# THE ASIAN AGE

**NEW DELHI FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2020** 



**BUSINESS** 7

Mistrys submit plan to Supreme Court for separation from Tatas



CITY 2

**Defamation case closed** after Kapil Mishra's

TABLOID 13

Virat Kohli asks pregnant Anushka Sharma from



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Paris Jackson poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, California, to promote her debut solo album Wilted, that will be released on November 13. Her new single *Let Down* will hit chart today (Friday).

#### **Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai Patel,** Covid +ve, dies at 92

Ahmedabad: Former chief minister Keshubhai Patel, who led the first BJP government in Gujarat in 1995, passed away at 92 years at a hospital in Ahmedabad where he was rushed on Thursday morning following health complications. He hd earlier tested +ve for Covid-19. His son Bharat said that although he had recovered from Covid-19, "some damage had been done to his health, as he also suffered from cancer of the prostate".

More on Page 3

#### **Assam JEE topper** held for using proxy

Guwahati: In what has come as shocker, the topper of the Joint Entrance Exam (Mains) in Assam, his father and three others were arrested by the city police here on Thursday on charges of using a proxy to write the country's premier engineering entrance test.

More on Page 4

#### **Deini records coldest**

Oct. day in 26 years

New Delhi: The national capital recorded a minimum temperature of 12.5 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the lowest in October in 26 years, according to the India Meteorological Department. The normal minimum temperature for this time of the year is 15 to 16 degrees Celsius, it said.



Not IPL, they were betting on polls!



Max: 31°C Min: 14°C **RH:** 34% **Rain: 0%** 

Forecast: Sunny

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Shuddha Chaturdasi till 5.45

Star: Revati till 2.56 pm Varjyam: Nil Durmuhurtam: 8.34 am to 9.20 am; 12.22 pm to 1.08 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12

**SUNSET TODAY 5.37 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.32 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.41 PM MOONSET TODAY 5.11 AM** 



unconditional apology

ground if she's eaten



## ■ Opp leader says Pakistan freed Abhinandan fearing India attack 'Ghus ke maara', Pak mantri

brags about Pulwama attack

Legs

were

shaking

and fore-

head per-

go back now

because India is

attacking Pakistan

— Sardar Ayaz

at 9 pm in the night.

Sadiq,

spiring, and the foreign min-

ister (Qureshi) told

us, 'For God's sake, let him (Varthaman)

ther embarrass Pakistan and bolster India's repeated assertions of cross-border terrorism, a senior Pakistani minister on Thursday admitted that Pakistan was responsible for the Pulwama terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 that killed 40 CRPF personnel and brought the two countries to the brink of a war.

"Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We hit India in their home). Our success in Pulwama is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and us... are all part of that success," Pakistan's science & technology minister Fawad Chaudhry said in the National Assembly during a debate.

Mr Chaudhry, a close aide of Prime Minister Imran Khan, made the counter Pakistan remarks to Opposition Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ayaz Sadiq's claim made a day before in a speech in the National Assembly that

US may scrap

computerised

lottery system

for H-1B visas

Washington, Oct. 29: The

Trump administration

has proposed to scrap

the computerised lottery

system to grant H-1B

work visas to foreign

technology professionals

and replace it with a

wage-level-based selec-

tion process, a move that

is expected to counter

the downward pressure

on the wages of US work-

A notification on the

new system is being pub-

lished in the Federal

Register on Thursday.

Stakeholders have 30

days to respond to the

said Wednesday, less than a week before the US pres-

Replacing the comput-

erised draw of lots to

decide on the successful

H-1B applicants, the DHS

said it is expected to help

counter the downward

pressure on the wages of

American workers that

is created by an annual

influx of relatively lower-paid, new cap-sub-ject H-1B workers. The H-1B visa, most sought-

after among Indian IT

professionals, is a non-

Security

notification,

Department

idential election.

Homeland

Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We hit India in their

home). Our success in Pulwama is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and us... are all part of that success.

> — Fawad Chaudhry, Pakistan minister

> > Mahmood

Wing

Pakistan's foreign minis-

Qureshi had at an impor-

tant meeting last year

pleaded to release Indian

Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan

Varthaman, who was cap-

tured by the Pakistani

Army on February 27,

2019, after his MiG-21

Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with

forehead perspiring, and

Patna/Munger, Oct. 29:

The Election Commission

has removed the district

magistrate and the super-intendent of police of

Munger over the violence

during a Durga Puja event

early this week, even as a

group of protesters went

on the rampage in the town

on Thursday, setting some

nolice stations and out-

posts on fire and ransack-

ing the SP and the SDO

The poll panel Thursday

also ordered an inquiry

into the firing and stone-

pelting during the immer-

sion of an idol of goddess

Durga late Monday night

"Legs were shaking and

Pakistani jets.

Shah

PML-N leader the foreign minister (Qureshi) told us, 'For God's sake, let him (Varthaman) go back now because India is attacking Pakistan at 9 pm in the night", Mr Sadiq said, recalling the high-level meeting which was also attended by Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, and added that "India was not planning to attack.. They just wanted to kneel before India and send back Abhinandan." Mr

EC removes SP, DM as fresh

Protestors set on fire fur-

niture after clashes with

the police in Munger on

in which one person died

and several others were

Commission has asked

Magadh divisional com-

missioner Asangba Chuba

Election

Thursday.

injured.

violence erupts in Munger

Minister Imran Khan had skipped the high-level

In the early hours of February 26, 2019, IAF jets bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror camps in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and avenged the Pulwama terrorist attack. Before his jet was hit, Wg Cdr Varthaman downed an F-16 fighter of Pakistan. He was released on the night of March 1 by Pakistan.

Mr Chaudhry, who was the information and broadcasting minister at the time of the Pulwama attack, criticised Mr remarks and Sadiq's termed them as "inappropriate". Later in a tweet, he said that in his statement he was referring to **Turn to Page 4** 

'Hopefully now he sees some light': Nadda takes a jab at govermnment, Rafale

Ao to complete the probe

Munger district magis-

trate Rajesh Meena has been transferred to the

General Administration Department (GAD), while SP Lipi Sigh has been

moved to the state police

Hours later, the Bihar

government, on the instructions of the EC,

named Rachna Patil as the

new district magistrate

and IPS officer Manavjit

Ms Patil was working as

registrar of cooperative

societies in the cooperative

■ Turn to Page 4

Singh Dhillon as new SP.

headquarters.

#### PAGE 3

Rahul for questioning

#### Rajasthan and Pradesh. **Delhi's air quality** inches closer to

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality inched closer to the 'severe" category on Thursday, primarily due to calm winds and spike in farm fires. The ministry of earth sciences' monitoring agency, SAFAR, said that the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution was 36 per cent on Thursday — the maximum so far this season. Delhi recorded a 24-hour average air quality index of 395. It was 297 on Wednesday, 312 on Tuesday, 353 on Monday, 349 on Sunday, 345 on Saturday and 366 on Friday.

More on Page 2

#### **POLLUTION IN DELHI-NCR**

jail term up to five years

or both," he added. Under the new law, the Supreme Court-appointed

EPCA, formed in 1998, has

been dissolved and any

action taken by it shall be

deemed to have been taken under the corre-

sponding provisions of the ordinance.

The members of the new

commission shall include

a chairman, who is or has

been a secretary to the Government of India or a

state chief secretary, a

representative of the envi-

ronment secretary and

five ex-officio members

who are either chief secre-

taries or secretaries in

charge of the environ-

Delhi, Punjab, Haryana,

**'severe' category** 

departments of

## Centre brings new law: ₹1cr fine, 5-yr jail for violators

Wide powers for 20-member panel

New Delhi, Oct. 29: In a bid to tackle the persistent problem of air pollu-Ordinance to be in force in NCR, Punjab, Haryana, UP & Rajasthan tion in Delhi-NCR, the visions/rules Centre has introduced a order/direction of the commission will be an new law through an ordinance which comes into force with immediate offence punishable with a or with fine up to ₹1 crore

Under the ordinance released by the law and justice ministry Thursday, Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) has been dissolved and replaced by a commission of over 20 members. The members are yet to be

Violation of its provisions entails punishment with a jail term of up to five years or with a fine up to ₹1 crore, or both.

selected.

"The ordinance may be called the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020. It shall apply to the national capital region and adjoining areas insofar as it relates to matters con-cerning air pollution in NCR. It shall come into force at once," an official said. President Ram Nath Kovind signed the ordi-

nance on Wednesday.

The adjoining areas
where it shall be in force include Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, adjoining areas of NCR and Delhi where any source of pollution is located which is causing an adverse impact on air quality in the national

capital region. The commission shall have the power to lay down parameters of air quality, discharge of environmental inspect premises violating the law, ordering clo-sure of non-abiding industries/plants etc.

"Any non-compliance or contravention of any pro-

#### SC relief for U'khand CM: CBI probe on graft stayed PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

Giving major relief to Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, the Supreme Court on Thursday

stayed the state high court's order directing a CBI probe against him on

allegations of corruption. Issuing notice to jour-nalist Umesh Kumar Sharma, on whose petition the high court ordered the CBI probe against Mr Rawat, a comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R. Subhash Reddy and M.R. Shah, however, refused to interfere with the high court quashing the FIR against Mr Sharma and the observations of mala fide in the registration of an FIR against him. The notice is

returnable in four weeks. While staying the part of the high court order on the registration of an FIR against the CM based on the allegation in the journalist's petition, Justice Bhushan noted the direction for a CBI probe by the high court was in exercise of its powers under Article 226 of the Constitution.

for Mr Appearing Rawat, attorney-general K.K. Venugopal, addressing the question of law, cited three Supreme Court rulings which said courts must guard against ordering probes against elected representatives in key positions that may have a politically destabilising effect. The A-G said in this case demands were already being made for the resignation of the chief minister.

While senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Uttarakhand state, and P.S. Patwalia wanted the entire judgment stayed, the bench refused, saying it will block only that part directing a CBI probe against the CM.

## ■ Day earlier, 6 BSP MLAs met Akhilesh, hinted leaving BSP Will even support BJP to beat SP: Maya

New Delhi, Oct. 29: Amid speculation that some of her party MLAs could switch sides in Uttar Pradesh, BSP leader Pradesh, leader said Mayawati Thursday that her party will leave no stone unturned to defeat SP candidates, in future elections, including those of MLC and Rajya Sabha, even if it means voting for candidates of BJP or any other "We have decided that to

immigrant visa that defeat SP candidate in allows US companies to future MLC elections in UP, employ foreign workers we will devote all our enerin speciality occupations gies and even if we have to that require theoretical or give our vote to a BJP cantechnical expertise. —PTIdidate or any other party India favours
'increased predictability'
in H-1B visas: Page 4 candidate, we will do it. Any party candidate who will be dominant over



We have decided that to defeat SP in future MLC elections, we will devote all our energies and even if we have to give our vote to a BJP candidate or any other party candidate.

- Mayawati, BSP chief

Samajwadi's second candidate Ramji Gautam's nomidate will get all BSP MLAs' nation for the Rajya Sabha vote for sure," Ms Mayawati told news agency polls had been forged. The move turned out to be futile with the Returning ANI. On Wednesday, six BSP MLAs reportedly met SP chief Akhilesh Yadav Officer still accepting Mr Gautam's nomination as and later threw hints that the BSP candidate for the they may switch sides. Four November 9 biennial elecof the rebels also filed an tions for the 10 Uttar affidavit, saying their sig-Pradesh seats that are natures on the party candifalling vacant. — Agencies

**Priyanka slams** Maya's 'support to BJP' remark

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

Congress general secre tary Priyanka Gandhi on Thursday lashed out at BSP supremo Mavawati for her remarks that her party will now look to defeat the Samajwadi Party candidates at all costs even if that requires "siding with the BJP" Sharing a video of Ms Mayawati on Twitter, Ms Gandhi wrote, "Now is there anything more to be

## Army creates own 'WhatsApp' for secure calls, texts

PAWAN BALI NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

developed a mobile messaging app similar to "WhatsApp" for secure voice, text and video calling. This app will be used within the Army to keep communications secure and was named "Secure Application for Internet' (SAI). "The application supports end-to-end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platforms over the Internet. It is quite similar to commercially available messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, GIMS and SAM-VAD, and utilises end-toend encryption messaging protocols," the Army said

The Indian Army has

It said SAI scores on security features with local inhouse servers and coding which can be tweaked as per requirements. "The process for filing process for filing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), hosting the infrastructure on NIC and working on an iOS platform is currently in progress," it said. Defence minister Rajnath Singh complimented the Army for developing the app.

The Indian Army has initiated several steps to prevent any attempts at online snooping by the spy agencies of other nations. Earlier this year the Army asked its officers and jawans to immediately delete their Facebook accounts and barred them from using some 88 other apps.

## **Militants kill BJP youth** leader, 2 others in J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, OCT. 29

in a statement.

A BJP youth leader and two associates were shot and critically injured by suspected militants in J&Ř's southern Kulgam district late Thursday. All three succumbed to their injuries on their way to hospital.

Police sources said Fida

Hussain Itoo, general sec retary of the J&K unit of BJP Yuva Morcha, and his associates Umar Hajam and Haroon Rashid Beigh were targeted by gunmen in Kulgam's Yaripora village. They were quickly evacuated to an emergency trauma hospital along the Srinagar-

Jammu highway. Moré on Page 4

#### 3 stabbed to death in 'Islamist terror attack' in Nice ly 'Allahu Akbar' (God is

Nice (France), Oct. 29: An attacker armed with a knife killed three people inside a church Thursday in the southern French city of Nice in what French President Emmanuel Macron said was an

"Islamist terrorist attack". He said France would not surrender its core values after visiting the Notre-Dame basilica in the southern city. Thousands of troops are being deployed to protect churches and schools. In Nice, one elder-ly victim was "virtually beheaded", officials said. Another woman and a man



French President Emmanuel Macron meets police officers and rescue workers after a knife attack at Notre Dame church in Nice, France, on Thursday.

also died. A male suspect was shot and detained. Anti-terror prosecutors have opened an investigation into the attack and

France has raised its national security alert to its highest level.

French media are quoting sources close to the investigation as saying the attacker was a 21-year-old provided any details.

THE ASSAILANT WAS

killings at the Notre Dame

Basilica, close to the site

in 2016 where another

attacker plowed a truck

into a Bastille Day crowd,

killing dozens of people.

wounded by police and

hospitalised after the

Tunisian migrant, however the authorities have not Nice mayor Christian Estrosi spoke of "Islamofascism" and said the suspect had "repeated endless-

a teacher. It comes during a growing furore over caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that were republished in recent months by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo

It was the third attack in

two months in France that

authorities have attributed

to Muslim extremists.

including the beheading of

greatest)".

renewing vociferous debate in France and the Muslim world over the depictions that Muslims consider offensive.

More on Page 6

IN BRIEF

#### 'DU V-C's suspension delayed action'

New Delhi: Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday termed as "delayed action" the ministry of education's intervention in the happenings at Delhi University, including the suspension of vice chancellor Yogesh Tyagi over alleged administrative lapses. Sisodia, who is also Delhi's education minister, said the lapse is also on the Central government's part that such prestigious institutions are being allowed to be mismanaged. "It is unfortunate that a prestigious university like DU has to witness all this. The Central government is not able to take care of prestigious institutions like this and reports of such mismanagement are coming, Sisodia said. "First time it has happened in DU's history that questions have been raised on the leadership. have been raising several issues pertaining to DU with the Centre for two years but there has been an extreme delay in taking an action. This action has come at a very late stage," he added. The comments by Sisodia came a day after Yogesh Tyagi was suspended on the orders of President Ram Nath Kovind after an inquiry was instituted against him over allegations of administrative lapses and dereliction of duty. Among the lapses

#### agitation. -PTI**₹12.85L penalty on**

flagged against Tyagi are non-filling of vacant posi-

tions, delay in redressal of

and vigilance complaints in

university, mishandling of

the issue of ad hoc teach-

ers which led to a massive

sexual harassment cases

polluters in Noida Noida: The Noida Authority on Thursday said it has slapped penalties worth Rs 12.85 lakh on entities that were found violating anti-air pollution guidelines here. The action included a major penalty worth Rs 10 lakh on an entity found violating guidelines of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), it said. The Authority has issued penalties worth over Rs 77.98 lakh since October 17 on entities contributing to air pollution here, according to compiled figures given by the Authority. The action against polluters comes in the wake of the GRAP coming into force amid deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR, even as the air quality in Noida remained 'very poor' on Thursday. "Varying amounts of penalties were imposed on entities not adhering to official guidelines on containing air pollution. Altogether, penalties worth Rs 12.85 lakh were imposed on Thursday," the Authority said in a statement. It said 390 tonnes of construction and demolition waste was picked up from various locations in Noida on Wednesday and sent to the processing plant in Sector 80 where 130 tonnes of

## **IPL** betting racket

waste was disposed of after

due process. Road stretches

while another 243 kilometres on 67 routes were cleaned

streets measuring 55 kilome-

tres were cleaned during the

night using water treated by

sewage treatment plants. it

measuring 112 kilometres

were sprinkled with water,

mechanically by sweeping

machines. Footpaths and

busted, 3 arrested New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested three persons from Saini Basti, Kotla Mubarakpur for allegedly running an Indian Premier League (IPL) betting racket. As per a statement, a raiding party was deployed after the Delhi Police received secret information regarding the racket. "At about 10:33 pm. a raid was conducted after complying with all the legal aspects at the given address with the raiding party duly

deployed accordingly nearby the given address to prevent the escape of offenders," the statement said. The three arrested persons were identified as Ashish Gupta, 26; Himanshu Rawat, 29; and Yogesh, 26, A total of five mobile phones were seized from the accused, along with three registers, where betting entries worth over ₹3.50 lakh were recorded. A case under the Delhi Public Gambling Act has been registered at the Kotla Mubarakpur police station.

Festival gatherings, poor air quality led to rise in cases'

# Record 5,739 Covid cases, 27 deaths in Delhi in 24 hrs

NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

recorded 5,739 fresh Covid-19 cases on Thursday, the highest single-day spike here till date, as the infection tally in the city mounted to over 3.75 lakh, authorities said. This is the second consecutive day when over 5,000 cases have been reported in a day in the city. The previous highest single-day spike of 5,673 cases was recorded on Wednesday.

The Delhi government cited its new strategy involving aggressive contact tracing and testing as one of the reasons for a sudden surge in the number of infections in the city. The Union health ministry, however, said social gatherings during festivities, deteriorating air quality, increasing incidences of respiratory disorders are among a few reasons attributed to the rise in Covid-19 cases in Delhi.

Twenty-seven new fatalities were recorded, pushing the death toll in the national capital to

**Jindal Global** 

gets 'eminent'

tag, now has

full autonomy

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The O.P. Jindal Global

University (JGU) on

Thursday signed a mem-

orandum of understand-

ing with the Union edu-

cation ministry and was

conferred the status of

Sonepat, Haryana, joins

a group of 10 private institutions in India to

be unshackled from reg-

ulatory controls and get

full autonomy.

JGU's founding chan-

cellor Naveen Jindal

said: "This is an incredi-

ble recognition for JGU

and is a great tribute to

achievements of the uni-

versity... In our journey towards becoming a

world-class university,

we will leave no stone

every effort to enable

JGU with resources, aca-

demic freedom and

autonomy that will help

Prof. C. Raj Kumar,

JGU's founding vice-chancellor, said: "Today is a red-letter day in the

history of JGU. We have

entered into India's own

'Ivy League' equivalent

of top 10 public and top 10

Therefore,

institutions.

JGU

JGU flourish further."

extraordinary

"Institution Eminence". With this, the university, based in

NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

ter Satyendar Jain on Thursday said the AAP government has changed its anti-corona strategy by conducting aggressive tracing and testing in the city, citing it as one of the reasons for a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases in the past few days.

6,423, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department. The 5,739 fresh cases came out of the 60,124 tests conducted the previous day. The active cases tally on Thursday rose to 30,952 from 29,378 the previous day, as per the bulletin. It said that the total number of cases has climbed

to 3,75,753. Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain Thursday said the AAP government has changed its anti-corona strategy by conducting aggressive tracing and testing in the city, citing it as one of the reasons for a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases in



Satyendar Jain

the past few days. Mr Jain said that this may be a third wave but it's too early to say that con-clusively. He said one should wait for another week to see the trends before declaring the surge a third wave.

Talking to reporters about the new strategy which, he claimed, would be the "best strategy" to contain the virus, Jain said the Delhi govern-ment has started conducting aggressive tracing and testing of all family members and close contacts of those found infected with the novel coronavirus.

"And, we are at times, testing them twice after a

A view of the crowd at Sadar Bazar as people buy for the festivals ignoring social

gap of 4-5 days. We don"t want to leave any posichanged our strategy that"s why the number of cases has gone up. I believe that this strategy would be successful," Jain said.

Asked if the government was not conducting tests earlier on the family members of those found positive for Covid-19, the health minister said that authorities would conduct test only on those who had coronavirus-like symptoms.

"Our main focus is that not a single (Covid-19) case should be left for testing. You can see a rise in number of cases, but it is a good strategy and its results should be seen soon," he said.

On being asked about the figure of 15,000 cases projected by per day experts coming months, "Figures have been projected by experts on surge in daily Covid-19 cases, but it may not reach that level. reach that However, we want to be

> been set up at the Delhi Secretariat to monitor the status of complaints. A team of 70 'green' mar-shals will assist in their redressal, he said.

The national capital's air quality inched closer to the "severe" category on Thursday, primarily due to calm winds and spike in farm fires.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' monitoring agency, SAFAR, said the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution was 36 per cent on Thursday - the maximum so far this season.

Delhi recorded a 24-hour 312 Wednesday,

#### **'Green Delhi'** app launched for redressal of pollution plaints

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29



Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday launched the l" Green

Arvind D e l h i ' '
Kejriwal mobile appli-

cation using which citizens can bring pollution causing activities to the government"s notice. The chief minister the government wants to involve everyone in the fight against pollution as "no big change can take place without the support of people". He said citizens can

click pictures or make a video of pollution causing activities, such as burning of garbage, industrial pollution, dust etc. and upload them on the application. The application will identify the location and the complaint will be automatically forwarded to the concerned department for time-bound redressal, he said.

"We have prepared strict timelines for each type of complaint. The departments concerned will also have to post a picture after the complaint is addressed," Kejriwal said. The application can be downloaded from Google Playstore.

A "green war room" has

average air quality index (AQI) of 395. It was 297 on Tuesday, 353 on Monday, 349 on Sunday, 345 on Saturday and 366 on

# 6,700 prisoners out on bail amid Covid set to return to jail

To stay at temporary jail in Mandoli

New Delhi, Oct. 29: Delhi Thursday said that over 6,700 prisoners, who were released either on interim bail or parole in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, will now have to surrender in a phased manner at a temporary jail set up near Mandoli here after the Delhi high court decided to put an end to the bail extensions granted to them.

According to prison officials, after the surrender of the prisoner, they will have to go through Covid-19 test and those who test negative for coronavirus will be quarantined for 15 days and those who test positive will be sent to a hospital or a Covid care centre. "The quarantine centre

has a temporary jail that had been set up in a police colony near Mandoli jail in northeast Delhi. There are 300 flats in the police colony which has been converted to temporary prison and it can accommodate 2,000 people. At least six inmates would be put up in each flat which has two bedrooms with dinning space keeping in mind social distancing norms,' said the official.

The Delhi High Court on October 20 had said that all undertrials whose bail period was extended prior to and during Covid-19 lockdown have to surrender in a phased manner between November 2 and November

The court also said that the

order would also be applicable to 356 prisoners who were granted bail by the high court and they would have to surrender before jail authorities on November 13.

According to Sandeep Goel, the Director General of Prison, with inmates set to return, jail authorities have made massive arrangements and taken adequate precautions to ensure safety in order to combat the further spread of coronavirus.

"According to a high court order issued on October 20, we are expecting around 2,200 inmates to surrender in a phased manner from November 2 to November 13. Out of them, 356 prisoners are those who were granted bail by the high court and would have to surrender before jail authorities on November 13," said Goel.

"In case any prisoner test positive for coronavirus, the prisoner would be either shifted to a hospital or a COVID care centre by jail authorities under police guard and would still be considered surrendered," said Goel.

Delhi Prisons comprises Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli jails and the current population of prisoners lodged is around 16,000, the jail authorities said.

A data shared by the Delhi Prisons on October 28 said out of the 96 inmates who had tested positive, 86 have recovered, two died and there are presently eight

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY** TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No. 10(A)/2020-21 dated 29.10.2020 Name of work with its location A AMC of 3 Nos. RO system with 1000 litre per hr capaci for 3 years in the S/O SSE/W/RB under ADEN/E-V Approx. Cost of work A 1930855.24 (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as pe Railway Boards letter no 2015//CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Completion period of work Date and time for submission of Upto 15.00 hrs on 27.11.2020 Opening tender and opening of tender of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 27.11.2020 Website particulars notice board location tender form can be purchased etc 128-W/269/OET/20-21/WE/NIT 11(A) Dated: 29.10.2020 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

#### **Man stabbed** to death in south Delhi

New Delni, Oct. 29: A 21-year-old man was allegedly by two men after he objected to an outsider visiting their colony in south Tigri Extension, said on Thursday.

The victim, identified as Satish Kumar, a resident of Tigri Extension, stabbed Tuesday night. He was then rushed to Batra Hospital in an

exempted from most reginjured state where ulatory controls and has he was declared dead, been given full autono-

#### Defamation case withdrawn

## Kapil Mishra tenders unconditional apology to Satyendar Jain

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

A Delhi court has closed a criminal defamation case against BJP leader Kapil Mishra after he tendered an unconditional apology to AAP leader and Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain.

complaint was filed by Mr Jain against Mr Mishra in 2017 for his defamatory statements against him and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The case was closed on Wednesday after Mr Mishra agreed to tender an unconditional apolobefore additional chief metropolitan magistrate, Vishal Pahuja.

"It is submitted by the accused (Kapil Mishra) that he is ready to make a statement before the court tendering unconapology. Complainant

submitted that in case the accused gives his statement before the court, he shall withdraw the present complaint," the Court recorded. After recording the

statement of Mr Mishra, as well as Mr Jain, the Court disposed of the defamation complaint as withdrawn. In a press conference held in 2017, Mr Mishra had accused Mr Jain of handing over a bribe of crore to Arvind

MrMishra also claimed that Mr Jain 'settled a land deal worth ₹50 crore of Kejriwal's relative". On social media, Mr Mishra went on to state that Mr Jain would go to jail in a few days. If convicted, the offence of defamation entails a maximum punishment of

#### **GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA** TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER (APPROX.) IN SPECIAL REPAIR OF SLAB REPLACEMENT IN GOVT. NEHRU COLLEGE 28.10.2020 https://etenders.hry.nic.in PWD (B&R) JHAJJAR 57.87 LACS 01251-252085 AT JHAJJAR IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT. SPECIAL REPAIR TO SUB HEALTH CENTER AT VILLAGE SULTANPUR. Pwd-eeed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in PWD B&R, GURUGRAM 2.60 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in JHARSA AND PATLI IN DISTRICT GURUGRAM (PDG. E.I. ONLY) 10.11.2020 DNIT FOR THE WORK ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONLIZATION OF 30.10.2020 01666-220530 ICU/HDU IN THE EXISTING TRAUMA CENTER BUILDING IN CAMPUS OF https://etenders.hrv.nic.in PWD B&R, SIRSA pwd-eepd1-sirsa@hry.nic.in CIVIL HOSPITAL AT SIRSA.(RE-INVITE) PWD B&R YAMUNA yamunanagar@hry.nic.in01732-KARERA KHURD TO MISRI KI MAJRI (ID 518) ( 0.00 TO 1.80) IN 142.12 LACS https://etenders.hrv.nic.in YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT + 3 OTHER WORKS ANNUAL REPAIR ESTIMATE FOR 7-J TYPE HOUSES (1 TO 4) 8-J TYPE HOUSES (1 TO 4) SDE HOUSES NO.1, 13-JB TYPE HOUSES 1 TO 16 (16 NOS, HOUSES), 12-1 TYPE HOUSES (H.NO.1 TO 64), 11-1 TYPE 01262-282871 28.10.2020 PWD B&R ROHTAK 12 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in HOUSES, D.P. RESIDENCE, 9-J TYPE HOUSES 40 NOS., 14-J TYPE HOUSES & 13-J TYPE HOUSES 57 TO 112 NOS. (56 NOS.) IN PGIMS ROHTAK FOR THE YEAR 2020-21. DEVELOPMENT OF PLANTATION IN C/V OF KUNJPURA KARNAL KAITHAL KHANORI ROAD CHIRO MOR TO KAITHAL FROM TWO LANE TO FOUR LANE IN THE STATE OF HARYANA EXCEPT CULVERTS PWD B&R, CHANDIGARH 30.30 LACS 0172-2920301 https://etenders.hry.nic.in 18.11.2020 RETAINING WALL AND MINOR BRIDGES FROM 42.00 TO 69.400 (EXCEPT KM 54.700 TO 57.400) IN DISTT. KAITHAL + 1 OTHER WORL STG., BY PDG. 30MM THICK BITUMINOUS CONCRETE ON EXISTING ROAD FROM PANIPAT TO DERA SIKLIGARH (RAJAKHERI TO BARANA) 27.10.2020 PWD R&R PANIPAT https://etenders.hrv.nic.in 78.83 LACS 0180-2638652 RD 2.100 TO 3.050 TO 9.800 = 7.00 KM IN DISTT PANIPAT (RE-INVITED) 10.11.2020 ANNUAL REPAIR ESTIMATE FOR CENTRAL STORE, AUGMENTATION OPERATION THEATRE & NEURO SURGERY, 50 BEDDED PRIVATE WARD 27.10.2020 01262-282871 PWD B&R ROHTAK 47 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in & GENERAL HOSPITAL (WARD & O.T) IN PGIMS ROHTAK FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 + 3 OTHER WORKS DEVELOPMENT OF PINDARA TIRATH AT VILLAGE PINDARA IN JIND CLOSING DATE 01681-249416 https://etenders.hry.nic.in DISTT. + 1 OTHER WORK pwd-eepd-jind@hry.nic.in 17.11.2020 TENDER FOR THE WORK OF IRQP OF NH-73 (NEW NH-7) FROM RD 28.10.2020 0172-2920477 153.853 TO 160.353 (BARWALA BYPASS) IN PANCHKULA DISTT. PWD B&R, PANCHKULA 222.7 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in (AFFECTED PORTION FROM RD 157.753 TO 158.203 ALONGWITH JUNCTION) PANCHAYAT SAMITI CONST. OF VYAYAMSHALA AHMEDWAS KHERA & DHANI SHYAMA 26.10.2020 01252-258238 https://etenders.hry.nic.in 09.11.2020 30.10.2020 bdpoloharu1@gmail.com 01664-243929 OHARU DISTT BHIWAN BLOCK LOHARU CONSTRUCTION OF LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT (RETENDER) 45.57 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in BHIWANI 14.11.2020 prexeeng.bhw@hry.nic.in CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPURPOSE CENTER COMPRISING OF 01732-237833 /prexeeng.ynr PANCHAYATI RAJ 29.10.2020 WAITING HALL, COMMUNITY CENTER WITH PARKING AT VILLAGE 116.58 LACS https://etenders.hrv.nic.in YAMUNA NAGAR 18.11.2020 BHAGWANPUR BLOCK BILASPUR DISTT. YAMUNA NAGAR 98020-58718 / 0171-2980510/ PANCHAYATI RAJ, 29.10.2020 PDG E.I. IN KNOWLEDGE CENTER IN VILLAGE BANDRANA, TENOTHA 19.40 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in GEONG DISTT. KAITHAL + 4 OTHER WORKS PANCHAYATI RAJ.BLOCK SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIAL BLOCK &DISTT. BHIWANI (GROUP A DEVELOPMENT NIL https://etenders.hry.nic.in &PANCHAYAT OFFICER. 04.11.2020 bdpobhiwani@gmail.com 31.10.2020 PANCHAYATI RAJ. CONST. OF 3 NOS LINK RASTA AT VARIOUS VILLAGE BLOCK-F-NAGAR 87.94 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in prexeeng.grg@hry.nic.in GURUGRAM 09.11.2020 dfojind2009@rediffmail.com FOREST DEPARTMENT, 29.10.2020 RASING OF NEW PLANTS IN HERBAL PARK NR' http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.ir 03.11.2020 01681-255470 RETAINING WALL PART NO. 1 & 2 MATA MANTRA DEVI MANDIR AT FOREST DEPARTMENT, BHAGWANPUR IN DHANAURA BEAT IN RANJITPUR BLOCK OF 16.50 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in dfo.ynr-hry@nic.in YAMUNA NAGAR 02.11.2020 SADHAURA RANGE + 1 OTHER WORK EXTENSION OF EXISTING VR BRIDGE AT RD 0 OF SHERGARH SUB 01744-239164 RESOURCES DEPARTMENT 82.90 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in MINOR. + 7 OTHER WORKS 10.11.2020 xenwsdivnkkra@gmail.com HARYANA KURUKSHETRA CONST. OF GVD 3 NOS, CONST OF VKC AT VILLAGE SARDAREWALA PANCHAYATI RAJ 29.10.2020 AND CONST. OF BUS QUE SHELTER AT VILLAGE BANGAON. DISTT. 01667-230855 96.42 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in FATEHABAD 05.11.2020 **FATEHABAD** IRRIGATION & WATER CEMENT CONCRETE LINING (DESIGN MIX) BY PAVER FROM RD 136000 CLOSING DATE 9812111077 44.60 CRORE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO 160000 OF JLN FEEDER EXCEPT REACH RD 151450 TO 152100 JLN https://etenders.hrv.nic.in FEEDER. +1 OTHER WORK MANAS ANDMANAS PATTI -ESTIMATE FOR STRENGTHENING OF HARYANA ROHTAK DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD 203.58 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in ENGINEERING, KAITHAL ee1kaithal@phedharyana.gov.in TAP CONNECTION (FHTC) TO HOUSEHOLD TO VILLAGE MANAS AND 03.11.2020 RECALLED TENDER NOTICE FOR THE WORK OF ROUGH COST ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY FACILITY WITH STAND http://etenders.hry.nic.in PUBLIC HEALTH POST IN PLOTS OF 100 SOR YARD FOR THE BPL/SCHEDULE CASTE & 27.10.2020 01251-254086 3.02 LACS TENDER NO BACKWARD CLASS (CATEGORY-A) HOLDERS IN VILLAGE RAIYA (UNDER MGGBY) FALLS UNDER PHED NO. 2, JHAJJAR DISTT. JHAJJAR ENGINEERING JHAJJAR 2020\_HRY\_148957\_1+ 2 OTHER + 2 OTHER WORKS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etendehry.nic.in

RO No. PRDH-Advt. No:- 11/2021/20596297600000/83478

#### **UP: Girl killed, 7 hurt**

in clash over affair

Pratapgarh: A 17-year-old girl was killed and seven others injured in a clash at Tala village under the Kandhai Police Station area here police said on Thursday. According to police, the girl was reportedly in a relationship with her neighbour Rajkumar alias Raja (18) with whom she had gone to a fair and stayed at his house on Tuesday night. The incident had led to a dispute between the family members of the duo, SP Anurag Arya said. A panchayat was held in the village on Wednesday to resolve the matter. Though the girl returned to her house, a clash broke out between the two sides on Wednesday evening follow-ing which the girl and seven others were injured. They were rushed to the district hospital where the doctors declared the girl as dead. The others were referred to Allahabad for treatment, the SP said. — PTI

#### Mumbai doc booked

for raping colleague

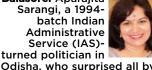
Palghar: Police in Maharashtra's Palghar district have registered a case against a Mumbai-based doctor for allegedly raping his colleague, an official said on Thursday. The 30-year-old woman lodged a complaint at Dahanu police station alleging that the accused raped her multiple times between July 2018 and September 2020 on the false promise of marrying her, the official said. "She also said in her complaint that the accused impregnated her and forced her to go for abortion against her wish. He threatened her that he would make her objectionable videos public if she refused to do so. He also used to stalk and harass her," a Palghar police spokesperson

#### C'garh: Woman Naxal killed in gunfight

Sukma: A woman Naxal was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Sukma district, police said on Thursday. The skirmish occurred on Wednesday in a forest between Duled and Minpa villages under Chintalnar police station area, where a joint team of security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, inspector general of police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said. Personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special lask Force (STF), Centra Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit CoBRA were involved in the action, he said. During a search following the gunfight, the team found the body of a woman ultra, a .303 rifle, a huge cache of explosive materials and items of daily use from the area, he said. - PTI

#### SARANGI ATTRACTS **LARGE CROWDS IN BYPOLL MEETINGS**

Balasore: Aparajita Sarangi, a 1994batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS)-



Odisha, who surprised all by winning the prestigious Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, has been the star attraction of voters in the ongoing Odisha Assembly bypolls. The ever-smiling, graceful and elegant sareewearing lady is seen easily mingling with the crowd

with consummate ease, striking an instant emotional chord with the people. In Balasore, while making the door-to-door campaign, she is spending quite substantial time with women, young voters and sharing lighter moments with them. Hailing from a rural background in Bihar and making it to the civil services with a lot of struggle, Ms Sarangi was a strict and firm administrator. She brought many reforms in all the departments, she also served in different positions in her career. Her reforms in the primary edu-

cation system shot her to enviable fame and made her familiar household name in the state. Picked up by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself ahead of the 2019 general elections, Aparajita proved that she was a different material. Her strong stand against the alleged "corruption", "nepo-

tism" and "incompetence"

of the ruling BJD made her

instantly popular.

# BJP slams Rahul, calls him 'prince of Pakistan'

Nadda's dig came after Pak MP said Abhinandan was released fearing attack

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

Calling Congress former president Rahul Gandhi as the "prince of Pakistan," the BJP on Thursday accused the opposition party leader of building his party's entire campaign against the Balakot airstrike by the Indian Air Force only to weaken the Indian Armed forces and alleged that the Congress leader "tried every trick" to ensure India does not get the lat-

After a video of a senior opposition party leader of at 9 PM" if IAF officer Pakistan speaking in the Abhinandan Varthaman

Congress leader 'tried every trick' to ensure India does not get **latest Rafale Planes** J.P. Nadda, BJP president

country's national assembly surfaced, in which the PMN-L MP claimed that Pakistan's foreign minis-ter Shah Mahmood ter Shah Mahmood Qureshi and the country's Army Chief Gen Bajwa were "shivering and sweating" during a meeting over reports that India would attack "that night

was not released, the BJP, taking a dig at the Congress leader, said he should now believe as it has come from "most

trusted nation."
Wing Commander Varthaman had landed in Pakistani custody following an aerial dogfight between Indian and Pakistani pilots after the Balakot airstrikes by

India in 2019.

BJP president J.P. Nadda said, "The Congress' princeling does not believe anything Indian, be it our Army, our government, our citizens. So, here is something from his 'Most Trusted Nation', Pakistan. Hopefully, now he sees some light...". The BJP president said the Congress "premised its entire campaign around keeping our armed forces weak" while its leaders "mocked our armed forces, questioned their valour and tried every trick to ensure India doesn't get latest Rafale Planes."

■ UP CM urges Bihar voters during his rallies

## **Ensure victory of Nitish for** overall development: Yogi

**NAYEAR AZAD** PATNA, OCT. 29

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday urged people of Bihar to ensure the victory of Nitish Kumar for the overall development of the state.

While addressing rallies in Siwan, Vaishali and Madhubani he said that the BJP, an alliance partner of the JD(U), has fulfilled its promises on emotive issues like Triple Talaq, Ayodhya, Kashmir

and Pakistan.

He said, "Modi government has worked to uplift the poor and needy. The government also ended triple talaq to establish the dignity of women, taught Pakistan a lesson



Yogi Adityanath

through surgical strikes, removed article 370 and constructing a grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya".

He also used the occasion to criticize the opposition coalition being led by RJD for doing politics appeasement and indulging in corruption.
While addressing a rally

the sources said.
The BJP veteran was the

state chief minister in 1995

and again during 1998-2001.

Narendra Modi had suc-

ceeded him as Gujarat chief

minister. The state govern-ment has declared a day's

Thursday, Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani told

reporters. Keshubhai's last

rites will be performed with

full state honours, he added.

Hospital authorities said

Patel died due to cardiac

Patel was rushed to the

hospital after his pulse and

oxygen level dropped on

Thursday morning, his son

Bharat Patel said. "He recently recovered from

mourning

are trying to bring back jungle raj in Bihar but they should know that after wiping out terrorism in Kashmir preparations are on to uproot Naxalism" He continued saying that the opposition coalition is being led by leaders who have no vision or roadmap for the development. Targeting the RJD over the employment issue he said that "till 15 years ago, the youth of Bihar were forced to hide their identity and those

who were responsible for

the crisis are once again

blowing the trumpet of

employment and misleading them".

in Siwan Yogi Adityanath said that "the RJD,

Congress and CPI (ML)

## Diggi asks SP man to back out from MP bypolls, audio leaks

**CHOUDHURY** 

An audio in which veteran Congress Digvijay Singh was heard persuading Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate from Gwalior Assembly constituency Roshan Mirza to withdraw his nomination by offering him party ticket in the upcoming local urban body elections in the state on Thursday went viral in social media, triggering a political row.

audio clip, the former chief minister was heard giving the offer to Mr Mirza to make him bow down from the contest in the November 3 by-elections to Gwalior assem-

bly constituency.
"Why are you contesting (in the by-elections)? Do you want to ensure the victory of BJP (can-didate)? We will look into your interest. You withdraw vour nomination today. We will give you a ticket in the coming local urban body elections" Mr Singh was heard

**Will dig out all** 

govt, says BJP

AGE CORRESPONDENT

With barely five days left

for the crucial by-elec-

tions to 28 Assembly con-

stituencies in Madhya

Pradesh, ruling BJP on

Thursday exposed alleged corruptions in

the 15-month-old Kamal

Nath government that

fell in March this year fol-

lowing resignation of 22

State BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma said

that a ministerial com-

mittee constituted by the

Shivraj government was

probing into various alleged omissions and

commissions surfaced

during the Kamal Nath

"Large scale corrup-tions during the Kamal

Nath government have

come to the fore. We will

dig out all the corrup-

tions in the previous

Congress government in

the state. A probe is ongo-

ing," Mr Sharma told

Congress, however, dis-

missed all the charges

describing them as "utter

Congress MLAs.

government.

reporters here.

corruption in

**Kamal Nath** 

KOLKATA, OCT. 29



the audio. The audiotriggered a political row chief with

minister Shivraj Singh Congress of indulging in electoral malpractices by asking the SP candidate to withdraw from the contest.

The audio has exposed corrupt practices being resorted to by Congress to manipulate elections", Mr Chouhan said. In his reaction, Mr

Singh confirmed that he had contacted the SP candidate to persuade him to withdraw from the contest. "I admit that it was my

voice in audio. I have nothing to hide. I have done nothing wrong by persuading him (Mr Mirza) to withdraw his nomination. As a Congress leader, I have the right to ask a Congressman who has filed nomination as an independent candidate to withdraw his nomination in the interest of my party", Mr Singh said.

AGE CORRESPONDENT

West Bengal BJP presi-

dent and Midnapore MP

Dilip Ghosh, on Thursday, declared that

cases against all politi-cal workers, irrespective

of party lines, would be

withdrawn once BJP

comes to power in the

state in the next year's

rally in the city, "It is

funny that each of the

leaders of the party,

Assembly election. Referring to Trinamul Congress, he said at a



Illuminated Minara mosque ahead of the Id Milad-un-Nabi in Mumbai on

## BJP MP calls Mamata 'killer' over murder of party worker

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI** KOLKATA, OCT. 29

Triggering controversy BJP MP of Bishnupur Saumitra Khan on Thursday called West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee a

His blistering attack on the Trinamul Congress supremo came during a 12-hour Bagnan bandh in Howrah, called by the BJP in protest of its worker: Kinkar Majhi's murder allegedly by the ruling party activists in

Visiting Majhi's family, Mr Khan alleged, "A police officer heard everything from the slain's family members and sat in silence shamelessly. He said he can not do anything except informing his superiors who will, in turn, say deputy inspector general." He claimed, "Then the DIG will state he will inform killer Mamata Banerjee. What is the benefit of informing Mamata Banerjee when she herself is the killer as the CM? From tomorrow we will launch a statewide Dharna agitation against it." Earlier the state BJYM

president was stopped by the police when he visited Bagnan to meet Majhi's

government in May in Bengal, all the political cases will be withdrawn.

Not only BJP, CPI(M)

and Congress, we will make even Trinamul

Congress leaders free

Puncturing his claim,

Mohammad Salim alleged, "BJP plays poli-

tics of lies only. They are in power in Tripura. Have they withdrawn

the cases or are they fil-

ing false cases? Have the

people forgotten the

concerned, relax these

provisions further, up to

a maximum of 30% of

the production of food-

grains over and above the provisions, an offi-

northeastern

cial statement said.

Bhima Koregaon case?

leader

from their cases.

CPI(M)

## Keshubhai Patel, former Gujarat CM, passes away but his health

Former Gujarat chief min-ister Keshubhai Patel, who played a pivotal role in strengthening the BJP in the state, died here on Thursday after prolonged

Keshubhai poll related proillness, family sources said. Patel (92), who recovered from coronavirus infection recently, was rushed to a hospital in Ahmedabad on Thursday morning following health complications,

Patel g r a m m e s , including pub-lic rallies, following Patel's death.

"All state government work was also put on hold today as a mark of respect,' Gujarat deputy chief minis-

kept deteriorat-ing," he added. The ruling

BJP has post-poned all its by-

ter Nitin Patel said. Rupani cut short a poll rally at Ghadhada and visited Keshubhai"s residence in Gandhinagar, where the body was kept, to pay trib-

"He was like BJP's Bhishma Pitamah in Gujarat. He had a tremendous socio-political acumen. He spoke less, but his every word was a command

for BJP workers. "Being a farmer himself, he worked for their welfare. We passed a resolution in the state cabinet meeting to express grief over this Rupani

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY** 30-Elect-28-T-2020-21-E3 Name of work and its location Repairing & rewinding of submersible & monobloc submersible pumps over Delhi division Approx cost of the works in Rs. 49.28 lacs Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Address of the office Earnest Money Rs. 98600.00 Date & time of subi of tender 27.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs 27.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs Opening of tender www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/ ebsite & notice board General, New Delhi CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



available

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

#### **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow 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 & https://etender.up.nic.in Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 1. 41/GM/SM(WC-2)/2020-21, Name of work : M/o Road (Beautification of Entry Gate & Re-laying of Side Patries of Film City, Sector-16A), Noida. Cost - Rs. 24.39 Lacs.

Which can be uploaded by date 12.11.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 13.11.2020 at 11.00 AM.

36/GM/SM(WC-10)/ET/2020-21, Name of work : M/o & D/o Village (Drain, Culvert and Sump Development works for Village Gulawali), Noida. Cost-Rs. 20.56 Lacs.

Which can be uploaded by date 05.11.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 06.11.2020 at 11.00 AM.

General Manager, NOIDA

#### CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**

No. 256-Sig/SPL/TKJ/219/TKD A&C Dy CSTE/SPL/TKJ, Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge New Delhi acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E- tenders in Single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying

inimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work: Outdoor and Indoor Work with part supply of Signalling materials in Connection with the work of Rs. 5,20,27,391.15 Approximate cost of the

(Rs Five Crore Twenty Lakh Twenty Sever Thousand Three hundred Ninety One and Paisa Rs. 410100/- (To be submitted online) 10 Months from the date of issue of letter of 5 Website address and Date www. ireps.gov.in and Time where tender

Closing date 11.00 Hrs. on date: 23.11.2020 Date of Opening of tender 11.30 Hrs on date: 23.11.2020 45 days from the date of opening of tender enders without earnest money will be summarily rejected). Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored. The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E- Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. Necessary changes, Corrigendum/addendum,

equired, would be posted on this web site only SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# 100% grains to be packed in jute bags

Will withdraw all political cases: Ghosh

I hereby announce that when BJP will

form its government in May in Bengal,

all the political cases will be withdrawn.

Not only BJP, CPI(M), and Congress, we

- Dilip Ghosh,

BJP president

porters.

will make even TMC leaders

free from their cases

which has been in power

here, has cases against them because if and

when they quit, they will

be sent to jail. Many peo-

ple were rendered home-

less and penniless here

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday approved the proposal that 100 per cent of foodgrains and 20 per cent of sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags, a step which is aimed at promoting the jute industry. The decision to pack

sugar in diversified jute bags will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry. ▶ THE DECISION to pack sugar in diversified jute bags will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry. Further, the decision also

mandates that initially 10 per cent of the indents of iute bags for packing foodgrains would be placed through a reverse auction on the Gem por-

Further, the decision also mandates that initially 10 per cent of the indents of jute bags for may, in consultation packing foodgrains with the user Ministries packing foodgrains would be placed through a reverse auction on the Gem portal. This will gradually usher in a regime of price discov-ery. The Government has expanded the scope of mandatory packaging norms under the Jute Packaging Material Packaging I (JPM) Act, 1987.

after they were implicat-

ed in different cases. All

of them were TMC sup-

Mr Ghosh added, "I

hereby announce that

when BJP will form its

or disruption in the supply of jute packaging material or in other contingency/exigency, the Ministry of Textiles

The approval will benefit farmers and workers located in the eastern regions of the country particularly in the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Andhra

In case of any shortage Pradesh, Meghalaya and

reservoirs play an important role in the economic selected dams, through and agricultural growth of our country by storing structural as well as nonapproximately 300 billion

> annually. The programme will enable states and dam owners to extend these safety protocols and activities beyond the selected dams to all other dams within their jurisdiction, overall enhancing the cul-

cubic meter of water

#### Cabinet nod to programme for improving dams AGE CORRESPONDENT and property located downstream of these skilled manpower for their **▶ THE DRIP** will initially better operation. cover 19 states, with an official

NEW DELHI, OCT 29

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the second and third phases of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (Drip), which will initially cover 19 states, with an outlay of ₹10,211 crore. It entails funding physical rehabilitation of important dams as well as capacity building of dam operators in order to ensure the

availability of trained and

According to

sources, the programme will run for 10 years and will be implemented in two phases. They added that in order to carry forthe momentum gained through the ongoing Drip and expand it vertically and horizontally, the new scheme DRIP phase II, co-financed by World Bank (WB) and Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

outlay of ₹10,211 crore. The programme will run for 10 years and will be implemented in two

with \$250 million each, covers large dams in 19 states of the country. This scheme is especial-

ly focused on mitigating the risks of dam failure and ensuring the safety of people, riverine ecology

structural measures. India ranks third globally after China and the United States of America, with 5,334 large dams in operation. In addition, about 411 dams are under construc-tion at present. There are also several thousand smaller dams. These dams are vital for ensuring the water security of the country. Indian dams and

ture of dam safety in the country.

#### **Court seeks probe**

into Kangana posts

Mumbai: A magistrate court in Mumbai on Thursday directed the police to conduct an inquiry into the statements allegedly made by Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli on social media platforms and file a report by December 5. The inquiry has been ordered on a private complaint filed against the duo by a city-based lawyer claiming that through their tweets the actress and her sister have caused disharmony among two reli-gious groups. "Alleged video is not available on record.

Allegations are based upon the comments of the accused on social media platforms. Evidence against the accused appears to be of electronic nature. Therefore, inquiry at the hands of police is necessary," said the metropolitan magistrate at Andheri court.

#### EC removes SP, DM as violence erupts in Munger

■ Continued from Page 1 department, while Mr Dhillon

was a Special Task Force SP. During the day, Munger witnessed large-scale violence and arson over the Monday night incident. Alleging that no action was taken against the SP and other police personnel over the Monday night incident, the agitators allegedly torched muffasil and women police stations in the town. They also allegedly set police outposts at Purab Sarai and Basudeopur on fire, and ransacked the SP office and several other police stations and outposts.

The office of Sub Divisional Officer (SDO) was also allegedly targeted by the protestors, official sources said.
Witnesses said that finding

themselves outnumbered, the police personnel at all these stations escaped from the

Additional director general of police (headquarters) Jitendra Kumar said that extra police force has been sent to Munger.

Deputy inspector general of police, Munger, Manu Maharaj led a flag march in Munger town to bring the situation under control.

The RJD-helmed Grand Alliance has strongly criticised the Monday incident, likening the district police with General Dyer of infamous Jallianwala Bagh incident in Punjab during British rule on April 13, 1919.

IPS officer Lipi Singh is the daughter of R.C.P. Singh, the JD(U) leader in the Rajya

Coming on the eve of the first phase of polling, the incident impacted voting as two of the three Assembly seats — Munger, Jamalpur — in the district witnessed lower voter turnout as compared to the

2015 polls.

While Munger constituency had witnessed a poll percentage of 54.26 in 2015, it recorded 47.89 Wednesday. Similarly, the decline was from 49.70 per cent to 47.24 per cent in Jamalpur this time. State minister and senior JD(U) leader Shailesh Kumar is in the fray from Jamalpur seat.

#### 'Ghus Ke Maara', Pak mantri brags about Pulwama

■ Continued from Page 1
"when our planes target combat installations". "We do not show bravery by killing innocents n we condemn terrorism," he added.

In an apparent damage control act, Mr Sadiq too issued a clarification. On Thursday, Mr Sadiq in a video statement said that he was being "misquoted" regarding his statement in the National Assembly. He said that he wanted to say that the decision to release Wg Cdr Varthaman showed "a weakness of the civilian leadership". Commenting on Mr Sadiq's

remarks, Pakistan Army spokesman Major General Babar Iftikhar said on Thursday that his statement was an attempt to "distort his-

tory". Pakistan "want to make it clear, for the purpose of correcting the history, that Pakistan first demonstrated its capability and resolve and the actions taken on Feb. 27 were from the position of strength", Maj. Gen. Iftikhar said while responding to queries at a press conference

The international community led by the US has pressed Pakistan to deny safe haven to terror groups operating from its soil and bring the perpetrators of the Pulwama attack to

# NIA raids in J&K continue for 2nd day

9 more locations in Kashmir Valley, 1 in Delhi searched by probe agency over 'terror funds'

YUSUF JAMEEL

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) continued its raids on the offices of various NGOs and some other aid agencies and the homes of their organisers across Kashmir Valley on the second day running on Thursday.

Premises owned or used by a similar organisation in Delhi were also searched by it in connection with a case pertaining to alleged misuse of funding received by these

case was registered by the under Sections 120B and 124 A IPC and sections 17, 18, 22A, 22C, 38, 39 and 40 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The agency has claimed that it began investigations in the matter after receiving "credible information" that certain NGOs and trusts operating in J&K "are collecting funds domestically and abroad through so-called donations and business contributions, etc. and are then utilizing these funds NGOs from across the country and abroad. The rorist activities in J&K".

**A DAY** earlier, the NIA had raided and searched the offices of Greater Kashmir, a couple of NGOs and the homes of several journalists and human rights and political activists

On Thursday, nine locations in the Valley and one in Delhi were raided by the NIA sleuths. Those whose premises were searched include Falah-e-Aam Trust, Charity Alliance in Delhi, Human Welfare Foundation, JK Foundation,

Salvation Movement and JK Voice of Victims. A day earlier, the agency

had raided and searched the offices of mass-circulated newspaper Greater Kashmir and a couple of NGOs and the homes of several journalists and human rights and political activists simultaneously in the Valley and Bangaluru.

The NIA had, however, said that the raids at Greater Kashmir office and the homes of some journalists were not in connection with their journalistic work other professional pur-

suits but a case pertaining to alleged misuse of foreign contributions.

Those whose premises were searched on Wednesday include the residence and office of Khurram Parvez, co-ordinator of J&K Coalition of Civil Society, his associates viz. Parvez Ahmad Bukhari and Parvez Ahmad Matta and Bengaluru-based associate Swati Sheshadri Parveena Ahanger, chairperson of Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP), and offices of NGO "Athrout" and Greater Kashmir

## Mufti, Omar vow to fight decisive battle as stir rages

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, OCT. 29

Twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu on Thursday witnessed more street protests against the Centre's introducing a new set of land laws in J&K to make all Indian citizens eligible to own immovable properties in the Union Territory.

Meanwhile, former CMs Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah have pledged to fight a decisive battle against the Centre's contentious moves which, they alleged, are aimed at looting land and resources of J&K and wreck its identity.

The police swung into action as dozens of PDP workers attempted to take out a procession from the party headquarters. The witnesses said that gunwielding policemen assisted by the CRPF came in the way of the protestors and detained

Soon the party president tweeted, "PDP office in Srinagar sealed by J&K admin & workers arrested for organising a peaceful protest. A similar protest was allowed in Jammu so why was it thwarted here? Is this your definition of 'normalcy' that's being showin the

**J&K LAND LAW** 

PDP office in Srinagar sealed by J&K admin & workers arrested for organising a peaceful protest...

· Mehbooba Mufti, PDP chief

@PMOIndia @HMOIndia @manojsinha. She claimed that some

of the PDP workers were arrested by the police from their homes in the middle of (last) night so that they could not participate in the planned protest demonstration.

In Jammu, the workers of Apni Party, whose leadership is reported to be very close to the corridors of power at the Centre, held a protest demonstration against the new land laws and demanded an immediate rollback of these "so that the fears, anxieties and apprehensions of the peole are removed."

Later during the day, Ms Mufti while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at her residence here said she will

#### **India: In touch with China** for mutual solution to row

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

India on Thursday said it has "maintained communications" with China "to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution to the situation along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh and

restore full peace and tranquillity" there. In yet another veiled message to China, New Delhi said "the Indo-Pacific region was a particular focus" of the recent 2+2 Dialogue at the foreign and defence ministerial-level with the United States, and "reiter-

peace, stability and prosperity for all countries in his region", adding that this was "possible only by upholding the rules based international ensuring the freedom of navigation in the international seas, promoting open connectivity and respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty

of all states" In a statement, the MEA said, "The last round of the senior commander talks held on October 12 enabled in-depth discussions between the two sides resulting in enhanced understanding of



Apni Party activists clash with the police in Jammu on Thursday during their protest

## ■ Accused had scored 99.8% in Mains ■ Father, 3 others arrested

# JEE '20 topper used proxy, held

MANOJ ANAND

In what has come as shocker, the topper of the Joint Entrance Exam (Mains) in Assam, his father and three others were arrested by the city police here on Thursday on charges of using a proxy to write the country's premier engineering entrance test. The accused had succeeded in securing 99.8 percent in the exam, which is the basis for admission in India's top engineering colleges, including the prestigious IITs.

The police said it has arrested the candidate, Neel Nakshatra Das, his father, Dr Jyotirmoy Das,

THE POLICE said that the entire racket came to light on social media after a phone call recording and WhatsApp chat in which the accused allegedly spoke about having used unfair means to top the exam went viral

testing centre — Hamendra Nath Sarma, Pranjal Kalita and Hirulal Pathak. They have been produced in a local court. Guwahati police commissioner M.P. Gupta told reporters, "An FIR has been registered with the Azara police against the topper of the Joint (JEE) Mains in Assam, allegedly for using a proxy to appear in the examination on his behalf. We investigated the case and have found that a proxy was used by the candidate through the help of another agency that acted as a middleman.

that this Admitting could be a major racket and chances of many others also having resorted to such practice can't be ruled out, the police said, "We are looking into all the aspects. The staff of the testing centre in Guwahati is also involved. We are searching for more people who are suspected to be the part of this crime. This might not be a

part of a larger racket.' The police said that the

entire racket came to light on social media after a phone call recording and WhatsApp chat, in which the accused allegedly spoke about having used unfair means to top the exam, went viral.

Referring to the social media post, one Mitradev Sharma lodged a police complaint in this regard. The police said that the invigilator had allegedly helped the JEE aspirant in cheating. The accused went inside the online testing centre on the day of the exam just to fill his

name and roll number on the answer sheet, police said, adding the test was

**File objection to NGT panel** 

## BJP youth leader, 2 aides shot dead in J&K district **A REPORT** said the

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, OCT. 29

A BJP youth leader and his two associates were shot and critically wounded by suspected militants in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Kulgam district later Thursday evening. The reports said that all the three succumbed to their injuries on the way to hospital.

The police sources said that Fida Hussain Itoo, general secretary of the J&K unit of BJP Yuva Morcha, and his associates Umar Hajam and Haroon Rashid Beigh were targeted by gunmen in Kulgam's Yaripora vilBJP youth leader and his associates were taken to a nearby apple orchard where they were shot at from point blank range evacuated to an emerge-

ncy trauma hospital along Srinagar-Jammu y in Qazigund area. But doctors at the hospital pronounced them dead on arrival. "All three of them were brought dead," Dr Asima,

Medical Superintendent Qazigund, was quoted as saying by local news agency GNS.

The officials said that senior Jammu and

officers and also those of the CRPF have already reached the spot to begin investigations.

They also said that a

vast area around the scene of the shooting has been cordoned off and a search operation launched to get the assailants dead or alive.

A report said that the trio was attending a wedding ceremony in the area when a group of masked gunmen arrived at the scene and forcibly took them along.

The report also said the BJP youth leader and his associates were taken to a nearby apple orchard where they were shot at

**49,881 fresh** 

**Covid cases** 

in India, total

**now at 80.4L** 

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The overall coronavirus cases in India crossed

80.40 lakh on Thursday with 49, 881 fresh cases.

However, out of these

total cases 73.16 lakh

have already recovered

and little over 6 lakh

people still remain

infected. The total fatali-

ties so far has been close to 1.21 lakh out of which

health authorities as it

is emerging as the coun-

try's biggest Covid-19

hotspot now. In Maharashtra, though daily fresh detections

has dropped substantial-

ly from what it was for

the last few months it

still has second highest

cases after Kerala. Situation in Delhi too is

NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

#### **India favours 'increased** predictability' in H-1B visas

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 29 India has conveved its

stand in favour of 'increasing predictability in the (American) visa regime" to the United States, adding that the "People-to-people relationship is an important foundation of the special relationship between India and the US which should be nurtured", New Delhi said on Thursday, in the latest indication of concerns in India over any restrictions in grant of visas by the US that benefit Indian professionals, including in the IT sec-

At his weekly briefing, the MEA spokesperson said, "People-to-people relationship is an impor-tant foundation of the special relationship between India and the US. In our engagements, we have emphasised that this has been a mutually-beneficial partner-ship which should be nurtured. We are engaged with the US government for increasing predictability in the visa regime and to minimise the inconvenience being faced by those in the US or those who need to travel to the US for bonafide reasons. Government of India will continue to monitor any develop-

ments on this issue." In response to Iran issue, the MEA spokesperson said the US "appreciated" the trade linkages between Chabahar and Afghanistan.

# SC seeks govt reply on use of Covid drugs

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

The Supreme Court on Thursday sought response from the Centre on a PIL seeking a restrain on prescribing Remdesivir and HCQ as medicines to cure Covid while making its clear that it was not going to adjudicate on as to which medicine should be provided to treat the high-

ly-contagious disease. Seeking response from the Centre, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde heading a bench also comprising Justice V. Ramaswuramanian told the PIL petition advocate M.L. Sharma 'We are telling you, we are only going to make the

we are not going to judge which medicine should be prescribed for Covid treat-

The court issued notice after PIL petitioner advocate Sharma referred to the October 15 WHO report

Mr Sharma referred to

which says that "the interim results from the solidarity therapeutics trial, coordinated by the World Health Organisation, indicate that remdesivir hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon regimens appeared to have little or no effect on 28-day mortality or the in-hospital course of Covid-19 among hospitalised patients..'

various countries, includ-

**AGE CORRESPONDENT** NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the LG Polymers to file its objections to the report of the joint monitoring committee set up by the NGT after the May 7 toxic gas leak incident at its Vizag plant, which is now shut. The NGT had constitut-

ing the UK and the US, which have held the same view, backing the WHO

report: SC to LG Polymers ed the committee on May 8, after after the inci

dent, to go into the causes of the toxic gas leak at LG Polymers' Vizag plant on May 7, 2020, and submit a report. The report was uploaded on the green tribunal's website on May 28 and LG Polymers has not filed its objections to the report so far.

conclusions. Earlier in April this year, an NGO People for Better

Treatment (PBT) had approached the top court seeking direction to the Union health ministry to make "immediate necessary changes" in the treatment guidelines for seriously ill Covid-19 patients being given combination of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and antibiotic Azithromycin which, it says, are life threatening for patients with pre-existing cardio-vascular condition and high blood pressure.

The PIL that was moved by PBT had sought direction that before a seriously ill Covid patients is given HCQ and AZM combination, an "informed con-sent" be taken from the

#### 517 deaths took place in the last 24 hours. However, which is reporting the highest number of daily fresh cases, has become a major concern for

Manohari Gold Speciality

■ Banknote excludes J&K, Ladakh from India map

## India protests Saudis' map distortion on currency note

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, OCT. 29

India has conveyed its "serious concern" to Saudi Arabia at the diplomatic levels and asked it to "take urgent corrective steps" after a new Saudi currency banknote excluded the UTs of J&K and Ladakh from the territorial map of India. New Delhi said the new currency note was a

gross misrepresentation

of India's external territorial boundaries on an offi-

cial and legal banknote of

Saudi Arabia", "reiterat-

ing that the entire UTs of

Jammu and Kashmir and

Ladakh are integral parts

THE NEW Saudi banknote was 'issued on October 24 to mark the occasion of Saudi presidency of the G20'

Riyadh. The new Saudi currency

of India". The issue has been raised both with the Saudi ambassador in New Delhi and by the Indian envoy in the Saudi capital

banknote was "issued on October 24 to mark the occasion of Saudi presidency of the G20". The new banknote, reportedly a 20 Riyal one, apparently show the two UTs as a sep-In a statement, the min-

istry of external affairs

(MEA) said, "We have banknote referred by you which gives an incorrect depiction of India's external territorial boundaries.
"We have conveyed our serious concern to Saudi

Arabia, both through

their ambassador in New Delhi as well as in Riyadh, for this gross misrepre-sentation of India's external territorial boundaries on an official and legal banknote of Saudi Arabia and asked the Saudi side for taking urgent corrective steps in this regard. I would like to further reiterate that entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are

integral parts of India.'

## Tea sold at ₹75,000 per kg MANOJ ANAND

**GUWAHATI, OCT. 29** 

is yet to overcome the setback of Covid-19 pandemic but it has started getting good news from the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) on Thursday where a lot of speciality tea was sold at a record price of ₹75,000 per kg, the highest this

The Assam tea industry

However, this was the third time in the last one year when GTAC got another opportunity to sell Manohari Gold Speciality Tea in an auction sale at ₹75,000 per kg. The director, Manohari Tea Estate, Rajan Lohia, told this newspaper, "This year, 2.5 kg of Handmade Gold Tea was produced, out of which 1.2 kg was

sold in the auction on



Thursday and the remain-

he added.



ing will be available at select outlets including GTAC lounge as demand for one of the rarest teas in the world continues to grow."

He pointed out that Manohari Gold Tea is manufactured from the second flush finest colonel tea buds which are hand plucked only during the dawn. "Highly rich in antioxidants Manohari Gold Tea also offers aromatic, full-bodied, bright yellowish malty tea liquor to suit your taste buds perfectly,"

worrisome which on Thursday had 5,739 fresh Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Thursday reviewed the status of Covid-19 in West Bengal, Kerala and Delhi and their public health response meas-ures. Health Secretaries of the states/UT and other senior health officials were present in the meeting during which

Delhi has 30,952 active cases with a fatality rate of 1.76 per cent.

concerns regarding ris-

ing cases in these states/UT were high-

lighted.



## THE ASIAN AGE

**30 OCTOBER 2020** 

## Land for all in Kashmir: Wait for SC to take call

recent Union home ministry order, which opens the door for any Indian to buy non-agricultural immoveable property in Jammu and Kashmir, deals a grievous blow to the aspirations  $\stackrel{ o}{-}$  and to the psyche — of the people of Jammu, the Kashmir valley, and Ladakh, the

three regions which until August 5, 2019 formed the state of J&K.

The legal status of this order shall remain dubious until the Supreme Court has dealt with the challenge before it to the law through which was whittled the constitutional autonomy of the erstwhile J&K state and whose long-term consequences for India appear far from happy. The long delay in the top court pronouncing on one of the most consequential matters brought before it in Independent India has occasioned considerable surprise. Since constitutionally downgrading J&K, the Centre has taken a series of

steps that have negatively impacted the lives of ordinary people in the UT and bred resentment. Among these are the hamper-

Abdullah governthis Act stands revoked, probably opening the door for corporate houses.

ing of the study of ordinary students by not per-In 1950, the Sheikh mitting high-speed Internet, virtually killing journalism through the harsh treatment of ment had brought
the Big Estates
Abolition Act. Under
the new land orders,

Abolition in the UT administration by nonKashmiri officers — to say nothing of putting thousands of non-BJP politicians in jal.

In addition, in the name of quelling terrorism (and instilling patriotism by fiat) there is the egregiousness of troop deployment on an extensive scale not seen even in the intense militancyaffected years of the late 1980s-the early 1990s. To place matters in perspective — all policy actions

derive from executive orders alone, as in the colonial era, and there is the denial of election to the UT legislature. The Centre gave itself the luxury to do all of these things while the Supreme Court has delayed beyond comprehension hearing the case of the reading down of Article 370 of the Constitution and the re-fashioning of an adjunct provision, the Article 35-A. It is the latter which had made ownership of immoveable property, government employment, and state scholarships, the exclusive

preserve of permanent residents of the state. In May this year, new domicile rules were devised to let some people from outside J&K to apply for permanent resident status. This has now been widened to let anyone at all own immoveable property. Such a situation does not obtain in other special category states such as Uttarakhand and Himachal

In 1950, the Sheikh Abdullah government had brought the Big Estates Abolition Act to permit the tillers of land of big zamindars beyond certain ceiling prescriptions to become owners, and it is this which had made the former state among the top performers on social and economic indices. Under the new land orders, this Act stands revoked, probably opening the door for corporate

Jammu and Ladakh — like the Valley — have also reacted negatively to the new land rules though the Centre may have hoped for support from those quarters on religious grounds. The heart of the matter is the taking away of the former J&K's autonomy, a condition laid down by Maharaja Hari Singh, and endorsed by Sheikh Abdullah, for joining India in 1947, rather than go with

## Heed ASER's red flag

There has been a shift from private to government schools between 2018 and 2020, says the Annual Status of Education Report. The reasons include financial distress in households due to loss of income and shutdown of private schools. There has been an unregulated mushrooming of private schools all over the country in the past decades.

Alarmingly, however, India is among the few countries in the world where the ratio of private to public schooling is the highest. That's because the coverage of the government school network is patchy at best and the quality of learning dispensed there abysmal. The ASER study showed, for instance, that during the survey week, only one in three rural children had engaged in a learning activity. And only 36 per cent of schools provided them with textbooks.

In urban centres, there has been a boom in the edutech industry in pandemic times. However, exposing the criminally negligent logic behind the government's great e-education push is a well-anticipated outcome. Although smartphone ownership almost doubled from 2018, a third of children with smartphone access still did not receive any learning materials. Significantly, less than 15 per cent of rural Indian households have Internet. The poorest homes cannot afford a smartphone or a computer. Some were found selling their only assets during the pandemic

merely so the children could continue learning in a Covid year. Though it is highly iniquitous, the much-vaunted National Education Policy is silent on this yawning academic divide. The government, in its unseemly haste to pacify the influential middle classes, was loath to drop the JEE and restarted lessons for older students. But it paid scant regard to the increase in dropouts at the elementary and secondary levels.

It is a fact that 90 per cent of brain growth occurs by age five, meaning that the quality of early childhood schooling has a crucial impact. The ASER report shows that factors determining the quality of education received at this stage include the mother's education and the type of school, government or private. There is, therefore, a need to strengthen the government school system in India urgently. India is going through an education emergency, which has only been exacerbat-

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Stop Dragon's free ride, don't let it exploit our democracy

t has been long-term Chinese policy, almost since the inception of the People's Republic, to try and mock India's democracy as the Dragon, deep down, is convinced it is democracy which makes this country weak, and its leaders ineffective and inefficient. This has driven the Chinese Communist Party's strategic thinking for decades.

The CCP's mission to humiliate India has become more diabolical by the day. In association with its allies in the Pakistan Army and its ISI, the Chinese are going all out in a bid to internationalise India's internal issues, though with little success, at the United Nations and elsewhere. President Xi Jinping is, of course, only continuing a tradition set long back by Chairman Mao Zedong. The Dragon's diplomatic deception

now borders on the ludicrous. You don't need a trained Sinologist to uncover duplicity and the plot to attack India from within. Thus, when Beijing's man in Delhi, ambassador Sun Weidong, parrots the one-liner "the common interests of the two countries (India and China) far outweigh the frictions and differences" he's either hallucinating or trying hard to convince his bosses that he's working hard in Delhi to mislead gullible Indians, and take them for a

Therefore, one should seek some clarifications from Mr Sun, and put forward some pertinent questions to him: "Mr Ambassador, please define the common interests of the two countries". Specifically, with facts and figures, without airy semantics. In what way do the "common interests", if any, "far outweigh the friction and differences"? Does it imply that India, for the sake of the so-called "common interests", be silent and succumb to the CPC's blandishments despite all the unilateral violence, killings, invasions, forced occupation of Indian territory since the 1950s, setting the tribal areas of Northeast India on fire, destroying West Bengal through the treacherous anti-national Naxalites and other marauding Communists, the unprovoked killing of Indian border personnel at Longju (August 1959), Hot Springs (October 1959), the 32-day invasion of India (October-November 1962), Nathu La (September 1967), Cho La (October 1967), Pangong Tso Lake (May 2020), the China-Pakistan CPEC through India's J&K, and now the Galwan Valley massacre (June 2020)? Should India forget and forgive President Xi, who has made himself China's lifetime dictator, and his cohorts for the sake of what Beijing hypocritically

pedestrian

calls "common interests"? Does the recurring murder of Indian soldiers by the CPC-controlled private militia called the People's Liberation Army constitute the "common interests" of Beijing and New Delhi? Does the loss of limbs of Indian officers and men and the forced occupation of Indian territory by the CPC constitute "common interests"? Or do the Chinese hope to tire out the Indian soldiers standing guard on the banks of Pangong Lake and force their commanders to talk from 10 to 14 hours a day in a diplomatic engagement with PLA generals? Is this why India maintains a standing army? Soldiers aren't diplomats, and it isn't their role to resort to Gandhi-like "ahimsa" to counter

the CPC's "hinsa"! Sorry, Ambassador Sun, that's the job of the foreign office and its diplomats, who should "enter the dragon" and play hardball, telling Beijing that there is a limit to how long such gross violations of India's sovereignty can continue.

It's time for the Chinese to forget about access to India's market of 1.3 billion people. It's time their spies operating under garb of companies, investors and tourists stop interfer-ing in India's internal affairs. Let them not issue brazen threatening

"advisories" to India's independent media, ordering it to "desist" from writing about Taiwan, Xinjiang, the Dalai Lama, Hong Kong, Uighurs and human rights violations. One wonders what the battalions of Chinese diplomats have understood about this country that they would think India's media would follow the foreign ministry's lead in its reports and

comments? It's also time for Beijing to stop instigating India's neighbourhood through its cash, threats, deceit, deception and lies.

The Indian State should seriously go back to basics of the Constitution to deal with the Chinese assault on Indian territory and revisit Article 1(3) - "The territory of India shall comprise" ... and "(c) such other territories as may be acquired". Simply put, India's Constitution doesn't have any provision to cede territory to any foreign power/country. It permits acquisition only... "as may be acquired". If at all, India can only cede its own territory subject to an amendment of the Constitution. Thus, with the passing of Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill 2013, for example, for operationalising the Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh, notified as "100th Amendment Act" after the assent of

the President, the border readjustment between New Delhi and Dhaka took place peacefully and with mutual respect and honour. India cannot otherwise cede an inch of its territory to any foreign country. That's the bot-

It is clear as daylight that the Chinese are bent on hurting and humiliating democratic India. There is no chance of any change in the congenital psyche of hostility and aggression by the CPC. That's the reason attempts are being constantly made to dishonour and discredit this country before the comity of nations. If an India of 1.3 billion people cannot safeguard its sovereignty, Constitution and territorial integrity, and allow its trade, commerce, banking, economy and strategic sectors to be penetrated by the CPC, it's time for Delhi to snub the wayward ambassador publicly. Enough is enough! Without any further ado, India must decisively abort the Chinese geo-economic strategy which is penetrating and slowly poisoning the very fabric of our

> The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College. The views expressed are personal.



# Death talk: Euthanasia tales amid Covid times



Karan Thapar

serves. It left me feeling

uncomfortable. Actually, unsettled. I felt I

was intruding into some-

one's privacy where I had no right to be.

The question this mes-

actually explicitly

merising account raises

though it shies away

from an answer — is did Arun's father, Hari Dev

Shourie, the founder of

Common Cause, commit

euthanasia? Everything

in your head and heart tells you the answer is yes. Even the way Arun

relates the story sug-

gests this conclusion is

unavoidable. In fact,

there are a couple of sen-

tences that, particularly

for the suggestive or intuitive, could clinch

the issue. "He was a

strong advocate of euthanasia", writes Arun. "He had even writ-

ten a book on the subject:

Life's Finale: Voluntary

Arun's account of his

father's death begins on

the morning it hap-pened. H.D. Shourie,

who was 91 and had

recently lost his wife,

asked for tea at 8 am.

When Ganesh, his trust-

ed attendant, served it he

was told to come back in

an hour and a half. 'When he went at 9.30,

A note written in his

hand was found on the table by his bed. "I have

led a full life", H.D.

It's not an easy

Written in a delib-

erudite and learned

but there are occa-

erate stream-of-

consciousness

style, it is often

sions when it's

prosaic and even

book to read.

our father was gone."

**As I See It** 

reading started Shourie's Arun new book Preparing for Deathwhilst in quarantine after I happened to meet someone who subsequently tested positive. Had I an inkling that in a couple of days I would follow suit I doubt if this would have been my first choice. But since I had started it, I decided to continue. The fear that suddenly loomed ahead seemed to add macabre interest. At least, during daylight hours!

It's not an easy book to read. Written in a deliberate stream-of-consciousness style, it is often erudite and learned but there are occasions when it's prosaic and even pedestrian. Like his other work, this book can be repetitive or, to be more accurate, Arun argues his case so thoroughly that you feel he's nailed the point long before he's blows. Consequently, you need to read it in stages. Bit by bit. To make it easier, don't read in chronological sequence. Flip forward and back as curiosity guides you.

Well, that's what I did and thus stumbled upon five pages that tell a story that I find hard to describe. Perhaps my personal Covid affliction added to my fascination but I feel certain it would grip anyone who reads it. It's the most excruciatingly honest but also deeply disturbing and distressing account of a father's death told by his son. I admire Arun for sharing it with strangers and outsiders — because that's what readers are but I also question why he wanted to do so or what purpose it

vincing forensic use of the letter his father left, Arun presents a compelling case that drives one to the conclusion that his father committed euthanasia

By making con-

Shourie began. "My time has come... I have no regrets... today, the three of you are in town." It was that last sentence that shook Arun, his brother Deepak and their sister Nalini. "We used to travel a lot", writes Arun, "and often Nalini, Deepak or I would be out of town: he had clearly chosen a day when we were all in Delhi — none of us would have to rush back.

As the three siblings read and reread their father's last letter, their grief and shock mounting, they discovered it contained further evidence to suggest that H D. Shourie had committed suicide. Arun writes that whenever he gave advice to others, the elder Shourie would say: final note or your will, as far as possible write it in your own hand... and include in it some detail which no one but you know about... this will help establish the authenticity of the document." And that is precisely what he had done. The letter mentions "a souvenir" hidden in an "almirah". None of his children knew it was

If you still have doubts this was a case of death by euthanasia there is, right at the end of the five pages, a sentence spoken by Arun's mother-in-law that will simply blast them away. Malti*ji*, as Arun refers to her lived her life with the Shouries, looking after their son Adit. Consequently, she got to know his father well.

She also shared a birthday with H.D. Shourie. It's what she suddenly said a few months after his death that seems to erase all doubts of how it happened. "Bhai Sahib had even written the recipe in his book, she told us one day — she was the only one in the family to have read the

So, doesn't that seem to suggest that H.D. Shourie put something in his morning tea which took his life? Something that would take 90 minutes to work, which is why he asked his trusted Ganesh to return an hour and a half later?

This is where Arun's account of his father's death stops. He doesn't answer the question did H.D. Shourie take his own life? But then he doesn't really need to. By making convincing forensic use of the letter his father left. Arun presents a compelling case that drives one to the conclusion that father committed euthanasia. It's hard to come to any other. In fact, you sense that is also what Arun believes — though, understandably, he can't bring himself to say so when he writes of this years have passed since he went, I haven't had the courage to read it to this day".

Yet Arun has had the courage to tell us this story and share its harrowing impact on himself and his siblings. Speaking out is often a way of coming to terms with terrible tragedy or inexplicable mystery. Perhaps that was his reason for revealing something most people would, almost certainly, have kept to themselves. But it's not easy for the rest of us to handle. It not only left me full of questions and conflicting emotions but also quite shaken.

The writer is a television commentator and anchor

#### **LETTERS SURYA SHINING**

# It was a Suryakumar

Yadav show at the Zayed Cricket Stadium as Mumbai Indians pulled off a spectacular win against Royal Challengers Bangalore. After opener Devdutt Padikkal came up with a fine 74 for the vanquished and Jasprit Bumrah excelled with the leather scalping 3 for 14, Suryakumar lit up the stadium blazing an unbeaten 79 to carry his team home. With an outstanding record in domestic cricket and the IPL, one wonders what more this talented batsman needs to do to earn the national selectors' nod.

#### N.J. Ravi Chander Bengaluru

#### **DON'T TRUST USA**

THIS REFERS TO your editorial, "India must not put all eggs in US basket" (Oct. 29). India shouldn't rely solely on American friendship and look to exert diplomatic pressure through other channels as well. It shoud not overlook historical fact. Indeed, the US completely sided with Pakistan in the 1965 and 1971 wars against India. In 1971, it almost sent the Seventh Fleet to help Pakistan Navy. Even in the 1962 war with China, it did not accede to Prime Minister Nehru's request for

D.B. Madan New Delhi

#### TURKEY'S U-TURN

THE RISE OF militant Islam, the causes of which are yet to clearly emerge and one that would need extensive research, has been impacting the very image of this otherwise pacific religion. France too now seems to be as perplexed as many other nations around the globe in its bid to understand and deal with increasing Islamic radicalsm. What is worrying is that the famously secular Turkey of Kamal Ataturk should get mired in a politico-ideological conflict with France, subsequent to the dastardly beheading of the French teacher that has ignited worldwide revulsion.

R. Naravanan Navi Mumbai

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





#### IN BRIEF

#### 8 inmates dead after prison riot

Kabul: Rioting at a prison in western Afghanistan has left at least eight inmates dead, provincial officials said Thursday. The violence erupted on Wednesday night at the prison in Herat, the capital of western Herat province, said Mohammad Rafiq Shirzai, spokesman for the provincial health department. He said 12 others — eight inmates and four prison guards were wounded in the outbreak at the facility, which holds around 2,000 prisoners. It wasn't immediately known

if there are any Taliban at the penitentiary. The rioting started after guards began clearing some partitions created by prisoners, said Jelani Farhad, spokesman for the provincial governor.

#### **Pak seminary** blast probe ends

Peshawar: The investigation team probing the bomb blast at a religious seminary in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar city has completed its initial report and arrested one student in connection with the attack that killed eight persons, officials said on Thursday. The investigation team that included officials of counter-terrorism department, police and law enforcement agencies, recorded statements of several eye witnesses

and obtained the record of the students of the seminary and the labourers engaged in a construction work there. One student of the seminary has been arrested over his alleged links to the blast, sus-

pected to have targeted a senior cleric from Afghanistan, officials said. The blast occurred around 8:30 am on Tuesday at a local mosque, which also serves as a religious school in Dir Colony in Peshawar, while students

were reading the Quran. The-re was no claim of responsibility for the blast in the city, bordering war-torn Afghanistan. Law enforcement agencies on Wednesday detained several people in connection with the bomb blast.

#### **59 bodies found** in Mexican pits

Mexico City: A Mexican search group said that it found 59 bodies in a series of clan-

destine burial pits in the north-central state of Guanajuato and that more could still be excavated. The head of the official National Search Commission, Karla Quintana, Wednesday said excavations began a week ago based on

a tip from relatives of missing people. Given the deficiencies of local law enforce ment in Mexico, relatives of missing people in many states have formed their own search groups, collecting information and exploring possib-

le body dumping sites and clandestine graves. Quintana called it "a sad and terrible discovery." She added that there were more "possible positive sites" where more bodies could be found, and that work would continue. The bodies were extracted over the last week from 52 pits at a property on the outskirts of the Guanajuato city of Salvatierra. The scene was

considered dangerous enough that the army and National Guard provided security for the excavations. Guanajuato has the largest number of homicides of any state in Mexico.

#### **JALLIANWALA BAGH STORY SHORTLISTED**

London, Oct. 29: British Indian journalist and author Anita Anand's book that tells the story of a young man caught up in the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar has been shortlisted for a prestigious history-literary prize in the UK. 'The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre. Revenge and the Raj' will compete with six others for the PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize for History 2020, awarded annually for a non-fiction book of specif-

ically historical content. Entries are required to be works of high literary merit that is, not primarily written for the academic market — and can cover all historical periods. "Modern history is well-represented with Anita Anand's 'The Patient Assassin' showing us how empire continues to haunt us," said Rana Mitter, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China at the University of Oxford, who is the chair of this year's judging panel. In the shortlisted book, Anand tells the dramatic story of an orphan Udham Singh's 21-year quest for revenge.

# France knife attack: 3 dead

### Third attack in 2 months; attacker wounded by cops, hospitalised

Paris, Oct. 29: An attacker armed with a knife killed three people at a church on Thursday in the Mediterranean city of Nice, authorities said. It was the third attack in two months in France.

The assailant was wounded by police and hospitalized after the killings at the Notre Dame Church, less than a kilometre from the site in 2016 where another attacker plowed a truck into a Bastille Day crowd, killing dozens.

Thursday's attacker was believed to be acting alone and police are not searching for other assailants, said two police officials, who were not authorised to be publicly named.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor's office opened an investigation into the killings, which marked the third attack since the opening in September of a terrorism trial in the January 2015 killings at the satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* and a kosher supermarket.

"He cried 'Allah Akbar!' over and over, even after he was injured," said Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi, who told *BFM* television that three people had died. two inside the church and a third who fled but was mortally wounded.

"The meaning of his gesture left no doubt." In Nice, images on French media showed the neighborhood locked down and surrounded by police and emergency vehicles.

Sounds of explosions could be heard as sappers suspicious exploded objects. The lower house of parliament suspended a debate on France's new virus restrictions in the wake of spurt in cases and held a moment of silence Thursday for the victims.

The prime minister rushed from the hall to a crisis centre overseeing the aftermath of the Nice attack. French President Emmanuel Macron was headed to Nice later in the





Less than two weeks ago, an assailant decapitated a French middle school teacher who showed caricatures of the Prophet for class on free speech. Those caricatures were  $\begin{array}{cccc} \text{published} & \text{by} & \textit{Charlie} \\ \textit{Hebdo} & \text{and} & \text{cited} & \text{by} & \text{the} \\ \end{array}$ men who gunned down the newspaper's editorial meeting in 2015.

In September, a man who had sought asylum in France attacked bystanders outside Charlie ders outside Charlie Hebdo's former offices with a butcher knife.

French President Emmanuel Macron (2nd-L) visits the scene of a knife attack at the Basilica of Notre-Dame de

#### FRENCH PM RAISES ATTACK ALERT TO **EMERGENCY AFTER CHURCH KILLINGS**

**Paris, Oct. 29:** France's prime minister Jean Casfex says the country's threat level will be raised to its maximum after an attack near a church three people Thursday in Nice.

Nice in Nice on Thursday.

The move comes just hours before the country was going into its second

An attacker armed with a knife killed three people at a church Thursday in Nice, French authorities said. It was the third attack in two months in France amid a growing furor over caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that were re-published by the satirical newspaper

#### SAUDI MAN STABS, WOUNDS GUARD AT FRENCH CONSULATE, ARRESTED

Arabia's state-run news agency is reporting that a Saudi man has been detained after stabbing and slightly wounding a guard at the French Consulate in the city of Jiddah.

The Saudi Press Agency report on Thursday offered no motive for the attack. However, it comes amid heightened tensions

Dubai, Oct. 29: Saudi after an assailant decapitated a French middle school teacher who showed caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad for a class on free speech.

Those caricatures were published by Charlie Hebdo and cited by the men who gunned down the newspaper's editorial meeting in 2015.

## **TURKEY CONDEMNS SAVAGE ATTACK**

Istanbul, Oct. 29: Ankara strongly condemned Thursday's "savage" knife attack in southern France that left three people dead, offering its "solidarity", despite a running diplomatic spat with Paris.

We strongly condemn the attack committed today inside the Notre-Dame church in Nice," a foreign ministry statement said, while offering condolences to the victims' relatives after the incident that shook

#### **POPE DENOUNCES** TERROR, VIOLENCE

Vatican City, Oct. 29: Pope Francis prayed for the victims of an attack by a knifeman in a Nice church Thursday, as the Vatican said "terrorism and violence can never be accepted". "Today's attack has sown death in a place of love and consolation. The Pope is aware of the situation and is close to the mourning Catholic community," spokesman Matteo Bruni said in a statement. "He prays for the victims and their loved ones, so that the violence may cease, so that we may return to look upon ourselves as brothers and sisters and not as enemies, so that the beloved French people may unite to combat evil

with good", he said. The Pope expressed his solidarity with the Catholic community in France. An attacker armed with a knife killed three people. It was the third such attack in recent weeks following furor over caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that were republished by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

## Anti-Semitism row: Labour Party suspends Corbyn

Opposition Labour Party on Thursday suspended former leader Jeremy Corbyn from its ranks after a report by the country's human rights watchdog held the party ponsible for unlawful acts of harassment and dis-crimination" during his

time in charge.
The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), which had launched an investigation into antisemitism within the party following a string of complaints, found that Labour had broken the law in its failure to handle antisemitism, or anti-Jewish, complaints and there were "serious failings" by its leadership at the time.

However, in his reaction to the report, Corbyn said that the number of complaints made during his tenure were "dramatically overstated". "One antisemite is one too many, but the scale of the problem was also dramatically overstated for political reasons by our opponents inside and outside the party, as well as by much of the media. That combination hurt Jewish people and must never be repeated," said Corbyn, in reference to the report.

A Labour Party spokesperson issued a statement soon after to announce that Corbyn had been suspended from the party. "In light of his comments made today and his failure to retract them subsequently, the Labour Party has suspended Jeremy Corbyn pending investigation. He has also had the whip removed from the Parliamentary Labour Party," the spokesperson said.

In his reaction to the EHRC report, current Opposition leader Keir Starmer had indicated that a denial stance to the report would not be tolerated,

the Labour Party with an unlawful act notice after an investigation into antisemitism by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found it responsible for unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination.he BJP was quick to hit back.

without any specific refer-

ences to Corbyn.

Starmer said: "And if –
after all the pain, all the
grief, and all the evidence in this report, there are still those who think there's no problem with antisemitism in the Labour Party. That it's all exaggerated, or a factional attack. "Then, frankly, you are part of the problem too. And you should be nowhere near the Labour Party either.'

Earlier, the EHRC had served the Labour Party with an unlawful act notice after an investigation into antisemitism by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found it responsible for unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination. Its investigation, launched in May last year, identified serious failings in the party leadership in addressing antisemitism and an inadequate process for handling antisemitism complaints. The party was found responsible three breaches of the UK's Equality Act (2010) relating to political interference in antisemitism complaints: failure to provide adequate training to those handling antisemitism complaints; and harassment. "The equality body's analysis points to a culture within the party which, at best, did not do enough to prevent anti-semitism," the EHRC said.

# Computerised lottery scheme for H-1B may go

wasnington, Oct. 29: The Trump administration has proposed to scrap the computerised lottery system to grant H-1B work visas to foreign technology professionals and replace it with a wage-level-based selection process, a move that is expected to counter the downward pressure on the wages of US workers.

A notification on the new system is being published in the Federal Register on Thursday. Stakeholders have 30 days to respond to the notification, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said on Wednesday, less than a week before the US

presidential election. Replacing the computerised draw of lots to decide on the successful H-1B applicants, the DHS said it is expected to help counter the downward pressure on the wages of American workers that is created by an annual influx of relatively lowerpaid, new cap-subject H-1B workers. The H-1B visa, most sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality

THE TRUMP adminis tration has proposed to replace the computerised lottery system with a wage-level-based selection process, a move that is expected to counter the downward pressure on wages of US workers.

occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

If finalised, US Citizenship and Immigration Services would first select registrations (or petitions, if the registration process is suspended) generally based on the highest Occupational Employment Statistics prevailing wage level that the offered wage equals or exceeds for the relevant Standard Occupational Classification code and areas of intended employment. "Prioritisation and selection based on wage levels better balances the interests of petitioners, H-1B workers, and US workers," the DHS said. "The Trump administration is continuing to deliver on its promise to protect American workers," said Acting DHS Deputy Secretary Ken Cuccinelli.

## Four-week lockdown in France **Paris, Oct. 29:** French doctors expressed relief but

business owners were in despair as France prepared Thursday to shut down again for a month to try to put the brakes on a fast-moving fall Coronavirus outbreak.

Shoppers at a Paris farmarket said Thursday they were ready to restrict their freedoms given the rising number of virus-related deaths and Covid-19 patients filling French hospitals.

The new lockdown is gentler than what France saw in the spring, but still a shock to restaurants and other non-essential businesses that have been ordered to close their doors in one of the world's biggest economies.

French schools will stay open this time, to reduce learning gaps and allow parents to keep working. Farmer markets, parks and factories can also continue operating, officials

French lawmakers are voting Thursday on the new restrictions announced by President Emmanuel Macron, which are set to come into effect at midnight. The lower house of parliament is dominated by Macron's centrist party, so approval is virtually guaranteed.

The prime minister will lay out details of the virus-fighting Thursday evening.

Infections rising rapidly in England, finds study testing. This means an early signs that areas

London, Oct. 29: New Coronavirus infections are rising by an estimated 96,000 cases daily across England, according to the findings of a new government-backed study releasin London

Thursday.

An interim report led by Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI, which includes swab tests on thousands of people taken between October 16 and 25, shows that the prevalence of infection has more than doubled since

the last round of similar

estimated 128 people per 10,000 of England's population has the virus that causes Covid-19, compared to 60 as of October "These interim findings paint a concerning picture of the situation in England, where we're seeing a nation-wide increase in infection prevalence, which we know will lead to more hospitalisations and loss of life," said Professor Paul Elliott, director of the programme at Imperial College London. 'We're also detecting

ever we must all work together to curb further spread of the virus and avoid subsequent overwhelming of the health service," he said.

The critical reproduction number (R) – the rate of virus transmission has also increased further to 1.6, with infections doubling every nine days.

which previously had low

rates of infection are fol-

lowing trends observed in

the country's worst-affect-

ed areas. Now more than

#### INDIA, UK INK NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESEARCH TO BATTLE COVID-19

London, Oct. 29: India and the UK have clinched new partnerships to boost bilateral cooperation on combating the Coronavirus pandemic as part of the 10th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), held virtually ollowing the Covid-19 lockdown and travel constraints. A £8-million joint funding initiative announced on Wednesday as part of the EFD outcomes will

support collaborative research focused on understanding the severity of Covid-19 in South Asian populations in India.

The UK Research and Innovation and the Department of Biotechnology in Indian Ministry of Science and Technology said collaborative research will support research projects that are trying to understand the pandemic.

#### **INFECTED MOUNT ROBUST DEFENCE**

New York, Oct. 29: A vast majority of individuals infected with mild-to-moderate Coronavirus mount "robust" defence via antibodies that is relatively stable for "at least five months".
This is the finding

according to a new study which says this immune response significantly reduces the risk of reinfection with Coronavirus.

## POWER I PANGS Some regions have been unable to report details of damage and casualties Typhoon, landslides leave 35 dead in Vietnam

am in 20 years blew away from the country on Thursday after setting off land-slides, sinking boats and knocking out power to at

least 1.7 million people. At least 35 people were killed and more than 50 were missing, state media said. The immediate focus for rescuers was on three villages in the country's central region where land-

slides killed at least 19 peo-

ple and are suspected of

**Hanoi, Oct. 29:** A typhoon that officials said was the most powerful to hit Vietn-burying more than 40 others in thick mud and debris. Deputy Prime Minister

Trinh Dinh Dung travelled to the site of one landslide where soldiers were working to clear debris with bulldozers and he ordered officers to urgently send more troops to help with the efforts. "We must reach the landslide site the fastest way. First, send in more soldiers before we can get the big machine there. We have to reach the area by all means, includ-

ing by using helicopters," he said.

Also among the dead were 12 fishermen whose boats sank Wednesday as Typhoon Molave approached with winds of up to 150 kilometres (93 miles) per hour. Another 14 fisherman were still missing. Officials said the death

toll across the country may rise as some regions have been unable to report details of damage and casualties. Rescuers dug up eight bodies Thursday morning in Tra Van village in

Quang Nam province where a hillside collapsed on houses. The victims had taken shelter in the community as the typhoon approached, the official Vietnam News Agency reported. In Tra Leng village, abo-

ut 45 kilometres (28 miles) from Tra Van, another landslide buried a community with several houses occupied by about 45 people. Four people escaped, while rescuers recovered eight bodies and pulled out four villagers alive.

- Agencies



A landslide triggered by Typhoon Molave leaves a trail of rocks and mud as it swamps a village in Phuoc Loc district of Quang Nam province, Vietnam on Thursday. -AP



#### POMPEO, IN INDONESIA. **BLASTS CHINA**

**Jakarta, Oct. 29:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo renewed the Trump administration's rhetorical onslaught against China in Indonesia on Thursday as the American presidential election looms.

With China a central theme in President Donald Trump's campaign to win a second term in just five days time, Pompeo took aim at Chinese aggressiveness in the South China Sea, where it has advanced maritime and territorial claims over the objections of its smaller neighbors, and over its handling of the coron-

avirus pandemic. Speaking in Jakarta, the headquarters of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Pompeo praised Indonesia's leadership in ASEAN for pushing back on what he called China's "unlawful" claims and lauded Jakarta's protection of its own territory.

"We respect freedom of the seas, sovereignty and the rule of law," he said, standing beside Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi. Marsudi agreed, saying "international law must be respected," although she did not specifically mention China.

'Our law-abiding nations reject the unlawful claims by Chinese Communist Party in the Sou-th China Sea as is clear from Indonesia's courageous leadership on this subject within ASEAN and at the United Nati-

ons," Pompeo said.
"It's a cause worth pursuing in multilateral setadministration much supports this."

INDICATORS 39749.85 -0.43 Nifty 50 11670.80 -0.50 S&P 5003 3,303.20 0.98 Dollar (₹) 74.10 98.9 96.27 -0.20 Pound Sterling (₹) 86.94 -0.14 Euro (₹) Gold (10gm)\* (₹) 50,309▼186 0.37 Brent crude (\$/bbl)\* 37.46 -1.66 IN 10-Yr bond yield 5.881 0.023 US 10-Yr T-bill yield\* 0.803 0.022 \* As of 9:30 PM IST

## P&G to set up ₹400 cr 'India **Growth Fund'**

FMCG major Procter & Gamble (P&G) on Thursday announced a Rs 400 crore fund to help its existing and new suppliers in India to build capacities. Through the 'India Growth Fund" P&G will collaborate with suppliers to build capacities that will further localise the manufacturing of finished products, procurement of raw materials and packaging materials, and adopt go-tomarket innovations and technology, P&G said in a statement.

#### **DPIIT's new quality** control norms for leather footwear



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has come out with quality control norms for different leather foot-wear including anti-riot shoes with a view to contain imports and production of substandard products in the country. The products would have to conform to the specified standards and bear the standard mark under a licence from items cannot be produced, sold/traded, imported, stocked unless they bear BIS mark.

#### IndiGo posts ₹1,194 crore loss for Sept quarter

Budget carrier IndiGo on Thursday reported a net loss of ₹1,194 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. It had posted a net loss of ₹1,062 crore in the September quarter of the previous financial year. In the April-June period this year, the airline had incurred a net loss of ₹2.884 crore. The airline's total income stood at ₹3,029 crore in the second quarter of 2020-21, a decrease of 64.5 per cent over the year-ago period, it said.

## BP pitches for infra sharing with cos like ONGC

Ahead of starting the next wave of gas production from the KG basin, UK-based supermajor BP Plc has pitched for oil and gas producers sharing their infrastructure to help cut costs and monetise small and marginal discoveries. BP. which in partnership with Reliance Industries Ltd is investing USD 5 billion in developing three sets of discoveries in the Krishna Godavari basin block KG-D6, also wanted sanctity of contracts to be honoured and policy stability.

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Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

# **Gold demand in India** Gold demand in india plunges to 25-year low

CHENNAI, OCT. 29

India's gold demand in 2020 might be the lowest in 25 years as the pandemic has already dragged down consumption in the first three quarters by almost half. Central banks have turned net sellers in the September quarter after a gap of 10 years.

In the first three quarters of 2020, gold demand stood at 252 tonnes, which was 49 per cent down from 496 tonnes in the same period last year. With one more quarter to go, the World Gold Council expects that India's gold demand would be the lowest since 1995.

"The year 1995 had seen one of the lowest yearly demand of 462 tonnes. In Q4 of last year, the demand stood at 194 tonnes. Even if we assume that the country consumes 200 tonnes in the festive quarter of Q4 this, which though is unlikely, the total consumption for the calendar year will touch 452 tonnnes and will be lesser than demand," Somasundaram

Managing Director, India, World Gold Council. According to him, some of the organised jewellers have reportedly seen 60 -80 per cent of the demand

recovering in the month of

October. The September quarter saw gold demand falling by 30 per cent to 86.6 tonnes on the back of Covid-19 related disruptions, bleak consumer sentiment and high prices accompanied by volatility. RBI in gold buying spree

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 29

central banks turned net sellers after a gap of 10 years, the Reserve Bank of India bought 6.8 tonnes of gold during the pandemic-hit September quarter. In fact India has bought a total of about 30 tonnes since March this year.

India was among the six central banks that increased their reserves in Q3 by a tonne or more. India bought 6.8 tonnes of gold in the quarter when the gross purchases by all the banks totaled a modest 33 tonnes. United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and Cambodia were the other

Earlier in February, RBI had bought 6.8 tonnes taking the total gold reserves to 641.8 tonnes. As on October 9, gold reserves have increased to 670.1 tonnes, as per the data of RBI. In the past seven months, RBI has bought close to 30 tonnes of gold in staggered purchases. India has been buying

This is the third lowest quarter since 2000 when the World Gold Council began publishing quarterly demand.

This is, however, higher than Q2 which saw a 70 per cent drop -- 64 tonnes and the second lowest in World Gold Council's quarterly series.

gold in smaller tranches since 2017. In 2019, the bank had bought 34.5 tonnes and in 2018, 42.5 tonnes. In 2017 it had bought 0.3 tonnes. Prior to that, RBI had purchased 200 tonnes in 2009.

However, in September quarter, Central banks turned net sellers of gold for the first time since Q4 2010. Against a net purchase of 141.9 tonnes in the same quarter last year, banks made a net sale of 12

Turkey and Uzbekistan accounted for the bulk of sales. Central banks of the two large buyers- Russia and China - also have not been buying gold for some

According to the World Gold Council, Covid-19 continued to inflict widespread economic hardship, and this pre-occupied central banks and governments around the

'Uncertainty has been elevated by the pandemic, motivating investors – including central banks – to seek assets

While jewellery demand

was down 48 per cent in

Q3 against the year-ago

demand was 51 per cent

up to 33.8 tonnes com-

pared to 22.3 tonnes in the

Q3 2019. In value terms,

investment demand went

up by 107 per cent to Rs 15,410 crore.

investment

quarter.

that will diversify and protect the value of their portfolios in times of crisis. Central banks have been particularly hard hit by the low and negative interest rates on sover-eign bonds, which make up the largest proportion of reserve assets for many," said WGC.

According to Rahul Bajoria, chief India econ-omist, Barclays, increasing gold holdings is part of RBI's long-term strategy of diversifying foreign "Given the in foreign reserves. increase reserves of RBI for the past one-and-half years, gold holdings too might continue to grow. RBI has been buying bonds of developed nations, mak-ing deposits with other central banks and IMF as well as increasing gold

well as increasing gold holdings," he said. While Reserve Bank of India has been increasing gold holdings in smaller tranches, the government has been issuing sovereign gold bonds. In the past few months, it has been issuing bonds every

Due to higher prices, recycling increased by 14 per cent to 41.5 tonnes and imports were up 8 per cent to 90.5 tonnes, mostly in anticipation of the festive season and speculative

Globally, the gold demand was 19 per cent

# Mistrys seek to split Tata Sons' shareholding

Mumbai, Oct. 29: The Shapoorji Pallonji Group on Thursday said it has submitted a plan to Supreme Court to end its seven decades-old association with the Tata Group. The Mistrys have valued

their holding in the Tatas at ₹1.75 lakh crore, it informed the apex court, which is hearing the longdrawn legal battle between the two groups that began after the Tatas in a boardroom coup on October 28, 2016 sacked Cyrus Mistry as the Chairman.

'Tata Sons is effectively a two-group company, with the Tata Group comprising Tata Trusts, Tata family members and Tata companies holding 81.6 per cent of the equity share capital, and the Mistry family owning the balance 18.37 per cent," the Shapoorji Pallonji Group said in a statement quoting from its submission to the apex court.



The group has submitted a plan for separation from Tatas to the Supreme

Tata Sons is the core investment company and is the holding company for the Tata Group and its value arises from its stake in listed equities, non-listed equities, the brand, cash balances and immovable assets. The value of 18.37 per cent stake of the SP Group in Tata Sons is over ₹1,75,000 crore, it

### **Centre rejigs** norms for **PLI scheme**

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 29

Making the productionschemes more attractive for bulk drugs and medical devices manufacturing, the govern-ment has replaced "minimum threshold investment" criterion with "committed invest-ment" ment"

The government has replaced the criterion 'minimum thresh-'committed' investment by the selected applicant. The change has been made to encourage efficient use of productive capital. Further, the amount of investment required to achieve a particular level of production depends upon choice of technology and it also varies from product to product. However, the verification of the actual investment for incentives under the scheme

## Global trade to shrink by 20%

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 29

Revising its earlier estimate, the UNCTAD has predicted global trade to plummet by 20 per cent or by about \$6 trillion in

In 2019, global trade stood at about \$25 trillion, with estimates then predicting a 3 per cent rise in 2020. Without a swift recovery in the second

half of 2020, the consensus now is that trade will instead plummet by about 20 per cent this year, or by about \$6 trillion. Such a decline would be unprecedented, being significantly larger than the \$4 tril-lion fall seen during the all seen uurrecession, said Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNC-

TAD in a recent article.
In early October, UNC-TAD had said that it

expected global trade to fall by about 7 per cent in 2020 under the assumption that the trend observed in Q3 continues into Q4. The lower bound for 2020 is at about 9 per cent and considers the possibility of a resurgence of the pandemic and the prospect of a deteriorating policy environment with sudden increases in trade restrictive policies, the article had said

## Hiring in e-commerce, retail bouncing back

Mumbai, Oct. 29: The retail segment, which has been badly hit due to the lockdown restrictions, is bouncing back gradually with an uptick in hiring of 15 per cent in September when compared with the previous month, according to a report.

However, the hiring

activities are still down by 50 per cent compared to the corresponding month a year ago, according to a report by Naukri.com.

The sector is showing a slow but steady sequential recovery but the sector is likely to bounce back further during the festive season in the country, it added.

"As more public spaces have opened up keeping social distancing in mind, we see movement pick up in retail spaces. Hiring is also picking up accordingly," the report added. The Naukri retail hiring

report is based on hiring activities in the sector on the job site's platform.

Top roles that recruiters are hiring for include retail store manager, sales or business development manager, merchandiser,



software developer, tech architect, designer and accountant

Roles such as logistic manager, interior design-er, warehouse assistant and tech lead have seen 100 per cent, 66 per cent, 44 per cent and 42 per cent growth in demand yearon-year.

Keywords like logistics and retail sales executive are up by 247 per cent and 500 per cent in recruiter searches for the sector, it

Meanwhile, the report further stated that there has been an upward trend in hiring activities in the Internet sector with a sequential recovery since July onwards. This is backed by vari-

ous phases of unlocking

along with the huge demand from consumers daily essentials through online channels.

Major hiring to prepare for the festive season is indicative in August but has become flat through September, it added.

Even though the internet or e-commerce industry started seeing a decline in hiring since the start of the year, when compared with the pre-COVID-19 period, we see a high recovery; the sector is down by only seven per cent in September compared to February.

Even digital marketing and pay per click specialist roles have seen an annual growth of over 40 per cent, it added.

## M&M's new electric 3-wheeler cargo

MICHAEL GONSALVES

Mahindra Electric on Thursday announced the launch of its new electric 3-wheeler cargo model Treo Zor at starting price of ₹2.73 lakh at Delhi showroom which includes the FAME 2 and state sub-

Γhe Mahindra Treo Zor electric 3-wheeler, built on the Treo platform, will be available in pickup, delivery van and flat bed variants at Mahindra small commercial vehicle dealerships in select cities across the country from December.

The vehicle will be retailed through Mahindra's SCV dealerships in select cities with deliveries commencing in December 2020

With a best-in-class payload capacity of 550 kg. the Treo Zor is suitable for last mile transport and is claimed to offer savings of (fuel cost saving of  $\stackrel{?}{=}2.10/km$ ) compared to a

diesel model.

The goods carrier is claimed to have a maintenance cost of 40 paise per km. The certified driving range on a full charge stands at 125 km. "The Treo Zor will pro-

vide a clean, sustainable and affordable solution for iast-miie Mahindra & Mahindra's MD and CEO Pawan Goenka said at the

August 11, the

## Maruti posts flat growth in Q2 profit



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 29

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, on Thursday swung back to profit with its net profit rising 1 per cent year-onyear to ₹1,371 crore in the July-September second quarter as demand for its small cars improved after the stringent Covid-19 lockdown were lifted.

The maker of popular car models such as Swift and Vitara Breeza had posted a loss of crore in Q1 FY21.

Profit was impacted due to a decline in other income (down 34.5 per cent year-on-year) and higher tax cost (up 76.3 per cent YoY). Also, the net profit in Q2 FY20 was higher due to mark-tomarket gains on the invested surplus and lower tax provision, company reasoned.

'In Q2, the performance improved on the back of some demand recovery and gradual improvement in supply conditions," Maruti Suzuki said in a statement. The New Delhi-based

carmaker saw its dispatches improve in the second quarter as the country restarted most activities to revive the economy that is headed towards a rare annual contraction in more than four decades. The lock-down had forced India's automakers to stall operations, leading to a washout in the initial months.

Revenue during the quarter jumped 10.4 per cent to ₹18,744.5 crore compared to the year-ago period. Maruti sold 3.93 lakh units this July-September quarter, reporting a massive 413 per cent growth over the previous quarter and 16 per cent over the year-ago

## DRL ties up with BIRAC for vaccine trials

around ₹60,000 per year

New Delhi, Oct. 29: Drug major Dr Reddy's

Laboratories Thursday announced its partnership with the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, set up by the

Department Biotechnology, for advisory support on clinical trials of Russian Covid-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, in

"The partnership will allow Dr Reddy's to identify and use some of BIRAC's clinical trial centres for the vaccine. which are funded under the National Biopharma

Mission (NBM), implemented by Project Management Unit-NBM at BIRAC. Further, the company will have access to good clinical laboratory practice labs to conimmunogenicity assay testing of the vaccine," Dr R Laboratories said. Reddy's

Earlier this month, Dr Reddy's and Russia Reddy's Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to conduct an adaptive phase 2/3 human clinical trial for Controller Verscipe in Sputnik V vaccine in

Sputnik V vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Research National Institute Epidemiology Microbiology was registered by the Ministry of Health of Russia and became the world"s first registered vaccine against Covid-19 based on the human

On

adenoviral vector plat-Currently, there are two indigenously developed vaccine candidates for

SUN | RISE

## Brouillette was addressing a virtual press conference of India energy forum US pitches cheaper solar power tech to India

Chennai, Oct. 29: The United States wants India to explore manufacturing a cheaper alternative to silicon solar cells, United States. Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette said on Wednesday, amid high dependence on Chinese

technology. Brouillette, who was addressing a virtual press conference at the conclusion of the India energy forum at the IHS CERA Week, said India was "perfectly positioned as a potential manufacturer" of perovskite cells, on which the United States was conducting research at its national laboratory

in Colorado. "We have seen recently with this pandemic, supply chain issues have aris-



en with countries like China and in certain cases we have become overly dependent upon one country," Brouillette said. India has an ambitious plan to increase its renew-

able energy capacity to 175 gigawatts (GW) by

2022, nearly three-fifths of

which will be solar power. India, an energy hungry nation, which imports over 80 per cent of its solar cells and modules from its neighbour, wants to increase domestic manufacturing but has so far "It is a technology we want to share with India, we think it is better done there than other parts around the Brouillette said. Perovskite solar cells

(PSCs) are considered by scientists as a potential cheap alternative to sili-

INDIA HAS an ambitious plan to increase its renewable energy capacity to 175 gigawatts (GW) by

THE ENERGY hungry nation imports over 80% of its solar cells and modules from its neighbour.

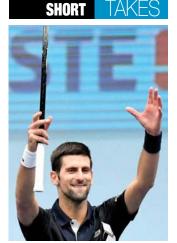
SCIENTISTS ARE also exploring using perovskite in tandem with silicon to increase efficiency.

"Perovskite solar cells offer a much lower production cost compared to silicon solar cells and its

efficiency has improved dramatically," said dramatically," said Sandheep Ravishankar, a scientist researching Perovskite solar cells at the Institute of Energy and Climate Research, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany. "However, Perovskite solar cells are still not sta-

ble enough to be considered as a commercial competitor of silicon,' Sandheep said.
Scientists are also exploring using per-

ovskite in tandem with silicon to increase efficiency, and research on the technology is being carried out in countries including the United States, Saudi Arabia and Federal Republic of Germany.



Novak Djokovic gestures after defeating Borna Coric in the Vienna Open pre-quarterfinal.

#### **Djokovic seals** 2020's top spot

Vienna: Novak Djokovic virtually ensured equalling Pete Sampras's record of ending the year as world number one for the sixth time on Wednesday when he reached the Vienna ATP quarterfinals. Djokovic defeated Croatia's Borna Coric 7-6 (13/11), 6-3 and will secure the year-end top spot as long as Rafael Nadal does not take an unlikely wild card into the Sofia event next month. If Novak wins the Vienna title on Sunday, he will make sure of the landmark regardless of whether or not Nadal plays in Bulgaria, Diokovic, who now has 39 wins and just two defeats in 2020, has been the top-ranked player at the end of a season five times: in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018. He shares that mark with career rivals Roger Federer and Nadal. Sampras achieved the feat six

#### **Green in Oz squad** for India series

years in succession between

1993 and 1998. - AFP

Melbourne: Australia on Thursday included young allrounder Cameron Green in their T20 and ODI squad for the limited-overs series against India while Moises Henriques returned to national fold after three years following his exploits in the Big Bash League. India will play three One-day Internationals (November 27, 29, December 2) and as many T20Is (December 4, 6, 8) against Australia before the much-awaited Test series. "Cameron's domestic form has been outstanding and he has carried it through for Western

Australia this summer. As a potential player of the future this is an opportunity for him to be part of the squad and build on his experience," national selector Trevor Hohns was quoted as saying by Cricket Australia. Australia have focussed on batting all rounders while picking their

## **Man U dismantle**

limited overs squad. - PTI

Leipzig, Barca win

Paris: Marcus Rashford was again the star for Manchester United in the Champions League with a hat-trick in a 5-0 thumping of RB Leipzig on Wednesday as Barcelona put their off-field troubles to one side to win 2-0 away to a Ronaldo-less Juventus Rashford came on as a secondhalf substitute and scored three times from the 74th minute on in what was a fine win against last season's semifinalists Mason Greenwood and Anthony Martial also scored for the team. Meanwhile PSG got their campaign up and running by beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in Turkey, although they lost Nevmar to an adductor injury in the first half. Both PSG's goals were scored in the second half by Moise Kean. **RESULTS:** Manchester United 5 (Greenwood 21, Rashford 74, 78, 90+2, Martial 87-pen) bt RB Leipzig 0; Juventus 0 lost to Barcelona 2 (Dembele 14, Messi 90-pen); Borussia Dortmund 2

Live on TV

(Sancho 78-pen, Haaland 90+1) bt

Zenit Saint Petersburg 0; Istanbul

Basaksehir O lost to Paris Saint-

Germain 2 (Kean 64, 79).

IPL: Kings XI Puniab vs Raiasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**Women's Big Bash League:** Sydney Thunder vs Adelaide Strikers from 6.45 am (Saturday) on Sony Six

**WWE** Smackdown: Bouts from 5.30 am

(Saturday) on Sony Ten 1

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# Gaikward off KKR India for Kiwi as ICC's chairman

## Jadeja cracks whip as CSK beat Knights in thriller

Dubai, Oct. 29: Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by six wickets in a thrilling IPL match here on Thursday.

Ravindra Jadeja scored an unbeaten 31 off just 11 balls which included two boundaries and three sixes, the last of which was struck on the last ball of the match to overhaul KKR's total of 172 for 5.

Needing 30 runs off the last two overs, CSK smashed 20 off the penultimate over bowled by fast bowler Lockie Ferguson, thanks to Jadeja, who hit two more sixes in the last over bowled by pacer Kamlesh Nagarkoti.

Earlier, opener Ruturaj Gaekwad set a solid foundation for the chase by scoring 72 in 53 balls (4x6,

For KKR, opener Nitish Rana made 87. Following Rana's 61-ball effort, cameos from skipper Eoin Morgan (15 off 12) and Dinesh Karthik (21 not out off 10) allowed KKR to put up a competitive total. CSK, who pulled things back in the middle overs, leaked 66 runs in the last

five overs Lungi Ngidi (2/34) was the best bowler for CSK while Sam Curran also bowled well early on.

The KKR innings was built largely on Rana's knock which comprised 10 fours, four sixes.

Rana hit three consecutive sixes off Karn Sharma in the 16th over to up the ante as the Kolkata side looked for quick runs.



Ruturaj Gaikwad of Chennai Super Kings plays a shot against Kolkata Knight Riders during their IPL match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

#### **SCORECARD**

Karn Sharma 26, Nitish Rana c Sam Curran b Lungi Ngidi 87, Sunil Narine c Ravindra Jadeja b Mitchell Santner 7, Rinku Singh c Ambati Rayudu b Jadeja 11, E. Morgan c Gaikwad b Ngidi 15, D. Karthik not out 21, R. Tripathi not out 3. Extras (LB-1, W-1) 2. Total (for 5 wickets 20 overs) 172.

FoW: 1-53, 2-60, 3-93, 4-137, 5-167. Bowling: Chahar 3-0-31-0, Curran 3-0-21-0, Ngidi 4-0-34-2, Santner 3-0-30-1, Jadeja 3-0-20-1, Karn Sharma 4-0-35-1.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shubman Gill b Chennai Super Kings: Shane Watson c R. Singh b Varun Chakravarthy 14, RD Gaikwad b Cummins 72, Ambati Rayudu c Narine b Cummins 38, M. S. Dhoni b Varun 1, Sam Curran not out 13, Jadeja not out 31. Extras (NB-1, W-8) 9. Total (for 4 wickets in 20 overs) 178.

FoW: 1-50, 2-118, 3-121, 4-140, Bowling: Pat Cummins 4-0-31-2, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 3-0-34-0, Sunil Narine 4-0-23-O, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-54-0, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-20-2, Nitish Rana 1-0-16-0.

#### **IPL POINTS TABLE** P W L N/R Pts NRR **Mumbai Indians** 12 8 4 0 16 +1.186 Royal Challengers Bangalore 0 14 +0.048 **Delhi Capitals** 12 7 5 0 14 +0.030 12 6 6 0 12 -0.049 Kings XI Punjab 13 6 7 0 12 -0.467 Kolkata Knight Riders 12 5 7 0 10 +0.396 Sunrisers Hyderabad 12 5 7 0 10 -0.505 Rajasthan Royals Chennai Super Kings 13 5 8 0 10 -0.532

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

#### **SHASTRI URGES Powerful Punjab face SURYAKUMAR** languishing Rajasthan **TO BE PATIENT**

New Delhi, Oct. 29: National coach Ravi has Suryakumar Yadav to "stay strong and patient" after the MI batsman impressed with an unbeaten 43-ball 79 in the IPL despite the heartbreak of being ignored for India's tour of Australia. His consistent run in domestic cricket and the IPL notwithstanding, Yadav did not feature in India's white-ball squad named for the

series against Australia. "Surya namaskar. Stay strong and patient @ s u r y a \_ 1 4 k u m a r #MIvsRCB," Shastri

tweeted. His innings earned praise from several former stars with Virender Sehwag saying it won't be long before Yadav dons the Indian jersey. -PTI

Saarbrucken (Germ-any),

Oct. 29: Indian shuttlers

Shubhankar Dey were on

Thursday forced out of the SaarLorLux Open

after being put in isola-

tion owing to contact with

Covid positive father-cum-

coach of defending cham-

pion Lakshya Sen, who

The 19-year-old Lakshya

withdrew on Wednesday

after his father D. K. Sen

returned a positive test for

the dreaded virus. D. K.

Sen is asymptomatic at

"BWF can confirm three

from

players have been with-

SaarLorLux Open 2020 as

a precautionary measure

for all participants after

they were in contact with

a member of their team

entourage who tested pos-

this point.

has already withdrawn.

Jayaram

#### rampaging Kings XI Punjab would look to extend their exceptional run and inch closer to a

Play-offs berth while Rajasthan Royals would be desperate to stay alive in the tournament when the two sides clash in an IPL match, here on

It has been a dramatic turnaround for the KL Rahul-led side after a string a losses earlier in the tournament.

They have managed to weave together five consecutive wins against the top four sides in the tournament, infusing life into their campaign. They are in fourth position with 12 points from as many games, while the Royals have slumped to the penultimate spot with 10 points having defeat for Punjab will

itive for Covid-19," the

Federation said in a state-

Sen.

Jayaram and Subhankar

Dey will not compete fur-

ther in the tournament,

which began on Tuesday,'

Later, Jayaram, in a

minister Kiren

Twitter post tagging

Rijiju, the national bad-

minton federation and

BWF, said that he and Dey

would like to return to

India as the organisers

have not given them any

information or assistance

apart from asking them to

"Owing to one of the

players failing to follow

the Covid protocol and the

organisers failing to

enforce the protocols set

three players:

Badminton

ment.

"The

it added.

sports

Lakshva

#### **NUMBERS GAME**

OVERALL: Matches: 20 Rajasthan: 11 Punjab: 8 Tied: 1 (Kings XI Punjab beat Rajasthan Royals in Super over after match ended

 Kings XI Punjab beat Rajasthan Royals by 14 runs at Jaipur.
 Kings XI Punjab beat Rajasthan Royals by 12 runs at Mohali. **MEETING IN 2020** 

Rajasthan Royals beat Kings XI Punjab by 4 wickets at

Mayank Agarwal made 106 runs off 50 balls with 10 fours and Punjab in first meeting at at Sharjah was the highest successful run-chases in IPL.

from 12 outings. The Royals can't afford

to slip up, if they lose on Friday they will be out of the reckoning while a

Shuttlers stuck after Covid scare

Indian shuttlers

**Ajay Jayaram and** 

Shubhankar Dey

were on Thursday

forced out of the

SaarLorLux Open

ment after being

owing to contact

with Covid positive

champion Lakshya

father-cum-coach of

put in isolation

defending

Sen, who has

badminton tourna-

suffered seven defeats dent their chances for a top-four finish. The Royals will be high

on confidence after their Indians in their 1st outing.

## HARDIK, CHRIS **REBUKED FOR ALTERCATION**

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 29:** RCB all-rounder Chris Morris and his MI's counterpart Hardik Pandya have been reprimanded for a verbal altercation during their teams' IPL clash here.

The incident took place in the 19th over of MI chase when Pandya struck Morris for a massive six and gestured towards the African.

Morris got his revenge Pandya in the fifth ball of the over and gave him a send off. MI won the match by five wickets. A press release from the

IPL said that both of them admitted to breaching the Code of Conduct. "For Level 1 breaches of

the Code of Conduct, the match referee's decision is final and binding," said the release.

Dey had tested negative

ahead of the tournament.

five titles in the senior cir-

cuit last year including two BWF World Tour

Super 100 top honours

SaarLorLux Open and

Dutch Open, received a

bye in the opening round

along with Dey.
Jayaram had won his

opening-round clash on

Monday. With Thursday's devel-

opment, India's challenge

came to an end at the tour-

The world calendar has

been severely curtailed

this year because of the

pandemic and after a

seven-month shutdown, it

Denmark Open earlier

with

Lakshya, who claimed

New Delhi, Oct. 29: The BCCI is likely to back the candidature of New Zealand's Greg Barclay over Singapore's Imran Khwaja in the elections for the ICC chairman, a post vacated by India's Shashank Manohar after two terms in July this year.

Barclay and Khwaja are the only two candidates contesting for the chairman's post and the 16-mem-ber all-powerful ICC Board is set to vote in the first week of December.

While hectic back-channel talks are on to find a unanimous candidate and put up a picture of unity among the Board of Directors (mostly comprising of member nations), it is highly unlikely that Khwaja will have the backing of the Indian cricket

"The BCCI is more aligned with New Zealand Cricket (NZC) and those who matter in Indian cricket board find Barclay as a more suitable candidate for the post. Also Khwaja's policy position-

ing isn't exactly in favour of Indian cricket," a senior official, privy to develop-ments in ICC board said. There are a few issues due to which current ICC deputy chairman Khwaja won't find favour with the BCCI.

Firstly, the role played by him along with Manohar to roll back the proposed revenue model in which India, England and Australia stood to gain more.

The matter was up for vote and Khwaja and Manohar, had back then, gathered enough votes to crush the BCCI.

Secondly, the ICC in 2019. had drawn up a rough calendar for the 2023 FTP cycle and till 2028, each and every year, there was a senior men's flagship event kept in that, the revenues from which would have benefitted the smaller

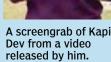
It is understood that the white paper that ICC prepared had Khwaja's tacit support. In fact, BCCI had strong objections to such a

## **KAPIL SHARES HIS WELL**

New Delhi, Oct. 29: A week after undergoing angioplasty, the legendary Kapil Dev on Thursday greeted his former India teammates from the 1983 World Cup, saying he is "feeling very good" and eager to meet everyone soon.

The 61-year-old underwent the procedure after suffering a heart attack. He was discharged from the hospital a

couple of days later. "My family 83. The weather is very pleasant and I am very eager to meet you all. I am feeling very good. Thanks to A screengrab of Kapil all for your wishes and con-



cern.
"I am hoping that we all will meet pretty soon. I will try to meet you all as early as possible. We have approached the end of the year and I am confident that we will have a great start to next year. Love you all," an enthusiastic Kapil, dressed in a purple T-shirt, said in a video which he shared with his 1983 teammates. — *PTI* 



In this file picture taken on December 6, 2008 Argentina's national team coach and football star Diego Armando Maradona gestures as he attends a felicitation programme at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, India.

## Maradona turns 60 in self-isolation

Buenos Aires, Oct. 29: Notorious for his wild lifestyle, Argentina great Diego Maradona turns 60 on Friday in far more sober circumstances sheltered in self-isolation to protect him from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Having suffered two heart attacks in the last 20 years and contracted hepatitis, Maradona's precaution after a bodyguard started displaying Covid-19 symptoms earlier this week is understandable.

A life of excesses with cocaine and alcohol have taken their toll on the mercurial talent's health.

Born in a poor Buenos Aires neighborhood on October 30, 1960, Diego Armando Maradona quickly marked himself out as special talent. Defiant and ingenious, macho, a loval friend and spiteful enemy, Maradona has always been

#### **IDOLIZED LIKE A GOD**

First came the highs. Having made his name helping Boca win the Argentine title, he earned a move to Catalan giants Barcelona at just 21.

At 25 he dragged Argentina to World Cup glory at Mexico 86. In the quarterfinal against England he displayed both the devil in him, and his genius, first scoring a goal with his hand — which he later dubbed the "Hand of - and then embarked on a mazy run, bamboozling the England defence to score one of the greatest goals in World Cup

#### THE LOWS OF LIFE

Maradona broke down in floods of tears in 1990 after he failed to inspire an illdisciplined Argentina to retain the World Cup, losing 1-0 to West Germany in the final. The next year his Napoli career ended in disgrace after he was handed a 15-month ban for taking

cocaine. He'd scored 346 goals in 679 matches over a 21-year career. As a coach he never enjoyed the same success. and certainly did not have the same flair.

Put in charge of the national team with a Lionel Messi in his pomp, Maradona's charges slumped out of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa with a 4-0 quarterfinal drubbing

by Germany. But his name ensured he was rarely short of offers, whether from clubs in the UAE, Mexico or his homeland, where he is currently the coach at Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata. — AFF

already withdrawn. place, T Shubhankar have found ourselves in an unfortunate situation...," wrote without specifying the lapse on part the player concerned and the

'We have currently been asked to isolate with absolutely no other information from the organisers including our meals," the tweet added. "We have our Covid neg-

ative certificates, and have NO symptoms. We are unable to contact the German local authorities. We would like to know if it is possible for us to get tested here again and come back to india," he added.

pensation for the ordeal. to India." he tweeted.

Javaram said repeated attempts to get a word from the organisers have proved futile so far.

Dey also demanded com-"Requesting authorities to compensate us while also allowing us to return

Lakshya, Jayaram and

nament.

restarted

this month.