

IN BRIEF

24-yr-old stabbed to death, friend injured

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man was stabbed to death by two persons while trying to resist a snatching bid at GB Road in Central Delhi. The incident took place on Sunday night. The deceased has been identified as Aman, a resident of New Ashok Nagar area in Delhi. According to DCP (Central district) Sanjay Bhatia, Aman along with his friends Aniruddh, Hari Om, and Raju, was roaming on GB Road at around 11.30 pm on Sunday when a person tried to snatch his mobile phone. "Aman caught hold of the snatcher and started beating him up. In the meantime, the snatcher's accomplice stabbed Aman with a knife and when his friend Aniruddh tried to stop him, he attacked the latter as well," said the DCP. "Both men were rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) hospital, where Aman was declared brought dead by doctors. Aniruddh is undergoing treatment for his stab wounds," said the DCP. "The police received information at 1.54 am from RML hospital through our duty constable. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the IPC at Kamla Market police station and investigation is underway," he added. — PTI

Man kills self over domestic dispute

Noida: A man allegedly shot himself dead in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida on Monday over a domestic dispute, police said. The incident took place in Bisahda village and the deceased has been identified as Vikram Pratap Singh alias Vicky, son of former village head Sanjay Rana, the police said. "Singh had shot himself at home and was taken by family members to a hospital. Further proceedings are underway in the case. He had no link with the Bisahda case," the district police said in a statement. Bisahda village had grabbed headlines after a mob attacked a 52-year-old man, Mohammad Akhlaq, alleging he had stored beef in his house. The infamous episode had come to be known as 'Dadri lynching'. However, the police clarified that the deceased, who shares the same name as one of the accused in the lynching episode, had nothing to do with this case.

Man electrocuted to death in S. Delhi

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man was electrocuted to death after he came in contact with an electricity pole at a park near Nizamuddin Basti in southeast Delhi, police said on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Jubair, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Amroha. He worked at a car accessories market at Lajpat Nagar, the police said. The incident took place on Sunday evening, they said. "We received a PCR call at the Hazrat Nizamuddin police station. The caller informed us that a man has died due to current from an electricity pole," a senior police officer said. On reaching the spot, police found that the injured had been taken to AIIMS hospital where he was declared brought dead. Deputy commissioner of police (Southeast) R.P. Meena said a case has been registered under IPC section 304 A (causing death by negligence) and further investigation has been taken up. The body will be handed over to the family after the autopsy, he said. — PTI

Delhi Police ASI hurt in shooting

New Delhi: An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the Delhi police and a 54-year-old man were injured after two unidentified men opened fire on them at Alipur area of Outer Delhi. According to DCP (Outer North district) Gaurav Sharma, the incident took place at around 6.00 pm on Sunday. "Both the injured persons, ASI Sube Singh of the Seelampur police station and Mahendra, are undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital," said the DCP, adding that they are stable. "Soon after the incident, Mahendra called up the police and told it that two assailants had fired upon him when he was with Singh in Alipur. Mahendra was injured when a bullet grazed past him while Singh received a bullet injury in his right leg," said the DCP. "A case has been registered and a manhunt has been initiated to nab the accused," said the DCP.

■ 1,947 fresh cases took tally to over 2.92 lakh

City records 32 more Covid deaths, toll now to 5,542AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT 5

The national capital recorded 32 Covid fatalities on Monday, as the toll climbed to 5,542 while 1947 fresh cases took the tally to over 2.92 lakh.

The relatively low number of fresh cases came out of the 35,593 tests conducted the previous day, a Sunday. On weekdays, the average number of tests conducted ranges between 50,000 to 55,000.

According to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department, 32 new fatalities have been recorded, taking the death toll to 5,542.

The active cases tally on Monday stood at 23,080.

The bulletin said, the total number of cases has climbed to 2,92,560.

The positivity rate on Monday stood at 5.47 per cent while the recovery rate was crossed 90 per cent, the bulletin said, adding the case fatality rate stood at 1.89 per cent.

Meanwhile, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Monday took a meeting

Containment zones in Delhi go past 2,700

New Delhi, Oct 5 : The number of containment zones in the national capital has gone past 2,700 with increase in tests to detect coronavirus infection, according to official data.

According to revenue department data, the number of containment zones had gone up to 2,707 by Sunday.

The number went up from 1,751 on September 17 to over 2,000 on September 24.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain had said last week that the

increase in the number of containment zones is a part of Delhi's strategy to tackle the spread of the virus.

"We tripled the number of tests and those who tested positive were isolated in small zones to contain the spread. We knew we would have to do it aggressively for two to four weeks and we are seeing positive results now as the cases are declining," he had said last week.

The Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing from September.

with medical directors and medical superintendents of all Delhi government hospitals to review the status of testing.

Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev took a review meeting with all district magistrates on Covid management.

The number of containment zones in Delhi jumped to 2,707 from 2,696 on Sunday.

Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing in the past few days, with the count on several times crossing the 60,000-mark.



Dalit leader Udit Raj with party workers during their Delhi to Hathras Nyay March demanding justice for the 19-year-old Dalit woman, who died after being allegedly gang raped in New Delhi on Monday.

FIR against over 500 Cong workers for Oct. 3 ruckus at DND flyover

Noida, Oct 5: The Gautam Buddh Nagar Police has filed an FIR against over 500 Congress workers, charging them with unlawful assembly two days ago at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border in Noida amid the COVID-19 outbreak, officials said on Monday. The FIR has been registered against Congress' Gautam Buddh Nagar unit president Manoj Chaudhary, Noida unit chief Shahabuddin and 500 unnamed party workers, the police officials said.

Hundreds of Congress workers and leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were on their way to Hathras on Saturday afternoon to meet the family of a woman who died after an alleged gangrape.

There were scuffles involving Congress workers and the Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida) Police at the DND toll plaza during which police personnel had baton charged the crowd. Some party leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi, were manhan-

dled, while some policemen were also hurt.

According to the FIR lodged a little earlier before midnight on October 3, the Congress workers have been booked under IPC sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (unlawfully or negligently spreading infection of any disease dangerous to life), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and under section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act.

— PTI

City ready for 'war against air pollution': CMAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 5

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday launched a mega anti-air pollution campaign, saying polluted air can be life threatening in view of the Covid pandemic. Under the campaign "Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh", separate plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots in the city, Kejriwal said during a digital press conference.

"Polluted air can be life threatening in view of the Covid pandemic. Both



Arvind Kejriwal

affect lungs," he said.

Mr Kejriwal said a "war room" is being set up to monitor all anti-pollution measures being taken by his government.

The government is also preparing a "Green Delhi" mobile application, he said.

"Using it, people can bring pollution causing

activities, such as garbage burning or industrial pollution, to our notice. There will be a deadline to address complaints. I will get a daily report about resolved and pending grievances," the chief minister said.

Mr Kejriwal has also issued directions to departments concerned to fill potholes to reduce dust emissions, which, he said, is a major contributor to air pollution in the city.

"Teams have been inspecting construction sites to check dust pollution," he said.

The chief minister said one of the major reasons

for high levels of pollution in Delhi and nearby areas is stubble burning.

"Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute here have found an economical way to deal with the problem. They have prepared a solution which can turn stubble into manure," he said.

"We are going to prepare this solution at a large scale from Tuesday under the supervision of experts from the institute. This solution will be used in Delhi this year. Next year, we will urge other states to use it," Mr Kejriwal said.

— PTI



An unknown person threw ink at AAP MP Sanjay Singh in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh where he had gone to meet the family of the 19-year-old who was allegedly gang-raped last month. —

PTI

Ink thrown at AAP MP Sanjay Singh in Hathras

Hathras/Lucknow, Oct. 5:

Ink was thrown on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh in Hathras on Monday when he was leading a party delegation in the village of the Dalit woman who recently died after being allegedly gang-raped.

The accused man was immediately held, the local police said, while AAP chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal slammed the UP government over the attack on Singh.

When Singh was about to speak to mediapersons from TV news channels, a man threw ink on his white kurta while shouting "PFI dalal wapas jao".

The Popular Front of India (PFI), an alleged radical group, has been accused of funding some protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act that took place across the country earlier this year. The UP Police had

earlier sought a ban on the organisation. Mr Singh sat in his car and left the spot immediately after the incident. Visuals of the occurrence soon surfaced on the electronic media.

In Delhi, CM Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi: "Sanjay ji, you have been speaking fearlessly against the injustice and atrocities of the UP government. They made 14 FIRs against you,

sealed the office but did not dare to arrest you, so they got you attacked today. This shows the defeat and disgrace of the people sitting in the UP government. It means you're on the right track."

The accused was held soon after the incident, the Hathras police said.

"AAP MP Sanjay Singh had come to meet the victim's family in Bool Garhi village. Later during a press conference, a young man threw ink on him. The accused was immediately taken into custody and legal proceedings are underway," it said in a statement.

Mr Singh is among the several political leaders who have visited Hathras to meet the family members of the 19-year-old Dalit woman who died on September 29 after she was allegedly raped by four upper caste men.

— PTI

Aunts smother toddler, hide body in wardrobe, heldAGE CORRESPONDENT
NOIDA, OCT. 5

Two women were arrested on Monday for allegedly smothering their two-year-old nephew over "jealousy" with his mother in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida, police said.

The child was killed on September 29 by her two aunts, who had then covered his body in a blanket and hid it in a wardrobe inside their house, deputy commissioner of police, Central Noida, Harish Chander said.

"The child had gone missing and on September 29, the family had approached the local Surajpur police station where a case for "missing" was lodged in connection with the matter and probe taken up," Chander said.

Later that night, the toddler's body was recovered from the wardrobe and taken to a hospital where doctors confirmed death and stated asphyxiation as the cause, the officer said.

"The matter was investigated and the two aunts were interrogated based on evidence sug-

gesting their role. The two women have confessed to killing the child and have been arrested," he claimed. The incident took place when accused Pinki, who is married and is the elder sister of co-accused Rinki, had visited her parent's house, the police said.

Both siblings, around 30 years of age, told police that they were upset with the child's mother Sapna, wife of their brother, over her attitude towards them, according to the police. They were also "jealous" of Sapna as their brother took her side and often taunted the sisters on various issues, giving rise to hatred among them that led to the extreme step by the duo, the police said.

MCDs didn't pay required salary to its staff, says AAP

New Delhi, Oct. 5: The AAP on Monday claimed that BJP-ruled municipal corporations have violated a high court order as they didn't pay the required salary to staffers who spray anti-dengue and malaria medicines across Delhi.

Hitting back, North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash said salary up to August has been released to DBC (dengue breeding checking) employees.

AAP functionary Durgesh Pathak at a press conference accused the MCD of not complying the court's order to pay dengue-malaria warriors ₹32,000 instead of ₹14,000.

"The fight against dengue and malaria cannot happen without the people who spray anti-dengue and malaria medicines across the capital. They check the breeding of the larva, go door to door and spray the medicine. There are around 3,500 such people who work as dengue-malaria warriors," he said.

Pathak said the BJP-led municipal corporations have shown stepmotherly behaviour towards "Corona warriors".

— PTI

Delhi violence: Causes, fallout and aftermathAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 5

A 232-page report by the Scientists & Lawyers Initiative on Delhi Riots in February, that claimed at least 53 lives, released on Monday and with this newspaper, throws light on the causes, fallout and aftermath of the four-day long mayhem. The report examines the official response during four days of mob savagery from February 23 to 26, and also inquires into the role played by Delhi Police, both immediately before, as well as during the days of violence.

The report, titled "Delhi

Riots of February 2020: Causes, Fallout and Aftermath," is based solely, and entirely, upon an analysis of published materials. The report is edited by Chander Uday Singh and starts with a prologue by Justice BN Srikrishna, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The report traces the genesis and probable causes and seeks to unravel the manner in which mayhem, arson, and destruction were unleashed on an area which had no history of communal strife.

This report is the culmination of such a collective effort. As to whether the material presented in this

report represents facts or mere perspective vision of the events is for the readers to judge. "The narrative in the report, which is apparently based on material in the public domain and gar-

nered from conversations with members of the public, makes for interesting reading. It is for the state apparatus enforcing the rule of law and the constitutional machinery, as its sentinel, to objectively assess the trustworthiness of the facts narrated here and take necessary action to restore the faith of the citizens of this country in the rule of law," said Mr Srikrishna.

The report said that in the fateful week of February 23, 2020, communal violence engulfed Northeast Delhi killing 53 individuals, injuring at least 473 civilians, destroying property worth hundreds of crores,

displacing thousands, and laying ruin to lives and livelihoods. The violence was unleashed against the backdrop of widespread protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019.

The violence led to the initial arrest of 1,330 accused in 751 cases, with early reports suggesting that 700 of those arrested were Muslims while 630 were Hindus. By mid-July, a Delhi police affidavit filed in the Delhi high court disclosed the then tally of arrests as 1,430. The 'narrative' and 'chronology' in charge-sheets filed by the Delhi Police seeks to establish that the genesis of the

violence was a concerted and preplanned conspiracy by anti-CAA protestors to defame the Narendra Modi-led government during the impending visit of US President Donald Trump; it is alleged that the violence, death and destruction was a consequence of these nefarious designs by persons who planned and orchestrated the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh and other places; and the appalling toll of human lives and livelihoods, and destruction of properties, is sought to be explained by painting a picture of 'Muslim provocation' leading to 'Hindu retaliation. This chronology over-

looks numerous significant events that preceded and also accompanied the violence, not least of which is the complete omission to mention several key leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which not only heads the Central Government, but also directly controls and supervises the Delhi Police; this despite their incendiary speeches, their contemporaneous posts on Facebook and other social media platforms, and the presence of some of them immediately before and even during the violence and blood-letting, broadcast by television channels and recorded on cameras.

SHORT TAKES

Army jawan dies in road mishap

Phagwara: A 35-year-old Army jawan died after being knocked down by an unidentified vehicle on National Highway-1 on the outskirts of Phagwara on Monday, police said. Sadar Police Investigating Officer (IO) Paramjit Singh said the deceased was identified as Neeraj Kumar, who hailed from Bihar. He was currently posted in Kapurthala. Singh said the jawan was knocked down by an unidentified vehicle near Jaswal filling station near village Chak Hakeem along NH-1 when he was crossing the road. The army authorities as well as his family were informed, said the officer, adding that the body was kept in the mortuary of the local Civil hospital, he said. His family will reach here on Tuesday and the post mortem will be done after their arrival, said Mr Singh. — PTI

Kerala smuggling accused gets bail

Kochi: Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the gold smuggling case in Kerala, was on Monday granted bail by a court here in a case registered by the Customs as the agency did not file a chargesheet within the stipulated period of 60 days. Suresh, however, will continue to remain behind bars as she is an accused in the alleged terror link of the gold smuggling case probed by the National Investigation Agency. She is also an accused in a case registered by the ED in connection with the money trail of the illegal trade. The special court on Economic Offences granted statutory bail. — PTI

Minister's husband dies of Covid-19

Bhopal: Chhattisgarh women and child welfare minister Anila Bhendia's husband, a retired IPS officer, died of cardiac arrest late on Sunday night. The deceased Ravindra Bhendia, retired as inspector general of police (IGP) of Chhattisgarh police, had recovered from Covid-19 recently. He was 65. He suffered a massive heart stroke in his residence in Raipur at around 10.30 in the night and was rushed to a private hospital in the city where he died during treatment. He was admitted in the hospital after testing positive for coronavirus a couple of weeks ago. He was discharged from the hospital last week. Late Mr Bhendia had survived an attack by Naxals when he was posted as Narayanpur district superintendent of police in Bastar in Chhattisgarh in 2008. — PTI

MP dalit woman alleges gangrape

Hoshangabad (MP): A 19-year-old dalit woman has alleged that she was raped by seven men separately in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh last month, police said on Monday, adding that four persons have been arrested. The alleged incidents had taken place on September 20 and September 25, a police officer said quoting the FIR lodged by the woman on Sunday. The complainant is a resident of a village under Piparia police station area in Hoshangabad district. "The woman stated that she was sleeping inside her house with her sister and parents, but on the next day (Sept. 20) she found herself in a farmhouse in Silwani village where four men allegedly raped her," said the police station incharge Umesh Tiwari. The woman also claimed three more men raped her before dropping her at her village on September 25, he said, adding that all the accused are residents of the woman's village.

20 child labourers rescued in T'gana

Hyderabad: Twenty children from Bihar were rescued from forced labour in bangle-making units near here and five people arrested on the charge of child-trafficking, police said on Monday. The rescued children were sent to a home for rehabilitation, the police said. Based on information, police and officials from government departments raided three premises in suburban Balapur and rescued the children, they said. The child labourers were brought here by the accused after paying a meagre sum low amount to their parents by taking advantage of their financial status and were forced to work from 6 am to 11 pm. — PTI

Cong wants Hathras DM be fired & SIT replaced by CBI

Party also seeks judicial probe into burial of gangrape victim

New Delhi, Oct. 5: Stepping up the offensive, the Congress on Monday demanded the dismissal of the district magistrate for allegedly threatening the Hathras victim's family and asked why the SIT was continuing with its probe when a CBI investigation has been sought by the Uttar Pradesh government.

The Congress also asked why a judicial probe should not be held to ascertain whether the body allegedly burnt by the cops in the middle of the night is of the 19-year-old woman who was allegedly raped and killed by four upper-caste men. "The Yogi Adityanath government must immediately dismiss the DM, who is on record, on a video threatening the family and he should not be given any other position till it is thoroughly investigated that at whose instructions and whose behest did the DM go to the victim's family and threatened them in the manner that he did,"

India slams UN official's remark on Hathras case

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 5

India on Monday criticised certain "unwarranted" comments made by the UN Resident Coordinator on crimes against women including the recent Hathras gangrape and murder case, saying that since the "investigation process is still underway, any unnecessary comments by an external agency are best avoided". New Delhi also said that the "UN Resident Coordinator in India should be aware that these cases have been taken extremely seriously by the government".

The MEA said, "Some unwarranted comments have been made by the UN Resident Coordinator regarding some recent cases of violence against women. UN Resident Coordinator in India should be aware that these cases have been taken extremely seriously by the government. Since the investigation process is still underway, any unnecessary comments by an external agency are best avoided."

The Constitution guarantees equality to all citizens of India. As a democracy we have a time-tested record of providing justice to all sections of our society."



Bhim Army chief and Azad Samaj Party founder Chandrashekhar Azad addresses a press conference on Hathras case and other issues in New Delhi on Monday. (Right) Citizen Forum activists hold placards and banners during a protest march over the Hathras gangrape in Amritsar on Monday.

— PTI

Congress spokesperson Sushmita Dev said. On Sunday, the Congress had demanded that the DM be suspended.

Dev also said the family is demanding a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and why such a probe is not being ordered.

"It is crystal clear that from the date the young, helpless girl was raped, that all institutions within the state of UP, whether it is the SIT with

senior officers are in cahoots to hush up this matter.

"It is shocking that an SIT was set up after 14 days and after the media and the opposition leaders, specifically Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi met the victim's family in Hathras, as damage control they ordered a CBI inquiry," she told reporters.

She said an important question that arises is that even though a CBI inquiry has been institut-

ed, the central agency has not visited the village.

"The SIT inquiry is still continuing on the ground," she alleged.

The Congress leader said it is "heart breaking" that when the family of the victim is alleging that after the tragic incident of not allowing the family members to go through proper rituals at cremation service, they are now asking proof that the body that was hurriedly cremated was that the body of their daughter.

— PTI

Yogi: Anarchists want to create communal frenzy

Lucknow Oct. 5: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday alleged some anarchists were out to create communal frenzy and caste violence as they were not liking the progress made by the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to a press note issued by the BJP, the chief minister said that some of the recent incidents have exposed the conspiracy of such elements in this regard.

Exhorting BJP workers to give a befitting reply to them through development oriented efforts, the chief minister said under Mr Modi's guidance, the central government is working towards building a self-reliant

and strong India. The chief minister participated in a virtual dialogue with the booth and sector in-charges of Tundla reserved Assembly constituency in connection with the upcoming by-elections.

During the interaction, he said everyone is aware that the

Samajwadi Party is synonymous with anarchy, while the Bahujan Samaj Party stands for corruption.

As for the Congress, it has no strength on the ground, therefore, no one is in contest with the BJP and its victory on all the seats going for bypolls is almost certain, he said, exhorting the workers to work for ensuring a record win on all seats.

He further asked the workers to tell the people about the works done by the state and Central government for their interest and use social media to reach out to the masses.

He also reminded them that the elections would be different this time due to Covid-19.

— PTI

BJP councillor shot dead in Bengal

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, OCT. 5

Barrackpore BJP MP Arjun Singh's close aide and councillor, Manish Shukla, was shot dead late on Sunday evening at Titagarh in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal. Accusing the ruling Trinamul Congress of the murder, the BJP called a 12-hour Barrackpore bandh in protest on Monday. It's workers blocked road at various places and demonstrated.

Their agitation however became violent later and turned the area into a bat-

tle field as they allegedly hurled bombs and pelted stones while clashing with the police. The police also lobbed teargas shells to disperse the protesters. Shukla, a resident of Khardah, was a strongman of Titagarh with multiple criminal cases against him.

Switching to the TMC from the CPI(M) earlier he contested the Municipal Election in 2015 and won as an independent candidate to become a councillor of the Titagarh Municipality after getting no ticket from the party. Last year Shukla, follow-

ing Mr Singh's footsteps, joined the BJP. At around 9 pm on Sunday a gang of four miscreants on two motorcycles came and opened fire on him at Purani Bazar in Titagarh where he was talking to some BJP workers in front of a party office.

With bullet injuries, he was rushed to B N Bose Hospital which referred him to a private hospital in Kolkata only to be declared brought dead there. Shukla's murder took place hours after Mr Singh threatened the Mamata Banerjee government of a "guerrilla"

style rally by the BJP which will "shake" its state secretariat: Nabanna in Howrah on September 8.

Mr Singh said, "He was like my brother who used to protect me always. Barrackpore and Bengal will not forget his sacrifice. He was killed when he returned to the party office. The TMC and police will have to suffer for their misdeeds." Many senior BJP leaders including Kailash Vijayvargiya and Mukul Roy visited Shukla's family and slammed the TMC and police.

HC reserves verdict on Ranaut's plea against BMC

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 5

The Bombay high court on Monday reserved order on the petition filed by Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut against Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) action of demolishing part of her office. The BMC had demolished part of her office claiming it to be illegal.

Ms Ranaut in her petition, filed on September 9, has sought that the demolition be declared illegal and the court direct BMC to pay her ₹2 crore as damages.

Advocate Birendra Saraf on behalf of Ranaut has claimed that the civic body carried out the demolition out of malice following a comment she made against the Mumbai police which irritated Shiv Sena led Maharashtra government.

Advocate Saraf on the previous date of hearing had played an audio clip of interview of Sena leader Sanjay Raut before a division bench.

BJP's prospective candidate in MP filmed distributing money

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, OCT. 5

A video showing Madhya Pradesh food and civil supply minister Bisahul Singh, also a prospective candidate of ruling BJP for Anuppur assembly seat in the November 3 by-elections, distributing money to the children in his constituency on Monday went viral in social media, prompting Opposition Congress to move the Election Commission (EC) for action.

The nearly half-a-minute video clip showed Mr Singh

carrying a bundle of currency notes of denominations of Rs 100 and presenting the notes to the girl children, lined up at the place.

His followers were heard in the video clip shouting slogans praising him and BJP on the occasion.

A BJP flag was seen hoisted atop a house in the background in the video clip.

The video triggered a political row with the Congress accusing the minister of trying to influence the voters in his constituency by distributing money among them.

The party on Monday

lodged a complaint with the EC demanding action in the matter.

"The minister was clearly seen distributing money to the people in the video. He was trying to influence voters by opening his purse for them. It clearly violates the model code of conduct of elections", Congress spokesman here Bhupendra Gupta told reporters.

He said the party moved the EC demanding action against Mr Singh as well as BJP for violating the model code of conduct.

Mr Singh however denied the charges.



Life-size cutout of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi put on displayed during Kheti Bachao Yatra against the recently passed 'farm laws' in Sangrur district, Punjab, on Monday. — PTI

Malik was killed on Sunday Tejashwi, brother booked for RJD's ex-leader's murder

NAYEAR AZAD
PATNA, OCT. 5

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav his elder brother Tej Pratap along with four others were booked on Monday for the murder of former RJD leader Shakti Malik.

The incident occurred in Bihar's Purnea district on Sunday. The police investigating the case said that Shakti Malik was at his residence when he was gunned down by three armed men.

Others who have been named in the FIR are Anil Sadhu, Kalo Paswan, his wife Sunita Devi and Manoj Paswan. Anil Sadhu is son – in law of union minister Ram Vilas Paswan. He was earlier with the LJP.

The deceased wife Khushboo Devi in her complaint to the police also pointed at a serious political conspiracy behind the murder of her husband.

Sources said that Shakti Malik was trying for a ticket from Raniganj seat in neighbouring Araria district. Soon after his murder on Sunday a video clip surfaced in which the deceased was seen making allegations

against Tejashwi Yadav and Anil Sadhu for demanding Rs. 50 Lakhs for a ticket to contest on RJD ticket.

"A case has been registered and the investigation is underway", Purnea SP Vishal Sharma said.

Sources from Purnea told this newspaper that the police were also analyzing Shakti Malik's phone records, his source of income and bank details. They said that during the initial probe police found that he was expelled from the RJD in September after he levelled serious allegations against top RJD leaders.

The probe also revealed that he had political enmity with a local leader Kalo Paswan who was also interested in contesting from Raniganj seat on RJD ticket.

Meanwhile, the incident has raised the political temperature in Bihar ahead of assembly elections. The NDA leaders while demanding an explanation from Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap said that "CBI probe should be ordered to find out the truth behind the incident".

Indians in Germany object to Tejaswi Surya's event

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 5

A group of Indians living in Germany have objected to the presence of BJP MP Tejaswi Surya at an event – "India Startup conference 2020" – saying the man is a "communally divisive speaker" and a "highly polarizing figure." The event, to be held in virtual mode, on October 7 is being organized by Consulate General of India-Hamburg in association with GloMan Consulting GmbH-Hamburg to provide

momentum to promote startups and support the economic relations between India and Germany.

Several Indians living in Europe, particularly a group of Indian community in Germany, while calling to "stop giving platforms to communal figures in Europe" want Surya to be out as a speaker. The group under the banner "India Solidarity Germany" has said that the Consulate General of India has invited a "highly polarising figure".

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag H.Q. Awantipora Ph. No. 01933242951 E-mail: ssmidamontag@gmail.com	
CORRIGENDUM	
Sub: -	Modernization of LIS Samboora by way of Design Manufacture Supply Installation Testing and commissioning of 10 cusec horizontal centrifugal pumping unit for LIS Musaffi Grave
Ref:	This office E NIT No 29/ MIDA of 2020-21 Dated: 28.09.2020 issued vide MIDA/1411-20 Dated: 28.09.2020
Please read at	ANNEXURE B SPECIFICATION OF REQUIRED EQUIPMENT SL 1 (A) (XXI) as ;
	Material of pump casing : Close fine grained Cast Iron conforming to IS:210 grade 20
Instand of:	Material of pump casing : ASTM 351/CF-8M
	in the e NIT referred above.
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original E NIT.	
No. MIDA/ 1509-16	Executive Engineer,
Date: 30.09.2020	Mech. Irr. Div., Anantnag
	H.Q. Awantipora
DPK#719020 DATED 05.10.2020	

SHORT TAKES

Dharamsala film fest goes online

Dharamshala: The ninth edition of the Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF), which is going online this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, announced its initial lineup of six feature documentaries and four narrative features on Monday. The festival, slated to take place from October 29 to November 4, will screen documentaries such as *76 Days*, *Pearl of the Desert*, *A Rifle and a Bag*, *The Kingmaker*, *Softie*, *Welcome to Chechnya* and feature narratives *Corpus Christie*, *Identifying Features*, *Air Conditioner* and *Shell and Joint*. *76 Days*, an American production, chronicles the desperate and harrowing struggle of health workers to save lives in Wuhan, China, in the middle of an emerging COVID-19 outbreak. It is directed by Hao Wu and Weixi Chen. — PTI

Dasara fest to be 'simple' in Mysuru

Mysuru: Karnataka will organise a simple yet meaningful Dasara celebration to avoid spurt in Covid-19 cases as was the case in neighbouring Kerala during Onam, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said on Monday. "Kerala had relaxed the COVID-19 protocols during Onam festival and is paying for its mistake. Seven thousand to 8,000 cases are being reported there every day," the minister told reporters here. Dr Sudhakar was here to review the coronavirus cases which, according to him, was slightly out of control. He said Karnataka should avoid that mistake made in Kerala by organising a simple yet meaningful Dasara here this time. This would be finalised after discussing with chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa. — PTI

Ex-Union minister dies of coronavirus

Saharanpur: Former Union minister and five-time Lok Sabha MP Rasheed Masood died on Monday at a Roorkee hospital where he had been admitted for the management of post-COVID complications, his nephew said. He was 73. Masood's nephew Imran Masood told PTI that his uncle Rasheed Masood had tested positive for the coronavirus infection some time back and had undergone treatment at a Delhi hospital. He had even recovered from the infection there and had returned to Saharanpur, said Imran, himself a former MLA in Uttar Pradesh. His condition, however, deteriorated a few days ago and he was admitted to a nursing home in Roorkee where he died. — PTI

Rice mill owner kills himself in Ambala

Ambala: A rice mill owner allegedly killed himself at his shop in Ambala City's new grain market on Monday due to business-related stress, the police said. The body of Madan Lal, 55, a resident of Sector 8 Ambala City, was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his shop. Police said they have recovered a suicide note from the spot. They said Lal was under stress due to some problems in his business. He had set up a rice mill in a nearby village three years ago. Police said Lal reached his shop this morning and sent away his staff and hanged himself. Another grain market dealer, who reached the shop, found the body. The in-charge of police post-5, Sultan Singh, told reporters that a case has been registered and the matter is being investigated. — PTI

NCP 1ST POLITICAL PARTY TO FORM LGBT CELL



NCP MP Supriya Sule interacts with LGBT community members at the party office in Mumbai on Monday. The NCP on Monday set up its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) cell and claimed it is the first political party in the country to take such a step. — PTI

'Tax super-rich to raise Covid funds'

Kolkata, Oct. 5: American economist and Nobel laureate Joseph E Stiglitz on Monday advocated taxing the super rich class in India to raise resources for fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, if the government fails to pool in the required funds. He also said the Indian government should not shy away from spending to control the pandemic and help the vulnerable sections. "Funds should be targeted at high-impact areas



Nobel laureate Stiglitz rather than low-impact ones, and if you can't get resources, raise taxes as you (India) have a lot of billionaires," Stiglitz said

at a FICCI-organised interactive session. There have been recent debates on levying Covid tax on the super rich in India.

On the Centre's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-reliant India), the noted economist said too much self reliance will lower the standard of living as a lot of products, including vaccines, are imported.

"This gives nativism but is not realistic, as the pandemic and climate change have shown the need for

greater collaboration," he said. Stiglitz also said India and the US did not handle the COVID-19 situation well.

Allowing the movement of migrant workers exacerbated the spread of the virus and defeated the purpose of lockdown, he said.

Stiglitz criticised the US for widening the divide of racism and income, and "similar, divisive politics in India" that will undermine the society and economy. — PTI

BRICS SUMMIT

China Prez, PM Modi to take part in virtual meet

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, OCT. 5

The five-nation grouping BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) will hold its summit on November 17 via video-conference under Russian chairmanship, Russia confirmed on Monday. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping apart from Russian President Vladimir Putin are expected to represent their countries. The event will be significant, given the military tensions between two of the members — India and China although the BRICS charter does not permit any bilateral issues between any two members to be discussed or raised.

In a statement, Russia said, "The theme of the Meeting of the Leaders of BRICS countries is 'BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth'. The main purpose of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship in 2020, as it is for a multifaceted cooperation between the BRICS countries, is to contribute to raising living standards and quality of life of our peoples".

Russia added, "This year the five countries have continued close strategic partnership on all the three major pillars: peace and security, economy and finance, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

'We have the ability to strike deep and hard'

IAF prepared to deal with two-front war: Bhadauria

AGE CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi, Oct. 5

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria said on Monday there is no question that in any conflict scenario China can get the better of "us" and asserted that Indian Air Force is prepared to even deal with a two-front war along the northern and western borders.

He said that integration of Rafales along with upgraded operational capabilities of current fighter jets "gives us the ability to shoot first and strike deep and hard, even in contested airspace."

"If you are asking me whether we came close to striking? No. Were we prepared? Yes," he said on India-China stand-off during his annual Air Force Day press conference. However, he added that

there is no question of underestimating the adversary which has invested heavily in its defence in the last few years.

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said the Air Force is deployed at all relevant operational locations. "We are deployed at all relevant operational locations, required to access this area. Be rest assured that we have deployed strongly and firmly to

handle any contingency," he said. "Let me share with you with confidence that operationally we are amongst the best," said Air Force chief.

He said that Indian Air Force immediate offensive deployment of combat ready units in response to the stand-off along the LAC is indicative of "our operational state today." "Our airlift capability was also brought into focus as we supported the Indian Army in rapid mobilisation of troops and equipment to operational areas at a pace which our adversary didn't expect," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said that the Air Force has operationalised the recently acquired Rafale, Chinook, and Apache aircraft and integrated them into its current concept of operations in record time.

India, Myanmar discuss border issues

India proposes to construct petroleum refinery near Yangon city

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, OCT. 5

India on Monday expressed its appreciation to Myanmar for handing over 22 insurgents to India, with the two sides also "discussing maintenance of security and stability in their border areas and reiterated their mutual commitment not to allow their respective territories to be used for activities inimical to each other". The discussions happened during the two-

day joint visit of Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane and foreign secretary (FS) Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Myanmar that culminated on Monday. As a mark of India's solidarity with Myanmar in fighting the Covid pandemic, both also presented 3000 vials of Remdesivir — used in anti-Covid treatment — to the Myanmar side. New Delhi conveyed India's willingness to prioritise Myanmar in sharing vaccines as and when these become available. The Rohingya issue and

India's assistance to development programmes in Myanmar's Rakhine province was also discussed, with India conveying its "support for ensuring safe, sustainable and speedy return of displaced persons to the Rakhine State".

Meanwhile, in a major move, it is reliably learnt that India has also proposed to construct a petroleum refinery in the Thanlyin region of Myanmar near Yangon city, with the likely invest-

2 CRPF jawans killed, 3 hurt in J&K terror attack

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, OCT. 5

Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans were killed and three others wounded in a sneak attack of separatist militants in Pampore area on the outskirts of Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar on Monday.

The spot where two motorcycle-borne militants targeted a Road Opening Party (ROP) of CRPF with automatic weapons is hardly four kilometres short of Lethapora where, at least, forty security personnel were killed and several others injured in an attack carried by a sole Jaish-e-Muhammad suicide bomber at a bus which was part of a CRPF convoy on February 14, 2019.

The police said the latest terror attack was carried out by Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) and that both the assailants have been identified and a manhunt launched for them.

The slain jawans have been identified as Constables Dharendra and Shailendra Kumar, both from 110 Battalion of the CRPF. The injured are being treated in



Security forces stand guard during a search operation after a militant attack at Srinagar-Jammu National highway at Pampore in South Kashmir on Monday. — PTI

Srinagar's 92 Base Army Hospital. The police and CRPF officials said that the militant attack took place near Kandizal bridge at Tangan in Pulwama district along the bypass road connecting Srinagar with J&K's winter capital Jammu, injuring five jawans. "Two of the grievously injured boys succumbed at the 92 Base Hospital immediately after they and three others were admitted there," a CRPF spokesman said.

The officials said that soon after the attack whole area was cordoned off to nab the attackers but no arrests could be made. The search opera-

tion was called off by sunset as militants had managed to escape from the area, they added.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar, said that the attack was carried out by two-bike borne LeT militants who have been identified and hunt to "neutralize them" has been started.

"Two militants from Lashkar-e-Tayyaba came on a motor bike and fired indiscriminately at the CRPF Road Opening Party here at Kandizal near Pampore. Two CRPF men died in the incident and three others sustained injuries," the IGP said.

'Scenario very depressing'

No peace unless Art. 370 restored, claims Farooq

Srinagar, Oct. 5: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said the objectives of peace, economic progress and development in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be achieved unless the Centre reverses all the decisions taken on August 5 last year.

Mr Abdullah, who is also the MP from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, made these comments at a private function here.

The central government had on August 5, 2019 abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. It also bifurcated the erstwhile state into union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"The goal of inclusive development in J-K can be turbo-powered only by empowering the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the real sense and by reversing the August 05, 2019 actions," the NC chief said.

"J-K's path to development and economic progress is not possible unless New Delhi doesn't



Farooq Abdullah

do justice with the people of J-K and reverses all the decisions taken on the 5th of August, 2019," he added.

Currently, Abdullah said, the development scenario in Jammu and Kashmir is very depressing. "Until recently feted for" topping various human development indices, the development scenario in J-K currently is very depressing. The private sector in J-K particularly has suffered major reverses. Despite being very stunted, the private sector in J-K used to provide jobs to scores of well-qualified and skilled youth. Regrettably, the successive clampdown down and lockdown since August last year have pushed the already ailing businesses to the wall," he said. — PTI

Focus on mother tongue for progress, says Pokhriyal

Hyderabad, Oct. 5: Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Monday said people should not think English alone would help in progress as several countries in the world have achieved greater heights by imparting education in their mother tongue.

Speaking after e-inauguration of the new building of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan here, he, however, said he was not against English and cited the examples of Japan, Germany, France and others which impart educa-

tion in their mother tongue. A few days ago, some people said we want to go to the international level... that's why English is needed. We never opposed English. All languages are good for us. But, I am requesting them, don't keep in mind that English alone can help in making progress. That is not the case. Many countries have achieved a lot of progress using their mother tongue, he said. Pokhriyal also gave the example of Israel which revived the ancient language of Hebrew. — PTI

A temple where Gandhi is worshipped and a dalit is priest

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
RAIRAKHOL (ODISHA), OCT. 5

It's perfectly a temple structure with all geometrical requirements. Like any other temple, it has got a sanctum sanctorum, but the deity placed on it is not Lord Brahma, Vishnu or Maheswar nor any other Hindu god or goddess... it is the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation.

Unlike most of the temples where brahmins are priests, here a dalit man performs this role.

Called Gandhi Mandir, this temple located at Rairakhhol in Odisha's Sambalpur district, has become a favourite place of worship for people of all faiths. Preaching humanity and brotherhood, Gandhi Mandir, established in 1972 by Abhimanyu Kumbhar a former MLA Abhimanyu Kumbhar who passed away on July 26, this year, this temple has also turned a place a pilgrimage for people of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. Hundreds of people visit this temple everyday to see



Gandhi statue at the temple

for themselves the uniqueness of this temple and its rituals. The priest at Gandhi Mandir does not chant Vedic hymns or mantras. He chants Gandhiji's favourite song *Raghupati Raghav*

Rajaram, patitapabana Sitaram. And what do the devotees or visitors offer the deity? "Unlike other temples where different sweet dishes are offered to the deities, here the deities offer only basil leaves and flowers to Gandhi as a mark of their respect and sing his favourite song," says Abhimanyu Chhuria, the priest. The temple has a story behind its construction. Abhimanyu Kumbhar, born on March 4, 1928 at Mathapali under Dhanupali police limits in Sambalpur district, had a chance inter-

action with Mahatma Gandhi during the latter's visit to the area in 1940s. He was very much impressed with his speech exhorting people to love the dalits. "Abhimanyu Kumbhar was very much impressed with Mahatma Gandhi and decided to build a temple in his honour. With the cooperation of the local people the temple was built. Not only the local residents but people from other districts and states also visit this place to offer their prayers to Bapuji," informs Kalia Bag, a local resident.



Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav addresses farmers at Garhi Mandi in Hissar district on Monday. — PTI

THE ASIAN AGE

6 OCTOBER 2020

Caste & crime: How law loses its way in Hathras

The rape-murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, the messy investigation the police has been conducting and the premature conclusions it has arrived at, and the abominable response of the government and a section of society to the entire episode point to the fact that crime, especially, sexual assault, remains a tool in the hands of the powerful without facing a challenge, 73 years after Independence.

Crimes do happen in all societies but how the system responds to it makes the difference. In this instance, all that followed the filing of the first information report look bogus. A senior police official going public saying there was no rape because there was no sperm found on the victim's body violates the sections in the Indian Penal Code which defines what makes an act rape. The burning of the body in the dead of the night by policemen disregarding the wishes of the family and against its will has very little parallel in the country's history. The district magistrate going to the village and suggesting to the relatives against pressing for an investigation is nothing less than criminal conduct to obstruct the path of justice. Reports that the special investigation team is planning to conduct narco-analysis tests on the family of the victim sound eerie and border on the absurd. The stopping of national leaders on their way to the village and the denial of access to the media

Caste has evolved over centuries and so are the tools of caste oppression. They work on several planes and in layers, and crime is one among them. Their unmaking is not an easy or speedy task.

betray the diabolic plan to undermine efforts to expose the shortcomings of the administration. The public demonstration demanding justice to the accused is, however, not new. The nation had witnessed it happening when an eight-year-old girl was gang-raped, maimed and killed in Kathwa in Jammu and Kashmir two years ago. The latest, that the police has filed an FIR saying there is a conspiracy to defame the government and instigate riots under the garb of protests, follows the same pattern the government followed in the Bhima-Koregaon and Delhi riots case. It will not be long before all those who have participated and supported the protests demanding justice in the case could be booked under charges that include sedition. An elected representative blaming the victim screams it all.

Caste has evolved over centuries and so are the tools of caste oppression. They work on several planes and in layers, and crime is one among them. Their unmaking is not an easy or speedy task but a nation must have it in its thought process if it wants to be called a civilised one. There are laws that show violence on Scheduled Castes and Tribes with serious eyes but they lose their purpose in the hands of officials like the district magistrate of Hathras, who, despite being responsible for its implementation, worked to ensure its defeat.

It is unacceptable that there should be national protests if the rape-murder of a Dalit were to be investigated. There must be legal provisions to make those who are responsible for doing justice in such cases culpable if they fail in their job. That will be a small step towards righting a historical wrong.

Bihar: Battle lines drawn

The battle lines are drawn. The alliances, at least four of them, are nearly settled for the crucial polls to the 243-seat Bihar Assembly (October 28, November 3 and 7). As the first major poll to be held since the advent of the coronavirus pandemic, the Bihar polls assume greater significance. How the voters react to the guest worker crisis, which was triggered by the pandemic and in which several million workers, many of them from Bihar, walked back home with some dying on the road, could constitute a key reaction guiding political fortunes. Besides the human tragedy inflicted upon migrants by an abrupt total lockdown last March, the ruling alliance will also be facing up to the electorate's opinion of how the pandemic was handled in the state.

The eleventh hour twist in the NDA alliance, with the Lok Janshakti Party of Chirag Paswan going on its own and intending to field candidates against Nitish Kumar's JD(U) but not against BJP, changes the equation somewhat, particularly for the incumbent chief minister seeking to continue his long reign. As the dominant national partner, BJP may not feel the full force of this blow though any splinter can only weaken the state alliance. In a larger context, the BJP's not so formidable performances in Assembly polls as evidenced in Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra, may weigh on it once again when it comes to cobbling a coalition majority to extend Nitish's rule.

Ranged against the NDA is the principal Opposition alliance of the RJD, the Congress and the Left. Not looking as intimidating as in the days when this grand alliance used to be called the Mahagathbandhan and with the CM face Tejaswi Yadav and his brother under a cloud facing a murder charge, the alliance has much work to do in its campaign to try and cover ground lost in Bihar since the heyday of the titan Lalu Prasad. The Progressive Democratic Alliance and the RLSP-BSP combine may lend the hustings a keener edge. Needless to say, the stakes are high.

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Aakar Patel

In India, a lot must be done to ensure rule of law prevails

The Indian State, meaning the government in all its forms but especially the Union government, is a slightly strange creature. It is in name and form a democracy and even a liberal one. A liberal democracy is defined as "a democratic system of government in which individual rights and freedoms are officially recognised and protected, and the exercise of political power is limited by the rule of law".

This is both true and not true of the Indian State. It is democratic in the sense that it is controlled by political parties which are elected to office for fixed terms. Individual rights and freedoms exist in theory but in large measure do not exist in reality. Political power is not limited by the rule of law but by how much authority the individuals currently in power are willing to assert. When the individuals in office are modest and conscious of their position within the constitutional framework, the State will appear to be both democratic and liberal.

However, if the individuals are authoritarian (meaning they are willing to enforce strict obedience to

authority at the expense of personal freedoms), like the Prime Minister and the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, then the same State appears to be undemocratic.

The rule of law exists in states where there is no space for authority to exercise arbitrary power. By that definition, India is clearly not a "rule of law" state. There is actually very little restriction on the arbitrary exercise of authority.

Parliament can be denied the right to vote. People can be denied the right to freedom of peaceful assembly (guaranteed under Article 19) by declaring Section 144 CrPc at India Gate. An entire village can be denied the right to liberty (guaranteed under Article 21) by simply locking it up and not allowing anyone to either go in or out. This is not how democratic states are supposed to function, but it is happening in India. There is no limiting element to how much arbitrary authority can be exercised.

The Constitution does not change and nor are any laws required to be altered here. The State just doesn't have the internal capacity to resist misuse.

This is both true and not true of the Indian State. It is democratic in the sense that it is controlled by political parties which are elected to office for fixed terms.

Theoretically, the judiciary can check the overreach of the government. But the Indian judiciary can be managed by a strong authority in ways that it cannot be in other nations. Judges can be given Rajya Sabha seats and governorships as a reward. Indian judges can appear in their own matter when they are accused of sexual harassment, and their fellow judges will not object to this. This is a violation of one of the fundamental principles of justice, referred to as "nemo iudex in causa sua" (nobody can be a judge in their own cause), but it has happened in India recently. This is not a "rule of law" state.

For it to become one, it must have stronger institutional capacity than it does now. And it must have more participation from the citizenry than it does. Indians pride them-

selves on having one of the highest voting rates in the democratic world, and that is something to be justifiably proud of. In the United States, for example, the voter turnout in the 2016 election that brought President Donald Trump to power was 55 per cent. This was 12 per cent less than the turnout in India's 2019 election, when 67 per cent of the electorate voted. That is a substantial difference.

But Americans participate in the democracy outside of the electoral process too. Protests against the arbitrary use of authority, as seen in the Black Lives Matter movement, in which millions of people dissented against the use of force against African Americans, have brought major changes to law and policy.

In India, such protests are restricted severely by the State, but it appears also to be the case that there is less interest at the level of the Indian citizen in standing up for his or her constitutional rights. This is particularly so on issues where there is no individual or selfish interest. Standing up for others is something that is the bedrock of the rule of law and democratic states. In

India, the authority assumes, perhaps rightly, that protests are localised and limited to those immediately concerned with the issue, and will therefore die down in time.

How do we move from this place to becoming a rule of law nation (something that presumably most of us want)? The answer is not easy, and it is not even clear. For instance, it cannot just be the defeat of one party and the election of another. Because there is no limit to the supply of strong-willed authoritarians and the problem will recur in future.

Something deeper needs to be change and it is not clear whether this change can be produced by external forces or by a single event. The ownership of India as a rule of law democracy must be ultimately with the citizenry. At the moment, it is not. The expectation is that the government will not abuse its authority and that a political party will not misuse the State. What we are seeing today is the clear evidence that this is not enough.

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist and columnist

Subhani



What makes the elite think they're smarter?



Mohan Guruswamy

In their rather ram-bunctious first debate for the US presidency, we saw Donald Trump try to belittle Joe Biden for his education. Mr Biden grew up in the backwoods of Pennsylvania and Delaware, in a family down on circumstances, and went to the University of Delaware, which is a very affordable university. Mr Trump said he was not smart because of that. He didn't care if Mr Biden went on to study law at the well-regarded Syracuse University. It was Mr Biden's good upbringing that he didn't bring up the matter of Mr Trump's SAT scores, which his sister wrote was taken by a stand-in. Despite this, Donald Trump initially studied at a place called Fordham University and then transferred to Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he took a bachelor's degree. Mr Trump obviously thinks this chicanery makes him smart. Money paves the way to admission into the elite American universities like Yale and Brown, where it helps pay for the merit students who win scholarships. Even Harvard, whose gigantic endowment somewhat insures it against check-book meritocracy, is not immune to blandishments.

People who study at elite institutions like the Doon School in India or Eton in Britain or Exeter in the United States assume certain airs and generally look down on others without rich or well-connected parents. Rajiv Gandhi went to Doon School and liked to flaunt it, though he may not have needed that to qualify as a commercial pilot. People who go to elite schools or even good English medium schools catering to the wealthy and well connected speak

English with a different accent, with the regional accent ironed out of it. They are fluent in it and look down at others with condescension. I believe in that archetypal institution of elitism in India, Delhi's St. Stephen's College, they are called "vernacs". This infantile elitism came to the fore when Mani Shankar Aiyar sneeringly referred to Narendra Modi as a chaiwalla who should be selling tea at the AICC office, turning it into a seminal moment in the 2014 elections.

Harvard economist Raj Chetty has shown that children whose parents are in the top one per cent of earners are 77 times more likely to attend an Ivy League school than are the children of poorer parents -- meaning that, in cases like this, admission is less about talent and more about coming from the right family. In that way, privilege casts inherited advantages as "exceptional" qualities that justify special treatment. In other words, elitism tends to make the privileged selfish and self-serving.

Prof. Shamus Khan, the chair of the sociology department at Columbia University, has elaborated it on this sense of privilege and elitism instilled in the institutions in his book *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*. Khan should know what it means to be inside an elite institution, having been educated at St. Paul's School at Concord, New Hampshire, and then at the equally elite liberal arts institution, Haverford College. Incidentally, Haverford is one of the most expensive colleges in the US, making rich parents an added advantage. Fortunately, the massification of education and the steep pyramid to climb to get into elite

Prof. Shamus Khan has elaborated it on this sense of privilege and elitism instilled in the institutions in his book *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*

Indian institutions like the IIMs, IITs, NLSs and such results in a real meritocracy, very unlike the United States.

What makes these schools and colleges elite is that so few can attend them. In the mythologies they construct, only those who are truly exceptional are admitted -- precisely because they are not like everyone else. Their deans typically welcome newcomers by telling them that they are "the very best students". To attend these institutions is to be told constantly: "You're special, you're a member of the select, you have been chosen because of your outstanding qualities and accomplishments". Khan writes that schools often quite openly affirm the idea that, because you are better, you are not governed by the same dynamics as everyone else. They celebrate their astonishingly low acceptance rates and broadcast lists of notable alumni who have earned their places within the nation's highest institutions, such as the Supreme Court. This sense of exclusiveness is fostered in the real world by alumni associations and social clubs, where birds of a feather flock together.

When I returned from Harvard in 1983, I learned there was a Harvard Club in New Delhi, for alumni to periodically meet. I went a few times and then stopped as I found that there were few degree holders there and mostly "alumni" who took short and exorbitantly priced courses for the privilege of wearing a university or college tie. New Delhi also has an Oxbridge Society, where the more snooty types who studied

Shakespeare in college would meet, presumably to sip sherry. Even St. Stephen's College has its alumni gatherings. I am told that at one such meeting K. Natwar Singh wrote in the visitors' book: "I owe everything I am to the College". Writing next, Mani Shankar Aiyar, never at a loss for words, wrote: "Why blame the college?"

Khan might well be writing about President Trump when he says: "Such selfish tendencies extend well beyond the way the privileged use untruths to their advantage. According to research by psychologists Paul Piff and Dacher Keltner, elites' sense of their own exceptionalism helps instil within them a tendency to be less compassionate. This may have its roots in the fact that there seem to be two different sets of consequences for the rich and the rest. Take drug use. While the poor are no more likely to use drugs (in fact, among young people, it's the richer kids who are more likely to drink alcohol or smoke marijuana), they are far more likely to be imprisoned for it, and they experience vastly disproportionate imprisonment for all crimes compared with the wealthy. In the end, it is impossible to separate success from class."

One time in the course of a discussion my political guru, late Chandra Shekhar, who liked to flaunt his humble rural origins, asked me in exasperation: "What did you learn at Harvard that you couldn't have learned here?" I replied nothing, but one thing I know is that a degree from Harvard made important people like him think highly about me. He laughed, and said: "On that, I agree with you!"

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, has held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

LETTERS

RAPE TRAGEDY

Amid the outrage over the Hathras tragedy, a 25-year-old woman, who hails from West Bengal, was allegedly gangraped and thrashed by four men in Gurugram, when she resisted them in a property dealer's office. The victim has suffered severe head injuries. Many women become victims of such heinous acts. Women are sexually assaulted, harassed, brutally tortured and murdered during their travels and in schools, universities and workplaces. They feel unsafe at their homes too. Will enforcing some laws and announcing some programmes prevent such crimes against women? We seriously need to take some concrete steps to ensure the safety of women.

B. Ahsanulla
Delhi

HATHRAS RAPE

THE BRUTAL gangrape in Hathras has brought shame to humanity. Unfortunately, nowadays crimes like rape become a political issue in India. Parties start exploiting the situation for political gains. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh must ensure the safety of women. The government must make honest efforts to create a safe and conductive environment for women.

Chandan Kumar Nath
Guwahati

TRUMP CORONA

NOT VERY long ago, President Trump had dismissed Coronavirus as another flu and that it would go away. The virus is having a merry run, irrespective of science or geography. A quarantined President under medication must be wondering if his bravado will come with the price of his second term. Should he fortuitously find his way back to the Oval office post November 2020, one can only hope that he revises his assessment of the WHO and underwrites the US role as a responsible member in international institutions that promotes scientific inquiry into the strange ways of nature and our ability to understand them.

R. Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: letters.asianage@gmail.com.

IN BRIEF

Wildfires raze homes in NZ

Wellington: Wildfires have destroyed up to 50 homes in New Zealand, authorities said Monday, saying it was a miracle no one was hurt as “a wall of orange” razed most of a remote South Island village. The blaze began in a mountain forest early Sunday morning and, fanned by strong winds, swept through the village of Lake Ohau, forcing residents to flee for their lives. Fire and Emergency New Zealand said the unpredictable winds made fighting the fire “challenging” and by Monday afternoon it had burned 4,600 hectares of land. Waitaki District mayor Gary Kircher said the tiny Lake Ohau community had been devastated. “Of the 60 or 70 houses, we believe that the majority have gone,” he told Radio New Zealand. “The reality is that it’s a minor miracle no one has been harmed. If it had been another 15-20 minutes it would have been a very different story.”

Mali releases 180 jihadists

Bamako: Malian authorities have released 180 Islamic extremists from a prison in the capital and flown them to the country’s north, an official confirmed late Sunday, fuelling speculation that a prominent opposition politician held by jihadists could soon be freed after more than six months in captivity. The militants who abducted Soumaila Cisse back in late March were believed to be seeking a prisoner exchange with the Malian government. Some 70 men were released on Saturday and another 110 on Sunday, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter. There was no immediate comment late Sunday from Mali’s transitional government, which was only recently put in place more than a month after the country’s democratically elected president was ousted in a military coup. Cisse, a 70-year-old who has run for Mali’s presidency three times, was campaigning.

Bomber targets Afghan Gov, kills 8

Kabul: A suicide car bomber targeted the convoy of a provincial governor in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, killing at least eight people, including four civilians, government officials said. The governor, Rahmatullah Yarmal, was unharmed in the attack in Laghman province, according to his spokesman, Asadullah Dawlatzai. Four of Yarmal’s bodyguards were killed, the spokesman said, adding that about 38 people — both military and civilians — were wounded in the attack, which took place in provincial capital Mithlram. Dawlatzai said 36 civilians were among the wounded, including children, as well as two other bodyguards of the governor. The explosion also left several badly damaged vehicles at the attack site. The wounded were taken to the city’s main hospitals. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but both the Islamic State and the Taliban are active in the area. Both groups have carried out attacks in the past against Afghan government representatives, security and defence personnel, and civilians.

DUBAI TO UNVEIL WORLD’S LARGEST FOUNTAIN OCT. 22

Dubai, Oct. 5: In a bid to make a Guinness World Record, Dubai is all set to unveil the world’s largest fountain on October 22. The fountain will be located at the Pointe, a lifestyle and dining destination, and will be spread over 14,000 sq ft of sea water while its super shooter will be 105-metre tall and have over 3,000 LED lights. Omar Khoory, managing director, Nakheel Malls, said, “We look forward to the inspiration this will bring customers at The Pointe, residents of Palm Jumeirah, our retailers, tourists and the wider community.” Ahmed Al Khaja, CEO of Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE), said the Palm Fountain is yet another incredible addition to Dubai’s list of world-famous landmarks and is sure to be a big draw among residents and visitors alike. The Palm Fountain will have 20 bespoke shows with five different shows running daily between sunset and midnight (7 pm to 12 am) while swaying to an array of popular songs including Khaleeji, pop, classic, international and more.

Don drive-by to greet supporters flayed

Washington, Oct. 5: US President Donald Trump made a surprise drive-past to greet his supporters outside a military hospital where he has been admitted since Friday for the treatment of the deadly Coronavirus, drawing criticism from Democrats and a leading medical expert. The brief drive through Rockville Pike in Bethesda, a Maryland suburb of Washington DC, that separates the National Institute of Health and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, brought cheers to his supporters who have been praying for the 74-year-old’s health ahead of the presidential election next month. “I really appreciate all of the fans and supporters outside of the hospital. The fact is, they really love our Country and are seeing how we are MAKING IT GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE!” Trump said in a tweet soon after his unannounced drive-past. Trump, a Republican is seeking another term in the White House. He is

being challenged by former Vice-President Joe Biden of the Democratic Party in the November 3 election. Trump and the First Lady Melania tested positive for Covid-19 on Thursday night. Trump was shifted to the military hospital on Friday, which his doctors and White House said was taken out of abundance of caution. On Sunday, before going out to wave at his supporters, Trump in a video posted on his Twitter handle said he will give “a little surprise to some of the great patriots, who have been on the streets, and they have been out there for a long time.” “They love our country. I am not telling anybody but you, I am about to make a little surprise visit,” Trump said. The president was seen wearing a mask and waving at his supporters from inside the black SUV. The windows were closed. “When I look at the enthusiasm. We have enthusiasm like probably nobody ever had,” he said. Trump in his short video



US President Trump waves from the back of a car in a motorcade outside of Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland on Sunday. — AFP

message said he has learnt a lot about Covid-19, literally by going to school. “This is the real school,” he said in his video clip from inside the military hospital. “I get it. I understand it,” he said. White House spokesman Judd Deere said appropri-

ate precautions were taken in the execution of this movement to protect the President. “The movement was cleared by the medical team as safe to do,” he said. “President Trump took a short, last-minute motorcade ride to wave to his

supporters outside and has now returned to the Presidential Suite inside Walter Reed,” Deere said in another statement soon thereafter. “More than 205,000 Americans are dead. We need leadership. Not photo ops,” tweeted Hakeem Jeffries, chair-

Doctors need to be honest: Pelosi

Washington, Oct. 5: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the doctors treating President Donald Trump for the Coronavirus must provide trustworthy information to the public. Pelosi said on CBS’ “Face the Nation”: “We need to have trust that what they’re telling us about the President’s condition is real.” Her interview aired before the president’s medical team held a news conference at Walter Reed National Mil-

itary Medical Center, where he is receiving treatment. Pressed about the conflicting information he and the White House released the day before, Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley acknowledged Sunday that he had tried to present a rosy description of the president’s condition. The doctor also said Trump’s blood oxygen level dropped suddenly twice in recent days, but he “has continued to improve” since then. — AP

Azerbaijan says Armenia targets cities outside the conflict zone

Yerevan (Armenia), Oct. 5: The fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh resumed Monday morning, with both sides accusing each other of launching attacks. Armenian military officials on Monday reported missile strikes hitting Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994. Firefights of varying intensity “continue to rage” in the conflict zone, Armenian Defence Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian said on Facebook. The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, in turn, accused Armenian forces of shelling the towns of Tartar, Barda and Beylagan. Ganja, Azerbaijan’s second-largest city far outside of the conflict zone, is also “under fire”, officials said. Armenia’s Foreign Ministry in a statement dismissed allegations of the attacks being launched from the Armenia’s territory as a “disinformation campaign” waged by Azerbaijan. Vahram Poghosyan, spo-



A view shows aftermath of recent shelling during the ongoing fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region, in the disputed region’s main city of Stepanakert. — AFP

kesman for Nagorno-Karabakh’s leader, on Monday warned in a Facebook post that the territory’s forces would target military facilities in Azerbaijani cities in response to strikes on Stepanakert and Shushi, a town in Nagorno-Karabakh. The fighting erupted

September 27 and has killed dozens, marking the biggest escalation in the decades-old conflict over the region. Both sides have accused each other of expanding the hostilities beyond the conflict zone in Nagorno-Karabakh. Nagorno-Karabakh offi-

cials have said nearly 200 servicemen on their side have died in the clashes so far. Eighteen civilians have been killed and more than 90 others wounded. Azerbaijani authorities haven’t given details about their military casualties, but said 24 civilians were

killed and 121 others were wounded. Nagorno-Karabakh was a designated autonomous region within Azerbaijan during the Soviet era. It claimed independence from Azerbaijan in 1991, about three months before the Soviet Union’s collapse. — AP

US, Russia N-talks in Finland

Helsinki, Oct. 5: The United States and Russia will hold a round of nuclear arms control talks in the Finland’s capital, Helsinki, on Monday to follow up on negotiations in Austria this summer, the Finnish president’s office said. “The round of discussions on strategic stability and nuclear weapons between the United States and Russia, which began in Vienna in the summer,

will continue in Helsinki on Monday,” the office of the Finnish President Sauli Niinisto said in a brief statement late Sunday. The office said nuclear arms negotiators from Washington and Moscow met a previous time in Finland in 2017. “Finland welcomes the negotiators, this time (US) Ambassador (Marshall) Billingslea and (Russian) Deputy Foreign Minister (Sergei) Ryabkov,” the

statement said, adding that Niinisto would meet both representatives after the talks.

The talks are aimed at producing a new agreement to replace the New START treaty that expires in February — the last remaining pact constraining the arsenals of the world’s two major nuclear powers. According to Russian news agency TASS, the previous round of consultations between Billingslea and Ryabkov were held in Vienna on August 17-18. — AP

Seven bodies found in Italy, France after storms

Rome, Oct. 5: Seven bodies were found in a region straddling the French-Italian border near Nice on Sunday after torrential rains swept houses and roads away, officials in both countries said. Five of the bodies were discovered in northwestern Italy, including four washed up on the shore between the towns of Ventimiglia and Santo Stefano al Mare, near the French frontier. Some of the corpses might have been swept down the coast from France. Two more were found in France, including a shepherd found by an Italian search and rescue team. The other body was found in a vehicle that had been swept away by flash-flooding in the village of Saint-Martin-Vésuie.

It brings to nine the total number of people found dead after fierce rains and howling gales lashed the border area on Friday. French firefighters said another 21 people were missing, eight of them known to be as a direct result of the storm. The bad weather caused millions of euros of damage, with several road bridges swept away in Italy and streets in some towns littered with debris, mud and overturned cars. Officials in the Piedmont region reported a record 630 mm (24.8 inches) of rain in just 24 hours in Sambughetto, near Switzerland — more than half its annual average rainfall. In Limone Piemonte, a three-storey house was swept off its foundations and into a river. In the

nearby village of Tanaro, floodwaters destroyed the local cemetery, sweeping away dozens of coffins. — Reuters

1 IN 10 MAY HAVE CONTRACTED COVID, SAYS WHO

Geneva, Oct. 5: The head of emergencies at the World Health Organisation says its “best estimates” indicate that roughly one in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by the Coronavirus. Dr Michael Ryan, speaking Monday to a meeting of the WHO’s 34-member executive board focusing on Covid-19, said the figures vary from urban to rural, and between different groups, but that ultimately it means “the vast majority of the world remains at risk”. The estimate of more than 760 million based on world population of about 7.6 billion outstrips the number of confirmed cases as tallied by both WHO and Johns Hopkins University, now more than 35 million worldwide. — AP

man of the Democrats in the US House of Representatives.

Doc criticises ride

A senior doctor at the military hospital strongly criticised the president’s motorcade ride due to the infection risk inside the car.

“That Presidential SUV is not only bulletproof, but hermetically sealed against chemical attack. The risk of Covid-19 transmission inside is as high as it gets outside of medical procedures,” Dr James Phillips, Chief of Disaster Medicine, tweeted. — PTI

300 detained in Belarus during Sunday protests

Kyiv, Oct. 5: Authorities in Belarus said Monday that more than 300 people were detained during the previous day’s protests against the country’s authoritarian president, who won his sixth term in office in a vote widely seen as rigged.

The Interior Ministry said 317 people were detained during rallies in several cities Sunday against Alexander Lukashenko.

In the capital, Minsk, where according to a rights group nearly 120,000 took part in a rally on Sunday, water cannons were used to disperse the crowds, the ministry said.

Police estimated the turnout to be around 10,000 people. In the city of Vitebsk police used tear gas against protesters, the ministry said. The vast majority of those detained — 258 — remain in custody pending a court appearance.

Mass protests have rocked Belarus for almost two months, with the largest held on Sundays and drawing up to 200,000 people. The unprecedented unrest was triggered by the results of the August 9 presidential election that handed Lukashenko, who has run Belarus with an iron fist for 26 years, victory with 80 per cent of the vote.

His main challenger, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, got 10 per cent. She

and her supporters refused to recognise the results, saying the outcome of the vote was manipulated. Initially, Belarusian authorities cracked down brutally on protesters, with police detaining thousands and injuring scores with truncheons, rubber bullets and stun grenades.

The government has since scaled down on the violence but has maintained the pressure, detaining hundreds of protesters and prosecuting top activists.

Prominent members of the opposition’s Coordination Council, formed to push for a transition of power, have been arrested or forced to leave the country. The violence elicited international outrage. Last week, the European Union imposed sanctions on 40 officials suspected of election misconduct and the crackdown on protesters.

Lukashenko didn’t make the list. The Belarusian opposition hopes to greatly expand the list of sanctioned officials, Tsikhanouskaya’s spokeswoman, Anna Krasulina, said on Monday.

“Our list includes around 800 names — all those who committed violence against peaceful citizens, who gave orders to commit violence, all of them will have to answer,” Krasulina said. — AP

Zardari indicted in two cases

Islamabad, Oct. 5: An anti-corruption court on Monday charged former Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari in two graft cases, a week after he was indicted in a money laundering case. Zardari, 63, the co-chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and husband of the country’s first woman prime minister Benazir Bhutto, was present in the Islamabad-based court and pleaded not guilty.

During the hearing, the accountability court indicted 19 others accused in the Park Lane case and 15 others in the Thatta water supply case. The court charged Zardari, his sister Faryal Talpur in a mega money laundering case on September 28. In the Park Lane case, Zardari and his son Bilawal Ali Zardari are accused of purchasing 307 acres of prime property in Islamabad at very low rates using frontmen.

In the Thatta water supply case, a private contractor was illegally awarded project contracts. In the money laundering case, it is alleged fake accounts were used by Zardari and others to park and launder ill-gotten wealth. — PTI

FATF ALL SET TO DECIDE ON PAK’S GREY LIST STATUS

Islamabad, Oct. 5: The Financial Action Task Force is all set to decide on Pakistan’s grey list status in a virtual meeting scheduled later this month, according to a media report on Monday. The Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to Covid-19 pandemic. — PTI

Court rejects Nawaz speech ban plea Islamabad, Oct. 5: A court on Monday rejected a plea seeking a ban on the broadcast of the speeches made by former PM Nawaz Sharif against the Pakistan Army, saying courts should not be unnecessarily dragged to decide such matters. — PTI

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,973.70	0.71
Nifty 50	11,503.35	0.76
S&P 500*	3,394.34	1.37
Dollar (₹)	73.29	0.18
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.90	0.31
Euro (₹)	86.06	0.29
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,192*389	0.75
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.57	2.30
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.004	0.008
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.752	0.058

* As of 9:30 PM IST

India Inc foreign borrowings drop 47% in August

India Inc's foreign borrowings fell by over 47 per cent in August this year to \$1.75 billion from \$3.32 bn in August 2019, RBI data showed. Of the total, \$1.61 bn was raised through ECBs, while the rest \$145.74 million was raised by issuing rupee denominated bonds, or masala bonds. A total of \$1.57 bn was raised by various companies through the automatic route, while the rest \$35.93m came in via the approval route.

Adani completes Krishnapatnam Port acquisition



Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) said it has completed the acquisition of Krishna-patnam Port Company Ltd (KPCL) for an enterprise value of Rs 12,000 crore. In a BSE filing, Adani said the acquisition will result in APSEZ having a controlling stake of 75 per cent in KPCL from the CVR Group and other investors in FY21, the port is expected to generate an Ebitda of about Rs 1,200 crore.

SpiceJet to start London flights from December 4

SpiceJet said it will operate non-stop flights connecting Delhi and Mumbai with London from Dec. 4. Spicejet is the first Indian low-cost carrier to operate flights to the UK. The Delhi-London flight and the Mumbai-London flight will operate under the air bubble agreement with the UK. SpiceJet will use an Airbus A330-900 Neo for these flights, CMD Ajay Singh said. The 371-seater twin-aisle A330 has 353 economy seats.

MS selects over 2,500 educators, 49 schools in India

On the occasion of World Teachers' Day on Oct. 5, Microsoft said it has welcomed 4,366 Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts (MIEE) onboard its Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) programme from the Asia region-a twofold increase from the previous year. In India, 2,669 experts joined the ranks of MIE experts in the region. The MIE programme recognises global educators using technology.

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Current fiscal to get ₹5 L cr against ₹14.2 L cr last year Investment proposals plunge to 16-year low

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 5

At an estimated Rs 5 lakh crore, new investment proposals by both government and private sector this fiscal would fall to the lowest level in 16 years. Large infrastructure projects by the Centre alone can improve the investment climate, according to private think-tank CMIE.

Proposals worth Rs 58,700 crore were made for creation of new capacities during the September 2020 quarter and the revised investment data for the June quarter stood at Rs 69,100 crore. Prior to the lockdown, new investment proposals averaged between Rs 300,000 crore and Rs 400,000 crore per quarter. In better times, these averaged twice as high.

"Even in the second quarter of the lockdown, which saw significant relaxations, new investment proposals continued to remain as depressing as they were when the lockdown began," said Mahesh Vyas, managing director of CMIE.

Five projects collectively accounted for half the new investment projects proposed in the September quarter. These are Rs 7,000-crore solar power project in Rajasthan by Solar Energy Corporation, Rs 5,400 crore solar cells manufacturing project in Chennai by Vikram Solar, Rs 5,000 crore biotech and life sciences park in Bengaluru by the Govern-



BIZ RETURNING TO PRE-COVID LEVELS: HDFC

New Delhi, Oct. 5: Housing finance major HDFC Ltd on Monday said its individual loan disbursements in the second quarter of 2020-21 reached 95 per cent of the level in the year-ago period and September saw the strongest recovery since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, suggesting

business is returning to pre-crisis levels. The individual loan business has continued to see a month-on-month improvement in July-September 2020, HDFC said in a regulatory filing. Loan applications received during the quarter grew by 12 per cent over a year ago, it said. —PTI

ment of Karnataka, Rs 3,250 crore solar power project in Telangana by Singareni Collieries, and a multi-location Rs 5,200 crore electric vehicle plant in Uttar Pradesh by Edison Motor India.

Till now cumulative new investment proposals in 2020-21 have been Rs 1.3 lakh crore. "We do not expect new investment proposals to cross Rs 5 lakh crore this year," said CMIE, adding this is the lowest level seen since 2004-05.

In 2017-18, the country saw investment proposals valued at Rs 15 lakh crore.

Though the figure came down slightly to Rs 14.6 lakh crore in 2018-19 and to Rs 14.2 lakh crore in 2019-20, investments in 2020-21, at Rs 5 lakh crore, could be 65 per cent lower than the previous year.

"We too expect the investment cycle to be delayed. The first six months were almost a wipe out, as the economy was not functioning. Overall, we too think that investment proposals will be at least 50 per cent down due to high inventories in the system, lower trade activity, low domestic demand induced by lower mobility, low income

MSCI to debut in Edelweiss healthcare index fund

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 5

Edelweiss Mutual Fund has come up with a new thematic fund, Edelweiss MSCI India Domestic & World Healthcare 45 Index Fund.

The new fund will invest in 25 top domestic health care companies and 20 top US-listed health care companies by market cap.

This launch marks global index products provider MSCI's foray into the Indian market. The NFO will be open between October 6 and October 20.

Radhika Gupta, MD & CEO, Edelweiss Asset Management, during the virtual new fund offer launch, said, "Domestic and global stock investing boundaries are blurring, as returns are becoming more important."

"The fund's 70 per cent weightage is on Indian healthcare,...The remaining 30 per cent weightage will be on 20 stocks listed in the US."

DRL AIMS TO CUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 55%

New Delhi, Oct. 5: Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Monday said it has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent by 2030.

The Hyderabad-based drug major has joined hands with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), thus becoming the first Indian and the third Asian pharma company to have set its science-based targets to further minimise environmental impact, DRL said in a statement.

DRL has committed to reducing its Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 from 2017-18 base year, which are in line with the latest climate science of limiting global warming to below 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels. —PTI

TCS m-cap crosses ₹10 lakh cr

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 5

IT major Tata Consultancy Services has become the second company to cross market capitalisation of Rs 10 lakh crore after Reliance Industries.

TCS shares gained over 7.5 per cent on Monday, touching an all-time high price of Rs 2,727, after the company in a late Sunday announcement said its board will consider a buyback proposal at its October 7 meeting.

As the second quarter earnings season for IT companies takes off later this week, TCS buyback announcement is the second forward looking statement after HCL Technologies raised its September quarter revenue outlook recently.

The TCS board is meeting on October 7 to approve the financial results for the second quarter.

TCS shares finally closed 7.30 per cent up at Rs 2,706.85 on the BSE. The market capitalisation of TCS at Monday's closing price stands above Rs 10.15 lakh crore on the BSE.

Last share buyback by TCS worth Rs 16,000 crore took place in August-September 2018.

Other IT stocks like Wipro (6.73 per cent) and Infosys (3.00 per cent), HCL Technologies (1.25 per cent), also gained, anticipating similar buyback announcements during the Q2 earnings season.

Divided GST Council to meet again on 12th

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, OCT. 5

Even after more than seven-and-a-half hours of brainstorming, the GST Council, on Monday, failed to reach consensus on ways to compensate states, as the state finance ministers were split on political lines on the Centre's borrowing formula.

However, it was decided that Rs 20,000 crore of compensation cess collected this year would be disbursed to the states on Monday night itself and Rs 24,000 crore of IGST next week. The GST Council also decided to meet again on October 12.

Amidst the continuing deadlock over the issue of pending GST compensation transfers between the Centre and certain states, Kerala finance minister Thomas Isaac, said, "Ten states demand that full compensation should be paid to the states during the current year as per the clauses in the law and the Centre should borrow. So the decision was postponed to the next meeting on 12th of October."

Briefing the media after 42nd GST Council meet, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said 21 states had opted for one of the two options the Centre had previously suggested for borrowing to meet the shortfall in GST collections. But some states did not opt for any of the two options, and the Council decided for more deliberations.

"This year's compensation cess collected amounting to ₹20,000



crores will be disbursed to the States tonight, Sitharaman said, adding, "Rs 24,000 crore of IGST to be released to the states that had received less earlier; will be disbursed by the end of next week."

She also said the council decided to extend the period of GST cess collections to compensate states beyond the June 2022 timeframe.

Of the two options presented before the states, the first is a special window through which the states, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, make an additional borrowing of Rs 97,000 crore. The amount can be repaid from future cess collection. The second option is to borrow the entire Rs 2.35 lakh crore shortfall.

Revenue secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said that the total shortfall in collection of GST estimated at ₹2.35 lakh crore, out of which the total shortfall Rs 97,000 crore is on account of GST shortfall, while the rest is due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It has also reported that at least 21 states, mostly ruled by BJP or their allies supported the Centre on the issue and had opted to borrow Rs 97,000 crore.

RIL calls off merger of Viacom18 with Sony

New Delhi, Oct. 5: Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has called off the proposed merger of his group's entertainment business with Sony Pictures Networks India following a strategic rethink.

Ambani's television networks housed in Viacom18 Media Pvt Ltd were to merge with Sony Corp, with the Japanese giant having a bigger stake in the merged entity.

However, Reliance has now had a rethink and has decided not to pursue the merger route, sources with direct knowledge of the development said.

Instead, Reliance is now keen to invest more in digital content creation.

Digital media and entertainment is an essential pillar of telecom unit Jio's digital business strategy, they said adding Reliance plans to invest aggressively and grow the digital media business.

Reliance, they said, wants to retain management control over the digital operations and invest behind creating India's No.1 OTT destination as

well as a broadcast platform.

Also, entertainment is central to Jio's FTTH plans in partnership and collaboration with other content and production companies.

There is a lot of interest from content companies and production houses in partnering with Reliance and Jio, and investors are keen to back such partnerships, they said.

An email sent to Reliance for comments remained unanswered.

Viacom18 Media Pvt Ltd is a joint venture between TV18 Broadcast Ltd and Viacom Inc. TV18 owns 51 per cent share in the unit.

Currently, Viacom18 operates more than 40 channels in seven languages. It also operates a film company, Viacom18 Motion Pictures and video streaming platform Voot, and has interests in live events and merchandising, besides a distribution company, IndiaCast Media.

Sony Pictures Networks India runs more than 20 channels, including sports networks. —PTI

Air passenger traffic grows 37% in Sept.



SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 5

Domestic air passenger traffic has registered a sequential growth of 37 per cent in September. However, on a year-on-year basis it is still down 66 per cent.

Domestic passenger traffic in September grew to 39 lakh passengers, up 37 per cent from August.

In terms of capacity deployment too, the aviation sector saw a sequential recovery of 33 per cent over August, though it was down 46 per cent from September 2019 levels.

The average daily departures in September 2020 were 1,311, lower than the average daily departures of 2,874 in September 2019. But the departures were better than 930 in August 2020.

The average number of passengers per flight during September 2020 stood at 98, as against an average of 133 passengers per flight in September 2019.

"Thus, it is expected that the domestic aviation industry operated at a passenger load factor (PLF) of 63 per cent in September as against 85.5 per cent in the same month last year, that too on a low capacity. The PLF for September was similar to August despite the increase in capacity deployment by 37 per cent. Overall, from May 25 till September 30, the total domestic passenger traffic stood at 11 million," said Kinjal Shah, vice president, Ica.

The civil aviation ministry had permitted domestic flights to resume their operations from May 25 with one-third of their approved capacity of summer schedule 2020. Later the capacity was increased to 45 per cent with effect from June 27 and to 60 per cent from September 2.

MID-OCTOBER | FEST

This isn't expected to be a banner year for holiday sales

Covid advances US holiday shopping season

New York, Oct. 5: Add last-minute holiday shopping to the list of time-honoured traditions being upended by the coronavirus pandemic.

Retailers are kicking off the holiday season earlier than ever this year in hopes of avoiding big in-store crowds and shipping bottlenecks in November and December.

Stores like Best Buy, Macy's, and Target typically offer their biggest Black Friday deals over Thanksgiving weekend, but now they're starting them in October so people don't crowd their stores later, creating a potentially dangerous situation during a pandemic.

And with more people expected to shop online, retailers are trying to

avoid a rush of orders closer to Christmas, which could lead to late packages and expensive shipping.

Many had a hard time keeping up with the surge in buying when shoppers were locked down in their homes during the early days of the pandemic.

Even Amazon, which has spent 25 years building warehouses and a delivery network, had to hire an additional 175,000 workers to meet demand.

Black Friday has long been the unofficial start to the US holiday season, though retailers have been pushing holiday shopping earlier for some years now.

This year there's more urgency. With the coronavirus still spreading in the US, stores have had to rethink their usual holi-



day plans.

Thanksgiving Day doorbusters are cancelled. There will still be in-store sales the day after Thanksgiving, but companies are expected to try to steer many shoppers to their websites to avoid crowds and chaos.

We're preparing for a holiday season unlike any we've seen before, said Target CEO Brian Cornell.

With many people out of work and even more uncertain about their economic futures, this isn't expected to be a banner year for holiday sales.

Shoppers will likely buy fewer gifts because they won't be traveling to big family holiday gatherings. And they'll be focused on gifts related to activities around the home, from workout wear to home goods and gaming consoles.

One bright spot: People are spending less on experiences like travel and eating out, which have siphoned away holiday sales over the past few years.

Shoppers are going to be very selective in what they buy," said Ken Perkins, president of Retail Met-

rics, a retail research firm. Retailers, particularly department stores and specialty clothing chains, need to get it right in terms of inventory and customer traffic. They're fighting for their lives."

The first big holiday push will come from Amazon, which is positioning its mid-October Prime Day as a kickoff to the holiday shopping season. This is the first time Amazon has held Prime Day so close to the holidays. It's usually in July, but was postponed this year. That will put pressure on stores to offer deals around the same time, too. Target and Walmart have already said they will hold their own sales during the same time as Amazon's. —AP

SHORT TAKES

Fitness test twice a year for coaches

New Delhi: Stressing on the importance of staying fit, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has instructed all its employed coaches to undertake fitness tests twice a year.

The SAI has also asked the coaches to maintain records of the tests in their personal files. "The fitness tests would be set on the guidelines of Age Appropriate Fitness Protocol that was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24th September 2020, during the Fit India Dialogue, and are the first-ever set of age appropriate fitness tests that have been launched in India," the SAI said in a statement.

These fitness tests have been drafted by a committee of experts, who, after a detailed discussion and review, finalised the fitness protocols for each age group. — PTI

TT camp for elite players postponed

New Delhi: The national camp for elite table tennis players has been indefinitely postponed yet again with some of the players unwilling to travel while those willing are waiting for the facility at the SAI Campus Bengaluru to be functional.

Table Tennis Federation of India, which is currently de-recognised by the government, has been trying to assemble players under one roof since August. The latest attempt was aimed at starting a three week camp from October 15. "Some players are willing to travel, some players want to train overseas and the venue too is not ready yet and our de-recognition is not helping either (since we can't approach the government)," TTFI secretary general M.P. Singh said.

Most of the male players including Sharath Kamal are ready to travel for the camp but majority of the female players don't want to venture out of their hometown. — PTI

Korda asks Nadal for his autograph

Paris: It's not often that a tennis player calls being on the wrong end of a 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 Grand Slam result "super awesome" or "definitely the best moment of my life."

It's also rather rare for a player to go up to the net and ask the guy who just beat him for an autographed shirt.

Sebastian Korda, the 20-year-old American qualifier who lost to Rafael Nadal by the above scoreline in the French Open's fourth round Sunday, still was beaming afterward.

Meanwhile, Alexander Zverev complained of a slight fever and shortness of breath after his fourth-round loss at Roland Garros, but neither tournament organizers nor his opponent Sunday seemed too concerned.

Zverev lost 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, to 19-year-old Janik Sinner. Later, Petra Kvitová reached the French Open quarters for the first time in 8 years by beating Zhang Shuai 6-2, 6-4. — AP

Lopetegui's Sevilla frustrate Barca

Barcelona: Sevilla's energetic defending ended Ronald Koeman's Barcelona dropped their first points in the Spanish league. Sevilla held Barcelona to a 1-1 draw at Camp Nou on Sunday.

Barcelona and Sevilla have a game in hand and trail Real Madrid by three points.

Challenging Barcelona and defending champions Madrid for the title is not out of the question for Julen Lopetegui's well-disciplined Sevilla after this performance. — AP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Mumbai Indians vs Rajasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Australia Women vs New Zealand Women: Third ODI from 5.40 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

TENNIS

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

BASKETBALL

NBA Finals (Game 4 of best-of-7): Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 6.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six, HD

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DELHI'S ROYAL WIN

Capitals thrash Bangalore by 59 runs to go top of table

Dubai, Oct. 5: Delhi Capitals defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 59 runs in an Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

Sent into bat, Delhi Capitals scored 196 for four in their stipulated 20 overs.

Marcus Stoinis top-scored for DC with 53 off 26 balls while Prithvi Shaw (42), Rishabh Pant (37) and Shikhar Dhawan (32) also made substantial contributions at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Chasing a formidable target of 197, RCB were restricted to 137 for nine.

With 43 off 39 balls, RCB skipper Virat Kohli was the highest scorer for his side even as the others failed to impress.

For the Capitals, pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada ended with excellent figures of 4/24 in four overs.

Earlier, Australian all-rounder Stoinis, who was dropped on 30 by Yuzvendra Chahal, made RCB pay for the mistake as he raced to his 53 in just 26 balls, hitting two towering sixes and six fours.

Shaw, however, missed what would have been a well-deserved half-century.

Shaw provided a blazing start, hitting three fours off pacer Isuru Udana in the game's very first over. His innings was laced with five boundaries and two maximums.

The opening duo of Shikhar Dhawan (32 off 28-balls) and Shaw put up a 68-run stand and looked to go the distance before the RCB bowlers made a splendid comeback.

Mohammed Siraj provided the first breakthrough for his team by removing the dangerous looking Shaw.

After Udana accounted for Dhawan, Devdutt Padikkal pulled off an excellent catch at the boundary to dismiss DC's in-form skipper Shreyas Iyer (11).

— PTI



Delhi Capitals' Marcus Stoinis plays a shot against Royal Challengers Bangalore in an Indian Premier League match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Monday.

— BCCI

MARCUS STOINIS			
R	B	6s	4s
53	26	2	6

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	0	8	+1.060
Mumbai Indians	5	3	2	0	6	+1.214
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	3	2	0	6	-1.355
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	2	2	0	4	-0.121
Rajasthan Royals	4	2	2	0	4	-0.317
Chennai Super Kings	5	2	3	0	4	-0.342
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	-0.417
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	0	2	+0.178

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

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw c de Villiers b Siraj 42, Shikhar Dhawan c Moeen b Udana 32, Shreyas Iyer c Devdutt Padikkal b Moeen 11, Rishabh Pant b Siraj 37, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 53, Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 11. **Extras:** (lb-4, w-4, nb-2) 8. **Total:** (for 4 wks, in 20 overs) 196. **FoW:** 68-1, 82-2, 90-3, 179-4.

Bowling: Isuru Udana 4-0-40-1 Washington 4-0-20-0 Navdeep Saini 3-0-48-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 3-029-0, Mohammed Siraj 4-0-34-2, Moeen Ali 2-0-21-1.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: D. Padikkal c Stoinis b Ashwin 4, A. Finch c Pant b A. Patel 13, V. Kohli c Pant b Rabada 43, AB de Villiers c Dhawan b Nortje 9, Moeen Ali c Hetmyer b A. Patel 11, Washington Sundar c Ashwin b Rabada 17, S. Dube b Rabada 11, I. Udana c Iyer b Rabada 1, N. Saini (not out) 12, Mohammed Siraj b Nortje 5, Y. Chahal (not out) 0. **Extras:** (lb 4, w 7) 11. **Total:** (for 9 wks, in 20 overs) 137. **FoW:** 1-20, 2-27, 3-43, 4-75, 5-94, 6-115, 7-118, 8-119, 9-127. **Bowling:** K. Rabada 4-0-24-4, A. Nortje 4-0-22-2, R. Ashwin 4-0-26-1, A. Patel 4-0-18-2, H. Patel 4-0-43-0.

Injured Mishra to miss IPL

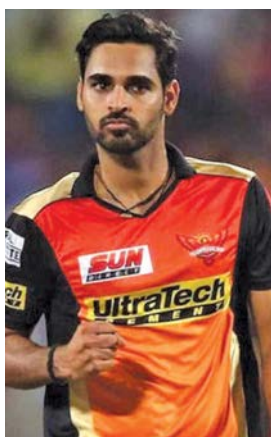
Dubai, Oct. 5: Delhi Capitals' senior leg-spinner Amit Mishra's IPL stint this season has come to an abrupt end after he fractured his ring finger during the match against Kolkata Knight Riders in Sharjah.

The 37-year-old sustained the injury while going for a low return catch offered by KKR batsman Nitish Rana in the October 3 game. He was in pain but did well to bowl two overs during which he dismissed the dangerous Shubman Gill.

"Amit has fractured his ring finger and is out of IPL tournament. Obviously, it is a very disappointing news considering he was integral to DC's plans," a source from Mishra's management team confirmed the development.

Delhi Capitals' later issued a press release, stating that the bowler will consult a specialist on his return to India for recovery and rehabilitation.

"Mishra will now consult with a specialist over the next few days to deter-



Bhuvneshwar Kumar



Amit Mishra

mine the most appropriate course of management for this unfortunate injury. Everyone at Delhi Capitals wishes him a speedy recovery," the statement read.

Mishra played three games this season and took 2 for 25 against SRH apart from his 1/14 against KKR.

He is the second highest wicket-taker in the history of IPL with 160 scalps, 10 less than Lasith Malinga (170), who has opted out due to personal

reasons this year.

BHUVI OUT OF IPL, MAY MISS AUSTRALIA TOUR AS WELL

Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was also ruled out of the ongoing IPL with a thigh muscle injury which could also end his hopes of being a part of the Indian team's tour of Australia later this year.

Bhuvneshwar sustained the injury while bowling the 19th over of Chennai Super Kings' innings dur-

ing their October 2 clash here and hobbled out of the field after just one delivery.

"Bhuvneshwar Kumar is out of IPL with a thigh muscle injury. It is probably a grade 2 or 3 injury, which could mean that he would be out for at least 6 to 8 weeks. It might effectively rule him out of India's tour of Australia," a senior BCCI official said.

Bhuvneshwar had been in decent form during this year's IPL with an economy rate of less than 7 in four games with three wickets.

His injury will be a massive blow to SRH as they struggle for quality death bowlers in his side which is short on experience.

In case of Bhuvneshwar, he might stay back in the UAE as the Indian team's physio Nitin Patel is also there as part of the BCCI's medical team.

Being a centrally-tracted player, Bhuvneshwar's rehabilitation will be entirely looked after by the BCCI.

— PTI

RESISTANCE TO CHANGE IS CSK'S KEY TO SUCCESS

Dubai, Oct. 5: Chennai Super Kings' "reticent" approach to change when faced with poor results has been the key to its success over the years, said head coach Stephen Fleming, citing veteran Australian all-rounder Shane Watson as a shining example of what the side has achieved.

Watson finally came good with an unbeaten 83 off 53 balls in his fifth game as an opener, helping CSK an emphatic 10-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab here on Sunday.

"I think it helps as players know they get more opportunities...We are reticent to changing the team other than realising the areas that we are not happy with. Also you are not sure if that change will help or not," Fleming said.

"We try and improve and if players are doing the right thing we will back them as long and even longer than possible," CSK's long-serving coach added.

— PTI

Rajasthan look to bounce back

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 5: Rajasthan Royals may need to rejig their Indian line-up slightly when they try to pull their IPL campaign out of the current rot against a supremely confident Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday.

Starting with a bang at Sharjah on a conducive batting surface, Royals have suddenly hit a slump on bigger grounds of Dubai and Abu Dhabi with their willow-wielders not looking half as menacing as they did during the first two games.

"The last two games haven't gone to plan for us after what was a really good start to the tournament. But I guess that's the way T20 cricket goes sometimes. We have been outplayed by the opposition on both occasions," Royals skipper Steve Smith said on the eve of the match.

"Hopefully, I am able to score a few runs tomorrow. I've missed out on the last two games but that happens," Smith added.

Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, have been solid in their last couple of games and are currently on top of the table by virtue of a better net run-rate compared to Delhi Capitals, who are also on six points.

After a heart-breaking loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 'Super Over', the defending champions bounced back in style, defeating Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad by 48 and 34 runs respectively.

The best part of MI's campaign so far is that they have ticked almost all the boxes with skipper Rohit Sharma (176) in good touch and now Quinton de Kock also looking omi-

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 20
- Mumbai: 10
- Rajasthan: 10

MEETING IN 2019

- Rajasthan Royals beat Mumbai Indians by 4 wickets in Mumbai.
- Rajasthan Royals beat Mumbai Indians by 5 wickets in Jaipur.

FOR THE RECORD

- Trent Boult, who took eight wickets at an average of 19.62 in five innings of as many matches, is the joint highest wicket-taker with Yuzvendra Chahal (RCB), Kagiso Rabada (DC) and Mohammed Shami (KXIP) in this IPL.

- Jos Buttler, who scored 5,950 runs at an average of 30.67 in 236 innings of 257 runs, needs 50 runs to become the fifth Englishman and 37th batsman overall to complete 6,000 runs in Twenty-20 cricket.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

nous. Kieron Pollard is consistent as ever, Ishan Kishan has looked solid and Hardik Pandya is also finishing games with the bat. Hardik's brother Krunal joined the party in the last game.

MI's replacement pacer James Pattinson (7 wickets) has been a revelation alongside the redoubtable Jasprit Bumrah and the crafty Trent Boult. Once Hardik starts bowling, all the pieces of the puzzle will nicely fit in.

— PTI



M.S. Dhoni

Mahi feels small things make huge difference

Dubai, Oct. 5: Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said doing the "small things right" shaped their emphatic 10-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab here on Sunday.

Veteran batsmen Shane Watson (83) and Faf du Plessis (87) remained unbeaten to help CSK chase down the target of 179 with ease.

"I think we did the small things right. That's what was important to us. The kind of start we got in batting, that's what we needed. Hopefully we'll be able to replicate this in the coming games," Dhoni said after the match.

Asked about Watson finding form after a string of failures, Dhoni said, "It's

not about being more aggressive. He was hitting it well in the nets and what you need is to do that in the middle. It was just a matter of time.

"Faf" is like a sheet anchor for us, keeps playing those shots in the middle. He can always confuse the bowler with the lap shots and all coming in. They complement each other."

He said his side banks on consistency in selection and head coach Stephen Fleming should be given credit for it.

"He (Fleming) does much credit for that. The good thing is we have one plan. It's not that we don't have debates, but it's one plan, that's the relationship between us."

— PTI

Manchester United, Liverpool at sixes and sevens

Manchester, Oct. 5: English football's biggest teams have never experienced a day like it.

Liverpool and Manchester United were both comprehensively humiliated by defeats that rank among the heaviest in their history.

Just when it looked like United's 6-1 collapse at home to Tottenham would be the day's biggest shock in the Premier League, Liverpool managed to surpass it.

The champions fell apart to lose 7-2 to an Aston Villa side that only avoided relegation on the final day of last season and are

now one of only two sides with 100% starts.

No defending champions in 67 years has lost so heavily in England. It's been 57 years since Liverpool were beaten as badly. With Leicester opening on Sunday with a 3-0 loss to West Ham, it leaves Everton and Villa, whose last titles came in the 1980s, leading the way with perfect starts.

VILLA THRILLER

To put into perspective the gulf between Villa and Liverpool 64 points separated them last season.

Coronavirus infections denied Liverpool both

THE RESULTS

Manchester United (Fernandes 2-pen)	1
Tottenham (Ndombele 4, Son 7, Kane 31, 79-pen, Aurier 51)	6
Aston Villa (Watkins 4, 22, 39, McGinn 35, Barkley 55, Grealish 66, 75)	7
Liverpool (Salah 33, 60)	2

Sadio Mane and Thiago Alcantara. A shoulder injury meant Alisson Becker had to be replaced in goal by Adrian.

And it was Adrian's poor pass that was seized on by Jack Grealish to set up

summer signing Ollie Watkins for his first Premier League goal after four minutes.

It was the start of a hat trick for the recruit from second-tier Brentford. Captain Grealish was on target twice, while there were also goals for John McGinn and Ross Barkley on his debut after joining on loan from Chelsea.

Mohamed Salah did score twice for Liverpool, but only when 2-0 and 5-1 down as the visitors were completely outplayed by Villa.

'WORST DAY'

Manchester United has

now opened the season with back-to-back home losses for the first time since 1986.

But it had started so well for United by winning a penalty inside 30 seconds that Bruno Fernandes converted. But Tottenham quickly turned the game around by exploiting United's wretched defense, with goals from Tanguy Ndombele and Son Heung-min ensuring Jose Mourinho's side was in front by the seventh minute.

"It's very embarrassing, it hurt all the players," said United's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

— AP



Liverpool's Mohammad Salah (second from right) and teammates react to their 2-7 loss to Aston Villa in an EPL match in Birmingham on Sunday.

— AFP