toulon by Muslim youth purportedly offended at the oht of women cycling on a holiday wearing shorts. the rise of Islamic fundamentalism as a reaction to insecurities caused by globalisation, a phenomenon first identified by Dutch sociologist-politician Pim Fortuyn in 1997. Fortuyn was assassinated in 2002.

As a politician himself, Mr Macron should know best how to keep his distance from far right forces. These forces have been trying to hijack this essentially humanitarian cause right since after the agnostic left first brought it to public domain. Nevertheless, it is imperative upon other nations in the world to confront this ever-growing global malaise and see through the power play of leaders like Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan whose aim it is to challenge Saudi Arabia's leadership of the Sunni world and his supporters, Imran Khan among them. Few indeed spare a thought for the worst sufferers — women in regressive societies who risk torture and opprobrium for routine freedoms but lack a politi-

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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As US embrace deepens, watch for pitfalls ahead



K.C. Singh

ne foreign and defence ministers of India and States met, in the "2+2" format, in New Delhi on October 26-27. They first engaged their counterparts and then met in the 2+2 format, progressively favoured by many countries as national security, def-ence and diplomacy are in today's complex and interconnected quite seamless.

Significantly, they were meeting just a week before Americans go to the polls to elect the President, one-third of the Senate and a new Congress on November 3, and against the backdrop of the six-month old India-China military standoff in Ladakh. In a choreographed press interaction, with only two journalists on either side allowed one question minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar unconvincas normally due. Perhaps both sides had unrelated compulsions for the scheduling. Unlike recent US presidential elections, many traditionally pro-Republican states are now swing states, including Texas and Georgia. The former was last won by a Democratic candidate (Jimmy Carter) in 1976. In both states, nonwhite immigrants are tilting the demographic balance towards Democrats. Joe Biden is, in the last week of electioneer-ing, swinging through them sensing change. Thus, was the meeting really sought to allow the projection of Mr Trump as pro-India and resur-rect the "Howdy Modi" Houston rally's euphoria for the diaspora vote?

India, on the other nand, would have hand, weighed the advantage of signing the Basic Exchange and

Cooperation Agreement (Beca) now. If Mr Biden were to win, he would only assume office in January. A new secretary of state may not have India on his to-do list till

ditional flow of Indian students to US universities. Again, there is a misguided move to cancel student visas if universiwell into 2021. With the ty courses have gone online. This has left India-China confrontation now likely to linger, many students stranded, India needs to optimise the use of American equipment like Apache helicopters, or new armed drones, if both unable to repay borrowed money or complete their education and seek employment. The joint statement simply skips over these problems acquired, or other US transport and reconnaiswhile restating past forsance platforms already deployed. India's access mulations on students as a people-to-people bridge. to the US geo-spatial net-work will have a multipli-

Covid-19 and its handling

gets prominence as the

Democrats are using it in

the presidential election.

Also related is the new Indo-Pacific alliance

sought to be built around

resilient supply chains.

Trade, on the other hand,

finds cursory mention in

the statement despite it being Mr Trump's princi-

pal preoccupation before

impending election has

focused minds on the

immediately relevant ideas. US secretary of

state Mike Pompeo, in his

remarks, recalled the

New Age Vision finalised

during his earlier visit. With a flourish, he announced that India and

US stood against "all

manner of threats", not

just from China. It is the

language normally used

among treaty allies. The US, he added, would

stand with India to "pro-

tect its sovereignty and integrity". His hyperbole hardly reflects the views

of his government, as Mr

Trump is by instinct an isolationist. Was he audi-

tioning for a presidential

Two other important

themes, although men-tioned in the joint state-

ment, are left unad-dressed. One, Mr

Trump's tightened immi-

run in 2024?

pandemic.

The focus is basically on defence cooperation and er effect on the targeting sales as that plays well back home, particularly during an election. There accuracy and lethality of these weapons, thus influencing the Chinese tactical calculus.

The joint statement expectedly details myriad themes such as the India. is an interesting decision to exchange liaison officers, with an Indian officer to be embedded at Navcent, Bahrain, which is the naval element of the US Central Comthemes such as the India-US relationship being raised to a Compre-hensive Global Strategic mand. Similarly, a US Partnership during the February 2020 visit of President Donald Trump. officer will be received by India's Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). The Quad is lauded, as But the scope has been limited by the context.

too India's invitation to the Australian Navy to join Japan, the US and India in the Malabar naval exercises. Some of the benefits the growing strategic clinch with the United States have been recounted above. What can be the pitfalls? Firstly, while the overall trajectory of India-US relations would materially under a Joe Biden administration, some elements may. Mr Biden's priority will be to rebuild US alliances, particularly with Nato, shore up the US economy and try reducing Trumpian reducing Trumpian unpredictability. He may cautiously attempt to reengage China. Mr

If Mr Biden were to win, he would only assume office in January. A new secretary of state may not have India on his to-do list till well into 2021. India needs to optimise the use of American equipment like **Apache** helicopters...

Pompeo's belligerence

gration controls, in the mistaken belief that it would help ameliorate job losses due to Covid-19 may be replaced by a more nuanced contain-ment strategy for China. A Biden administration lockdowns. Two, the tramay also bring greater focus on human rights, civil society protection and freedom of speech and media. All that may require a fresh rebalancing among the major powers, including in Asia. Second, the Wall Street Journal correspondent's

query is important as he sought to know the status of India's defence relationship with Russia after the signing of Beca now and the other three foundational agreements that were signed earlier. The defence minister parried it in Hindi, but the message was that India was unlikely to change its policy of buying weapons from multiple sources. But is this sustainable, with the closer integra-tion of US communications, logistics and geo-spatial systems with Indian weapons systems? India may acquire more

US weapons systems to narrow the strategic gap with China during the coming months. M.K. Rasgotra, a former foreign secretary and doyen of Indian diplomacy, now in his late 90s like Henry Kissinger, recently wrote that the US needs to devise a concessiona buy-lease programme for India to boost quickly its defence capability to deter China. Mr Trump has been too erratic and transactional to think that big. The next US President would inherit a destabilised West Asia, a fractious South Asia and a China-intimidated East Asia. He would require vision and leadership to peacefully contain China, curb the worst instincts of the Narendra Modi government and the BJP while helping India to rise and heal the fractures of the Islamic world? He can regain leadership by global reimagining a post-Covid world with new and flexible global alliances and reformed institutions of global governance. Covid-19 has created a historic inflexion point for change, which the brave and the wise must shape. Otherwise, rising revisionist powers like China

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

will fill the vacuum.

Apropos Khushbu held ahead of protest against Thiruma, released (Oct.28). Tamil Nadu politics is so

peculiar, the dribs and drab political outfits which are headed by lightweights do pick up trivial or silly things indulging in fracas only to be in the limelight! Otherwise Thirumavalavan of VCK thinking that his party is forgotten would not have quoted Manusmriti cried hoarse that it had denigrated. The women only to remind the electorate that his 'freed cheetahs' are still active, basking under the Sun! And the BJP emboldened with the parties-hopping yesteryear actress Khushbu since joined it, would not have entered the street show as a savior of weaker sex's dignity, lambasted Thiruma alleging that he has insulted the womenfolk! The great Manu must be turning in his grave, aghast how both the parties which cling to the apron strings of either major 'kazhagam' brazenly used his 'Smriti' which is redundant today, playing such bizarre politics to gain political mileage! Unlimited

A. Seshagiri Rao, Chennai

opportunism?

VCK LEADER Thol Thirumavalavan has quoted verbatim what is and the BJP has twisted his statement to make it appear as if he has denigrated women. The party is only trying to get political mileage out of it. When DMK president Stalin tried to intercede, he, too, was branded anti-women. It is ironical that actor Khushbu whose bold stance on premarital sex was once denounced by the same elements is now on the side of these hypocrites and tricksters.

Tharcius S. Fernando, Chennai

GOOGLE UNDER SCANNER

THE GROWING influence of tech behemoths such as Google and Face book on human lives across the globe is simply baffling. Citing the abuse of its market dominant position and its indulgence in anti competitive behaviour, the US Department of Justice had launched an anti-trust suit against tech major Google. As a gateway to the internet and a search advertising behemoth, Google maintained and continued to maintain its monopoly power. Whether the dominance of Google has stemmed from its exclusionary practices or not, what is obvious is that its dominance is mostly driven by network effects. As tech majors such as Google and Facebook shape how people live, think, consume, vote, read and work, concrete steps to holding them accountable while protecting competition is the need of the hour.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan

Dilip Cherian Dilli Ka Babu



Dhesi, Khattar's favourite, gets a second innings

oliticians are sometimes loath to let a favourite babu go off into retirement. They find ways to bring them back into the administration. In 2017, Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh had appointed retired chief secretary Suresh Kumar as his chief principal secretary, even though the state had a regular principal secretary, another IAS officer, because Mr Kumar enjoyed his full trust.

Now taking a cue from the neighbouring state, Haryana chief min-ister Manohar Lal Khattar has sprung a similar surprise on his administration, and one which is likely to alter power equations in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). He has appointed retired IAS officer D.S. Dhesi as the chief principal secretary in the CMO.

According to sources, Mr Dhesi

was Haryana's chief secretary for four years and retired last year. He was then appointed chairman of the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC), which he has now left to join his new assignment. Though his duties have not been spelt out, it is quite likely that Mr Dhesi will become another power centre in the CMO, with all important files meant for Mr Khattar being routed

THE 'SPECTRUM SECRETARY'

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba will head a panel of secretaries to streamline the spectrum allocation process. The other members of the panel are home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, defence secretary Ajay Kumar, telecom secretary Anshu Prakash, I&B secretary Amit Khare and secretary, department of space, K. Sivan. Those in the know say that the committee's ambit may eventually be widened to also include spectrum pricing issues, always contentious, as we have seen in the

According to sources, the highpowered panel will examine the possibility of drawing up an annual calendar for auction of the spectrum that will give telecom companies a clear road map of the quantum as well as the frequency of spectrum being offered for commercial use. It will also sort out the various spectrum-related issues between ministries — as seen in the composition of the

This may meet a long-standing demand of telecom companies who have been asking the government to clear the air for auctioning spectrum, which will help them plan and allocate resources efficiently, optimise their networks and roll out new technologies.

TOO BUSY TO CLEAN AIR

It is that time of the year, Covid or not, when the air quality in north India deteriorates rapidly. Stubble burning by farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi is a major contributor to this. Every year several steps are announced, media raises a big stink, but nothing much has happened.

This year, stubble burning has begun already and urgent steps would be required to prevent Delhi from turning into a gas chamber. The Supreme Court has now taken a serious note of the failure of these states to stop stubble burning which poses a serious threat to public health in the region. It directed the respective chief ministers of these states to remain present when the court takes up the matter of combating air pollution at the next hearing. Hopefully, some meaningful action will emerge

from the apex court's intervention. Meanwhile, the state administra-tion in Punjab and Haryana especially are busy dealing with angry farmers agitating against the Centre's controversial farm bills, the chief secretaries have their hands full already. This year could see a repeat of our previous trysts with polluted air at the onset of winter with babus issuing the usual warnings and threats to fine farmers who are burning stubble.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

THURSDAY | 29 OCTOBER 2020 | COIMBATORE

guick

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,922.46	-1.48
Nifty 50	11,729.60	-1.34
S&P 500*	3,283.56	-3.16
Dollar (₹)	73.86	-0.18
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.08	-0.20
Euro (₹)	86.81	0.21
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,279 ▼ 682	1.34
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	38.95	-2.25
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.859	0.012
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.761	-0.017
* As of 9:30 PM IST		

HPE Covid Test Labs facilitate 1L patient visits



Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) today announced that its Covid-19 Test Labs and **Outpatient Department (OPD)** Centers have collectively facilitated over 100 thousand patient visits across India. These facilities provide additional authorised Covid-19 testing facilities and isolation beds, thereby assisting the government of India and state governments in their efforts to contain the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Gold loans double as Covid-hit people pledge family jewellery

CHENNAI, OCT. 28

Gold loan disbursements by NBFCs have more than quarter over the previous quarter. They are expected to clock 15 to 18 per cent growth this year on increased demand and higher gold price.

Preliminary estimates indicate that gold loan disbursements, including repledge with NBFCs, have sequentially in the second quarter of this fiscal, finds Crisil.

Growth was flat in the first quarter of this fiscal because of low disbursements in April and May due to the country-wide lock down. Manappuram Finance saw its gold loan portfolio growing by 2 to 3 per cent in April-May as customers have been availing gold loan using online products. Muthoot Finance too had seen a flattish growth during the



ing to micro and small With the Covid-19 panenterprises, traders and demic-driven lockdowns the self-employed. being lifted slowly and economic activity clawing Crisil expects assets back, demand for gold

under management of NBFCs to grow 15-18 per loans has risen, especially cent this fiscal. Motilal from individuals meeting Oswal too expects gold urgent personal requireloan NBFCs to deliver 15 ments and from micro per cent CAGR over FY20enterprises for working to restart businesses. Gold

"In the current scenario, we believe gold financiers would benefit as customers would look to raise cash by leveraging their holdings increase in gold prices would give a modest impecustomers to get personal loans due to lack of formal documentation, higher share of rural business and flexi-lending terms will support gold loan business," finds Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

classes, gold loan has not faced major issues in collection and disbursement, or re-pledge of loans, barring in the stringent lock down phase in April and said Krishnan Sitaraman, Senior Director, CRISIL Ratings. In order to provide a

re-pledging smooth process in times of pandemic, larger NBFCs are offering online renewal since the underlying collateral is already in their possession. Large goldloan financiers have also consistently raised funds through bonds, under the targeted long-term repo operations and partial credit guarantee schemes

Hospitality sector sees signs of revival

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 28

last year levels.

Hospitality has started seeing early signs of month-on-month recovery in occupancy with gradual revival in domestic leisure travel. However, occupancies are still down 60 per cent compared to

Average occupancies in hotels across India moved up 10 to 12 per cent from the August levels to 24 to

26 per cent in September. Average daily rates too have improved 2 to 4 per cent to ₹3400- ₹3600 per night. Revenue per available rooms grew 12 to 14 per cent month-on-month to ₹815 – ₹935, as per HVS and Anarock.

loans would be preferred

also because non-banking

financial companies (NBFCs) and banks have

tightened their underwrit-

ing norms for other loans,

leading to cautious lend-

lock down.

Leisure destinations such as Goa and Jaipur have been witnessing a noticeable improvement in occupancy as people have started travelling for a change of pace, albeit to

destinations closer to their cities. Domestic air passenger traffic also has improved by 39 per cent in September compared to August. However, corporate travel continues to

remain subdued.

Mumbai Indians

Delhi Capitals

Kings XI Punjab

Kolkata Knight Riders

Royal Challengers Bangalore

Dubai, Oct. 28: Sunrisers Hyderabad leg-spinner

Rashid Khan says a clear

strength and he reaped the

rewards for focussing on

bowling more dot balls against DC in their IPL

Going into Tuesday's do-

or-die contest against DC,

SRH registered a comfort-

able 88-run win to stay alive in the race for the

play-offs. Rashid returned

with incredible figures of

4-0-7-3 to make a significant

contribution in Sunrisers'

"I just go with a clear mind, that's my biggest

strength. I want to bowl a

good line and length, no

match here.

On a year-on-year basis, hospitality remains one of the worst affected by Occupancies were down 60 per cent last month compared to September 2019. Revenue per available rooms was

down 72 per cent and average daily rates by 30 per

Going ahead, festive season is likely to boost demand for travel and hotel stay. Long vacations and international trips are off the table for the rest of 2020.

Booking-com finds that almost 62 per cent Indian travelers favour a trip they could afford in the short-term rather than saving for a dream trip.

P W L N/R Pts NRR

12 8 4 0 16 +1.186

12 7 5 0 14 +0.048

12 7 5 0 14 +0.030

12 6 6 0 12 -0.049

12 6 6 0 12 -0.479

12 5 7 0 10 +0.396

12 5 7 0 10 -0.505

12 4 8 0 6 -0.602

Rashid Khan

matter the situation. You

have to mix up and play

with the batsman's mind,

and see the weak zone and strong zone...So I keep those things in mind,"

The Afghan bowled 17 dot

balls in his four-over

Rashid said

IPL POINTS TABLE

Clear mind is my

strength: Rashid

FOOD MINISTRY WORRIED OVER LESS IN-TAKE OF SWEETNER

New Delhi, Oct. 28: The government on Wednesday said there is a need to address "myths and misgivings" about sugar consump tion in India, as the per capita consumption of sweetener has remained stagnant for the last three years at 19 kilogram.

Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey, after launching industry body ISMA's portal 'http://meetha.org' said India is one of the world's largest consumers of sugar but per capita consumption has remained stagnant at 19 kg, much lower than the world's average per capita consumption of 23.50 kg. The country's annual

consumption sugar stood at 25-26 million tonnes, while production reached 27.5 million tonnes in the 2019 season ending September.

There are a lot of myths going around about sugar and sugar consumption without scientific basis. This misinformation multiplies much faster than the truth multiplies, the official said.

Therefore, it is very important to come up with scientific information so that people can make very informed decisions,' Pandey said.

Food secretary Sudhanshu Pandey also said that there is also 'misunderstanding' about Indian sugar abroad. — PTI

Covid rebound in US, Europe turns markets volatile

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 28

Weak global cues led to a fresh round of selling in the Indian market as the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic in Europe and the United States, uncertainty over who would be the next US President worried investors.

Sensex fell 600 points or 1.48 per cent to close at 39,922.46 while Nifty-50 settled at 11,729.60 down 159.80 points or 1.34 per cent.

Rising Covid-19 cases globally specifically in Europe and the United States are worrying investors as strict lock-down could be imposed and the economy's recovery, which is still at a nascent stage could once again get hit, said ana-

Among the global peers United Kingdom's FTSE 100 index fell to its lowest level in six months on Wednesday on investors' worries of more virus curbs and uncertainty over a coronavirus vac-

Volatility in the domes tic market arose ahead of equity derivative contracts expiry on Thursday as the Sensex fell 778 points intra-day taking the index to day's low of 39,774.60 before the final close 39.922.46. Volatility index India VIX rose 4.88 per cent to 23.28. Keshav Lahoti, equity analyst, Angel Broking said, "We expect volatility to continue in the market

on the eve of key events of

the US election, ongoing result season and how coronavirus cases are being reported around the

Broader market suffered lesser damages with BSE Mid-cap index down 0.93 per cent and BSE Smallcap index down by 0.76 per

All sectoral indices on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) barring telecom and capital goods closed in the red led by the financials. BSE Bankex index closed 2.28 per down cent and Nifty Bank fell 2.17 per cent.

The top losers in the Sensex basket included IndusInd Bank(-3.45 per cent), HDFC(-3.44), ICICI Bank(-3.34), HDFC Bank(-2.27), Bajaj Finance(-2.41) and Tech Mahindra(-3.00 per cent).

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net sellers by ₹1130.98 crore on Wednesday after aggressive buying on Tuesday of equities worth ₹3,590 crore.

WARM-UP TIE

FOR INDIA IN OZ

Melbourne, Oct. 28: The Indian cricket team will

GAMES

Surya power

Yadav turns on heat as Mumbai bust RCB

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 28: Mumbai Indians defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by five wickets in an IPL game here on Wednesday to all but qualify for the play-

Put in to bat, Royal Challengers Bangalore scored 164 for 6 in the allotted

In reply, MI chased down the target of 165 with five balls to spare. Suryakumar Yadav led the charge with an unbeaten 79 off 43 balls that included 10 fours and three

Earlier, young Devdutt Padikkal pummelled the Mumbai Indians attack into submission with a 45-ball 74 before Jasprit Bumrah stopped Royal Challengers

Bangalore. Put in to bat, Padikkal, who plundered 12 fours and a six, added 71 runs for the opening wicket with Josh Philippe

However, the RCB then suffered a middle-order collapse as Mumbai roared back into the game with lead pacer Bumrah (3/14) doing the bulk of damage.

Padikkal began with a boundary over deep extra cover and then struck successive fours off Krunal Pandya, as RCB fetched 12 runs in the third over. The two openers continued playing their shots, the highlight being Philippe's six over Trent Boult's head in the fifth over. Padikkal then went on the offensive against James



Suryakumar Yadav of Mumbai Indians plays a shot against Royal Challengers Bangalore during their IPL match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

Moenchengladbach. Liverpool

Leon Goretzka put the Germans ahead early on



Midtjylland during their Champions League match at

week. But Bayern were not to be denied a record 13th straight win in the competition as Kimmich controlled a Javi Martinez pass and volleyed home low from outside the box 11 minutes from time.

Meanwhile, Pep Guardiola's City eased to a second straight win in Group C with Kevin De Bruyne setting up Ferran Torres for the early opener against Marseille after the hosts had carelessly ceded

to halt Knights **NUMBERS GAME**

of play-offs reckoning, a relaxed CSK are ready to play party-poopers with an aim to foil KKR's desperate bid for a victory in an IPL game on Thursday

Ousted CSK look

KKR with 12 points from 12 games would like to win the next two encounters to ensure a smooth passage while CSK, currently at the bottom of the eight-team table, are only playing for

A possibility remains that multiple teams will end up on either 16 or 14 points and a comprehensive victory at ment, will bring the superior net run-rate into equation when the play-off spots are decided.

It won't get too easy for KKR against CSK, who handed an eight-wicket thrashing to RCB in their previous outing.

KKR's unsettled batting order is a point of concern for Eoin Morgan, who would hope that Dinesh Karthik produces his A game when it matters most. They need to be at the top of their game against the CSK batting unit that has been frustratingly inconsistent

HEAD TO HEAD

Nolkata: 8 **MEETING IN 2019**

Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 7 wickets at Chennai Chennai Super Kings defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 5 wickets at

MEETING IN 2020

Kolkata Knight Riders beat Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs at Abu Dhabi

FOR THE RECORD

Rahul Tripathi scored 81 off 51 balls with eighth fours and three sixes against Chennai Super Kings in the first meeting at Dubai. • Faf du Plessis with 401 runs in 12 innings of as many matches, is the ffth highest run-getter in this IPL.

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

THE RESULTS

but is more than capable of being destructive on its day. CSK will be aiming to build on the win over RCB and end the season on a

Manchester City

76, Sterling 81)

Marseille

Liverpool

Midtjylland

Real Madrid

Borrusia

(Benzema 87,

Casemiro 90+3)

(Thuram 33, 58)

pen)

(Torres 18, Gundogan

(Jota 55, Salah 90+2-

Day/Night warm-up game in Sydney as a tune-up to the series-opening Pink Adelaide

Ball Test against Australia December 17, the host board announced on Wednesday. The tour will include a 14-day quarantine-cum-training period in Sydney starting in Sydney starting November 12 for the Indians who will fly in after the IPL final on November 10. The Border-Gavaskar. Trophy will begin with a day-night encounter at the Adelaide

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Oval on December 17.

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City trounce Marseille, Reds rock

Paris, Oct. 28: Holders Bayern Munich continued their perfect start to their Champions League title defence on Tuesday as Real Madrid had Casemiro's late goal to thank for scrambling a 2-2 draw away to Day draw away to Borussia

Manchester City also made it six points out of a possible six in Europe this season, after Bayern needed a late Joshua Kimmich strike to claim a 2-1 win at Lokomotiv Moscow in Group 'A'.

in front of a limited crowd in the Russian capital, but Anton Miranchuk tucked in an equaliser for Lokomotiv in the second half — Miranchuk's twin brother Aleksei scored for Champions League last Mohamed Salah (right) of Liverpool in action against FC

Anfield stadium in Liverpool on Tuesday.

possession. Ilkay Gundogan and Raheem Sterling added late goals to make it 3-0, leaving Marseille without a point. In another match Liverpool defeated Danish

champions Midtjylland 2-0

Moenchengladbach

Inter Milan **Shakhtar Donetsk**

3 Atletico Madrid

Salzburg

(Anton

(Marcos Llorente 29,

(Dominik Szoboszlai

Joao Felix 52, 85)

40, Felipe 47-OG)

(Leon Goretzka 13,

Joshua Kimmich 79)

Lokomotiv Moscow

Bayern Munich

Miranchuk 70)

at Anfield in Group D. Diogo Jota finished off a fine move to give Jurgen Klopp's team the lead early in the second half, before Mohamed Salah made sure of the points with a late penalty.

Pattinson.

de Kock b Chahar 33, Devdutt Padikkal c Boult b Bumrah 74, Virat Kohli c Tiwary b Bumrah 9, AB de Villiers c Chahar b Pollard 15, Shivam Dube c Yadav b Bumrah 2, Chris Morris c Pattinson b Boult 4, Gurkeerat Singh Mann not out 14, Washington Sundar not out 10. Extras (W-3) 3. Total (for 6 wickets in 20

FoW: 1-71, 2-95, 3-131, 4-134, 5-134, 6-138.

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-40-1, Jasprit Bumrah
4-1-14-3, Krunal Pandya 4-0-27-0, James
Pattinson 3-0-35-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-43-1,

SCORECARD Royal Challengers Bangalore: Josh Philippe st Kieron Pollard 1-0-5-1.

Mumbai Indians: Q de Kock c Gurkeerat b Siraj 18, Ishan Kishan c Morris b Chahal 25, Suryakumar Yadav not out 79, S. Tiwary c Padikkal b Siraj 5, K. Pandya c Morris b Chahal 10, H. Pandya c Siraj b Morris 17, Pollard not out 4. Extras (LB-2, W-6) 8. Total (for 5 wickets in 19.1 overs) 166.

FoW: 1-37, 2-52, 3-72, 4-107, 5-158.

Bowling: Chris Morris 4-0-36-1, Dale Steyn 4-0-43-0, Washington Sundar 4-0-20-0, Mohammed Siraj 3.1-0-28-2, Yuzvendra Chahal