

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | FRIDAY 16 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 34°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 1 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 30
Tithi: Amavasai
Star: Hastham
Rahukalam:
10.30 am to 12 noon
Yamagandam:
3 pm to 4.30 pm

PRAYERS

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

SUNSET TODAY 5.50 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.00 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 5.19 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 5.42 PM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+60,199)	(+832)
73,65,289	1,12,143

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+4,410)
TN: 6,74 802 | 10,472

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3,90,48,338

DEATHS

11,00,464

COUNTRIES
AREAS WITH
CASES
214

worldometers.info

Go to Bombay HC is SC advice for Republic TV

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday refused to entertain a plea by the Republic Media Group seeking to quash the summons issued by Mumbai Police in connection with the Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulation case and asked it to approach the Bombay High Court. “We must have faith in high courts,” said a bench comprising Justice D Y Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee. It said the high court has been working throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and the media group should approach it.

India to deliver kilo class submarine to Myanmar

New Delhi: In a major move that is being seen as a step to checkmate China's influence in neighbouring Myanmar, India will deliver a kilo class submarine to the Myanmar Navy. This will be the first submarine of the Myanmar Navy. On Thursday evening, MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, “Cooperation in the maritime domain is a part of our diverse and enhanced engagement with Myanmar. In this context, India will be delivering a kilo class submarine INS Sindhuvir to the Myanmar Navy. We understand that this will be the first submarine of the Myanmar Navy.” He added, “This is in accordance with our vision of SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region, and also inline with our commitment to build capacities and self reliance in all our neighbouring countries.”

Let Allahabad HC deal with Hathras case: Supreme Court

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 15

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its order on a plea by the family of Hathras gang-rape victim seeking the transfer of the trial to Delhi while making it clear that it does not intend to interfere with Allahabad high court that is dealing with the matter.

Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde, heading a bench also comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian, indi-

cated tossing all the PILs and intervention applications relating to Hathras case to Allahabad high court, including plea of the accused against media trial.

Several senior counsels appearing for different intervenors backed the victim's family's plea for transfer of trial to Delhi and expressed apprehension about the fate of the trial in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr Gonsalves urged the court that the security of the victim's family be entrusted

to the Central Reserve Police Force, raising questions about the role of Uttar Pradesh police in the case right from day when it refused to even register an FIR in the case.

Advocate Seema Kushwaha appearing for the victim's family also told the court that the status report of the CBI's investigation should be submitted directly to the court and not routed through UP DGP, a position readily backed by solicitor general Tushar Mehta.



Huge stash of cash and gold seized from TNPCB official's house in Vellore

STATE | 4

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

‘LEARNING EXPERIENCE,’ SAYS SUPERSTAR

Contrite Rajini pays up ₹6.56L as property tax on wedding hall

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

A humble Tamil phrase meaning ‘experience is a lesson’ (*Anubavame Paadam*) that actor Rajinikanth turned into a hashtag in his tweet, regretting his approaching the court for a relief in the property tax of ₹6.56 lakh levied by Chennai Corporation for Raghavendra Kalyana Mandapam, caught up like wildfire on social media with his fan using it to send across a plethora of messages, one of them being that his political entry is imminent.

Though immediate reactions to the actor's tweet in Tamil, which said “Raghavendra Mandapam's property tax... We should have appealed to the Corporation. Could have avoided the mistake. Experience is a lesson,”



were rather sarcastic, fans soon latched on and had a field day calling for unity of fans of film actors and defeating the DMK.

“What leader, was the blow a bit severe?” asked one of those who responded initially, perhaps referring the Madras High Court forcing the actor to withdraw the petition with a threat of a heavier penalty, while another one said “when his system itself is not right, what to say,” taking a swipe at an earlier statement by Rajinikanth blaming the

● **The actor paid the tax through a cheque drawn on Karnataka Bank Ltd, which gave some grist for social media activists to make snide remarks on his choice of bank**

system in the country for all the social and political ills.

Another Twitter user asked, ‘so you won't pay the tax?’ But the actor quickly paid the tax amount through a cheque drawn on Karnataka Bank Ltd, which gave some grist for some social media activists to make snide remarks on his choice of the bank, as the copy of the receipt was circulated in social media.

But the legion of fans quickly got into the act

and trended ‘*Anubavame Paadam*’ with his supporters praising him to the skies for being ‘honest’ and suggesting that he could be fighting the 2021 Assembly elections.

“Political change and regime change can be ushered in if people who think about change and a leader who thinks about people join hands. Now or never,” said a poster put out by his fans in Dindigul district.

“Greatest politician in the making,” said another tweet, while a summary of what happened regarding the actor and the Raghavendra Mandapam tax issue was shared repeatedly by the fans.

The message explained with bullet points the sequence of events leading to his paying the tax and also justifying everything he did in connection with that. ■ **P2**

J&K parties form alliance to fight for special status

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 15

The signatories of ‘Gupkar Declaration’ from among Jammu and Kashmir's mainstream parties held a meeting here on Thursday and named the initiative aimed at fighting for the restoration of the erst-while state's special status as ‘People's Alliance’.

Former chief minister and National Conference president, Farooq Abdullah at whose house along Srinagar's Gupkar Road the meeting, the third of the ‘Gupkar Declaration’ signatories, was held said, “Ours is a constitutional battle. We want the Government of India to return to the people the rights they held prior to August 5, 2019.” People's Democratic



Jammu and Kashmir National Conference president Farooq Abdullah along with his son Omar Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti during a meeting of signatories to the Gupkar Declaration, at his residence in Srinagar on Thursday. — **HABIB NAQASH**

Party president and former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti, who was released from a 14-month-long detention earlier this week, also attended the meeting. ‘Gupkar Declaration’ was a pledge for defending Article 370

and 35A of Kashmir's mainstream parties which they took at a meeting held at Mr. Abdullah's residence on August 4, 2019, a day before the state was stripped of its special status and split up into two Union Territories.

GST: Centre to borrow ₹1.1L cr on behalf of states

SANGEETHA G | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

In a move that may end the impasse with the states, the Centre has decided to borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore on behalf of the states under a special window to meet the shortfall of Goods and Services Tax compensation.

Under the Special Window, the estimated shortfall of ₹1.1 lakh crore (assuming all states join) will be borrowed by Government of India in appropriate tranches, the Centre said in a release.

The amount so borrowed will be passed on to the states as a back-to-back loan

in lieu of GST Compensation Cess releases.

This will not have any impact on the fiscal deficit of the Government of India. The amounts will be reflected as the capital receipts of the state governments and as part of financing of its respective fiscal deficits.

This will avoid differential rates of interest that individual States may be charged for their respective SDLs (State Development Loans) and will be an administratively easier arrangement.

It may also be clarified that the General Government (States+Centre) borrowings will not

● **The amount so borrowed will be passed on to the states as a back-to-back loan in lieu of GST Compensation Cess releases**

increase by this step. The states that get the benefit from the Special Window are likely to borrow a considerably lesser amount from the additional borrowing facility of 2 per cent of GSDP (from 3 to 5 per cent) under the Aatma Nirbhar Package, the release said.

The release, however, did not mention who will ser-

vice the interest and principal payments.

After finding that there will be a significant shortfall in the compensation cess collected in FY21 due to the pandemic, the Finance Ministry in August had given two options to the states. As per the first option, the states can borrow ₹97,000 crore — compensation cess on account of GST implementation — of the total estimated GST compensation cess shortfall of ₹ 2.35 lakh crore for FY21.

Those choosing the second option can borrow the full estimated compensation cess amount of ₹2.35 lakh crore for FY21. ■ **P5**

India denies Pak NSA claims of dialogue

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 15

India on Thursday said a claim by Pakistani National Security Advisor (NSA) Moeed Yusuf that India had communicated a “desire for conversation” with Pakistan was “fictitious” and that “no such message was sent” by India. Yusuf had reportedly made the claim in an interview to an Indian news website.

New Delhi also lambasted Islamabad for its “effort to divert attention from domestic failures of the present government and mislead its domestic constituents by pulling India into headlines on a daily basis”, adding that the Pakistani NSA should reserve his advice for his own country and refrain from commenting on India's internal matters.

India made it clear that “support to terrorism against India and use of derogatory and abusive language are not conducive to normal neighbourly relations”.

At his weekly briefing on Thursday evening, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, “We have seen reports on the interview by a senior Pakistani official to an Indian media outlet. He has commented on India's internal matters. As always, this is Pakistan's effort to divert attention from domestic failures of the present government and mislead its domestic constituents by pulling India into headlines on a daily basis. The (Pakistani) official is well advised to restrict his advice to his establishment and not to comment on India's domestic policy. The statements made by him are contrary to facts on the ground, misleading and fictitious. As regards the purported message, let me make it clear that no such message was sent from our side.” He added, “Pakistan continues to support, aid and abet cross-border terrorism against India and has also been resorting to unprovoked ceasefire violations to support terrorist infiltration.



● **The statements made by Mr Yusuf are contrary to facts on the ground, misleading and fictitious. As regards the purported message, let me make it clear that no such message was sent from our side,” said ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava**

“As always, this is Pakistan's effort to divert attention from domestic failures of the present government and mislead its domestic constituents by pulling India into headlines on a daily basis,” he added

‘ARUNACHAL PRADESH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF INDIA’

“The union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are, and would remain an integral part of India. China has no locus standi to comment on India's internal matters. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. This fact has also been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side,” Anurag Srivastava said.

India hits out at China on Ladakh issue

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 15

New Delhi slammed Beijing on Thursday, saying it “has no locus standi to comment on India's internal matters”, after China reportedly said it does not recognise the union territory of Ladakh. China also does not recognise Arunachal Pradesh as part of India. In what is being seen as a veiled reference to China's insistence that other countries follow the “One China Policy”, New Delhi “hoped that countries will not comment on India's internal matters, as much as they expect the same of others”.

Meanwhile, following the latest round of talks with China for military disengagement in the Ladakh sector, India on Thursday reiterated that the “two sides have a better understanding of each other's positions”, adding that the two countries will “maintain the current momentum of communications based on the guidance of our leadership to not to turn differences into disputes and work towards a mutually acceptable solu-

tion for complete disengagement”.

On Thursday, MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, “Our position on this has always been clear and consistent. The union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are, and would remain an integral part of India. China has no locus standi to comment on India's internal matters. We hope that countries will not comment on India's internal matters, as much as they expect the same of others. Our position on Arunachal Pradesh has also been made clear several times. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. This fact has also been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side on several occasions, including at the highest level.”

On talks with China for military disengagement in the Ladakh sector, he added, “I would like to draw your attention to the Joint Press Release issued after the seventh round of the Senior Commanders talks held on October 12.

Vivek Oberoi questioned about Aditya Alva

VINAY MADHAV | DC
BENGALURU, OCT. 15

In continuation with investigation into ‘Sandalwood Drug Connect’, where two leading heroins of Kannada film industry are behind bars, Bengaluru CCB sleuths searched the house of Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi, whose brother-in-law Aditya Alva is one of the accused.

After CCB registered a complaint at Cubbonpet police station over drug racket, naming Aditya Alva as 6th accused, Alva is absconding. Armed with search notice from the court, a 3-member police team headed by Inspector



Vivek Oberoi with his brother-in law Aditya Alva. — **File picture**

Mahanand Oberoi's house in Juhu, Mumbai and questioned him about Aditya Alva.

Joint Commissioner of Police Sandeep Patil said

that Aditya Alva is absconding in the Cottonpet case.

Since Vivek Oberoi is his relative and Bengaluru police received information that Aditya Alva is in

Mumbai, the police team wanted to check the facts. Besides, there is every chance that Vivek Oberoi may know the whereabouts of Aditya Alva.

The police got a court warrant and have gone there to check the information.

Aditya Alva is son of Karnataka former minister late Jeevaraj Alva, who was a colorful politician in 80s and 90s.

His mother Nandini Alva is a famous dancer. Vivek Oberoi has married Priyanka Alva, Aditya Alva's sister.

After the death of Jeevaraj Alva, the family stayed away from politics for some time.

However, in 2014 general elections, Nandini Alva unsuccessfully tried entering politics by contesting from Bengaluru Central Parliamentary segment on JD(S) ticket.

Since then, the family has stayed away from politics. However, the family came to limelight when Priyanka Alva married Vivek Oberoi.

Later, two months ago, when CCB started cracking the drug racket in Bengaluru, the name of Aditya Alva cropped up. Aditya used to lend his resort in Bengaluru outskirts for the drug parties and he is suspected to be organising drug supply to such parties.

SHORT TAKES

Man held for abduction, sexual assault

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

The Kalpakkam police on Thursday arrested a 22-year-old man on charges of abducting a minor girl and sexually assaulting her. Vikram, a welder, was arrested for abducting and sexually assaulting a 15-year-old minor girl.

According to police, Vikram allegedly abducted the girl on October 12 and sexually assaulted her. Based on the complaint by the girl's father, police tracked down the accused and the girl to Karaithittu area. He was arrested and a case was registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act against him.

Rajini creates awareness on Section 105

From P1

"Speak with honesty, think with sincerity and act with integrity," said another carrying a picture of Rajinikanth atop an open jeep surrounded by a jostling crowd of people and media persons.

Another one said "we all with you", regretted that the news headlines were conveying it wrongly and urged him to make it clear. He was "setting a good example," said one and another said, "Bold men, don't play victim card". But the main message was: "Thalaivaaaaa 2021 is waiting for you."

Many tweets appreciated him for creating awareness on Section 105, under which, it was said, that there was a provision for tax exemption if a marriage hall was closed for over 30 days.

But another fan summed up the idea behind trending the hashtag: "It's been 50+ Yrs of Dravida Politics what did Happen? No Change the System is still Corrupted! 2021 Elections will be an opportunity for people to correct their Mistakes."

And, as another fan @stranger2898 put it, their main target of attack was the DMK. He gave a clarion call to fans of all film stars like Rajinikanth, Ajith, Vijay and Surya to set aside their differences, forgetting fan fights and "to gether fight hard for a goodness of our tamilnadu."

Puducherry adds 245 new coronavirus cases

Puducherry, Oct. 15: The union territory of Puducherry reported 245 fresh COVID-19 cases while two more deaths pushed the toll to 570, Health Minister Malladi Krishna Rao said on Thursday. The 245 new cases were identified at the end of examination of 4,649 samples, he told a virtual press meet. The Puducherry region had 174 of the new cases followed by Karaikal (39), Mahe (27) and Karaikal (5), he added. The Minister said that 2.5 lakh samples have been tested so far and it was found that 2.14 lakh samples out of them were negative. Rao said the fatality and recovery rates were 1.75 per cent and 84.24 per cent respectively. The Health department had discharged 213 patients from hospitals after recovery during the last 24 hours. The overall Covid-19 cases in Puducherry stood at 32,486 after transfer of four patients to Tamil Nadu, the Minister said, adding while there were 4,551 active cases, 27,365 patients had recovered and were discharged so far while the fatalities were 570. Of the two patients who died in the last 24 hours, a 68-year old woman patient died of infection in Government GH here while the other patient (male) aged 60 years died at the Government GH in Karaikal. Both were diagnosed to be Covid pneumonia patients. —PTI



KOLU FERVOUR MISSING

People buying Kolu dolls at Mylapore on Thursday.

— DC

More Covid preventive measures at secretariat

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

The public department of the state government has escalated the preventive measures taken against the spread of Covid-19 following a spike in the number of positive cases in the various offices in the secretariat.

According to a statement, all departments had been requested to purchase a

required number of pulse oximeters to check oxygen levels and thermal scanners to check body temperature of all staff on a daily basis.

Any official with symptoms like fever, high body temperature, cold, cough and decreased oxygen saturation should be subjected to testing and further medical examination, the release said, adding that under secretaries or deputy

secretaries of the departments would be in charge of this, the release added.

Already, adequate precautions had been taken in the Secretariat premises to prevent the spread of the virus with the body temperature of all staff and visitors checked with thermal scanners and by providing for sanitisers at various places, including the connecting corridors and ATMs, the release said.

Man flees with gold chain from jewellery shop

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

In a daring daylight robbery, an unknown person fled with a gold chain from a jewellery shop in Medavakkam Bazaar after pretending to buy gold ornaments.

Police said Rathanal, a Chennai resident, lodged a complaint with the Pallikaranai police that a man posed as a client and stole a nine sovereign gold chain.

Rathanlal owns a small jewellery shop in Medavakkam Bazaar. On Wednesday, a man entered the shop in the guise of buying jewels. When the shopowner was showing different designs of chains, the man suddenly opened the door and fled with a gold chain. The shop owner, who did not anticipate this, chased him, shouting for help, but in vain. Based on his complaint, the Pallikaranai police have registered a

case and collected CCTV footage from the shop.

Meanwhile, burglars looted gold and diamond jewels from the locked house of a retired bank employee in Madipakkam.

According to the police, Navaneethakrishnan, 73 of Karthikeyapuram in Madiapakkam, is a retired bank employee. He lived with his wife, Saraswathi, 69.

Police said the duo were tested positive for

Kerala backwater tourism to spur TN package tours

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

With the Kerala government deciding to open up backwater tourism, the tour operators of Chennai, jobless since the advent of pandemic, are pinning hope on the revival of package tours.

T.G. Abhilash Kumar, deputy director, Kerala Tourism, told DC that backwater tourism in Kerala will be opened by October 18. But the tourists needing houseboat ride should register their details in the webportal 'covidjagratha'. "We will allow all domestic tourists in the country. But only 10 people will be allowed in a boat at a time. Two people can stay inside a room. Check-in and check-out will be mandatory between 9 am and 5 pm. The boats will be disinfected after every ride. The riders will be allowed to check in only after getting their luggage disinfected. A QR code will be displayed in front of the houseboat to submit details in the covid-jagratha portal. Quarantine will be mandatory for tourists who undertake more than seven-day trips."

VKT Balan, chairman, Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India, Tamil Nadu chapter, said the Kerala development will be a boon for the tour operators in Tamil Nadu, especially as lot of families in Chennai opt for house-

Coronavirus screening intensified on Kerala border

ARULOLI M | DC
KANYAKUMARI, OCT. 15

As covid cases in Kerala is witnessing a surge, intensive checking is being carried out in the border check posts in Kanyakumari and Tenkasi districts, along Kerala border.

These borders were completely opened for passengers crossing the Kaliyakavilal and Marthandam areas in Kanyakumari district, and Puliayarai in Tenkasi district, since the relaxation of the lockdown.

But since a month back, health officials in these two districts bordering Kerala,

woke up to the sudden increase in the number of covid cases in Kerala, and deployed special teams comprising officials from the police, health and revenue departments, to keep tab on visitors crossing the Tamil Nadu borders, said a health official at the Kaliyakavilal check post, where on an average of 70-80 visitors from Kerala are being tested.

At the Puliayarai check post in Tenkasi district, a 12 member team led by Shengottai tahsildar, Rosham Bhegam, has been involved in vehicle checks. "Details of all passengers coming from Kerala

through Puliayarai check post have also been recorded," added Bhegam.

Such intensive prevention measures helped the district administration keep the number of cases under control.

A health official said, Tenkasi district which recorded around 7,700 covid cases since March, has drastically brought down the rate of infection spread. The average number of Covid-19 infection on the same day in September was 60, but has now come down to below 20 per day and the recovery rate in the district stands at 98.1 per cent.

boat rides in Kerala every year. "We are looking forward to approaching tourists who want to go Kerala with the festival season round the corner," he said.

Senthana Amuthan, a leading tour operator in Chennai, hailed Kerala's decision as it will give a stimulus to the tour operating business in Chennai. People choose Alappuzha because of its unique geography and tourism-friendly policies of the Kerala government. We hope the

Tamil Nadu tourism will also open its tourist destinations soon, he said.

According to the data available with Kerala tourism, around 14 lakh tourists from Tamil Nadu visited Kerala every year in the pre-Covid era. The Kerala tourism had laid down a roadmap to woo holiday enthusiasts from Tamil Nadu, organizing a meeting of representatives from travel, tour and hospitality business from Kerala and representatives in

Newly-wed air hostess commits suicide at Air India quarters

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

A 28-year-old air hostess allegedly committed suicide at the Air India quarters in Meenambakkam in the city on Wednesday.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as Anbarasi (28), working as an Air India flight attendant on a contract basis since 2017. Anbarasi, a Salem native, married one Sarankumar (30) from Tirupathi, on September 14. Sarankumar is working in a shipping company as an engineer.

The newly-married couple moved to the Air India quarters in Meenambakkam a week ago. Anbarasi's brother Aravindh was also staying with the couple. Police said the victim rejoined duty on Wednesday after taking a long leave for wedding.

The incident happened on Wednesday afternoon when no one was present in the house. At around 1:30 pm, Sarankumar stepped out to buy lunch. When he returned home in

an hour, he found the main door locked from inside. He knocked on the door and tried to reach Anbarasi through the phone. As she did not respond, he peeped through the window and found her hanging from the ceiling.

Based on the information, the Meenambakkam police rushed to the scene. They recovered the body and sent it to the Chrompet government hospital for post-mortem. Based on a complaint filed by Anbarasi's brother, the police registered a case and began an investigation.

Anbarasi's parents told police that there were no misunderstandings between the husband and wife and they were very happy together.

The police are investigating if the air hostess took her life due to work pressure.

The case was also forwarded for an inquiry by a revenue divisional officer to verify if the woman ended her life due to dowry harassment.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as Anbarasi (28), working as an Air India flight attendant on a contract basis since 2017. Anbarasi, a Salem native, married one Sarankumar (30) from Tirupathi, on September 14. Sarankumar is working in a shipping company as an engineer

The newly-married couple moved to the Air India staff quarters in Meenambakkam a week ago. Anbarasi's brother Aravindh was also staying with the couple. Police said the victim rejoined duty on Wednesday after taking a long leave for wedding



CORONA AWARENESS

<<<<<<

A music and dance programme to create awareness on corona safety measures held at a traffic signal at Chrompet on Thursday. It was organised by St Thomas Mount traffic investigation wing.

— DC

Want a clean, not crowded, Marina now

B. Vijayalakshmi

Viewpoint

Namma Marina beach hogged the limelight this week over two inter-related issues. Considered the second longest beach in the world, Marina failed to bag the coveted Blue Flag label from an acclaimed global agency. However, for the first time, eight other beaches in our country won the certificate from the Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark, based on 33 stringent criteria relating to cleanliness, bathing water quality, facilities, environment and sustainable development.

In a related development, the Madras high court,

The crowd at the Marina beach last week.

— DC



while hearing a petition on cleaning up Marina beach and regulating fish markets, underlined the need to keep beaches free of encroachments. The court's emphasis followed media reports of encroachments on Loop road and

Marina pathway by fish sellers and squatters occupying places near the Lighthouse area. It may be recalled that the corporation had missed its June 2020 deadline to build a new fish market along Loop Road to relocate the ven-

dors. Also, the civic body's plan to issue identity cards and push carts to vendors on Marina beach could not be implemented due to Covid outbreak. The state government informed the court that it would file notices on setting up of the

fish market during the next hearing in November.

Despite the Madras high court passing strictures on regularisation of vendors and beach beautification measures for the last few years and the government promising steps to evict encroachers, the 13-km Marina beach is yet to regain its lost sheen. With the Supreme Court and the high court attesting the TN government's decision to make Marina a protest-free zone, Chennaiites must also do their bit in keeping the beach clean. The beach cannot look ruined with plastic carry bags, eatables, leftovers, wrappers and broken bottles. Also there have been instances, when beach visitors were surprised to see the shore filled with foam reportedly due to sewage from Cooum and Adyar rivers. Private organisations, NGOs and government agencies have embarked on cleanliness

drives and removed several hundred tonnes of garbage littering the Marina sands at regular intervals. Police and the civic body must make sure the country's longest beach is free of encroachments.

In response to HC's query on opening of beaches, the Chennai corporation commissioner said the Marina beach, closed to the public in March due to Covid-19, is likely to be reopened next month. However, regulating crowds on the beach, a place for both recreation and exercise, will pose a big challenge to authorities. It is time massive awareness campaigns on the virus were launched and Chennaiites were educated on the need for social distancing. People must realize the gravity of the situation and stop crowding in beaches because it might facilitate the spread of the killer virus.

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The Power to Surprise

OTHER STORY

Cong leader Raut writes to Governor

Mumbai, Oct. 15: Maharashtra minister and Congress leader Nitin Raut has demanded stern action against the vice-president of a village panchayat in Tamil Nadu for allegedly forcing a Dalit woman panchayat president to sit on the floor during a meeting. Raut, who is also the AICC SC department chairman, has written a letter to Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit demanding stern action against the accused. The Congress leader said he was angered and pained.

—PTI

New scheme in 435 PDS shops from today

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, OCT. 15

Bio-metric system for giving provisions to ration card holders under 'One nation, one ration card' scheme will be introduced in 435 fair price shops in Kumbakonam, Papanasam and Thiruvadamurthur taluks in Kumbakonam division in Thanjavur district, from October 16 said a press release from Collector M Govinda Rao, on Thursday. The collector said that the system would be introduced later in other shops in the district. There are 1,183 fair price shops in the district. Under this scheme, free rice and wheat and other provisions with price will be distributed to ration card holders. With respect to those who have come from other states for work, rice under central scheme at ₹3 per kg, and wheat at ₹2 per kg, will be distributed.

Digitisation work completed

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, OCT. 15

Digitisation of Marathi and Telugu palm leaf and paper manuscripts have been completed fully at the Rajah Serfoji Saraswathi Mahal library, said Collector M Govinda Rao, who is also director of the library, which is one of the biggest manuscripts library in the whole of Asia. Presiding over a meeting of the administrative committee to discuss the developments of the library here on Thursday, the collector said that with respect to Tamil manuscripts, old ones have been digitised and some new manuscripts received in the recent past are being digitised. It will be completed soon. Regarding Sanskrit manuscripts, the collector said that 65.20 per cent digitisation has been completed and the rest is being done. With respect to retirement benefits of retired pandits and staff, proposals have been sent to the government based on the seventh pay commission recommendations, and it will be processed soon. Shivaji Rajah Bhonsle, lifetime member of the administrative committee of the library, G Balasubramanian, vice-chancellor, Tamil university and Ramakrishnan, chief education officer, participated.



Tiruppur District Collector K.Vijayarathi inaugurates Co-optex Deepavali discount sale on College road in Tiruppur on Wednesday.

— DC

HC poses queries on delay in procurement of paddy

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

Taking judicial note of the fact from the media that agitations are being made by the farmers for not procuring their paddy in time, the Madras high court has posed 8 queries to be answered by the Tamil Nadu government by October 16, 2020.

A division bench comprising Justices N.Kirubakaran and B.Pugalendhi posed the queries while passing interim orders on a Public Interest Litigation filed by advocate A.P. Suryaprakasam.

The bench said the PIL has been filed by A.P.Suryaprakasam, party-in-person, pointing out certain shortcomings in procurement of paddy from the farmers at the procurement centres. Because of abundant rain, the agriculture yield is good. Therefore, the farmers are bringing more paddy to the centres. However, to their shock, it is alleged that the officials in the procurement centres are making them to wait for days together. The poor farmers, left with no other options, are made to wait on the roads. There is no place for them even to

The 8 questions are:

1) How many procurement centres have been opened in Tamil Nadu?

2) How the paddy procured from the farmers are stored in temporary centres before being removed to the godowns/warehouses?

3) Why not the government put up temporary sheds to keep the paddy as it is alleged that more time is taken up by the officials to procure the same?



4) Whether it is a fact that gunny bags are not sufficiently available to make procurements?

5) Whether it is a fact that some of the officials demand bribes of Rs

30 to 40 per bag for making procurement?

6) Whether it is a fact that the officials are making procurement from the private traders instead from the farmers?

7) How many bags of paddy are damaged, because of rain or not properly storing them?

8) What are all the measures taken by the government to procure the paddy effectively and swiftly?

keep the paddy. Since it is a rainy season, there is a possibility of the grains getting damaged due to rain. It takes days together for the officials to procure the paddy from the farmers. However, it is alleged that the officials are procuring from private traders instead of procuring from the farmers. It is also stated that money is also demanded as a bribe from the farmers for procuring the paddy at the rate of Rs 30 to 40 per bag or 5 bags for procuring 50 days. It is also submitted

by Suryaprakasam that malpractices are being shown in the visual media and the vigilance and anti-corruption department has to take note of it, the bench added.

The bench said, "This court takes judicial note of the fact from the visual media that agitations are being made by the farmers for not procuring their paddy in time. The officials are also rejecting the paddy on the ground that the moisture content is more than that of the prescribed level". The officials were

stating that sufficient number of gunny bags were not available and therefore, the procurement was being delayed. When the yield was more, procurement centres should have been established in every taluk level to see that the procurement was made very swiftly from the farmers and interests of the farmers were protected, the bench added and posed 8 queries to be answered by the authorities. The bench posted to October 16, 2020, further hearing of the case.

Abdul Kalam remembered on his birth anniv

Chennai, Oct. 15:

Former President, the late APJ Abdul Kalam was remembered in Tamil Nadu on his 89th birth anniversary, with leaders paying tributes to him. In Rameswaram, the Dalai Lama interacted with the former President's family through video link and recalled his association with the late Kalam. During his interaction, he stressed the need for global peace. Later, members of Kalam's family, District Collector K. Veeraraghava Rao and others paid homage at the Kalam memorial at Peikarambu in the district which was decked up for the occasion. Rao also inaugurated a 1,000-sampling planting drive to commemorate Kalam's birth anniversary. Governor Banwarilal Purohit paid floral tributes to a portrait of Kalam at the Raj Bhavan here. Chief Minister K. Palaniswami, in a tweet, said Kalam was a guide to youngsters as he asked them to dream which will lead to thoughts that in turn will take shape into action. He also paid tributes to the former President. Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) chief Kamal Haasan said Kalam's achievements and vision should guide the future generation.

— PTI

Protest against Surappa

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

The DMK's youth wing and students' wing together organized a protest at 27 places in the State demanding the removal of Anna University vice chancellor M. K. Surappa.

Among those who took part in the protest in Chennai conducted in front of the Anna University gates were Youth wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin and Student's wing leader C. V. M. A. Ezhilarasan, among others.

They raised slogans against Surappa, accusing him of working against the interest of the State by pledging the university to the Centre in the name of getting Institute of Eminence status.

The DMK would not allow that to happen, Udhayanidhi Stalin said.

He also accused the AIADMK government of playing a double role in dealing with the controversy and said that the protests would be revived if the vice chancellor was not

removed. Meanwhile, law minister C. Ve Shanmugham told mediapersons in Villupuram that the vice chancellor had developed a channel of communication with the Centre without the knowledge of the state government.

Calling that an irregularity, Shanmugham said the government would deal with the irregularity. He said that the government would not do anything that would go against the 69 per cent reservation followed in the state.

Chief Secretary's term extended

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

The term of State Chief Secretary K Shanmugam has been extended for three months till the end of January, 2021, according to a communication from the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension.

Obliging the request of the State government, the Centre approved the extension of service for the 1985 batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre with effect from November 1, 2020.

₹3.25cr cash, gold, silver seized in TNPCB official's house

DC CORRESPONDENT
VELLORE, OCT. 15

The seizure of a large amount of cash worth ₹3.25 crore, gold, silver and land related documents from the house of a senior official of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), Vellore district, has created a flutter here.

Sleuths of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) seized a huge amount of cash and gold jewellery from the residence of senior TNPCB official M. Paneerselvam, resident of Barathi Nagar, Ranipet, Vellore district.

Led by DSP Hemachitra, a team of DVAC officials comprising three inspectors, S Vijay, Rajinikanth and Vijayalakshmi, raided the residence of the engineer, which extended for over 19 hours.

"We have seized Rs. 3.25 crore in cash, 450 sovereigns of gold and 6.5 kg silverware from Paneerselvam's residence," said a top DVAC official. The DVAC team also seized some documents of properties in Vellore, Ranipet, Tiruvallur and Chennai, belonging to the officer's kin. Paneerselvam



is alleged to have been in control of six divisions - Vellore, Vaniyambadi, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Hosur and Dharmapuri. He had been serving as



OMNI BUSES GETTING READY

Workers busy cleaning private omni buses at Koyambedu terminus before commencing operations on Friday.

— DC

Chennai streets prone to flooding even after light rain

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

Despite the authorities taking several steps including periodic de-silting of stormwater drains and dredging and clearing of the waterbodies to mitigate the flooding, the city streets are still prone to flooding even in a low-intensity rain.

For instance, the Tamil street in Choolaimedu was completely inundated within an hour during the rainfall on Monday evening.

Sudha Ramalingam, a local resident, says flawed road engineering and improper management of stormwater drain have caused the flash waterlogging. Even if it's a drizzle, the entire area will be submerged.

"Nobody can move around due to waterlogging. The road was under water the entire night," she said.

Ramalingam, a lawyer, demanded reconstruction of the road to prevent water logging in the area. Since it is a concrete road, there is no space for rainwater to recede. The authorities should expedite activities of clearing the stormwater drains as they are stuck," she said.

It may be recalled that the Red Atlas developed by

National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), an MoES laboratory, last year had warned authorities about the risk of flooding during the monsoon season in the low-lying areas like Periamet, Pattalam, Kosapet, Manali, Thiruvottiyur, Chintadripet and Perambur.

The Atlas had said the streets in Edayanchavadi, Periamet, Egmore, Wadiya Nagar, Kosapet and Pattalam have a very high risk of 75 per cent of the area going under three to six feet of water if the city registers 30cm rainfall in a day.

The corporation wards like Ernavoor, Manali, Madhavaram, Ganesapuram near Vyasarpadi, Moolakothalam, 150 George Town, Purasai- 153 walkam, Chetpet, Teynampet, Thousand Lights, 156 Valsarvakkam, Manapakkam, RA Puram, Velachery, Pallikarai, Thoraipakkam, Ezhil Nagar and Kannagi Nagar are also under risk.

In addition to this, north Chennai localities like Sathyamoorthy Nagar in Thiruvottiyur, Chin- 79 Tadrpet, Mettupalayam 80 near Perambur, Otteri, 81 Thiru-vi-ka Nagar and many streets in west 85 Chennai localities like Anna Nagar, Aminjikarai,

Shenoy Nagar and those in south Chennai including Pallikarai, Thoraipakkam, parts of Madipakkam like Ram Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Rajalakshmi Nagar fall under the high-risk category.

Jayaraman, secretary, Motilal Street Residents Welfare Association, who complained to the corporation authorities to finish de-silting works before monsoon, says the unscientific construction of roads is a main reason for inundation during monsoon. "For example, the ground floor of the flat complex at our street stands below the height of the road. Hence, the rainwater would flow directly into the residential area causing water logging in the entire area very soon. If they construct the road properly so that water can flow smoothly through drains, the inundation can be averted," he said.

According to the officials, many steps including flood warning system and periodic drain clearing were initiated after the 2015 floods to avoid inundation in Greater Chennai areas. 'We have already developed a system to provide inundation levels based on various scenarios. Based on this, we can alert people about the water inundation', they said.

For 4th straight day, Covid cases below 5K in TN

Chennai, Oct. 15: Tamil Nadu logged fresh Covid-19, cases below the 5,000 mark for the fourth straight day on Thursday as the tally rose to 6,74, 802 and 49 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 10,472.

Of the 4,410 fresh infections, Chennai reported 1,148, Coimbatore 395, Salem 263 and Chengelpet 255. The state capital accounted for 1,86,667 of the 6.74 lakh plus cumulative positive cases, a health department bulletin said.

After a gap of nearly three months, the state saw its fresh COVID-19 cases drop below the 5,000 mark on October 12.

Two men aged 33 and 90 besides a 37-year old woman were among those who succumbed on Thursday and in all 47 had co-morbidities and two no chronic illnesses.

The recoveries continued to outnumber fresh cases and with 5,055 patients getting discharged from various hospitals, a total of 6,22,458 people have got cured and correspondingly the active cases dipped to 41,872.

Barring two days, the state has been posting more recoveries than fresh cases since Oct 4.

Active cases were 39,856 as on July 1 and surged thereafter, crossing the 46,000 mark during the first week of that month. After dropping to 43,747 on Oct 12, the active cases decreased further to 43,239 the next day and on Wednesday it slid to 42,566.

As many as 90,752 samples were tested and 86,74,793 specimens have so far been examined in 192 COVID labs across the state.

— PTI

Top: Seized cash.

Police guard outside the house during raid.

— K. Senthil Nathan

SHORT TAKES

SHIV SENA URGES CENTRE TO RECALL MAHA GOVERNOR

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, OCT. 15

Continuing its attack on governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah to recall him to preserve the prestige of Raj Bhavan.

"For last few months, the prestige of Raj Bhavan has been daily belittled by Koshyari, who has shown how a person on the post of Governor should not act. His letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray should be called as an act of abrasiveness," said Shiv Sena in an editorial in party mouthpiece 'Saamana' on Thursday.

In a letter written to Thackeray, the Governor has questioned the state government's decision of not allowing the reopening of places of worship and asked if the Shiv Sena chief had "suddenly turned secular." His letter had evoked a sharp response from the CM, who hit back saying he does not need the Governor's certificate for his Hindutva credentials.

The *Saamana* editorial said that the Governor had no business to support the 'political agitation' of BJP, who held protests demanding reopening of places of worship.

WORK ON ASIA'S LONGEST TUNNEL BEGINS IN J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 15

A new tunnel, the longest in Asia, which will pass through 3,000 metre Zojila-the mountain pass of blizzards- will make road connectivity between landlocked Ladakh and Kashmir Valley possible throughout the year. At present, the stretch of the 419-km road between Srinagar and Leh remains shut for vehicular traffic for four to five months during winters.

The construction of the all-weather tunnel commenced on Thursday with blasting on both ends at Baltal in Kashmir Valley's Ganderbal and Minimarg in Ladakh's Kargil districts and was unveiled virtually by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. Lt. Governor of Ladakh, R.K. Mathur, and his counterpart in J&K Manoj Sinha attended the event from Leh and Srinagar, respectively.

Mr. Gadkari said that the remodelled Zojila project is expected to save about Rs. 4,000 crore in cost and about four hours in commuting time. He said that the inclusion of connectivity from Z-Morh to Zoji(la) pass tunnel with tunnels, bridges, snow galleries, etc. has further enhanced the Zojila tunnel project into a holistic one.

INDIA'S 1ST OSCAR WINNER BHANU ATHAIYA DIES

Mumbai, Oct. 15: Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya, India's first Oscar winner, died at her home on Thursday after prolonged illness, her daughter said. She was 91.

Athaiya, who won an Oscar for her work in the 1983 epic film *Gandhi*, passed away peacefully in her sleep, her daughter Radhika Gupta said.

The last rites took place at the Chandanwadi crematorium in south Mumbai. "She passed away early morning. Eight years ago, she was diagnosed with a tumour in her brain. For the last three years, she was bedridden because one side (of her body) was paralysed," her daughter said. The Kolhapur-born Athaiya, who worked till just five years ago, began her career as a costume designer in Hindi cinema with Guru Dutt's 1956 superhit *C.I.D.* She went on to work in over 100 films.

She won the Academy Award for Best Costume Design in Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*, with Ben Kingsley as the Mahatma, along with John Mollo. It's too good to believe. Thank you Academy and thank you Sir Richard Attenborough for focusing world attention on India. Athaiya had said in her acceptance speech at the Academy Awards.

The veteran who defined the aesthetics of Hindi cinema through her prolific work, created some of Bollywood's best remembered looks, including Vijayantihmal in *Aamrapali*, Waheeda Rehman in *Guide* and Zeenat Aman in *Satyam Shivam Sundaram*.



PM LIKELY TO ADDRESS RALLY NEXT WEEK

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 15

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address his first election rally in poll bound Bihar on October 23 or 24.

Modi may address his first rally in Arrah, which is currently represented by the RJD in the state Assembly and BJP in the Lok Sabha.

The Prime Minister, sources said, could also address around a dozen joint rallies with Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar for NDA's candidates.

The first phase of three phased polling in the state will take place on October 28. The ruling NDA's poll plank is development while the Opposition camp has been highlighting "anti-incumbency" against the ruling coalition.

In 2015, Modi had announced ₹1.25 lakh crore special package for the state while addressing an official function. JD(U) was with the Opposition 'mahagath-bandhan' in 2015 which won the polls but the Nitish Kumar led outfit later rejoined the NDA camp.

Other than the Prime Minister, BJP president J.P. Nadda is likely to address more than 20 rallies, Union minister Amit Shah could address more than a dozen rallies, UP CM Yogi Adityanath and Union minister Smriti Irani could also address more than a dozen rallies.

Nitish behaved with my father haughtily: Chirag

LJP chief denies suggestions that he parted ways with JD(U) over seat-sharing

Patna, Oct. 15: LJP president Chirag Paswan on Thursday trashed suggestions that he parted ways with Nitish Kumar's JD(U) because of differences over seat-sharing for the Bihar Assembly polls, and accused the Chief Minister of harming the Dalit community by creating a sub-group of Mahadalits.

Paswan said his party had fought the Lok Sabha polls last year in alliance with the JD(U) because of the "compulsions" brought on by the return to the NDA of Kumar, whose party he accused of working against LJP candidates in the general elections in violation of the coalition dharma.

The 37-year-old, who recently lost his father Ram Vilas Paswan, the charismatic LJP founder, also alleged that Kumar had behaved "haughtily" when the late Union minister had called on him last year with the request to accompany him for filing nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha.

Paswan Sr. was a Rajya Sabha member and Union minister at the time of his death.

"I met Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP chief J.P. Nadda so many times in the recent past. Not once did the issue of seat-sharing crop up," Chirag Paswan said in an interview, rubbishing suggestions that he raised a banner of revolt against the JD(U) after the latter tried to deny his party a fair share of seats.

"It must be kept in mind that the LJP has never been a fan of Nitish Kumar's style of politics. He has harmed the Dalits by creating a sub-group of Mahadalits for his own



Chirag Paswan

political gains," he said.

Chirag, who has to carry forward the impressive political legacy of his father, the tallest Dalit leader in Bihar since the redoubtable Jagjivan Ram, was bitter about how Kumar treated the LJP founder.

"Nitish Kumar remarked mockingly that my father could not have got elected to the Rajya Sabha without the JD(U)s support since we had only two MLAs. He should remember that my father was promised a Rajya Sabha berth by the then BJP chief Amit Shah himself," he said.

"And I felt so belittled when Nitish behaved in a haughty manner when my father called on him with the request that he accompany us for filing of nomination papers. He came only after the mahurat (auspicious timing) decided for the occasion had passed. No son could have taken such a treatment lying down," he said.

The LJP chief also rubbished the Chief Minister's *saat nishchay* (seven resolves) for public welfare, saying while the rest of the country was making so much progress, he was still talking about piped water and construc-

LJP using PM's photos during campaign: HAM

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 15

The NDA ally Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) on Thursday said that the party would write to the Election Commission to prevent Chirag Paswan's LJP from using Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photographs during poll campaigns.

"We are getting complaints from several constituencies that LJP is using the photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to influence voters. LJP is not part of the NDA in Bihar and if this continues then we will write to Election Commission and also lodge complaints against LJP candidates who have been doing this. Those who did not do anything for Bihar are trying to mislead the voters by using Prime Minister's photograph during their poll campaigns", HAM Spokesperson Danish Rizwan said.

Before the announcement of seat sharing a week earlier, the LJP had pulled out of the NDA

recent burning alive of a woman after rape took place in Buxar district.

"And communalism? What does he have to say about the comments of Nityanand Rai? He owes an answer. Unlike us, he is still a part of the NDA in Bihar," Paswan said.

Rai, the Union minister of state for home and a

● **LJP has clarified that the party's ties with BJP remain intact and it will not field candidates against the saffron party during Bihar elections.**

defying the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The LJP had, however, announced that the party's ties with BJP will remain intact and it will not field candidates against the saffron party during Bihar polls.

The LJP has fielded 42 candidates against the JD(U) and two smaller NDA partners HAM and VIP for the first phase of polls. However, no candidate has been fielded against the BJP.

"Those who are saying that my party is using the Prime Minister's photograph to influence voters must understand that I have been connected and influenced by his ideas. Our party is in alliance with the BJP nationally and I have always clarified my stand on issues like CAA and Ayodhya while

those who claim to be with him remained tightlipped over the issue", LJP Chief Chirag Paswan said while talking to a TV channel in Patna on Thursday.

The 37-year-old leader also said that he was instigated by his father to fight Bihar polls alone to expand the party's base.

Talking to reporters, Chirag Paswan further said that "Bihar first Bihari first" is the key for the development of the state and he wants the idea to be included into the agenda of the government after the elections.

"After Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced his party's vision *saat nishchay* (seven resolves) part two, I was left with no option. I had to take a tough stand as I feel that the idea of *saat nishchay* cannot take the state towards the development", Chirag Paswan said. He further said that his party is in alliance with the BJP nationally and hopes that the next government will be formed by the BJP-LJP in Bihar.

senior BJP leader, was recently panned by the Opposition for his remark at a recent poll rally that the RJD's victory will turn Bihar into a safe haven for Kashmiri terrorists.

His comment was seen by the NDA's rivals as an attempt at communal polarisation ahead of the elections.

— PTI

CONG GIVES TICKET TO SHATRUGHAN SINHA'S SON

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 15

The Congress is all set to launch Shatrughan Sinha's son Luv Sinha in politics by giving him a ticket from Patna's Bankipore seat which is considered a BJP's stronghold.

He has been pitted against BJP's three-time MLA Nitin Navin. Bankipore assembly seat comes under the Patna Sahib constituency that elected Shatrughan Sinha twice in 2009 and 2014 when he was in the BJP.

Sources said that the Congress, which is an ally of the RJD in Bihar, is trying to use the popularity and political influence of Shatrughan Sinha by giving the ticket to his son Luv Sinha from the seat.

As per the seat-sharing formula in the opposition coalition, the RJD which is the largest party in the grand alliance is contesting on 144 seats, the Congress 70 and Left parties 29 seats.

The Congress on Thursday released the second list of 49 candidates for the Bihar elections. Congress insiders said that "the party is distributing symbols to candidates after analyzing their political influence in their constituencies. People of Bihar are fed up with the current government and want a viable alternative".

Sources, however, said that a large section in the Congress is reportedly unhappy and resentment is brewing over the selection of candidates. Many senior political leaders feel that their suggestions were ignored by the state leadership while selecting candidates for polls.

Finishing touches



An artisan gives final touches on an idol of Goddess Durga in Chennai on Thursday, ahead of the Durga Puja festival. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said cancelling Durga puja celebrations was not an option, and urged people to maintain all Covid-19 safety protocols during the five-day revelry.

— PTI

10 ACCUSED IN GOLD SMUGGLING CASE GET BAIL

Kochi, Oct. 15: A court here on Thursday granted conditional bail to 10 accused arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the Kerala gold smuggling case. The Special NIA court, however, dismissed bail pleas of three key accused. Two other prime accused in the case Swapna Suresh and Sarith PS withdrew their bail pleas on Thursday.

Granting bail to the ten accused with stringent conditions, the court directed them to execute a bond for Rs 10 lakh each with two solvent sureties each for the like-sum.

Meanwhile, the Kerala High Court on Thursday directed the Enforcement Directorate not to arrest M. Sivasankar, former principal to chief minister, till October 23 in a case booked under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Centre agrees to borrow on behalf of state govts

From Page 1

Under the first option, the borrowing limit was raised to Rs 1.1 lakh crore instead of Rs 97,000 crore on Monday. The government also had said that states going for the first option were entitled to get unconditional permission to borrow the final installment of 0.50 per cent of GSDP out of the 2 per cent additional borrowing permitted by the Centre under the stimulus package announced in May.

On Tuesday, 20 states, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, who had gone for the first option, were permitted to borrow a total of Rs 68,825 crore through open market borrowings. On Wednesday, Tamil Nadu also joined the list and had received permission to raise Rs 9627 crore.

A few states have been

opposing both the options and had asked the Centre to borrow the money on their behalf. This included Punjab, Kerala, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

However, with the Centre relenting and deciding to borrow the compensation shortfall, the impasse between the Centre and states seems to have ended.

"It is a welcome step, though it does not meet our full demand. But the Centre has to come back to the discussion table and negotiate with the states on the issues pending. We have been allowed to increase our FRBM limit under conditions by 2 per cent. By giving up this we are losing some Rs70,000-80,000 crore. That should be negotiated," Thomas Issac, Finance Minister of Kerala told Financial Chronicle.

Further, there should be a formal decision on the amount to be raised in the

GST council. Increase the additional borrowing limit by 0.5 per cent and that will give us some more space to manage the finances and then negotiate on the amount that should be raised, he added.

According to him, out of the total shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore, an amount of Rs 1.25 lakh crore will be remaining after paying Rs 1.1 lakh crore. Of this around Rs 50,000 or Rs 60,000 crore will be paid from current year's cess. The remaining will be paid from the cess collected after 2022.

"The decided option is iteration to the earlier proposed Option 1 by the Central Government; with this seemingly aiding in operational convenience and uniformity in interest rate on the proposed borrowing. It would need to be seen now if the same is acceptable to all the states," said Abhishek Jain, tax partner, EY.

TS flood toll 50; CM seeks ₹5K cr central aid

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 15

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao put the initial estimate of the damage caused by rains and floods in the state at ₹5,000 crore, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

He urged the Centre to release ₹1,350 crore immediately, ₹600 crore for farmers and ₹750 crore for taking up relief and rehabilitation measures.

Officials put the toll at 50, 11 of them dead in the city. They said that 20,540 houses in 144 colonies at 72 places in the city were under floodwaters and 35,000 families affected.

The CM announced ₹5 lakh as immediate compensation each to the families of the dead.

The Chief Minister said that new houses would be built for those whose houses were destroyed. Electricity authorities were told to restore power supply to apartments situated in low-lying areas only after draining out the cellars, though this may delay things. Restoration of power supply without clearing the water could be dangerous, the CM said.

Officials told CM Rao that crops were submerged in 7.35 lakh acres. Even if there is 50 per cent of damage to crops, the loss would be to the tune of ₹2,000 crore. They said that the GHMC limits had received 31 cm rainfall, the first since 1916, which resulted in inundation of several areas, especially colonies which were constructed within the full tank levels of water bodies. In Hyderabad 14 houses were damaged and 65 houses partially damaged.

● **OFFICIALS PUT the toll at 50, 11 of them dead in the capital city; 20,540 houses in 144 colonies in the city were under floodwaters.**

IN BRIEF

Kyrgyzstan Prez steps down

Moscow: Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov announced his resignation Thursday in a bid to end the turmoil that has engulfed the Central Asian nation after a disputed parliamentary election. Jeenbekov, who has faced calls to step down from protesters and political opponents, said in a statement released by his office that holding onto power wasn't "worth the integrity of our country and harmony in society". "For me, peace in Kyrgyzstan, the country's integrity, the unity of our people and the calm in the society are above all else," Jeenbekov said. Kyrgyzstan, a country of 6.5 million people located on the border with China, was plunged into chaos following an Oct. 4 vote that election officials say was swept by pro-government parties.

Raid on HK media tycoon's house

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police raided the private offices of media tycoon and pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai on Thursday, according to his aide Mark Simon who wrote in a post on Twitter that 14 police officers visited Lai's office and confiscated documents. Lai, 71, is an outspoken pro-democracy figure who regularly criticizes China's authoritarian rule and Hong Kong's government. He is also the founder of media company Next Digital, which operates pro-democracy newspaper *Apple Daily*. "I spoke with police they said they would remain until our lawyer arrived," Simon wrote. "They did not, they took documents and departed before our lawyer arrived." Police confirmed that they had conducted a search operation inside an office in Kwun Tong district on Thursday.

Plea for equality law in Japan

Tokyo: Sexual minority groups and human rights activists launched a petition on Thursday calling for an LGBT equality law in Japan in hopes that it can be enacted next year, when the country is to host the Olympics and will be the focus of international attention. "In this country, equal rights for LGBT people are not guaranteed by law or in their social lives," said Yuri Igarashi, co-representative of the Japan Alliance for LGBT Legislation, one of several organisers of the petition. "We call for the passage of an LGBT equality law in time for the Tokyo games, and as an Olympic legacy." Japan has slowly shown an increased awareness of sexual diversity but it is often superficial. Pressure to conform still forces many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to hide their sexual identities, even from their families.

SPACE PROBE MAKES 1ST VENUS FLY-BY

Berlin, Oct. 15: A spacecraft bound for Mercury swung by Venus on Thursday, using Earth's neighbour to adjust its course on the way to the solar system's smallest and innermost planet.

Launched almost two years ago, the European-Japanese probe BepiColombo took a black-and-white snapshot of Venus from a distance of 17,000 kilometres (10,560 miles), with some of its own instruments in the frame. The fly-by is the second of nine so-called planetary gravity assists that the spacecraft needs for its seven-year trip to Mercury.

The first, around Earth, took place in April. The European Space Agency has described the 1.3 billion-euro (\$1.5 billion) mission as one of its most challenging yet. Mercury's extreme temperatures, the intense gravity pull of the sun and blistering solar radiation make for hellish conditions.

BepiColombo will make one more fly-by of Venus and six of Mercury itself to slow down before its arrival in 2025. Once there, the spacecraft will split in two, releasing a European orbiter nicknamed Bepi that will swoop into Mercury's inner orbit while Mio, built by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, gathers data from a greater distance.

Both probes are designed to cope with temperatures varying from 430 degrees Celsius (806 degrees Fahrenheit) on the side facing the sun, and -180 degrees Celsius (-292 F) in Mercury's shadow.

Europe reels as it sets records

France slaps 9 pm curfew on many of its cities, Londoners face travel restrictions

Berlin, Oct. 15: Fears rose Thursday that Europe is running out of chances to control its fall Coronavirus outbreak, as infections hit record daily highs in Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy and Poland. France slapped a 9 p.m. curfew on many of its biggest cities and Londoners faced new travel restrictions as governments imposed increasingly tough measures.

New infections have surged across Europe over recent weeks as the fall kicks in, prompting authorities to start re-imposing restrictions relaxed over the summer. The Czech Republic, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France and Britain are among the countries causing particular concern. The head of the World Health Organisation's Europe office urged governments to be "uncompromising" in controlling the virus. "These measures are meant to keep us all ahead of the curve and to flatten its course," Dr. Hans Kluge said, while wearing a mask.

"It is therefore up to us to accept them while they are still relatively easy to follow instead of following the path of severity," Kluge cited epidemiological models that suggested if 95% of people wear masks and follow other social distancing measures, Europe could avoid about 281,000 deaths by February. But he warned that relaxing measures could lead to a five-fold increase in deaths by January. European nations as a whole have seen nearly 230,000 confirmed deaths from the virus — more than the nearly 217,000 reported virus deaths so far in the United States. —AP

EU CHIEF LEAVES SUMMIT TO GO INTO QUARANTINE AFTER STAFFER IS +VE

Brussels, Oct. 15: European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen was forced to leave an EU summit Thursday shortly after it opened because one of her close staffers tested positive for Covid-19.

She said that she herself tested negative but "as a precaution I am immediately leaving the European

an Council to go into self-isolation." Von der Leyen had already been mingling with other EU leaders ahead of the formal opening of the two-day summit. Organisers had taken special precaution to keep leaders apart and make sure they respect all health regulations. —AP

SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG AGREE ON BILATERAL AIR TRAVEL BUBBLE

Singapore, Oct. 15: Singapore and Hong Kong have agreed on a bilateral air travel bubble, which will exempt travellers from the mandatory quarantine upon arrival, as the rate of Coronavirus infection declines in both regional aviation hubs.

To avail the flights, travellers will have to test negative in the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for Covid-19. Singapore's Ministry of Transport

(MOT) on Thursday. Travellers under the bubble will not be subject to mandatory quarantining, the release said, adding that there will be no restrictions on travel purposes and no need for a controlled itinerary. The MOT said the bubble can be "scaled by adjusting the number of dedicated flights upwards or downwards, or even suspended, in line with the latest developments". —PTI

CHINA FIRES TWO HEALTH OFFICIALS

Beijing, Oct. 15: A hospital president and the director of the health commission in the northern Chinese city of Qingdao have been fired after China's latest Coronavirus outbreak, authorities said Thursday.

A brief notice on the official microblog said Health Commission Director Sui Zhenhua and Deng Kai, president of Qingdao's thoracic hospital, were placed under further probe. —AP

DON SON BARRON TESTED POSITIVE

Washington, Oct. 15: Barron Trump, the teenage son of US President Donald Trump, contracted Coronavirus after his parents tested positive for Covid-19 but has since tested negative, First Lady Melania Trump has said. In a blog posted on the White House website, she said that Barron, 14, exhibited no symptoms, a departure from herself and the president, who have both said they experienced mild symptoms. —PTI

Thailand declares emergency after unprecedented protest

Bangkok, Oct. 15: Thailand's government declared a strict new state of emergency for the capital on Thursday, a day after a student-led protest against the country's traditional establishment saw an extraordinary moment in which demonstrators heckled a royal motorcade.

After the pre-dawn declaration, riot police moved in to clear out demonstrators who after a day of rallies and confrontation had gathered outside Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's office to push their demands, which include the former general's stepping down, constitutional changes and reform of the monarchy.

Several top leaders of the protest movement were taken into custody, with one later declaring on his Facebook page that he had been denied access to a lawyer and was being forced onto a helicopter and taken to a city in the country's north.

Police made 22 arrests. Despite a new ban against large public gatherings, several thousand people answered calls to rally in another area of the city later Thursday. The text of the emergency declaration



A pro-democracy protester reacts as police try to detain him during a rally in Bangkok on Thursday. — AFP

said it was needed because "certain groups of perpetrators intended to instigate an untoward incident and movement in the Bangkok area by way of various methods and via different channels, including causing obstruction to the royal motorcade." The protest in

Bangkok's historic district was the third major gathering by student-led activists who have been pushing the boundaries of what is considered acceptable — and legal — language by publicly questioning the role of Thailand's monarchy.

The royal family has

long been considered sacrosanct and a pillar of Thai identity. King Maha Vajiralongkorn and family members are protected by a lese majeste law that has been used to silence critics who risk up to 15 years in prison if deemed to have insulted the institution. —AP

Citizenship: Joe woos immigrants

Washington, Oct. 15: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has vowed to provide citizenship to 11 million illegal immigrants if voted to power in the November 3 presidential election.

Biden identified this as one of his priorities in addition to beating the Coronavirus pandemic, rebuilding the economy and figuring out how to restore American leadership around the world. Responding to a question at a virtual fundraiser on Wednesday, Biden said there is a need to deal

with what's going on at the border.

"We're going to have to deal with the immigration crisis we have. I'm going to send the House and Senate an immigration bill that's going to provide access to citizenship to 11 million people," he said. President Donald Trump has been repeatedly calling for the quick deportation of illegal immigrants who "invade" the US and lamented that the current immigration system is "unfair" to those who came legally to America. —PTI

DUELLING TOWN HALLS FOR TRUMP, BIDEN AFTER DEBATE PLAN NIXED

Washington, Oct. 15: President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden will compete for TV audiences in duelling town halls instead of meeting face-to-face for their second debate as originally planned. They will take questions in different cities on different networks Thursday night: Trump on NBC from Miami, Biden on ABC from Philadelphia. Trump backed out of

plans for the presidential faceoff after debate organisers shifted the format to a virtual event following his Covid-19 diagnosis.

As the pace of the campaign speeds up, the two candidates first are taking care of other electoral necessities Thursday: Trump has a midday rally in battleground North Carolina, and Biden is raising campaign cash at a virtual event. —AP

Navalny poisoning: Curbs on Russians

Brussels, Oct. 15: The European Union on Thursday imposed sanctions on six Russian officials and one organisation over the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny with a Soviet-era nerve agent.

The move came a day after Russia's foreign minister warned that Moscow might respond with similar measures. The decision was agreed upon among the 27 EU envoys to Brussels. "The adopted restrictive measures consist of a travel ban to the EU and an asset freeze for individuals, and an asset freeze for the entity," the EU said in a statement.

The list includes two high level officials in the Presidential Executive Office, a director of the federal security service and two deputy ministers in the Russian defence ministry. The EU is also targeting the State Scientific Research Institute for Organic Chemistry and Technology.

EU foreign ministers agreed Monday to impose the sanctions, following a push by France and Germany to freeze the assets of those suspected of involvement and ban them from travelling in Europe under sanctions to combat the use and



Alexei Navalny

spread of chemical weapons. Navalny, an anti-corruption investigator and major political opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, fell ill on Aug. 20 during a domestic flight in Russia. He was flown to Germany for treatment two days later and is still recovering there.

Last week, tests conducted at labs designated by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed that Navalny was poisoned by a Novichok nerve agent. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview on Wednesday that "the Germans are not planning to provide any facts, despite all international and legal obligations. We respond in kind. This is diplomatic practice." —AP

China slams US over Tibet

Beijing, Oct. 15: China on Thursday slammed the US for appointing a Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues, describing Washington's move as political manipulation aimed at destabilising Tibet. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday named Robert Destro, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, as the Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues.

Destro will focus on advancing dialogue between the Communist-run government in Beijing and the Dalai Lama, protecting the distinct religious cultural and linguistic identity of Tibetans, improving respect for their human rights and

much, much more, Pompeo said. Reacting to Destro's appointment, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that the US move amounted to interference in China's internal affairs.

He said, "the setting up of the so-called special coordinator for Tibetan issues is entirely out of political manipulation to interfere in China's internal affairs and destabilise Xizang," the Chinese name for Tibet. Chinese officials in recent times have been referring to Tibet only as Xizang. "China firmly opposes that and never recognise that. People of ethnic groups in Xizang are part of the big family of Chinese nation," Zhao said. —PTI

BEIJING TRACKS U.S. NAVY SHIP'S PASSAGE THROUGH TAIWAN STRAIT

Beijing, Oct. 15: China says it tracked a US Navy warship as it passed through the Taiwan Strait and has its forces in the area on high alert, as tensions between the world's two largest economies and rivals for regional influence continue to simmer. The spokesperson for its Eastern Theater Command, Maj. Zhang Chunxuan, said air and sea forces were mobilized to keep tabs Wednesday on the USS Barry, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer.

Zhang said the US has recently been sending

"the wrong signal" to proponents of independence for Taiwan, a pro-US self-governing democracy that China claims as its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary. Although the Taiwan Strait is a public waterway, China is extremely sensitive to all US military moves in its periphery amid heightened tensions over Taiwan, the South China Sea, trade disputes and other issues. The US has been "seriously undermining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait region". —AP

Provocations: France warns Turkey

Ankara, Oct. 15: France warned Turkey on Thursday that it could face European Union sanctions for its "provocations," after Ankara redeployed its search vessel on a new energy exploration mission in the eastern Mediterranean. Speaking in Paris after a meeting of the French-German-Polish 'Weimar Triangle', French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian reiterated the EU stance that unless Tu-

rkey shows "respect for the integrity of Greece and Cyprus" then the European Council will consider initiating sanctions.

"We are forced to note that there are permanent acts of provocation on the part of Turkey which are not bearable, and therefore we really wish that Turkey clarifies its positions and returns to a spirit of dialogue," he said.

Turkey redeployed its search vessel, Oruc Reis,

near the Greek island of Kastellorizo, reigniting tensions between Greece and Turkey over sea boundaries and energy drilling rights, and putting the future of the planned resumption of talks between Athens and Ankara to resolve disputes into doubt. Those talks were last held in 2016.

Those tensions had flared up over the summer, triggering fears of a confrontation between the two

historic rivals and NATO allies. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said he understood Greece's unwillingness to engage in dialogue due to Turkey's decision to again dispatch its ship. Given Berlin's efforts to mediate between the parties "the behaviour by Turkey to conduct another provocation, resulting in the agreed process of dialogue not taking place, is annoying," Maas said. —AP

450 Pak Oppn workers booked on rally eve

Lahore, Oct. 15: Over 450 workers from Pakistan's Opposition parties have been booked in Lahore and other areas of Punjab province ahead of the first grand anti-government rally on Friday by an alliance formed to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan.

On September 20, the leaders of 11 major Opposition parties announced formation of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and launch of a three-phased anti-government movement under an "action plan" starting with countrywide public meetings, protest demon-

strations and rallies before a "decisive long march" towards Islamabad in January 2021. The first anti-government rally is scheduled on Friday in Gujranwala city, some 80 kms from Lahore, followed by another rally on October 18 in Karachi, in Quetta on October 25, Peshawar on November 22, Multan on November 30 and then a rally in Lahore on December 13.

The Opposition leaders announced that they would use all political and democratic options, including no-confidence motions and mass resignations

from Parliament to seek "the selected" prime minister's resignation. The Opposition parties have accused the powerful army of rigging the 2018 elections that brought Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party to power. The Opposition parties are openly opposing the military's interference in politics and elections for the first time in the recent history of the country.

The PDM comprises mainly three mainstream Opposition parties — PML-N of Nawaz Sharif, PPP of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Jamiat Ule-

ma-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) of Maulana Fazlur Rahman.

Launching a crackdown ahead of PDM's first major anti-government show, Punjab police got into action and booked over 450 workers, mostly of PML-N, in different parts of Punjab province under Covid-19 violations and also arrested scores of PDM workers. Police stations in Gujranwala, Mandi Bahuddin and Lahore registered cases against over 450 Opposition workers under sections 269 and 188 of Pakistan Penal Code for holding a public gathering without

observing Covid-19 SOPs.

Former prime minister and PML-N supreme leader Nawaz Sharif, who is London since November last year, in a tweet, said that police should refrain from arresting the PDM leaders. "Police must NOT comply with Imran Niazi's workers, raid their homes or hinder their travel to Gujranwala," he said.

Former premier and PDM leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said the government's panic over the first public meeting of Opposition has exposed its reality.

—PTI

11 parties formed the Pakistan Democratic Movement and launch of a three-phased anti-govt movement

06 rallies: In Gujranwala (Oct. 16), Karachi (Oct. 18), Quetta (Oct. 25), Peshawar (Nov. 22), Multan (Nov. 30) & Lahore (Dec. 13).

"Pokharel, who is known for his tilt towards the North, has been transferred to the Prime Minister's Office, apparently in a signal to New Delhi ahead of the forthcoming visit to Nepal by the Indian Army chief," senior journalist and editor of *Janamanch Weekly* Pralhad Rijal said. Indian Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane is scheduled to visit Nepal in the first week of November and the details of the visit is being worked out, a Nepal Army spokesperson said in a statement. —PTI

—PTI

SHORT TAKES

Commentator
Bhimani no more

Kolkata: Veteran sports journalist and cricket commentator Kishore Bhimani died at the age of 80, family sources said on Thursday.

He is survived by his wife Rita and son Gautam who is also a well-known TV personality. "He had suffered a cerebral attack a few days back and was undergoing treatment," a family source said.

Bhimani was one of the most recognised English voices of the 1980s. Bhimani was commentating when Sunil Gavaskar became the first player to reach 10,000 runs in Test cricket, during the drawn match against Pakistan in Ahmedabad in 1987.

One of the most sought-after Indian cricket writers who would be wooed by British publications in the 1980s, Bhimani was also on air during the final moments of the famous 1986 tied Test against Australia at Chepauk. — PTI

Srikanth storms
into last-eight

Odense: Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth stormed into the Denmark Open quarterfinals with a straight-game win over Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue here on Thursday. The fifth seeded Indian took 33 minutes to get the better of his Canadian opponent 21-15 21-14 in the men's singles second round of the \$750,000 Super 750 tournament.

Regd. No.
TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by
K. Sudhakar on behalf of
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited
and Printed at
Deccan Chronicle Presses situated
at SP 3, Developed Plot, Industrial Estate,
Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
RNI Registration No: TN ENG/2005/14987
Ph Nos: 22254747, 22254748, 22254750,
22254751
Editor: **KAUSHIK MITTER**

THE BOSS IS BACK

Gayle returns with a bang as Kings XI pip RCB

Sharjah, Oct. 15: K.L. Rahul played a captain's knock and Chris Gayle fired in his first game since January as Kings XI Punjab finally ended their five-match losing streak with an eight-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in an IPL game here on Thursday.

Chasing 172 in a must-win game, the in-form opening pair of Rahul (61 not off 49) and Mayank Agarwal (45 off 25) got off to a flying start before Gayle (53 off 45) joined his skipper in the middle to get KXIP close to the finishing line.

Needing seven off the final two overs with nine wickets in hand, KXIP somehow managed to take the game to the last ball with Nicholas Pooran finally hitting the winning six.

Both Rahul and Gayle smashed five sixes each, rendering the opposition attack helpless.

Batting first, skipper Virat Kohli top-scored with 48 off 39 balls in his 200th game for RCB before Chris Morris' 25 off 8 in the death overs took the team to 171 for six.

It was a rare all-round effort from KXIP who had failed to close out games earlier in the competition.

Mohammad Shami (2/45) conceded 24 runs in the final over that spoiled his figures after he got rid of Kohli and AB de Villiers but overall it was a much improved bowling effort by KXIP especially in the death overs.

Leg spinner M. Ashwin struck twice and pacer Chris Jordan took his first wicket of the tournament.

The run chase was supposed to be straightforward after Agarwal took the opposition to the cleaners in the powerplay before Rahul took over. As usual, the 41-year-old Gayle, batting at three, took his time early on before going ballistic. — PTI



Kings XI Punjab's Chris Gayle plays a shot against Royal Challengers Bangalore during an IPL game in Sharjah on Thursday. — BCCI

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	8	6	2	0	12	+0.990
Mumbai Indians	7	5	2	0	10	+1.327
Royal Challengers Bangalore	8	5	3	0	10	-0.139
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	4	3	0	8	-0.577
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	0	6	+0.009
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.390
Rajasthan Royals	8	3	5	0	6	-0.844
Kings XI Punjab	8	2	6	0	4	-0.295

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

CHRIS GAYLE

R	B	6s	4s
53	45	5	1

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: A. Finch b Ashwin 20, D. Padikkal c Pooran b Arshdeep Singh 18, V. Kohli c Rahul b Mohammed Shami 48, Washington Sundar c Jordan b Ashwin 13, S. Dube c Rahul b Jordan 23, AB de Villiers c Hooda b Mohammed Shami 2, C. Morris (not out) 25, I. Udana (not out) 10. **Extras (b 4, lb 2, w 6) 12. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs) 171.**

FoW: 1-38, 2-62, 3-86, 4-127, 5-134, 6-136. **Bowling:** Maxwell 4-0-28-0, M. Shami 4-0-45-2, Arshdeep Singh 2-0-20-1, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-29-0, M. Ashwin 4-0-23-2, C. Jordan 3-0-20-1.

Kings XI Punjab: KL Rahul (not out) 61, M. Agarwal b Chahal 45, C. Gayle run out (Padikkal/de Villiers) 53, N. Pooran (not out) 6. **Extras (lb 3, w 9) 12. Total (for two wickets in 20 overs) 177.**

FoW: 1-78, 2-171. **Bowling:** Morris 4-0-22-0, Saini 4-0-21-0, Chahal 3-0-35-1, Udana 2-0-14-0, M. Siraj 3-0-44-0, Washington 4-0-38-0.

Mumbai have
edge over KKR

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 15: An explosive batting line-up and a lethal-at-death bowling attack will give defending champions Mumbai Indians a definitive edge over Kolkata Knight Riders when the two teams clash in an IPL game here on Friday.

The defending champions are on a roll having won their last four games, while there are problems aplenty for KKR, who were decimated by the Royal Challengers Bangalore by 82 runs in their last game.

Mumbai Indians are thus unlikely to tinker with their playing XI.

For KKR, questions remain as to whether their key spinner Sunil Narine, who has been once reported for suspect bowling action, will play or not. He had missed the game against RCB even as KKR hoped for an "early resolution" to the issues surrounding his controversial action.

In the event of Narine missing out again, Mumbai will fancy their chances even more at the Sheikh Zayed stadium, where skipper Rohit Sharma has scored both his half-centuries this season.

Sharma (216 runs), on his day, can pummel any attack to submission and particularly enjoys playing against Kolkata. When the two teams met last, Mumbai rode on his beligerent 80 to register a 49-run win.

Apart from Sharma, the Mumbai top and middle-order is in good form be it South African opener Quinton De Kock (191 runs) or Suryakumar Yadav (233 runs), who would like to continue in the same vein. — PTI

Chennaiyin FC
rope in Fatkhulo

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 15

Two-time ISL champions Chennaiyin FC on Thursday announced the signing of Tajikistan winger Fatkhulo Fatkhullov on a free transfer for the 2020-21 season.

The 30-year old Fatkhullov who can operate on either flank, is all set for a first stint in India, a press release from the club said. Fatkhullov is Tajikistan's most-capped international with 68 senior appearances so far, and joins CFC after a spell at FK Khujand in the Tajik top flight.

The ISL guidelines for the new season stipulate that each team should have at least one Asian player

among their foreign contingent, and Fatkhullov fulfils that criteria.

"I have heard a lot about Chennaiyin, seen many matches from previous seasons. CFC is one of the biggest clubs in India with fantastic fans. So when the opportunity arose to make the move, I didn't think twice," Fatkhullov said.

"I am really excited about meeting my new teammates, and hopefully delivering a good brand of football with them, which helps us compete for the ISL title," he said from Dushanbe.

CFC head coach Csaba Laszlo said Fatkhullov is an experienced player who would add to the team's versatility. "He is capable of performing on both wings," he said.

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