

IN BRIEF

Man arrested for posing as CBI officer

New Delhi: A man who would pose as a crime branch official, offer to drop people in his car, rob money from them and even withdraw cash using their ATM cards by threatening them at a gun point has been arrested in Trilokpuri, Delhi police said Thursday. Mukesh, the accused, would at times carry wireless sets to appear convincing as a CBI or crime branch official before his targets. He would then befriend the target, usually at a bus stop, by pretending to travel in the same direction as the person's destination. An associate of Mukesh would then arrive in a car and offer them a lift. When the target would get into the vehicle, another man already seated in the vehicle would play messages on the wireless set to mislead the victim into believing that he is a CBI or crime branch official. Then, at an isolated place, they would rob the person at gun point. They would also withdraw money from their victims' bank accounts using their ATM cards, a police officer said. They would drop the victim at a "safe place" and escape in the vehicle, the officer said.

3 men arrested for robbing commuters

New Delhi: Three members of the "Lifafa gang" were arrested in the national capital for allegedly robbing commuters after offering to drop them off at very low fares, police said on Thursday. The accused have been identified as Bablu (36), a resident of New Ashok Nagar, Laxman (40), a resident of Paharganj, and Sunil Kumar (32), a resident of Dillupura, they said. They used fake number plates during commission of crime on Ring Road and national highways in Delhi. The accused used to target commuters waiting for conveyance to reach their destinations. They assured them that they would take them to their destinations at low fares, police said. During the journey, they used to take passengers in confidence and on the pretext of police checking, they managed to obtain their valuables in a lifafa (envelop) and later either exchanged the envelop or if the passengers denied, they robbed them of their belongings, a senior police officer said.

4 stuck in lift of city restaurant, rescued

New Delhi: Four persons trapped inside the lift of a restaurant in Punjabi Bagh area have been rescued, fire officials said on Thursday. According to the officials, they received information regarding the incident at 12.10 am on Thursday and one fire tender was rushed to the spot. The four persons, identified as Ankit, Amit, Vipin and Sagar, were rescued from the lift of AIR Restaurant and the fire engine returned from the spot at 1.40 am, a senior fire official said. Police said they received information around 11.45 pm regarding some persons stuck in the lift. Fire staff, PCR and local staff reached there and all four were rescued, a senior police officer said. Delhi Fire Service (DFS) director Atul Garg took to Twitter to inform about the incident. "Good work done by DFS. A call was received at 00.10 today that 4 person trapped in the lift at AIR restaurant, Punjabi bagh, ND. A quick action taken By DFS and all 4 were safely rescued," he tweeted.

City police arrests 4 criminals after gunfight

New Delhi: The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Thursday arrested four wanted criminals following an exchange of fire in north west Delhi's Rohini, officials said. The accused — Sonu Mitraun (23), A Amit (26), Rohit (23) and Ravinder Yadav (31) — were injured during the exchange of fire. A They belong to Kala Jhatri Lawrence Bishnoi gang and were wanted in several cases of murder, attempt to murder and extortion, they said. "Our team received an information that criminals of a gang wanted in many cases of murder, attempt to murder, firing, extortion and robbery in Delhi and NCR area would be coming to Rohini from Haryana to eliminate their rivals. A trap was laid on Khara Gaon to Sector 26 Rohini," DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said.

■ 'Odd-even scheme brought down pollution in city by 15%'

CM: Will take bold steps to curb pollution in Delhi

New Delhi, Oct. 8: There is political will to implement bold steps to tackle pollution in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said at "Daring Cities 2020" conference on Wednesday, asserting the odd-even scheme by his government brought down pollution in India's national capital by about 15 per cent.

He said the Delhi government has in the past five years taken several measures to tackle the twin problems of climate change and air pollution.

The conference was organised by City of Bonn and ICLEI, with the support of the German government. Mr Kejriwal was one of the five urban leaders around the world to speak at the conference, a global, action-oriented forum to recognise courageous urban leaders taking bold climate action across the world.

Mr Kejriwal was invited alongside urban leaders and decision-makers from Bogota (Colombia), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Los Angeles (USA), and Entebbe (Uganda) to discuss multi-level action to tackle the climate emergency and environmental sustainability.

The Delhi chief minister addressed the conference virtually, explaining the

Delhi gets 'green war room' to monitor pollution levels

New Delhi, Oct. 8: Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai on Thursday inaugurated a "green war room" at the Delhi Secretariat to monitor pollution levels in the city this winter.

The minister said a 10-member team has been set up to monitor the levels of primary pollutants, measures taken to curb pollution and status of complaints received through Green Delhi mobile application. Satellite data related to farm fires in the neighbouring states will also be analysed in the green war room.

There are different agencies working to deal with the problem of air pollution in Delhi. The green war room has been set up to coordinate their efforts,

Mr Rai said.

He said the control room will work towards ensuring stricter enforcement of guidelines to check dust pollution at construction and demolition sites, ready-mix concrete plants, and garbage burning.

"This anti-dust campaign will continue in mission mode till October 15 and strict action will be taken against the violators," he said. The environment minister said the pollution levels at 13 hotspots in the city and the steps taken to bring them down will also be monitored via the green war room.

He added that daily reports on the number of complaints received and grievances redressed will be sent to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. — PTI

Covid, Mr Kejriwal said it has made us realise how human beings are responsible for spoiling the climate and tampering the ecosystem. "In an effort to devise sustainable solutions to crop stubble burning, we have joined hands with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to bring in the bio-decomposer technique," he said, hoping the technique will solve the crisis of air pollution faced by Delhi in winter season.

He said the his government is also working towards shifting to renewable sources of energy and focusing on mega tree plantation. Last year, more than six million saplings were planted with the participation of ordinary people and school children, he added.

"We have recently launched an electrical vehicle policy, under which our target is within 2024, nearly 25 per cent of vehicles purchased should be electric," he said. CM also quoted some of the initiatives taken by the government to control and respond to the climate emergency like introducing odd-even schemes, shutting down of thermal power plants, banning the use of polluting fuels, and starting a mega green drive. — PTI

multilevel action taken by his government to tackle climate change and pollution in the city.

"In the last five years in Delhi, we have taken several measures to tackle the twin problems of climate change and air pollution in

Delhi and we propose to take several measures in the next five years to further reduce pollution," he said.

Citing improvement in air quality in many places in the world where lockdown was imposed due to



Women take part in a workshop to learn sanitisation and fumigation under 'Atm Nirbhar Painting Contractor' initiative in New Delhi on Thursday.

— PTI

'Centre has not purchased crop at MSP from city farmers in last 5 yrs'

New Delhi, Oct. 8: The Centre has not purchased crop produce at minimum support price (MSP) from farmers of Delhi in the last five years and this has forced them to undersell their produce, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed on Thursday.

The BJP, however, said that the AAP was trying to mislead farmers.

AAP spokesperson Raghav Chadha claimed that Delhi government ministers, officials and mandi (agricultural market) presidents have written letters to the Union agricultural minister in this regard, but no action has been taken by the Centre.

"After 2015, the central government has not purchased even a single crop from farmers of Delhi, let alone be it on the MSP

The farmers of Delhi were left to get plundered by private players," he told reporters.

"2015 was the last year when the Centre had purchased wheat produce from farmers in Delhi. It has been 5.5 years, and the Narendra Modi government has not purchased the produce, not even of a single rupee," Chadha said.

The AAP leader claimed that Delhi's farmers are at the "mercy" of private players because of insensitivity and fake promises.

"Not a single institution has helped our farmers in the last five years, which has forced farmers to undersell their produce," he said.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta said opposition parties are trying to bake their political bread by

misleading farmers on the new farm laws.

They also tried to create a ruckus in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and tried to show that they are well-wishers of farmers, he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party is also opposing the farm bills. The AAP has been in power in Delhi for six years, but till date they have not given status of farmers to farmers, Gupta claimed.

Due to this the farmers of Delhi are deprived of the Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana till date, the BJP leader said.

Delhi has 21 out of 70 assembly constituencies where farmers and people from rural backgrounds live and the insensitive Kejriwal government has not given them any facilities, he said. — PTI



Fire fighters douse fire at a PVC sole factory at Narela in New Delhi on Thursday. — ASIAN AGE

Order FIR against Thakur, Verma for hate speech: Brinda urges HC

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat claimed in the Delhi High Court on Thursday that a cognisable offence is made out against Union Minister Anurag Thakur and his BJP colleague and MP Pravesh Verma and an FIR should be lodged against them for their alleged hate speeches in relation to anti-CAA protest at Shaheen Bagh here. Ms Karat has challenged a trial court's August 26 order dismissing her plea seeking lodging of FIR against the two leaders on the grounds that the requisite sanction from the competent authority, the central government, was not obtained.

Justice Yogesh Khanna, after hearing the submissions, asked the counsel for Ms Karat and Delhi Police to file relevant judgements in support of their contentions. The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 2. Advocate Richa Kapoor, appearing for the police,



Brinda Karat

questioned the maintainability of the petition. Advocate Siddharth Aggarwal, representing Ms Karat, said the complaint was kept pending before the trial court for 9 months and thereafter, the magistrate rejected the plea and did not even go into the merits of the case. "The proposition adopted by the magistrate is in the teeth of many judgements of the Supreme Court. The magistrate has refused to exercise the jurisdiction which the law vests on him," he contended. He added that a cognisable offence is made out and they were only asking the police to investigate the matter. CPI(M) leaders

Brinda Karat and KM Tewari had filed the complaint before the trial court seeking a direction to the Parliament Street Police Station to register an FIR against Thakur and Verma.

However, the trial court said that the complaint was not sustainable without the prior sanction. Ms Karat, in her petition in the high court, sought quashing of the trial court's order and also a direction for expeditious disposal of applications under Section 156(3) CrPC (power of a magistrate to direct the police to conduct an investigation in respect of a cognisable offence) and that technical objections and maintainability be decided at the threshold to avoid prejudice to the complainant and wastage of judicial time. The plea, filed through advocate Tara Narula and Adit S Pujari, said the relevant provision of CrPC demonstrates that the sanction to be taken thereunder is a sanction for taking cognisance.

Adesh: Civic bodies to de-seal over 3,000 properties by Diwali

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

The three BJP-ruled municipal corporations will complete the de-sealing of over 3,000 properties in residential areas here by Diwali, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said on Thursday.

Mr Gupta, who was accompanied by North Delhi mayor Jai Prakash earlier in the day, launched a de-sealing exercise in the Todapur area, which falls under the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), and provided certificates to property owners.

"The three BJP-ruled municipal corporations have started the process for over 3,000 properties that were wrongly sealed by the monitoring committee. The de-sealing process will be completed by Diwali," Mr Gupta said.

According to Mr Gupta, 1,357 properties in North, 700 in South, and around 1,000 in East MCD will be de-sealed under the ambit of the SC ruling providing relief from the sealing drive undertaken by the monitoring committee in recent years.



Adesh Gupta

East Delhi mayor Nirmal Jain said that legal opinion was taken by the East Corporation before starting the de-sealing process to shortlist sealed properties that were covered by the Supreme Court ruling.

Mr Jai Prakash said that in order to speed up the de-sealing process and to cut bureaucratic hassle there will be only one file pertaining to all sealed properties which will be de-sealed in a zone of the municipal corporation.

"The corporation officials are following the entire process before de-sealing residential property. In pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court, the process of de-sealing residential properties—which were wrongly sealed on the order of the monitoring committee—would be a major relief to citizens," Mr Prakash added.

Functioning of HC, dist. court restricted till November 30

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

The Delhi High Court on Thursday decided to extend its restricted functioning till November 30 in view of the persisting coronavirus pandemic in the national capital.

The chief justice of the Delhi High Court decided to extend the restricted functioning on the same terms as earlier orders, the office of Registrar General Manoj Jain said.

The office order also said that the cases instituted in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 shall also be taken up, as per roster, from November 17.

It further stated that the cases already listed before the high court from October 9 to October 20 shall be adjourned en bloc to corresponding dates between December 15 to December 24.

"With effect from October 12, two courts of Joint Registrars (Judicial) shall take up the matters through physical mode while the others shall continue to hold court through videoconferencing as per roster to be notified on the website.

"All the courts of Joint Registrars (Judicial) shall also record evidence in cases involving urgency or where any direction for expeditious/time bound disposal has been received from this Court or the Supreme Court. The recording of evidence may be by physical mode or by video conferencing as the case may be," the office order said.

The high court had, on March 25, restricted its functioning as well as that of the district courts till April 14. It was subsequently extended to May 3, May 17, May 23, May 31, June 14, June 29, July 15, July 31, August 14, August 31 and September 30.

On August 27, the high court decided to partially resume physical hearing of matters from September 1 by two division bench and three single judge benches on a rotation basis.

After viral video, Delhi joins hand to support Baba, his dhaba

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

A widely shared video of a tearful aged owner of a small eatery in South Delhi, talking about how he had no customers, has prompted an outpouring of support on social media.

The video, which was shared on multiple social media platforms, was recorded by blogger Gaurav Wasan at a small eatery called 'Baba ka Dhaba' in Malviya Nagar. In the video, the stall's owner, 80-year-old Kanta Prasad, shows vessels containing dal, soya curry, and other dishes that are ready to serve.

When asked how much the aged couple earn in a day, Mr Prasad said, "Earning? Ever since the lockdown, life has been very difficult."

In the video, he showed

a thin bundle of ₹10 notes in a box and said that was all they'd earned. The couple said they don't earn more than ₹80 a day despite starting their day early at 6.30 am.

Since the video was uploaded, it prompted an outpouring of support from people, including celebrities and political leaders, all of whom sought to support the couple.

Actor Sonam Kapoor, cricketer R. Ashwin, IPL team Delhi Capitals, and food delivery app Zomato also tweeted their support.

Now that people have started to support the 'dhaba,' several customers took photos alongside it, posting the address on Twitter. Several people also made contributions to the internet's "uncle and aunty." "There was no sale dur-



(Top) Kanta Prasad with his wife Badami Devi at their residence in New Delhi on Thursday. (Inset) Prasad weeping in the video that went viral.

— PTI

ing the lockdown but now it feels like entire India is with us," said Mr Prasad on Thursday.

As the video went viral, AAP MLA Somnath Bharti also visited the

stall. "Will take care of them and I am starting a drive to take care of similarly placed people," he wrote.

In a new video, Mr

Prasad gave a message to everyone, "Every local vendor should be helped. We are not the only ones. There are many who don't have food to eat and house to live."

Mr Prasad's words were reiterated by netizens, who said that they should find a 'Baba ka Dhaba' near them.

One user said, "Helping them, specifically in hard times, is the best thing one can do. Despite being old, they work hard to earn their living. They do not beg. That's the best part. Wish we can support many such people who are struggling for survival."

Another wrote, "For those who can't visit #BABAKADHABA, no worries. Look around in your locality, you will definitely find a local vendor who is badly affected too in these tough times. We, as a society, can change this by regularly visiting and returning the reward for their hard work. #SupportLocal."

■ B-town joins hands for a cause: Page 16

Must sort out Paris accord differences, says Prabhu

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

India's Sherpa to the G20 summit Suresh Prabhu said governments and business organisations of the world's 20 leading economies – the G20 and B20 – need to prioritise taking forward the Paris climate accord, bridging the digital divide, building quality infrastructure, strengthening value chains and medical supplies as well as ensuring food and energy security.

Speaking at a virtual conference titled 'B-20 Global Dialogue in India' organised on Wednesday by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), in collaboration with CII and the Indian National Science Academy, Mr Prabhu, a former Union minister and a Rajya Sabha MP, highlighted the need to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (net-zero greenhouse gas emissions) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. He added that the discord regarding the Paris climate accord (the US had withdrawn from the pact) needs to be sorted out.

B-20 or Business 20 is the business community from G20 countries and provides inputs and policy recommendations to the G20 Summits. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the RIS is engaged in converging the ideas put forward by stakeholders including businesses, scientists, economists and civil society groups to ensure that it would be easier for policy makers to absorb and implement them at the G20 level.

Mr Prabhu referred to India hosting the G20 Summit in 2022 and said while the country will seek to push its own priorities at the event, it will also carry forward the work done by other countries as part of them holding the G20 Presidency.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahul Chhabra, secretary (economic relations), ministry of external affairs, referred to the recent B20 report to the G20 and said the immediate need was to revive the international economy by making the global supply chains resilient as well as by reviving productive sectors.

Odisha petrol pump blast: 1 succumbs

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 8

One of the 10 persons who had sustained serious burn injuries in the petrol pump blast here died at the SCB Medical College on Thursday morning.

The deceased was identified as Satya Nayak of Aska in Ganjam district.

The condition of another person who suffered 40 per cent burns and head injury is critical while the remaining persons are stable, superintendent of SCB Medical College and Hospital Dr Bhubanananda Maharana said. As many four persons who were among the persons present at the filling station on Wednesday during the blast were still missing.

Bhubaneswar-Cuttack police commissioner Dr Sudhansu Sarangi said severed human organs recovered from the blast site will undergo DNA test to ascertain the identity of the missing persons. "The human body parts recovered from the blast site by the forensic personnel will be put to DNA test to ascertain if they belonged to the missing persons," the CP said.

Meanwhile, the family of one Simanchal Parida, a youth from Ganjam district who has reportedly gone missing following the explosion at a petrol pump, reached Bhubaneswar. They filed a missing complaint in the Capital Police station here.

The family members claimed that despite making several rounds at various hospitals in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, they are still unable to get any information regarding Simachal's whereabouts. A diploma engineer by training, Simachal was engaged in LPG maintenance work after he recently moved to Bhubaneswar from Kolkata, said his family members. The explosion happened at 1.02 pm on Wednesday when Simanchal and others were doing the maintenance work at the CNG station of the filling station.

Harsh winter helps air warriors a great deal to sharpen skills

For the IAF pilots, the weather condition is a performance booster of sorts

VIKRAM SHARMA
HYDERABAD OCT. 8

Harsh winters may prove to be a deadly adversary for soldiers of the Indian Army who are positioned on mountaintops and ridgelines along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. But for the air warriors, the winter is a performance booster of sorts.

As the situation between Indian troops and the People's Liberation of Army (PLA) of China continues to remain tense, air warriors, who celebrated Indian Air Force Day on Thursday, are making the most of the weather as they sharpen their skills in Ladakh in the winter.

While the Indian Air Force has deployed all its frontline fighter jets including Sukhoi 30 MKI, Mirage 2000 and Jaguar besides Apache attack helicopters and Chinooks across key air bases in eastern Ladakh, besides having massive back-up plans to deal with any eventuality, it is the weather that is helping the fighter aircraft perform better.

Explaining the advantages of cold weather flying, highly placed sources told this newspaper that aircraft of all types perform better. "Aircraft can take off and fly more efficiently as cold air is denser than warm air. The performance of the plane is enhanced considerably, including the take-off distance and the rate of climb besides engine power," they said.

"When the air is colder, and therefore denser, a



Army helicopter at a camp on the tri-junction between India, Nepal and China, close to Uttarakhand.

— Asian Age

greater mass of air gets into the engine's cylinders with each stroke which equals to increased power and more thrust, making the job easier for the pilots," they explained, adding that the extra power not only increases the rate of climb but also enables the plane to take off at a lower ground speed and gives more lift. Another aspect of cold weather flying is that once

the denser air enables the engine to perform better, the less convective heating ensures lesser turbulence.

However, it ends up in increased fuel consumption. "Since the engines produce more power, fuel consumption increases. The air contracts when it is cold and therefore the air the plane takes in during combustion has more oxygen in it, which the engine compensates by

using more fuel," sources said. In summers, the plane's engine takes in air which is less dense and gets less oxygen which ends up in lesser lift while the aircraft has to travel farther to take off.

"The aircraft power and performance decrease as the temperatures increase," sources added.

Air warriors face many other challenges along the

LAC, the key among them being the limited approach through valleys, the mountain folds, low visibility and thick vegetation. Lack of landing sites in the rugged terrain is another challenge. "While a lot will depend on air power in case hostilities increase, for now it is the soldiers on the ground that remain the key to dominate the heights along LAC," sources said.

President and PM condole death of Paswan

New Delhi, Oct. 8: President Ram Nath Kovind, vice-president M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi were among those who condoled the death of Union minister and veteran leader Ram Vilas Paswan, saying he had an enviable rapport with the masses and ardently strove for their welfare.

In his condolence message, President Kovind said in the death of Paswan, the nation has lost a visionary leader.

He was among the most active and longest-serving members of Parliament. He was the voice of the oppressed, and championed the cause of the marginalised, President Kovind said.

Paswan died on Thursday,

his son Chirag Paswan tweeted in the evening.

Paswan (74), who was the Lok Janshakti Party's patron, had undergone a heart surgery at a hospital here a few days ago.

In a series of tweets, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said working together, shoulder to shoulder with Paswan has been an incredible experience.

His interventions during Cabinet meetings were insightful. From political wisdom, statesmanship to governance issues, he was brilliant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled.

In his condolence message, vice-president Naidu said Paswan was an exemplary leader who served the people and nation till his last breath.



Ram Vilas Paswan

He was a distinguished parliamentarian and always strove for the empowerment of the marginalised, Naidu said. Rahul Gandhi said the news of the untimely demise of Paswan is saddening.

The poor and the down-trodden have lost a strong political voice, he said on Twitter.

● **RAM VILAS** Paswan died on Thursday, his son Chirag Paswan tweeted in the evening. Paswan (74), who was the Lok Janshakti Party's patron, had undergone a heart surgery at a hospital here a few days ago. In his condolence message, President Kovind said in the death of Paswan, the nation has lost a visionary leader

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Ram Vilas Paswan ji always fought and worked for the downtrodden and the poor of the country. His demise has created a void in the politics."

In his condolence message, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

said that following the footsteps of Jai Prakash Narayan, he strengthened socialist movement in the country.

"From student politics to as an MP, he held various posts by upholding democratic values. His life was inspirational to us," he recalled.

A powerful Dalit leader from Bihar, Mr Paswan was among the young leaders — along with Lalu Yadav and Nitish Kumar — who were inspired and nurtured by the JP movement in the '70s.

Last year, Mr Paswan skipped the Lok Sabha polls, passing his Hajipur seat to his younger brother and Bihar minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and entered parliament through the Rajya Sabha.

Covid-19 case fatality rate falls to 1.54%

AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

The total number of Coronavirus cases in India went past 68.35 lakh as 78,524 fresh cases were detected and 971 new deaths recorded. The total deaths so far due to the virus has crossed 1.05 lakh.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease reached 58.27 lakh and the Covid-19 recovery rate stands at 85.25 per cent.

There are 9,02,425 active cases of Coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 13.20 per cent of the total caseload and the Covid-19 case fatality rate has dropped to 1.54 per cent.

The Union government on Thursday launched a public awareness drive — Jan Andolaan — in view of upcoming festivals, winter season and opening up of the economy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministerial colleagues asking people to follow precautions like wearing masks and maintaining social distancing to defeat the Coronavirus.

Officials said lack of adherence to precautions can increase cases of the infection in the com-

ing days.

Modi on Thursday said India's Coronavirus fight is people-driven and gets great strength from its Covid warriors.

He also urged the masses to unite to fight the virus.

Modi appealed to people to follow social distancing norms and expressed confidence that the fight against the pandemic will be won and collective efforts have helped save many lives. Union home minister Amit Shah said a global pandemic like Covid-19 can be fought only when all countrymen come together.

With the likelihood of a vaccine against Coronavirus being available within months, the government has begun a massive exercise to map out cold chain storage facilities to ensure the vaccine is delivered quickly across the country. A national expert group is talking to public and private sector entities in the pharmaceutical sector, food processing industry and agro businesses as well as food delivery start-ups such as Swiggy and Zomato to identify cold storages or fridges at the taluka level that can stock and distribute the vaccine, sources said.

SC to hear Disha case on Oct. 12

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

The Supreme Court on Thursday told a PIL petitioner seeking court-monitored CBI probe into the death of Disha Salian — ex-manager of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput — to approach the Bombay high court as it posted the matter for hearing on October 12.

Petitioner Puneet Kaur Dhandha is seeking a court-monitored CBI probe into Disha Salian's death. Having suggested

that the Dhandha should approach high court, chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde heading a three judge bench comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian posted the matter for October 12 (Monday) as lawyer Vineet Dhandha who was to argue the PIL, could not get video link to address the court.

The CJ told another advocate who appeared on the screen to tell the petitioner to go to Bombay high court.

Gangrape of tribal woman in Chhattisgarh's

Raipur, Oct. 8: A local police official was suspended on Thursday in connection with the alleged gangrape and subsequent suicide of an 18-year-old tribal woman in Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon district two months ago. The incident, which had taken place in July, came to light on Wednesday, following which the police exhumed the woman's body buried in her village in Dhanora police station area and registered a case of gang-rape.

Of the seven accused, five per-

sons including two minors have been held, an official statement said.

The victim's uncle had alleged that despite being aware of the incident, then then Station House Officer (SHO) at Dhanora did not pursue the matter further.

"Media reports revealed then Dhanora SHO Ramesh Sori had received information about the incident through local sources 15 to 20 days after it occurred and he had asked the victim's family about it.

"But Sori neither informed his seniors nor took further legal action," the statement said.

Sori, now posted in Kondagaon Police Lines, was suspended with immediate effect and an enquiry has been ordered against him, it said.

The young woman allegedly committed suicide at her house on July 19 after she was raped a day before by seven people, including three minors, at near-by Kanagaon where she had gone to attend a wedding.

— PTI

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P)
 Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

Re-Tender Work
A) The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **15.10.2020** upto **5.00 PM.** shall be opened/downloaded on dated **16.10.2020** at **11.00 AM.**

S. N.	Job No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	39/GM(R)/SM (E&M)-II 2020-21/ET	2 Year Maintenance for Lift Work in Noida Club Sector-27, Noida.	1.92
2	50/GM/SM(E&M)-II/ 2020-21/ET	Providing of New Traffic Signals at Various Sectors in Noida.	9.31
3	66/GM/SM(E&M)-II/ 2020-21/ET	M/o Street light and Park light in A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I-Block Sector-22 and Vill-Chaura Raghunathpur, Noida.	8.70
4	74/GM/SM(E&M)-II/ 2020-21/ET	M/o Compound Street lighting at offices (Jal, E/M, Workshop etc.), Sector-39, Noida	7.91
5	76/GM/SM(E&M)-II/ 2020-21/ET	M/o Electrical work in office (R/o D.G. set 250 KVA and 100 KVA in sector-39, Noida.	2.91

General Manager
Noida

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Online tenders in TWO PARTS are hereby invited for the following Works:-

Tender Spec. No	Description of Material
SSD- 464/ 2020	Design, Manufacture, Testing at Manufacturer's works & Delivery at F.O.R Destination Stations of 200 KVAR, 7.3 KV Capacitor Cells, Capacitor Bank, Series Reactor, Residual Voltage Transformer for various substations of Himachal Pradesh.

The dates of sale, receipt and opening of Tenders are mentioned in the detailed Notice Inviting Tenders which can be downloaded free of cost from the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB>. For other details on e-tendering please contact on Mobile nos:- 09418377600, 09816163225 and 8091381583.

(Er. M. G. Sharma)
 Superintending Engineer (Design),
 Electrical System, HPSEB Ltd, Hamirpur,
 E-mail: sedeshrm@hpseb.in,
sedeshrm@gmail.com

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
 (Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)
 GIST of E-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/143/e-tendering (Short-Term)
 Dated:-05.10.2020.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money	Position of funds (In Rs)
1	2	3	4	5
Outsourcing of Manpowerfor operationof existing Oxygen Plants/Manifold System at MMABM Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag.	6.00	500	12000	Available

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 05.10.2020 (18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 06.10.2020 (10:00 hrs) to 16.10.2020 (15:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 17.10.2020 (15.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 MHCHD, Srinagar

DIPK-6889/20 Dated 08.10.2020

SHORT TAKES

BIRAJA RATH YATRA GETS ODISHA HC NOD

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 8

The Odisha high court on Thursday gave its nod for the age old rath yatra rituals of Goddess Biraja in Jajpur. Hearing two public interest litigations, the court has directed the Collector of Jajpur district to make arrangements for holding of rath yatra adhering to Covid-19 guidelines. Last week, the High Court had sought response from the state government on conduct of the 9-day-long rath yatra scheduled from October 17. Earlier, two PILs had been filed by Mukti Mandapa Sevayat Parishad of Maa Biraja Temple and Jajpur district lawyers' association in the court seeking permission for holding of the chariot festival of Goddess Biraja. In a PIL, the servants of the Biraja Temple Mukti Mandap had stated that rath yatra of the Goddess is an age-old ritual of the deity and it must be allowed to be observed this year also. Discontinuation of the religious observance will hurt religious sentiment of thousands of devotees.

ABDULLAH BRIEFS PM ON TALKS WITH TALIBAN

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Afghanistan's Chairman of its High Council for National Reconciliation — who is currently on a visit to India — met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and briefed him on the ongoing talks in Doha that are going on with the Taliban and the Afghan peace process. Modi reaffirmed India's long term commitment to further deepening ties between the two nations, "reiterated India's commitment towards sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and welcomed efforts towards a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Afghanistan", the MEA said in a statement. Meanwhile, at a "special address" on "The Future of Afghanistan" at defence thinktank "Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses" in the capital, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah urged India to play a greater role in the ongoing intra-Afghan talks, adding that India can play a vital role in establishing lasting peace in Afghanistan and the region, the IDSA said in a statement on the event. The Afghan leader reportedly described India as an important "strategic partner" of Afghanistan.

SC SLAMS CENTRE FOR ITS 'EVASIVE, OFFENSIVE' REPLY

■ Continued from Page 1 will be filed by the secretary of the department and that he would personally look into it. CJI Bobde told senior counsel Dushyant Dave that Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, only deals with cable TV networks and not airwaves of the visual media. Mr Dave had, in the last hearing, urged the court that Section 20 of the Cable Act could be evoked to take action against erring channels, while saying that the I&B ministry has taken recourse to Section 20 of the Cable Act to take action against news channels in the past. "Just because they have acted under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act does not validate their action. They should act under the powers vested in them," CJI Bobde countered. Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, that provides power to prohibit operation of cable television network in public interest, says, "Where the Central government thinks it necessary or expedient to do so in public interest, it may prohibit the operation of any cable television network in such areas as it may, by notification in the official gazette, specify in this behalf." CJI Bobde once again reiterated the court's intent to refer the entire matter to the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to examine the issue and submit a report. The NBSA is headed by a former top court judge Justice A.K. Sikri. The court directed further hearing of the matter after two weeks.

Air Chief lauds IAF's efforts amid LAC standoff

We'll evolve & be ready to safeguard India's sovereignty, says Bhadauria

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria in his address on the Air Force Day on Thursday said that the Indian Air Force will evolve and be ready to safeguard nation's sovereignty and interests in all circumstances. "I would like to commend all warriors for the quick response, in the recent stand-off on our northern frontiers, when we deployed our combat assets at brief notice to handle any eventuality and provided proactive support to all the requirements of deployment and sustenance for the Indian Army. We have clearly demonstrated our resolve, operational capability, and the will to effectively

engage the adversary, should the need arise," said Air Force Chief.

He said that the recent induction of state-of-the-art Rafale, Chinook and Apache aircraft have added significantly to IAF's combat capability over its adversaries on the battlefield.

"Our offensive strike capability has been honed further, with up-gradations of our aircraft with weapons and sensors, ably supported by a networked decision-making matrix. We have a large strategic airlift capability comprising IL-76s, C-17s and C-130s and have also significantly enhanced our heli-lift capabilities with our helicopter inductions," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said that the emerging security sce-



The nation is proud of its men and women in blue and salutes the prowess of the IAF as it stands ready to face challenges and deter adversaries. We remain committed to enhancement of IAF's combat capability through modernisation and indigenisation.

— R.K.S. Bhadauria, Air Chief

nario mandates a greater need to have a strong Air Force, to fight across domains across the entire spectrum of warfare."Our vision for this decade is to continue to comprehensively scale up our combat capability and be a force to reckon with across the entire sphere of influence; through careful force structuring, modernisation, operational training, and acquisition of indigenous equipment to achieve substantial self-reliance,"

he said. The Air Force Chief said the evolving threat matrix in our region is becoming complex, ranging from aspirational adversaries with huge investments in the military arsenal, to those collusively supported by non-state actors, apart from growing sub-conventional threats emanating from terrorism and cyber space. "Disruptive technologies and easy access to low-cost options like drones, are increas-

ingly demanding greater attention to the sub-conventional domain," he said. "For the future, we have initiated processes for developing indigenous combat systems with sixth generation technologies, including directed energy weapons, smart wingman concept, optionally manned combat platforms, swarm drones, hypersonic weapons to name a few," he said.

The Air Force Chief said that the space domain is likely to become increasingly important in future years and is being given the required thrust. "On behalf of all Air Warriors, I would like to assure the nation, that the Indian Air Force will evolve and be ever ready, to safeguard our Nation's sovereignty and interests, in all circumstances," he added.

There is a free media in India: MEA on Chinese embassy's guidelines

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

Stating that "there is a free media in India that reports on issues as it sees fit", the ministry of external affairs (MEA) on Thursday administered a veiled snub to China after the Chinese embassy issued a "letter" publicly earlier on Wednesday asking the Indian media to adhere to the One-China policy of the Indian government on the Taiwan issue. The latest controversy arose ahead of Taiwan's "National Day" celebrations on October 10.

India, like most nations in the world, follows the "One-China Policy" and does not recognise Taiwan

— an island territory off the coast of the Chinese mainland — as a sovereign nation. China has always considered Taiwan as a part of its territory and as a renegade province, although Beijing has never exercised physical jurisdiction over Taiwan since 1949. In that year, the then (Chinese nationalist) Kuomintang (KMT) chief Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek had retreated to the island of Taiwan off the coast of mainland China after losing the civil war to Chairman Mao Tse-Tung's Communists. Taiwan somehow survived as a de-facto separate entity because of the United States, which has extended enormous support to it through over seven decades.

NCP lists out 40 star campaigners for Bihar poll

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, OCT. 8

Even though the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has still not decided the number of seats it will contest in Bihar Assembly elections and who will be its candidates, the party on Thursday announced a list of its 40 star campaigners.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar will be its chief star campaigner in Bihar along with his daughter Supriya Sule and former Union minister Praful Patel.

When asked about the number of seats and names of candidates, a party official said it will be announced soon.

The NCP is one of the principal political parties in Maharashtra but small player in Bihar politics. However, the party has decided to contest the election as they were denied even three seats by the RJD-led grand alliance in Bihar. Confirming the decision to contest the Bihar elections, party spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said, "Party's national spokesperson Nawab Malik will announce the details of seats and candidates in coming days."

However, NCP general secretary and Bihar Assembly election in-charge K.K. Sharma said that the party has decided to contest 145 seats in Bihar.

Of these, the party has given AB form to 40 candidates, who had filed their nomination papers on Thursday, he said.

Patna, Oct. 8: Nearly one-fifths of the candidates fielded by the ruling JD(U) in Bihar assembly polls are women — in line with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's emphasis on empowering females through a slew of measures, most notable, though controversial, being the prohibition law.

The party has clinched a seat-sharing deal with the BJP, under which it got 122 constituencies in the 243-strong assembly.

Former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM has been accommodated by the JD(U) with seven seats from its quota. Of the remaining 115 candidates, whose names have been announced, 22 are women.

The choice of candidates, though, might be raising eyebrows in some cases. One such instance is the candidature of Manju Verma from Cheria Bariyarpur in Begusarai district.

Ms Verma, who was the state's social welfare minister till a few years ago, had to step down in disgrace when it was alleged that her husband had close ties with Brajesh Thakur, the prime accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sex scandal.

More skeletons tumbled out of her cupboard when a CBI team raided her Cheria Bariyarpur residence and discovered a huge quantity of ammunition. Subsequently an Arms Act case was slapped on the husband-wife duo.



Senior JD-U leader Ram Jatan Sinha with supporters demonstration outside party's state office in Patna, Thursday against ticket distribution for Bihar Assembly election.

— PTI

Besides, quite a few candidates happen to be wives of those with criminal backgrounds, whom the party may stand accused of trying to accommodate while appearing to maintain a distance.

One such candidate is Manorama Devi — a sitting MLC from Gaya district — whose late husband Bindeshwari Prasad Yadav was a local musclem. Her son's involvement in a road rage case four years ago had caused the JD(U) to suspend her from the party. She is now the party's official candidate from Sherghati in Gaya.

The party's choice of candidates may, however, be hailed in places like Dumraon where it has dropped its sitting MLA Dadan Pahalwan, a maverick musclem, and reposed its trust in Anjum Ara, one of its state

spokespersons who is relatively young and enjoys a clean image.

The chief minister, who also heads the JD(U), by virtue of his belief in the ideology of Ram Manohar Lohia, swears by the equality of sexes. After he achieved power in the state in 2005, his first five years in office were much talked about for measures such as free uniforms and free bicycles for school-going girls.

His reign was also marked by introduction of reservation for women in panchayats and urban local bodies. Although the state has one of the worst police to population ratios in the country, Kumar makes it a point to remind in his speeches that the percentage of females in uniform in Bihar was better than what it is in other states.

While Kumar's political

Ram Vilas Paswan dead

■ Continued from Page 1 ways with Morarji Desai and joined Janata Party-S led by Lokbandhu Raj Narain as party's president and later as its chairman.

Paswan spent the entire period of Emergency, beginning 1975, in jail. When he was released in 1977, the Dalit leader became a member of the Janata Party and won a Lok Sabha election with the largest margin ever — 4.24 lakh votes.

What can also, perhaps, make it to the world record is the fact that he has been a Union minister in almost all the governments since then.

Paswan was re-elected to the 7th Lok Sabha in 1980 and 1984 from Hajipur constituency. In 1983, he established the Dalit Sena, an organisation for Dalit emancipation and welfare. It was from this juncture that he modelled himself as a Dalit face.

He was instrumental in the implementation of the Mandal Commission report in the 1990s.

The Dalit Sena was later headed by his brother Ram Chandra Paswan, who passed away a couple of years before.

Paswan was re-elected to the 9th Lok Sabha in 1989 and was appointed Union minister of labour and welfare in the Vishwanath Pratap Singh government. In 1996, he

even led the ruling alliance or Proposition in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister was a member of the Rajya Sabha. This was also the year when Paswan first became the Union railway minister. He continued to hold that post till 1998. Thereafter, he was the Union communications minister from October 1999 to September 2001 when he was shifted to the coal ministry, a portfolio he held till April 2002.

In 2000, Paswan broke from the Janata Dal, to form the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP). Following the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, he joined the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government and was made the Union minister heading the chemicals and fertilizers and steel ministries.

But with Narendra Modi's advent in 2014, he was quick to read the writing on the wall and joined the NDA, becoming Union minister for food and consumer affairs.

However, before the 2019 general elections, Paswan handed over the baton of his party to son Chirag and devoted himself just to the ministry.

In Delhi, his official residence, 12 Janpath, which he retained most of his life, was an open House for party workers and journalists.

All 4 accused in Hathras gangrape case claim innocence

Hathras (UP), Oct. 8: The four accused in the alleged gangrape case of Hathras have written a letter to the superintendent of police (SP) here, claiming that they are innocent and have been falsely implicated in the matter.

The letter written from the Aligarh district jail, where the four are currently lodged, has gone viral on social media.

In the letter, the main accused, Sandeep, has also stated that he was friends with the alleged gangrape victim, due to which her mother and brother had thrashed the 19-year-old dalit woman, leading to serious injuries that resulted in her death.

Hathras SP Vineet Jaiswal has confirmed receiving the letter. "The four accused had given the letter to the Aligarh district jail superintendent and he sent it to me," he said.

Besides the thumb impressions of the four accused — Sandeep, Luv Kush, Ravi and Ramu alias Ramkumar — the letter dated October 7 also has their names mentioned in it. — PTI

Maha cops bust 'TRP scam', Republic TV under scanner

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 8

Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh on Thursday personally held a press conference to announce an investigation into the alleged "Television Rating Points (TRP) scam" by some television channels.

The commissioner named three TV channels, including Republic TV that claims to have the highest TRP among news channels, for their involvement in the alleged scam.

Republic TV's editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami dismissed the allegations and said the channel will file a criminal defamation case against the police commissioner.

● Mr Singh said that a set of households where barometers were installed were paid money to tune to a particular channel. In one case, Mumbai's top police officer said, investigators found that a household comprising people who were not literate always had an English news channel switched on.

that the data isn't manipulated. Hansa Research approached the police against some of their employees who could have influenced households where barometers were installed in order to manipulate TRP data.

It is a cheating (breach of trust) complaint turned into an FIR, the police commissioner told reporters.

Police have arrested owners of two Marathi channels — Fakt Marathi and Box Cinema — and two former employees of Hansa Research under

sections 409 and 420 of IPC. Mr Singh claimed that Republic TV was also named in a BARC analytical report as a suspect. He said that owner, directors and promoters of Republic TV will also be probed in the case. However, Republic TV dismissed the allegations as "false" and said it will file a criminal defamation case against the Mumbai police commissioner.

In a statement, Mr Goswami said, "There is not a single BARC report that mentions Republic TV. The people of India know the truth. Mr Parab Bir Singh's investigation in the Sushant Singh Rajput case is under a cloud and this is a desperate measure because of Republic TV's reportage on Palghar (mob lynching of two Sadhus), the Sushant Singh Rajput case or any other case. This kind of targeting only strengthens the resolve of everyone at Republic TV to push for the truth even harder. Param Bir Singh stands completely exposed today, since BARC has not mentioned Republic in any single complaint. He should issue an official apology and get ready to face us in court."

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THE ASIAN AGE

9 OCTOBER 2020

LJP's Bihar poll games bare BJP's secret hand

The twist imparted to the upcoming Bihar Assembly election by the decision of the LJP, an NDA ally, to field candidates against chief minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), also an NDA ally, upends previous calculations about possible outcomes. It also invites us to reflect on the BJP's relationship with allies once the saffron party has gains in strength in a state with the help of those very allies.

Until recently it was thought that Mr Kumar would return as CM for the fourth term without difficulty, although in the face of the twin crises emanating from the return of the migrant workers and the rapid spread of Covid-19, Mr Kumar's government appeared at sea, confirming that the CM was not one for big ideas. But he wasn't one for small ideas either.

The government's grave inadequacies evident in dealing with the infamous shelter home case, which highlighted the cruel exploitation of young girls by the head of the NGO that ran the shelter, badly dented the CM's "sushasan babu" or Mr Good Governance image cultivated through propaganda. The social welfare minister whose husband had a nexus with the accused was forced to resign and was later arrested under the Arms Act, but she has once again been given the JD(U) ticket. In 2015, Mr Kumar fought the election and became CM in alliance with Lalu Yadav's RJD. But he jumped ship in 2017 to be with

BJP, the main Opposition party, and kept his job. The BJP was just grateful to be able to wiggle and get into government. Unlike in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, it didn't have to turn a hair, other than to spread the rumour that Mr Kumar is enabled to give his best as leader of government only when in alliance with it and not the RJD. In fact, the record of the BJP ministers in Bihar is as dismal as of the JD(U) but it can hide behind the CM's lack of imagination, and take succour from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image.

For all this, the prognosis was that of an easy ride for JD(U)-BJP. Being in jail, their principal foe Lalu Yadav is absent from the campaign. It's widely believed that the poll is being held in spite of the severe Covid crisis in Bihar because the government's opponents can't match its resources in running virtual rallies through thousands of television sets and other gizmos. LJP leader Chirag Paswan's decision has led to the view that he is dancing to BJP's tune in aiming to cut the CM's party to size to enable the saffron party to emerge as number one. With even senior BJP politicians queuing up for the LJP ticket, this suspicion thickens. If BJP-LJP are playing games, it will be interesting to see which way the JD(U) vote splinters, and if the ludicrously-named grand alliance of RJD-Congress-Left is in with a chance, after all.

Spare the commuter

The Supreme Court judgment on Wednesday making it unequivocally clear that public ways and spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely by protesters and that democracy and dissent must go hand in hand can be seen as an attempt to strike a fine balance between the right to freedom of speech and expression and the demands on governance in a democracy. The judgement came on a petition filed against a Delhi High Court order which refused to instruct the Delhi administration to clear the Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch which was occupied by protesters against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019.

The court was categorical in rejecting the argument that citizens have an absolute right of peaceful protest but was careful in not giving the government a carte blanche. It called Article 19, which confers on citizens two 'treasured rights' of freedom of speech and expression, one of the cornerstones of the Constitution, and that was a strong message indeed. "In a democracy, the opposition is not only tolerated as constitutional, but must be maintained because it is indispensable," it quoted Walter Lippmann, Pulitzer winning journalist. The court, however, reminded the protesters that the mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy. In the end, the demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in "designated places alone," the court ruled.

No democrat should find fault with such a balanced prescription. But the sad fact is that the courts do not come to adjudicate such issues in time all the time. The habeas corpus petitions the citizens of India from the fully-integrated Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have filed with the apex court are still pending in the court, unheard. Or the undressed plight of the guest workers during the lockdown. The courts must protect the constitutional rights of all citizens all the times; occasional interventions would hardly do.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Mahir Ali

How Lennon lives on, still giving peace a chance...

Back in the summer of 1980, a muckraking small-town newspaper in Michigan was in trouble with the forces of law and order. *The Flint Voice* irritated the authorities by exposing local instances of racism, corruption and the like. Its newsroom was under threat of being raided. Briefly, it became a cause célèbre in the United States.

One day, the newspaper's 20-something editor, Michael Moore — then a young journalist who had launched his first publication at the age of nine, today better known as an indefatigable filmmaker and activist — answered a phone call. "This is John Lennon," said the voice at the other end in a curious accent.

"Oh, Gary, really funny," responded Moore, and then hung up, convinced that he had been pranked. Moore was suitably apologetic when Lennon called again a little while later, having worked out by then that he had slammed the phone down on a Beatle.

According to Moore's delightful

early-life memoir, *Here Comes Trouble*, Lennon was graciously understanding, saying: "I know a little bit about police surveillance making your life a bloody hell." He went on to say he was wondering "if there was any way I could help. Maybe I could do a benefit or something for your legal fund or your paper".

He said he was working on a new album and probably wouldn't have time until the following year, then added: "Well, I've been sorta quiet for a while, being a dad and all. But I'm ready to get at it again, and now that I'm legally a resident of your fine country, I plan to be more involved and exercise my constitutional rights." In Moore's telling, the conversation concluded with Lennon saying: "Keep your spirits up, mate. I'll be around."

Tragically, he wasn't. Lennon was assassinated on Dec 8 outside his Dakota apartment block next to New York's Central Park.

It was rumoured at the time that the assassin might have been programmed by the CIA or some other

segment of the deep state to commit the evil deed in view of Lennon's radical proclivities and the risk that he might resume his subversive activism.

It seemed to be an absurd assumption, given that by then Lennon had seemingly relegated to the past the rabble-rousing instincts that guided him towards the end of the Beatles phase in the late 1960s and beyond, initially in Britain and then in the United States where he teamed up with the likes of Jerry Rubin and Stokely Carmichael, prompting the Nixon administration's concerted (but ultimately unsuccessful) effort to deport him.

There is still no reason to assume Lennon's assassination was part of a plot, but Moore's anecdote certainly puts paid to the idea that the ex-Beatle ever succumbed to the temptation of aligning himself with an establishment he frequently needed, and often irritated, ever since he announced the song *Twist and Shout* at a royal command performance by The Beatles in 1963 by cheekily

requesting: "The people in the cheap seats, clap your hands. And the rest of you, if you'd just rattle your jewellery."

In his recent memoir, *Reporter*, the legendary American investigative journalist Seymour Hersh recalls, in a footnote, encountering "a pleasant Brit and his Japanese girlfriend" at a dinner party in the early 1970s. They sought his help, as a *New York Times* staffer, to press the case for a green card. "It turned out the Brit was John Lennon and his friend was Yoko Ono," Hersh deadpans. "How was I to know? Neither had anything to do with Watergate."

He notes that years later he visited the Lennons' New York apartment, which was "filled with dozens of framed drawings by the Beatle, all suggesting the world had yet to see the best of him".

The best of him is, in fact, never far off the radar. Until the Democratic Party establishment predictably scuttled Bernie Sanders' candidacy earlier this year, the "democratic socialist" candidate invariably

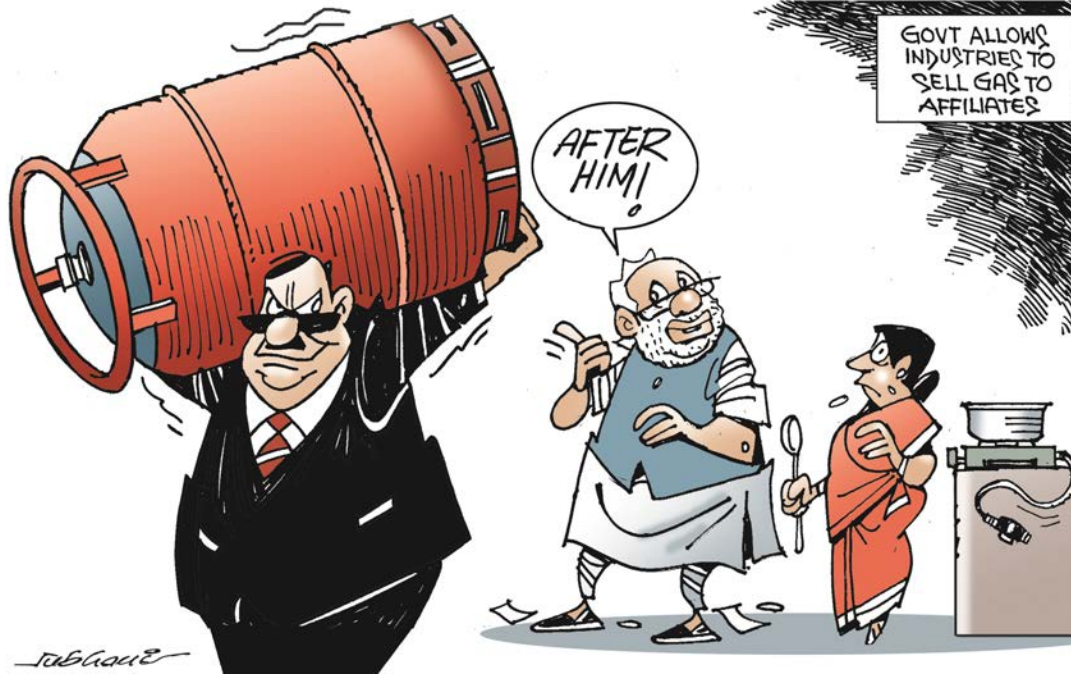
arrived on the stage at campaign rallies to the tune of *Power to the People*, an anthem Lennon composed in 1971 after an extended encounter with a pair of left-wing journalists (one of whom happened to be my brother, Tariq Ali).

Five years ago, I tracked down the original, graffiti-strewn Lennon Wall in Prague. Since then, 'Lennon walls' have appeared all across Hong Kong as part of the territory's quest for democracy. The latest recycled, remixed, remastered Lennon compilation is titled *Gimme Some Truth*, after one of the songs on his *Imagine* album, a timely reminder, in the age of fake news, of the artist's relentless quest in what would have been the year he became an octogenarian.

Had he survived, John Lennon would have turned 80 on Friday, October 9 — twice the age he was when his life was brutally cut short. But it's gratifying that his spirit and his ideals live on, and *Give Peace a Chance* is still sung.

By arrangement with Dawn

Subhani



Can 'Quad' grow into a force that China fears?



K.C. Singh

The foreign ministers of Australia, India, Japan and the United States met in Tokyo on October 6-7, a second time at the ministerial level, in a group that was christened the "Quad", or Quadrilateral, at the first meeting in 2007 at the additional secretary level.

Then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the driving force behind that meeting, held on the Asean Regional Forum sidelines in mid-2007. He fell months later and his successor Yasuo Fukuda, wishing to engage China, lost interest in the Quad. In December 2007, the Liberal Party lost power in Australia, ushering in Labour PM Kevin Rudd, an acknowledged Chinese-speaking Sinophile. US President George W. Bush, embroiled in stabilising Iraq and with one year of his presidency remaining, saw China as critical to handling the nuclear and missile proliferation of North Korea. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had in any case been a reluctant participant, as Sino-Indian relations were still in the phase of growing economic engagement, while maintaining peace and stability at the Line of Actual Control. Thus, the Quad went into hibernation.

Its revival over a decade later reflects the changed geopolitical context. Mr Abe was again Prime Minister and moving Japan away from its pacifist postwar constitution. India under Narendra Modi and the United States under Donald Trump now had populist-nationalist leaders. Australia was again under Liberal Party rule. Moreover, China under President Xi Jinping was brazenly asserting real and imaginary claims on the seas and land, impinging on the sovereignty of neighbours. Despite the 2016 ruling against its claims by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in a case

brought by the Philippines under the UN Convention on the Laws of the Seas, China proceeded to occupy, militarise and declare its artificially created islands as its territory with vast economic zones. China was now a revisionist power, scoffing at the rules-based global order and willing to use the threat of force to unilaterally enforce its claims.

Concomitantly, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), announced in 2013 as a benign infrastructure and connectivity project, began to be seen darkly as an instrument for debt traps and neo-colonisation. Meanwhile, chants grew in the developed world, starting with the US, that globalisation had become a Chinese weapon to de-industrialise Western manufacturing powerhouses. Of course, the European criticism was more calibrated as countries like Germany had a huge market in China. But President Trump made China the main whipping boy in his populist harangue on America's economic woes.

The Covid-19 pandemic, that spread from Wuhan in China, exacerbated the perception that China was not just a competitor but a strategic rival upending the rules-based post-World War II order. Thus, the Quad was no longer a projection of Mr Abe's vanity. It was a timely means to rally democratic, liberal nations in the Indo-Pacific to create a network to balance, or even contain, China's disorderly rise.

This week's Quad meeting was timely also because Japan had a change of leadership, with the ailing Mr Abe passing the baton to his confidant Yoshihide Suga, who spoke to the leaders of Australia, India and the US before engaging Chinese President Xi Jinping, signalling continuity in the Japanese commitment to the Quad. Chinese foreign minister and state council

lor Wang Yi, a former ambassador to Japan, will visit Tokyo later this month. Mr Xi's postponed visit to Japan is still up in the air. China may be belatedly realising the dangers of the revived Quad and thus may be trying to neutralise Japan. China should worry over Japan's \$2.27 billion outlay to enable Japanese businesses in China to shift to the homeland or elsewhere. Japan is also critical to the finalisation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), consisting of the 10 Asean nations and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. India has resisted joining that without adequate protection for its domestic industry. With the Sino-Indian confrontation in Ladakh and Chinese intrusions into contested or India-controlled areas, economic and trade issues are now intertwined with the strategic and military ones. The Quad reflects this reality.

There may have been no joint statement but tweets by participants revealed what was discussed. Other than the US, no one else named China, even though China was at the heart of the meeting. US secretary of state Mike Pompeo felt "the Quad shares a vision for peace, security and prosperity in a free and open Indo-Pacific". External affairs minister S. Jaishankar sought "respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes". All the four ministers supported what is coined as "FOIP", or Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

More than a group statement, their views were reflected in the bilateral meetings and earlier understandings. For instance, the Resilient Supply Chain Initiative (RSCI), driven by the post-Covid conflation of need to de-couple from China and diversify and secure sup-

ply chains for pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, telecommunications and automobiles etc. Chinese aggressiveness with neighbours, military confrontation with India, forcible occupation of Hong Kong and the threat to invade Taiwan have perforce added a security dimension to trade and economic issues. Mr Pompeo correctly berated the Chinese Communist Party's "exploitation, coercion and corruption in the South and East China Seas, the Mekong, the Himalayas and the Taiwan Straits".

Is the Quad the rough framework of a military alliance, being dubbed as an "Asian Nato"? Can it grow into Quad Plus with the addition of democracies across the region? Finally, what impact will the US presidential election have on the Quad's role. While the other three are already allies, India, even under the incumbent government which belittles nonalignment, would not like to be ensnared in a US-led alliance to counter China. A strategic convergence with specific areas for common action provides more room for manoeuvre. That will also make it easier to lure new entrants. For instance, South Korea avoids openly confronting China as does the Philippines and other Asean members. A non-formal framework of engagement, including military interoperability, may draw Vietnam and the Philippines. A Joe Biden administration may rebalance relations with China, relaxing trade sanctions in exchange for climate change cooperation. But the overall US distrust of China will persist. Under enlightened American leadership, the Quad can counter China across multiple domains ranging from technology to trade to defence.

The Quad remains a great concept. China fears, above all, the soft power of liberal democracies. But the Quad members must note that majoritarianism at home and liberalism abroad would significantly undercut its success.

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

A Joe Biden administration may rebalance relations with China, relaxing trade sanctions in exchange for climate change cooperation

LETTERS

5G ADVANTAGE

India and Japan is coming together to build a 5G network. This global network is potentially going to take on but also prevent Huawei from becoming the global standard. This move is surely going to define a considerable portion of the economy for the next generation. It will speed up the Internet and is additionally an opportunity to plug in and control infrastructure systems across the globe. This surely does work in favour of India in gaining the upper hand along with America, Australia and Japan.

Isha Kelaskar
Mumbai

SURPRISE MOVE

SINCE INDEPENDENCE DAY celebrations, there has been some turmoil in the AIADMK camp about the nomination of the next CM candidate. But hats off to the think tank of the ruling party which has amicably sorted out their differences and averted a virtual spit in the party. It was a really surprising move by O. Panneerselvam to propose the name of Edappadi Palaniswamy as the CM candidate. With this move they have shut the mouths of its detractors, who were dreaming of coming to power with the plot of "Divide & Rule". Now it is up to the leaders to guide their wards to thwart any plot of Opposition parties to regain power in the state.

N. Mahadevan
Chennai

HAVE A THOUGHT

THE SUPREME COURT declaring that protesters cannot occupy public roads and spaces indefinitely and need to carry them out in designated areas alone is laudable. The apex court passed the order on a batch of petitions against the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh. The court also lambasted the Delhi administration for its inability to resolve the protest and called it unfortunate. While citizens may protest peacefully against legislation they must refrain from bringing commuters to their knees.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

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

IN BRIEF

Kyrgyzstan leader missing

Bishkek: The whereabouts of Kyrgyzstan's pro-Russia president were unknown Thursday as a power vacuum persisted after disputed parliamentary elections plunged the Central Asian country into a new bout of political chaos. Sooronbay Jeenbekov has not been seen in public since unrest began over Sunday's vote which was won by his supporters but opponents as well as monitors said was marred by widespread vote-buying. Clashes have already left at least one dead and hundreds injured, with a decision to annul the results of the polls doing little to ease the tensions. The crisis is the latest political turbulence to sweep through the volatile ex-Soviet state bordering China which has seen two revolutions and three of its presidents either jailed or sent into exile since independence. Jeenbekov has called for a return to a rule of law.

Kuwait's crown prince sworn in

Kuwait City: Kuwait's new crown prince, Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, took his oath of office before parliament on Thursday, after being nominated by his half-brother, the new emir. Sheikh Meshal, 80, a long-serving top security official, was unanimously approved by the National Assembly. He swore to "defend the liberties, interests and properties of the people" and to safeguard the country's independence and integrity. Kuwait's new emir, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, was appointed on September 30 after his own half-brother, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, died at the age of 91 while being treated in hospital in the US. Sheikh Meshal, 80, has been deputy chief of the Kuwait National Guard since 2004, largely staying out of the political scene and away from disputes within the royal family. His appointment, rather than the selection of a next-generation candidate, is seen as a conservative choice.

Don: Afghan troop pullout by X'Mas

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday sought withdrawal of all American troops from Afghanistan by Christmas this year. "We should have the small remaining number of our BRAVE Men and Women serving in Afghanistan home by Christmas!" Trump said in a tweet Wednesday night. After an agreement with the Taliban on February 29 this year, the US reduced its force level to 8,600 and turned five bases over to its Afghan partners. This August, the president made a determination that the conditions in Afghanistan were sufficient to reduce the force presence to between 4,000 and 5,000 by November end. Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, David F. Healy, told lawmakers last month that Pentagon is making "prudent planning" to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by May next year.

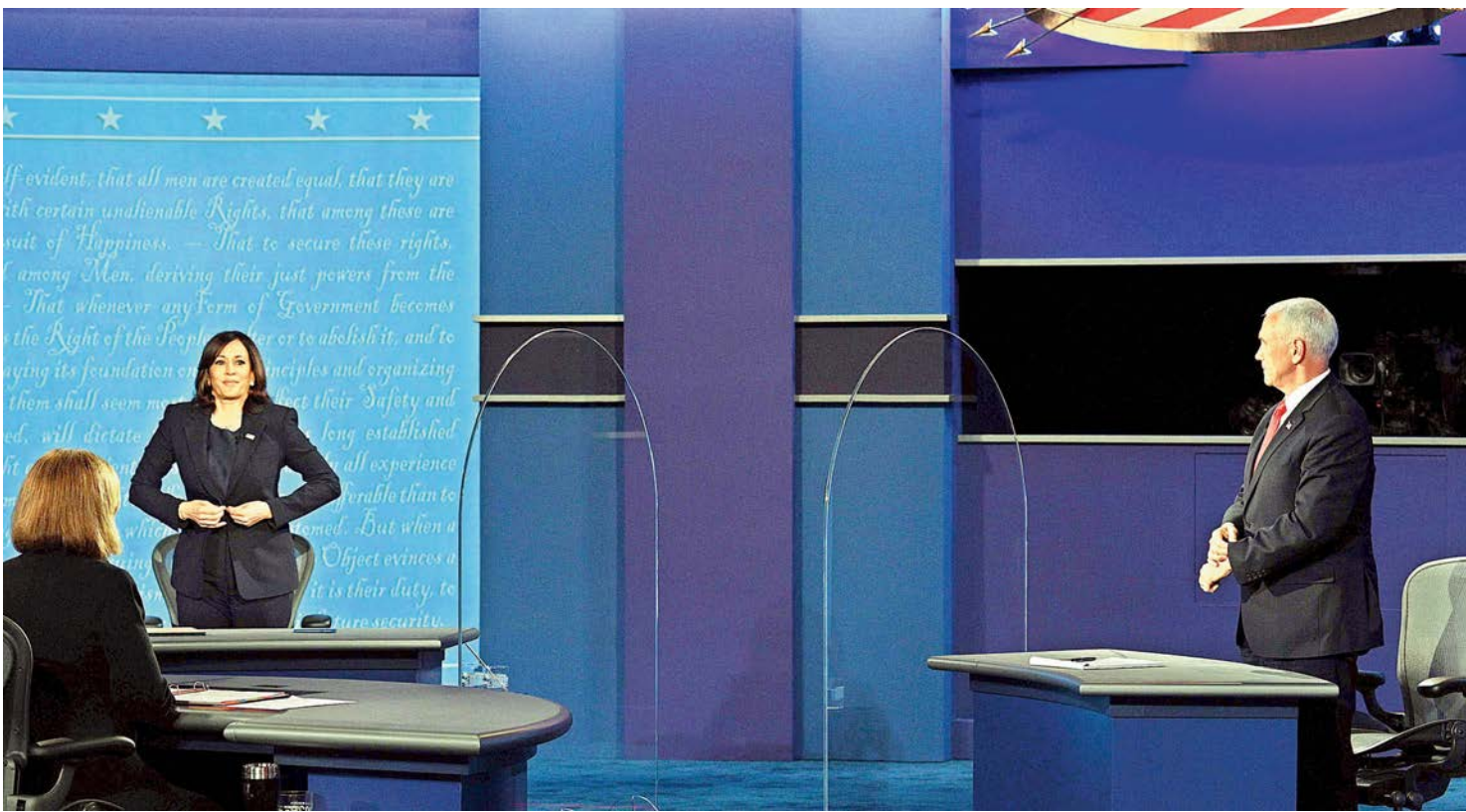
OPEN PUBLISHER PAYMENT TALKS, GOOGLE TOLD

Paris, Oct. 8: A French appeals court upheld an order for Google to open negotiations with French publishers over payments to use their news content. The Paris Court of Appeal sided with France's competition authority, which had ordered the US tech company to discuss compensation with publishers and news agencies for reusing their material online.

French regulators had argued that Google must sit down for talks under a "neighbouring rights" law adopted after the European Union overhauled the bloc's copyright rules, which include allowing news companies to demand payments when search engines display snippets of their stories.

Google had balked and threatened last year to stop displaying snippets and thumbnail photos in its search results but French regulators said in April that the company was likely abusing its dominant position.

Google argued it shouldn't have to pay because news companies benefit from the millions of readers it sends to their websites. The company also unsuccessfully argued that the competition watchdog overstepped its authority. Google has at the same time been in more narrowly focused talks on digital copyright.



Democratic vice-presidential nominee and Senator from California, Kamala Harris and US Vice-President Mike Pence (R) stand after participating in the vice-presidential debate in Kingsbury Hall at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah on Wednesday.

Second debate going virtual

Move on debate a fallout of the President contracting Coronavirus

Washington, Oct. 8: The second presidential debate between President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden will take place virtually amid the fallout from the president's diagnosis of Covid-19. The nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates debates made the announcement Thursday morning, a week before the two were scheduled to face on in Miami.

The candidates will "participate from separate remote locations," while the participants and moderator remain in Miami, the commission said. Trump was diagnosed with the Coronavirus a week ago and said he looked forward to debating Biden on stage in Miami, saying, "It will be great!" Biden, for his part, said he and Trump "shouldn't have a debate" as long as the president remains Covid positive.

Biden told reporters in Pennsylvania that he was "looking forward to being able to debate him" but said "we're going to have to follow very strict guidelines." The Russia probe is back in the political spotlight. President Donald Trump this week ordered the declassification of all documents related to how the FBI and US intelligence agencies investigated Russian interference in the 2016 presidential race.

Democrats quickly called the move a political stunt in the middle of the president's heated campaign to defeat Democrat Joe Biden in the November 3 election.

Moreover, intelligence professionals blasted John Ratcliffe, the director of national intelligence and a Trump loyalist, for going along with the declassification, saying it was a flagrant example of using intelligence for political purposes. Ratcliffe has been working to declassify details about the Russia investigation, which culminated in the 2019 report by former special counsel Robert Mueller. Mueller's report found no criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia to tip the outcome of the 2016 presidential election in Trump's favour, but there was ample evidence of Russian interference favouring Trump. Trump remains irritated by the Russia probe because he thinks it delegitimizes his presidency.

TAIPEI REACTS TO CHINA NOTE TO INDIAN MEDIA

New Delhi, Oct. 8: China was accused by Taiwan of trying to impose censorship in India after its embassy in New Delhi advised journalists to observe the "one-China" principle after newspapers carried advertisements for Taiwan's national day. Coming just months after deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops on the disputed Himalayan border, the row has flared at a time when Indian sentiments toward China are filled with antipathy and doubt. — Agencies

NOT GOING TO DO VIRTUAL DEBATE WITH BIDEN: DON

Washington, Oct. 8: Donald Trump vowed Thursday not to participate in next week's debate with Democratic nominee Joe Biden after organisers announced that it will take place virtually because of the president's diagnosis of Covid-19.

"I'm not going to do a virtual debate" with Biden, Trump told Fox News, moments after the Commission on Presidential Debates announced the changes due to Trump's diagnosis. That cast serious doubts on whether the event will go forward, even as Biden's campaign vowed that its candidate will participate.

"Vice President Biden looks forward to speaking directly to the American people," deputy Biden campaign manager Kate Bedingfield said in a statement. It is more evidence that the race remains defined by the virus, even as Trump has attempted to underplay it.

The announcement from the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates cited a need "to protect the health and safety of all involved with the second presidential debate." The candidates will "participate from separate remote locations" while the participants and moderator remain in Miami. — AP

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Covid, China, jobs dominate

Washington, Oct. 8: The much-awaited vice presidential debate between Kamala Harris and Mike Pence saw the duo sparring on US President Donald Trump's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, jobs, China, racial tensions and climate change, less than four weeks ahead of the election.

Harris, the Democratic Party's vice president nominee described the Trump's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic as the "greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history" of America as she opened the vice debate with a sharp attack on Vice President Pence, who leads the president's Coronavirus task force. Wednesday night's live debate at The University of Utah in Salt Lake City was a civil one between the two leaders, separated by plexiglass barriers, compared to last week's showdown between President Trump and his Democratic challenger and former vice president Joe Biden, which degenerated into insults and name-calling.

Pence, did not interrupt as much as Trump last week during the first presidential debate, but

when he did Harris interjected: "Mr Vice-President, I'm speaking, I'm speaking." During the 90-minute one-off debate before the November 3 presidential election, Harris, 55, and Pence, 61, stuck to their known campaign positions on major topics. Pence, who entered the debate as an underdog, was seen vigorously defending the actions of the Trump Administration during the past nearly four years.

Harris, who scripted yet another history, by becoming the first person of Indian descent to be on the stage of a vice presidential debate, charmed with her smiling face throughout while responding to answers to Pence with facts and figures with the same assertiveness as she started her career as a district attorney in San Francisco. "This administration has forfeited their right to re-election," she asserted at the start of the debate. "Biden wants to go back to the economic surrender to China that when we took office, half of our international trade deficit was with China alone," Pence fired back. — PTI

HARRIS' 'I'M SPEAKING' ON T-SHIRTS

Washington, Oct. 8: Anything sells, if your business idea is one of a kind.

And this is unexpectedly becoming increasingly evident just after US Vice-Presidential Debate. Democratic vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris' snub to US Vice President Mike Pence during the debate is quickly becoming a buzzword online and people are already selling mugs and T-shirts.

"Mr Vice President I am speaking, I am speaking," was Kamala Harris' warning for Mike Pence to stop interrupting her.

Such was the force in her words and her gaze that Pence promptly stopped talking.

"I am still speaking" is appearing to be the buzzword everyone craves in the age of social media. Within minutes of Kamala Harris' snub, sellers started selling merch with the words printed on it.

Websites like Etsy were offering mugs, T-shirts and even coronavirus masks with words "I am still speaking" printed on them.

Kamala Harris was criticising Trump administration's handling of coronavirus pandemic. — Agencies

Glück wins literature Nobel prize



Louise Glück

Stockholm, Oct. 8: American poet Louise Glück won the Nobel Prize in Literature on Thursday for her "candid and uncompromising" work, which looks unflinchingly and with biting humour at the losses and traumas of family life. She joins a handful of American poets who have received the prize, which has been dominated by novelists throughout its 112-year history. The last American to win was Bob Dylan in 2016. She is also one of the few women — the 16th female Nobel Literature laureate.

The Nobel Committee praised Glück "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal" in the citation read during the announcement in Stockholm by Mats Malm, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy. New York-born Glück, 77, who is a faculty member at Yale University, made her debut in 1968 with "Firstborn," and "was soon acclaimed as one of the most prominent poets in American contemporary literature," the committee said.

Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel literature committee, said Glück's 12 collections of poetry were "characterized by striving for clarity." They include "Descending Figure," "The Triumph of Achilles" and "Ararat." Olsson said her verses, which often draw on classical influences

and examine family life, were marked by an "austere but also playful intelligence and a refined sense of composition."

Raised in a family with Hungarian Jewish origins, Glück has spoken of how a teenage struggle with anorexia, and the therapy she received for it, influenced her incisive writing. "Louise Glück's voice is unmistakable. It is candid and uncompromising, and it signals that this poet wants to be understood. But it is also voice full of humor and biting wit," Olsson said.

"This is a great resource when Glück treats one of our great topics, radical change, where the leap forward is made from a deep sense of loss," Glück is the recipient of Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Gold Medal in Poetry and the National Humanities Medal. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for "The Wild Iris" and the National Book Award. — AP

Dems flay Don for H-1B curbs

Washington, Oct. 8: The Democratic Party has criticised President Donald Trump for announcing "sweeping changes" to the H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme in decades without public scrutiny, saying it is clearly an attempt to score last-minute political points ahead of the November 3 presidential election. In a move which will affect thousands of Indian IT professionals, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Tuesday announced the interim final rule, which, the Trump administration said, is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler on Wednesday said: "With less than 30 days to go before the elections, the Trump administration announced that it will implement the most sweeping changes to the H-1B visa programme we have seen in decades — and will do so by skirting the normal notice and comment process required by the Administrative Procedure Act".

The powerful Democrat from New York said while the programme can certainly benefit from reforms, the US laws require that the public be provided with adequate notice and

a meaningful opportunity to comment before such reforms are implemented.

"This simply cannot be accomplished to the degree required through an interim final rule and the administration knows this. This is clearly an attempt to score the last-minute political points," Nadler said. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. Such a decision by the Trump administration will have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals.

Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the Coronavirus pandemic that has severely hit the US economy. Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee Chair Zoe Lofgren said that over the years, she had introduced several bills that would reform the H-1B programme to prohibit substandard wages and ensure that unscrupulous employers don't abuse the system to the detriment of US workers. "While the system needs updating, changes, this must not be rushed through without adequate input from the public. — PTI

India: Don't misuse UNSC to frame innocents

United Nations, Oct. 8: The United Nations Security Council should not be misused by countries with "retaliatory intent to name innocent civilians as terrorists" without credible evidence by invoking non-transparent working methods and procedures, India has said, referring to Pakistan's failed attempt to get four Indian nationals listed under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee. Pakistan had submitted the names of Indian nationals Angara Appaji, Gobinda Patnaik, Ajoy Mistry and Venumadhav Dongara for designation under the 1267 Al Qaeda

Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council. However, Pakistan's attempt was thwarted last month after the US, the UK, France, Germany and Belgium blocked the move in the Council to list Appaji and Patnaik. According to sources, no evidence was given by Pakistan in its case to get the individuals listed. Similarly, an earlier attempt by Pakistan to list Mistry and Dongara was blocked by the Council around June/July.

"We believe that UN Security Council continues to be an effective forum for the maintenance of international peace and

security and combating terrorism."

"However, it should also be ensured that the forum is not misused by countries with retaliatory intent to name innocent civilians as terrorists without credible evidence by invoking non-transparent working methods and procedures," First Secretary and Legal Adviser in India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Yedla Umasankar said on Tuesday at the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on 'Measures to eliminate international terrorism'. Without naming

Pakistan, he said, "India has been and continues to be a victim of terrorism sponsored across our borders. We have had firsthand experience of the cruel link between transnational organised crime and terrorism."

"Our fight against terrorism should not only seek to eliminate terrorists and disrupt terror organisations/networks, but should also identify/hold accountable and take strong measures against states that encourage, support and finance terrorism, provide sanctuary to terrorists and terror groups," he said. — PTI

Hostage deaths: UK IS members charged

Washington, Oct. 8: Two Islamic State militants from Britain were brought to the United States to face charges in a gruesome campaign of torture, beatings and other acts of violence against four Americans and others captured and held hostage in Syria. El Shafee Elsheikh and Alexandra Kotey are two of four men who were dubbed "the Beatles" by the hostages just because of

the captors' British accents.

The two men made their first appearance on Wednesday in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, where a federal grand jury issued an eight-count indictment that accuses them of being "leading participants in a brutal hostage-taking scheme" that resulted in the deaths of Western hostages. — AP

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,182.67	0.76
Nifty 50	11,834.60	0.82
S&P 500*	3,441.56	0.65
Dollar (₹)	73.23	0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.95	-0.24
Euro (₹)	86.14	0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,153.82	0.16
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.19	1.20
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.015	0.001
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.772	-0.013

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Double-digit growth in power use in October

Power consumption in the country recorded double-digit growth in the first week of October at 25.95 billion units (BU) amid buoyancy in industrial and commercial activities. Power ministry data shows power consumption grew by 13.65 per cent during October 1 to 7 to 25.95 BU, up from 22.83 BU in the same period last year. Power consumption in October last year stood at 97.84 BU.

Uday Shankar quits as Star, Walt Disney Apac chief



Global media and entertainment conglomerate The Walt Disney Company said Uday Shankar will step down as president of its Asia Pacific (Apac) business and chairman of Star and Disney India with effect from Dec. 31. Shankar has quit the posts he has held since Feb. 2019 to pursue entrepreneurial interests. The company said over the next three months, Shankar will work closely with Rebecca Campbell to identify his successor.

Sanjay Aggarwal takes over as PHDCCI president

Paramount Cables Group chairman and CEO Sanjay Aggarwal has taken over as the president of PHDCCI for 2020-21, the industry chamber said. Multani Pharmaceuticals chairman Pradeep Multani and PG Industry MD Saket Dalmia have taken over as senior vice-president and vice-president, respectively, of the PHDCCI.

Titan, Montblanc joint venture to end in December

Tata Group firm Titan said it will end its five-year joint venture with luxury firm Montblanc in December this year, to focus on its primary business and proprietary brands. Titan holds a 49 per cent equity stake in Montblanc India Retail Private Limited. During the five-year partnership which began in 2015, Montblanc opened 12 boutiques in major cities across the country and established an e-com business via TataCliq.

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Rally in IT stocks takes Nifty near 12K Sensex spikes above 40K pts

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 8

Led by a big rally in heavy-weight IT stocks, the Sensex settled above the 40,000 level, marking a fresh seven month high, while the Nifty-50 inched closer to the 12,000 level, as the market rally continued for the sixth session in a row.

Strong second quarter results of Tata Consultancy Services and its Rs 16,000-crore share buyback announcement at 10 per cent higher price was the main trigger for rally in IT stocks. Another buyback announcement by Wipro further cemented investors' positive outlook on the IT sector.

The Sensex closed at 40,182.67, up 303.2 points, after hitting a high of 40,468.88 while Nifty-50 closed at 11,834.60, up 95.75 points after touching 11,905.70 in intra-day trade.

The BSE' market capitalisation has bounced back to pre-covid levels at more than Rs 160 lakh crore.

TCS gained 3.19 per cent, closing at Rs 2824.80 after touching a high of Rs 2885 on the BSE. Other major IT gainers included Wipro (7.22 per cent), Infosys (2.57 per cent), HCL Technologies (2.63 per cent) and Tech Mahindra (1.62 per cent).

Mid-tier IT stocks L&T Infotech (7 per cent), Mindtree (5.77 per cent) and Mphasis (5.77 per cent) also made big gains and the BSE IT Index gained 2.99 per cent and Nifty IT



EQUITY MF REDEMPTIONS DOWN

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 8

Redemptions from pure equity mutual funds are easing now even though outflows continued for the third consecutive month, data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) for September showed.

Overall, the MF industry's net asset under management (AUM) in September fell to Rs 26.85 lakh crore against Rs 27.49 lakh crore in August.

Growth or equity oriented schemes saw combined outflow of Rs 734.40 crore

compared with Rs 4,000 crore in August while hybrid schemes saw combined outflow of Rs 4,219.01 crore against Rs 4,819.45 crore in August.

The debt schemes saw a quarter-end outflow by Rs 51,962 crore, which led to overall MF AUM shrink by more than 2.3 per cent to Rs 26.85 lakh crore.

Index funds (Rs 552.41 crore) and other equity exchange traded funds (Rs 3543.96 crore) saw healthy inflows while gold ETF inflows stood at Rs 90.90 and fund of funds investing overseas at Rs 177.39 crore.

Index, 3.23 per cent.

The market is now poised to go higher with bullish patterns visible, said analysts. Shrikant Chouhan, executive VP-research, Kotak Securities, said, "The Nifty 50 Index has ended positive for the nine consecutive sessions, closing nearly one per cent higher at 11834.60.

Technically, with the index above the 11,794 levels indicates a bullish signal for the market and exhibits strength for the index to rally beyond 12000 levels."

Buying by foreign portfolio investors to the tune of Rs 978 crore held the market higher while domestic institutions' buying was muted at Rs 19.85 crore.

Automotive retail sales show signs of recovery

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 8

Passenger vehicles retail sales jumped 10 per cent year-on-year in September but two- & three-wheelers and commercial vehicles declined in double-digits.

Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Kia Motor and Mahindra, among others, had shipped 35 per cent more passenger vehicles to 2,75,137 units from factory gates to dealerships ahead of the festive season. Also, vehicle retail sales last month rose 11.45 per cent month-on-month but fell by -10.24 per cent year-on-year, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, or Fada, said on Thursday.

Automakers are now pinning hopes on the festive season for a pick-up in momentum.

On yearly comparison, 2-wheeler sales d-grew by -12.62 per cent, 3-wheeler by -58.86 per cent and commercial vehicles by -33.65 per cent. However, passenger vehicles for the first time grew by 9.81 per cent since unlocking began. Tractor registrations continued its upward journey with a magnificent 80.39 per cent growth, Fada said.

Entry level passenger vehicles saw good demand, Fada said. Dealer inventory for both 2-wheelers and cars are at the highest levels ahead of key festivals.

Millions facing poverty in South Asia: World Bank

INDIA'S GDP MAY CONTRACT BY 9.6% THIS FISCAL

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, OCT. 8



Millions in the South Asian region are being pushed into extreme poverty by the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Bank said on Thursday. The Washington-based multilateral lender also said India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal year.

The bank, which forecast an economic contraction of 7.7 per cent in South Asia this year, said workers in the informal sector are being hit the hardest and private consumption is unlikely to recover quickly.

"The impact on livelihoods will even be larger than the GDP forecast suggests," the bank said in its bi-annual South Asia Economic Focus report, adding that the region would experience a sharp increase in the poverty rate.

"India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year that started in March. However, the regional growth is projected to rebound to 4.5 per cent in 2021," the bank said.

"The situation is much worse in India than we have ever seen before. It is an exceptional situation in India...We have seen from the rapid survey that many people have lost their jobs and this is happening against a background when India's economy was already slowing down

before the pandemic. Besides, we had also seen a rise in non-performing loans. Those are all vulnerabilities that India has to deal with," Hans Timmer, World Bank chief economist for South Asia told reporters in a conference call.

While the central government has signalled its preparedness to support the economy, there has been no clarity yet about the timing or the extent of the next round of stimulus to pop up the economy. India has already seen around a 24 per cent contraction in its economy in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

The World Bank said the spread of the coronavirus and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India. "There's a big problem that the informal sector has no coverage in social insurance...What we see now is that especially the informal workers in the middle of the income distribution have lost their

jobs. There are no systems in place to support those people," Timmer said.

To a query he said what the Indian government has done with limited resources and limited fiscal space is very impressive. "We have seen a loosening of monetary policy. You have seen attempts to increase credit to the private sector to help a company survive," he said, adding that there have been big efforts in the health sector and expansion of a social safety net. But with every big crisis, I think, we have to realise that this will not go over anytime soon. And it will actually change the longer-term future also."

The report warned that South Asian economies could end up worse than the forecast as the pandemic continues to surge, making foreign investors more wary, limiting governments' ability to increase spending and putting more strain on banking systems already heavily burdened with bad loans.

Combined fiscal deficit may go up to 14%

Hyderabad, Oct. 8: The combined fiscal deficit of states and the Centre in the current year may go up to 14 per cent against the mandated level of six per cent, former Reserve Bank governor C. Rangarajan said on Thursday.

Speaking at an ICAI Business School event here, the former chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister said banks should neither be timid nor adventurous while lending as the loans of today should not become NPAs of tomorrow.

"So, therefore, we are essentially talking about

13.8 per cent or 14 per cent of the GDP (gross domestic product) as the overall fiscal deficit of the states and the Centre. It is obvious this is twice the mandated level. The mandated level for both the Centre and state is 6 per cent of the GDP. It is twice or even more than twice of the estimated figure," he said.

According to him, the fiscal deficit may further go if the government decides to go in for additional borrowings to meet the GST compensation part.

Rangarajan said RBI's monetary policy is "consistent" under the present circumstances and as a result banks have adequate liquidity for more lending.



C. Rangarajan

He said governments need to spend more when the economy is in a slump and it is essential to spend on healthcare, relief and rehabilitation and on stimulus to spur economic

activities. "There are three types of expenditure required. One, expenditure on healthcare, second is the expenditure on relief and rehabilitation. Third is expenditure on stimulus. And it appears that the government both at the Centre and states are somewhat slow in increasing expenditures," he said.

He said the economic growth of the country and other nations has come to a grinding halt due to lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus.

However, he said capital flows into India was encouraging in the last three months. —PTI

FORBE'S TOP TEN RICHEST INDIANS

 Mukesh Ambani Reliance Industries 88.7	 Gautam Adani Adani Ports & SEZ 25.2	 Shiv Nadar HCL Technologies 20.4	 Radhakishan Damani Avenue Supermarts 15.4	 Hinduja brothers Ashok Leyland 12.8
 Cyrus Poonawalla Serum Institute of India 11.5	 Pallonji Mistry Shapoorji Pallonji Group 11.4	 Uday Kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank 11.3	 Godrej Family Godrej Group 11.0	 Lakshmi Mittal Arcelor Mittal 10.3
Figures in \$ billion Source: KBK Infographics				

Paytm targets a million apps on mini app store

SANKALP PHARTIYAL & ADITYA KALRA NEW DELHI, OCT. 8

Alibaba-backed Indian fintech firm Paytm is aiming for a million apps on its 'mini app store' by the first quarter of 2021, it said on Thursday, seeking to challenge the dominance of Alphabet's Google in India's mobile web economy.

Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma called

Google "judge, jury and executioner" after his app was temporarily removed from the Android app store last month for a policy violation. On Thursday, he kicked off his company's "Mini App Developer Conference" by calling Google a "toll collector".

Google, whose Android operating system powers nearly 99 per cent of India's roughly 500 million smartphones, has



Vijay Shekhar Sharma

faced criticism from several startups in the country over a move to enforce its global policy more

strictly and charge a 30 per cent commission for in-app purchases.

That criticism led the US tech giant this week to defer by six months its deadline for companies to comply with the new billing system.

Paytm's Sharma is trying to use the discontent to attract business to his newly launched mini app store, which is hosted within the Paytm app. He has vowed not charge

domestic app developers any fees.

"Neither a company from the East, nor a company from the West, if someone will rule India it will be an Indian company," Sharma said in the virtual conference.

Paytm's mini app store will allow "app developers to, for good, forget about going through somebody else's kingdom or roads," Sharma said.

—Reuters

DESIGNED | TO LEAD

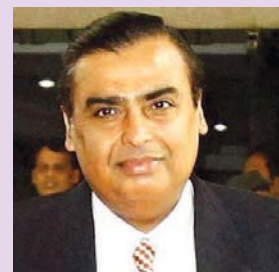
Focus on convergence of digital and physical technologies

‘India to lead 4th industrial revolution with Jio’

New Delhi, Oct. 8: Having missed most of the first three industrial revolutions, India has its chance to lead the fourth industrial revolution through a convergence of its IT prowess, ultra-high-speed internet connectivity and affordable smart devices, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Thursday.

He said his group's telecom and digital unit Jio was conceived to provide the key ingredients needed to lead the fourth industrial revolution.

India missed the first two industrial revolutions and the changes brought



Mukesh Ambani

about by them. During the third industrial revolution, where information technology came to prominence, India joined the race but still remained behind, trying to catch up with the leaders.

"As we step into the fourth industrial revolution, India has the opportunity, not just to catch up with the leaders but to emerge as a global leader itself," he said at TM Forum's Digital Transformation World Series.

The fourth industrial revolution, he said, is driven by the convergence of digital and physical technologies such as digital connectivity, cloud and edge-computing, IoT and smart devices, artificial intelligence, robotics, blockchain, AR/VR (augmented reality/ virtual reality) and genomics.

—PTI

IBM TO SPIN OFF \$19-BN BUSINESS TO FOCUS ON CLOUD COMPUTING

Armonk (US), Oct 8: IBM says it is breaking off a \$19 billion chunk of its business to focus on cloud computing.

The 109-year-old tech company said on Thursday it is spinning off its managed infrastructure services unit into a new public company, temporarily named NewCo. The separation is expected to take effect by late 2021.

IBM CEO Arvind Krishna said the split will help IBM focus on its cloud platform and artificial intelligence, while the newly formed company will provide services to manage the infrastructure of businesses and other organisations.

IBM's annual revenue was \$77.1 billion last year. Krishna said in April at his first quarterly earnings call as CEO. —AP

HOUSING PRICES FALL 2-7% IN TOP 6 CITIES IN JULY-SEP.

New Delhi, Oct. 8: The average housing prices declined by 2-7 per cent year-on-year during July-September in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad on lower demand, according to Knight Frank India.

But prices increased in Bengaluru and Hyderabad by 3 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, during the period compared with the year-ago period.

Chennai saw the maximum fall of 7 per cent, followed by Delhi-NCR and Pune at 5 per cent.

Rates dipped 3 per cent each in Kolkata and Ahmedabad, while Mumbai witnessed 2 per cent price correction.

The weighted average prices in Q3 2020 registered a year on year decline in six of the eight markets.

"Hyderabad and Bengaluru were the only markets that witnessed a price increment of 4 per cent and 3 per cent YoY respectively, as developers in these predominantly end-user markets sustained pricing power in a favourable demand-supply scenario," Knight Frank India said in its report released on Thursday.

According to the report, housing sales stood at 33,403 units during July-September 2020. —PTI

SHORT TAKES

SA cricketer's brother shot dead

Cape Town: A brother of South African cricketer Vernon Philander was fatally shot in a street in Cape Town on Wednesday, his family said. "Tyrone Philander, a younger brother of Vernon, was killed metres from the family home in the neighborhood of Ravensmead. He was shot while delivering water to a neighbor," South African media reported. Vernon Philander said in a statement issued by the family that they were "coming to terms with the brutal murder." "There are no details around the incident at the moment and speculation will make it very difficult for us as a family to mourn in peace," Vernon Philander said. Police said the shooting happened around lunchtime on Wednesday and are investigating the case as a murder. No arrests have been made. — AP

Coe weighs in on racial justice

Tokyo: Dressed in a blue suit and speaking in a light drizzle, Sebastian Coe stood at the edge of the track at Tokyo's new National Stadium on Thursday and repeated his support for the right of athletes to advocate for social or racial justice at next year's postponed Olympics. Coe spoke out in direct opposition to Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter, which says "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas." "I've been very clear that if an athlete chooses to take the knee on a podium then I'm supportive of that," Coe said, giving a boost to Black Lives Matter protests and other social -and-racial-justice movements that are determined to use Tokyo as a stage. — AP

Track king Joshua scripts record

Valencia, Spain: Joshua Cheptegei smashed the 10,000m track world record and Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey set a new mark for the women's 5,000m on a heady night of athletics in Valencia on Wednesday. All the talk in the run-up to the meet was of Cheptegei's assault on Kenenisa Bekele's time of 26min 17.53sec established in 2005 in Brussels. The 24-year-old 10,000m world champion surpassed expectations, running the distance in 26 mins 11.00 seconds to cement his standing as the new middle distance maestro. This was his third world record this year. Ethiopia's Gidey ran the earlier 5,000m in 14 minutes 6.62 seconds. She was lowering the previous mark of 14min 11.15 held by her compatriot Tirunesh Dibaba since 2008 by over four seconds. — AFP

Hero riders power through Stage 2

Villamartin, Spain: Hero MotoSports Team continued their run at the Andalucia Rally in Spain on Thursday with mixed results in the second stage. Sebastian Buhler impressed with his consistent performance and finished the day at the 13th place. Joaquim Rodrigues hit a technical snag right at the start of the stage and the team decided to bring him back to the bivouac, avoiding any unnecessary risks. C. S. Santosh had a 23rd place finish.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FORMULA ONE

German Grand Prix: Practice 1 from 2.25 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD; Practice 2 from 6.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

TENNIS

French Open: Matches from 6.30 pm on Star Sports 2

WWE SMACKDOWN

Bouts from 5.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

BASKETBALL

NBA Finals (Game 5 of best-of-7): Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Six, HD

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Bairstow blitzkrieg

Jonny's brilliant knock floors Kings XI Punjab by 69 runs

Dubai, Oct. 8: Sunrisers Hyderabad rode on a whirlwind 97 from opener Jonny Bairstow and his 160-run partnership for the first wicket with captain David Warner to beat Kings XI Punjab by 69 runs in their IPL match here on Tuesday. Batting first, the Sunrisers put up an imposing 201 for 6 and then bowled out the Punjab Kings for 132 in 16.5 overs for an emphatic victory that took them to third on the points table. Bairstow smashed 97 off just 55 balls — during which he hit seven fours and six sixes — while Warner made 52 off 40 balls as KXIP bowlers did not have a clue how to get a breakthrough till the 15th over. At that stage, SRH were 160 for no loss. Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/29) then removed both Bairstow and Warner in the space of three balls in the 16th over before Arshdeep Singh (2/33) dismissed Manish Pandey r 1 in the next over to trigger a brilliant turnaround. It was a welcome change for KXIP to concede just 41 runs in the last five overs and take six wickets in the process. But the flying start provided by Bairstow and Warner ensured SRH cross the 200-run mark. — PTI

Jonny Bairstow of Sunrisers Hyderabad plays a shot against Kings XI Punjab during their Indian Premier League match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. — BCCI

SCORECARD	
Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner c Glenn Maxwell b Ravi Bishnoi 52, Jonny Bairstow lbw b Ravi Bishnoi 97, Abdul Samad c Arshdeep Singh b Ravi Bishnoi 8, Manish Pandey c & b Arshdeep Singh 1, Kane Williamson not out 20, Priyam Garg c Pooran b Arshdeep Singh 0, Abhishek Sharma c Maxwell b Mohammed Shami 12, Rashid Khan not out 0. Extras: (LB-1, NB-1W-9) 11. Total (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 201. FoW: 1-160, 2-160, 3-161, 4-173, 5-175, 6-199. Bowling: Sheldon Cottrell 3-0-33-0, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 4-0-39-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-40-1, Glenn Maxwell 2-0-26-0, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-29-3, Arshdeep Singh 4-0-33-2.	Kings XI Punjab: K. L. Rahul c Williamson b A. Sharma 11, M. Agarwal run out 9, Simran Singh c Garg b Ahmed 11, N. Pooran c Natarajan b Rashid Khan 77, G. Maxwell run out 7, Mandeep Singh b Rashid Khan 6, Mujeeb Ur Rahman c Bairstow b Ahmed 1, Ravi Bishnoi not out 6, M. Shami lbw Rashid Khan 0, S. Cottrell b Natarajan 0, A. Singh c Warner b Natarajan 0. Extras: (LB-2, W-2) 4. Total (all out in 20 overs) 132. FoW: 1-11, 2-31, 3-58, 4-105, 5-115, 6-126, 7-126, 8-126, 9-132, 10-132. Bowling: S. Sharma 4-0-27-0, KK Ahmed 3-0-24-2, T. Natarajan 3.5-0-24-2, A. Sharma 1-0-15-1, Rashid Khan 4-1-12-3, A. Samad 1-0-28-0.

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	0	8	+1.060
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	+0.232
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	3	2	0	6	+0.002
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	3	2	0	6	-1.355
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.371
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	0	4	-0.826
Kings XI Punjab	6	1	5	0	2	-0.431

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

Batsmen let team down: MS

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 8: Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the batsmen let the team down after a spirited comeback by the bowlers in their Indian Premier League game against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday. Chasing 168, Shane Watson struck his second successive fifty to give CSK a perfect start, but the team choked at the back end of the innings and was restricted to 157 for five to suffer its fourth defeat in this IPL. "In the middle overs, there was a phase when they bowled two-three good overs. Then we lost two-three wickets in a row. If our batting was different during that period, the result would have been different," Dhoni said. "Initially we gave away a few too many with the new ball. Karn (Sharma) did really well. The bowlers did well to bring them down to 160-odd. As a team we should have achieved the target but the batsmen let the bowlers down," Dhoni further added. — PTI

Chennai Super Kings captain M. S. Dhoni (left) poses with Varun Chakravarthy of the Kolkata Knight Riders.

GETTING DHONI WICKET SURREAL, SAYS VARUN

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 8: If playing against him was not enough, Varun Chakravarthy ended up bowling Mahendra Singh Dhoni out and described the moment as "surreal", three years after watching him from the stands at Chepauk with big dreams in his eyes. Chakravarthy capped off what was a memorable day for him in the IPL by getting photographed with the World Cup-winning skipper. Representing KKR, Chakravarthy dismissed Dhoni at a crucial stage in their IPL match against CSK here on Wednesday. "I used to come just to see Dhoni batting. Now I bowled against him. It was a surreal moment for me," Chakravarthy said. — PTI

Fleming explains Kedar strategy

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 8: Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming said Kedar Jadhav was sent ahead of Ravindra Jadeja and Dwayne Bravo in a tense run chase against Kolkata Knight Riders because of his ability to play spin well. However, Jadhav laboured to seven off 12 balls as KKR won the game by 10 runs here on Wednesday. "At the time, we thought that Kedar could play the spinner well and dominate, while Jadeja was there to come and finish. But in the end there was too much work to do and we fell short," Fleming said. Jadhav was trolled heavily on social media following the defeat. The New Zealander rued that their batsmen let it "slip" despite having so much resources. The team added just 14 runs from 11-14 overs, a period when they lost both Shane Watson and an in-form Ambati Rayudu. "If we could have got one of those players to 75-plus and continued that partnership for another maybe four or five overs, the game might have been a lot different. Kolkata hung in there long enough to put pressure on us and we just couldn't accelerate. We feel disappointed that we let it slip. "But the performances like today, with the experience we have got, we should have put it away. We have got a lot of batsmen anyway so the balance is very good with the six bowlers. I don't think an extra batsman is going to help," he added. — PTI

At the time, we thought that Kedar could play the spinner well and dominate, while Jadeja was there to come and finish. But in the end there was too much work to do and we fell short.

— STEPHEN FLEMING
CSK head coach

RR look to steady boat against DC

Sharjah, Oct. 8: Struggling to figure out their best eleven, Rajasthan Royals will need to come up with some quick-fix measures to snap their three-match losing streak when they take on a formidable Delhi Capitals unit in an IPL match here on Friday. The Royals were off to a flying start, winning both their games at Sharjah but they have struggled to adjust to the bigger grounds of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, slipping to three successive defeats. Led by Shreyas Iyer, Delhi have looked solid in all three departments, winning four out of their five matches. For Rajasthan, time is running out as they still have not been able to find their best playing XI. While the return of Ben Stokes will give them hope but the England allrounder is currently in quarantine and will be available only after October 11. The sudden loss of form of skipper Steve Smith and Sanju Samson — who did bulk of the scoring in the first two matches, is as much a reason for their failure. However, the good news for RR is the return to form of opener Jos Buttler, who scored a fine 44-ball 70 in their last game. In bowling, Jofra Archer and Tom Curran have been left to do the heavy lifting. Delhi, on the other hand, have been a well-oiled

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD
OVERALL:
● Matches: 20
● Rajasthan: 11
● Delhi: 9
MEETING IN 2019
● Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 6 wickets at Jaipur.
● Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 5 wickets at Delhi.
FOR THE RECORD
● Shikhar Dhawan, who smashed 99 sixes in 163 innings of 164 matches, needs just one six to become the 20th batsman to complete a century of sixes in IPL.
● Steven Smith, who hit 97 sixes in 173 innings of 197 matches, needs three sixes to complete a century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.
— S. PERVEZ KAISER

machine, boosting of a solid bowling unit which is well supported by the batsmen. While skipper Iyer has been in good form, opener Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant have done their job well. Marcus Stonis too have produced two smashing fifties so far. On the bowling front, Kagiso Rabada has looked ominous with 12 wickets to emerge as the best bowler in the IPL so far. A fit-again Ravichandran Ashwin, who replaced injured Amit Mishra, also returned with one wicket for 26 in his comeback game. — PTI

Table toppers MI aim for perfection

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 8: Perched at the top of the points table they might be but Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene says there are several aspects of the game that his team needs to improve as it guns for a second consecutive IPL title. Mumbai recorded their third consecutive win, beating Rajasthan Royals by 57 runs on Tuesday. They have so far accumulated four wins and two losses from six matches overall. "...right now we have played some consistent cricket, and executing a lot of the skills really well with the ball and bat. So, things are going well but we can still improve, there are certain areas but make sure that everyone is

focused on each and every day," Jayawardene said in a video posted by the team's official Twitter handle. He, however, did not specify the areas which require improvement. On Tuesday, handing the new ball to pace spearheaded Jasprit Bumrah worked wonders as Mumbai bundled out RR for 136 after putting 193/4 on the board. "We had a tough week where we had three back to back games, so we get a bit of a break now, so it is good to go into the break with three consecutive wins," former Sri Lankan captain signed off. Mumbai now play on Sunday next when they take on in-form Delhi Capitals in an evening game. — PTI

SUNNY PROPOSES TWO BOUNCERS A OVER IN T20

New Delhi, Oct. 8: The legendary Sunil Gavaskar believes that T20 cricket doesn't need much tinkering as it is in "pink of health" but custodians of the game can consider allowing two bouncers per over, moving ahead. Does he foresee see a rule change to ease the pressure off bowlers? "The T20 game is doing very well and there's no need to tinker with it," Gavaskar said during an exclusive interview from the UAE where he is working as a broadcaster for the Indian Premier League. But the iconic figure did put forth a few suggestions. "It is loaded heavily in favour of the batsmen for sure. So, give a fast bowler two bouncers per over and yes the boundaries can be easily longer, if the ground authorities want it. Also look at giving an extra over to the bowler who takes a wicket in his first three overs. But seriously there's no need to bring any changes at all," he further added. — PTI

Novak busts Busta, in semifinals

Paris, Oct. 8: Novak Djokovic recovered from dropping his first set at this year's French Open and overcame a bothersome left arm to defeat Pablo Carreno Busta on Wednesday and set up a semifinal showdown with Stefanos Tsitsipas. Djokovic beat Spanish 17th seed Carreno Busta 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the last four of a major for the 38th time as he chases a second French Open and 18th Grand Slam title. In women's singles, teenager Iga Swiatek became the first Polish woman in 81 years to reach the French Open final on Thursday as she demolished Argentine qualifier Nadia Podoroska 6-2, 6-1.

THE RESULTS
Men's singles quarterfinals (number in brackets denotes seeding): Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Pablo Carreno Busta (ESP x17) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4; Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x5) bt Andrey Rublev (RUS x13) 7-5, 6-2, 6-3.
Women's singles semifinals (number in brackets denotes seeding): Sofia Kenin (USA x4) bt Petra Kvitova (CZE x7) 6-4, 7-5; Iga Swiatek (POL) bt Nadia Podoroska (ARG) 6-2, 6-1.
The 131st-ranked Podoroska is the lowest-ranked woman to reach the last four at Roland Garros. She broke Swiatek in the fifth game of the second set to trail 4-1 but was broken straight back.

The 19-year-old Swiatek will now face Sofia Kenin, who got the better of Petra Kvitova 6-4, 7-5 and will attempt to capture a second Grand Slam of the year following her Australian Open triumph. World No.1 Djokovic required treatment on his upper left arm after losing the opening set and looked vulnerable against an opponent who was the beneficiary of Djokovic's disqualification at the US Open. Earlier, Tsitsipas, the Greek fifth seed, made his second Grand Slam semifinal with a 7-5, 6-2, 6-3 win over 13th seed Andrey Rublev, avenging last month's loss to the Russian in the Hamburg final. — AFP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta during their men's singles quarterfinal match of the French Open tournament in Paris on Wednesday. Djokovic won 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. — AFP

Camavinga shines as Ukraine perish

Paris, Oct. 8: France's 7-1 thrashing of Ukraine was the pick of the European friendlies on Wednesday as Spain clung on for a draw in Lisbon and Turkey saved pride with a late goal against Germany in Cologne. At the Stade de France it was teenager Eduardo Camavinga and veteran Olivier Giroud inflicting much of the damage for Didier Deschamps' world champions on Covid-19 hit Ukraine. Vitaliy Mykolenko, Corentin Tolisso, Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann also scored a goal each for France. Meanwhile, European champions in 2016 Portugal return to the

Stade de France in the Nations League on Sunday and used a friendly with their Iberian rivals Spain to warm up. Cristiano Ronaldo and Renato Sanchez both struck the woodwork for Portugal, who then should have won it in injury-time only for Joao Felix to mis-kick at the back post. In another match, Germany coach Joachim Loew bemoaned his side's inability to hold on to a lead after they conceded a last-gasp equaliser in a thrilling 3-3 draw against Turkey. The draw was Germany's third in three games, and the third time in a row that they have failed to win after taking the lead. — AFP