

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | TUESDAY 20 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 31°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 1 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 4
Tithi: Chaturthi
Star: Anusham/ Kettai
Rahukalam:
3 pm to 4.30 pm
Yamagandam:
9 am to 10.30 am

PRAYERS

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

SUNSET TODAY 5.47 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.00 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 9.26 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 9.09 PM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+41,267)	(+516)
75,90,514	1,15,163

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+3,536)
TN: 6,90,936 10,691

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

4,05,20,549

DEATHS

11,21,229

COUNTRIES
AREAS WITH
CASES 215

worldometers.info

CAA to be implemented soon, says Nadda

Siliguri (WB): BJP national president JP Nadda Monday said the execution of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) has been delayed due to the pandemic and asserted that the law will be implemented soon. Nadda, who was speaking at a meeting of social groups of north Bengal, accused the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal of indulging in "divide and rule politics" in the state to serve the political interests of her party — the TMC, unlike BJP which "works for the development of all".

Telangana rain toll rises to 70

Hyderabad: The Telangana government Monday unveiled a door-to-door evacuation plan in rain-battered Hyderabad as a precautionary measure amidst forecast of more spells while the toll due to the downpour since last week in parts of the state touched 70.

COUNTER

POINT



Forget about your two-wheeler that has been washed away... we got two cars in its place!

Global Covid count crosses 40 mn, India 7.5 mn

London/New Delhi, Oct. 19: The number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 across the planet has passed 40 million. The milestone was passed early Monday according to Johns Hopkins University, which collates reporting from around the world. The actual worldwide figure of Covid-19 cases is likely to be far higher, as testing has been variable, many people have had no symptoms and some governments have concealed the true number of cases.

To date, more than 1.1 million confirmed virus deaths

have been reported, although experts also believe that number is an undercount. The US, Brazil and India are reporting by far the highest numbers of cases, although the increase in recent weeks has been driven by a surge in Europe, which has seen over 240,000 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic so far.

The number of new coronavirus infections reported daily in India dropped below 60,000 for the second time this month, while the number of new fatalities

registered across the country dipped below 600 almost after three months, the Union Health Ministry data stated on Monday.

The total cases mounted to 75,50,273 with 55,722 infections being reported in a day. The death toll climbed to 1,14,610 with 579 fatalities being registered in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed. On October 13, India had last registered daily cases below 60,000. The active cases of coronavirus infection remained below 8 lakh for the third consecutive day. — PTI

STATE | 3

Covid: J'khand minister flown to Chennai for better treatment



WORLD | 5

Trump inciting domestic terror: Michigan Governor

SPORT | 8

High praise for Super Shami



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UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE

Vijay Sethupathi quits Muralitharan biopic 800

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 19

In a sudden turn of events, Sri Lankan spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan requested actor Vijay Sethupathi to opt out of his biopic titled 800 and the star responded by acknowledging the former cricketer's request with a tweet, "Vanakkam, Nandri," which could be a hint that he was opting out of the film.

Vijay Sethupathi was not available for comment but his official publicist confirmed that the star is no longer associated with the biopic 800 titled after his collection of 800 Test wickets.

The Tamil film star had been under tremendous pressure to withdraw from the biopic. "It's all over and that is the meaning," he told reporters later about his tweet.

As soon as it became official that Vijay Sethupathi would be playing on screen the Sri Lankan Tamil Muralitharan when a first look poster was released, the actor has been facing protests from political parties, fans and netizens with several film personalities, including his mentor Seenu Ramasamy, requesting him to avoid acting in the Sri Lankan's biopic. ■ P3



I don't like a celebrated actor like Vijay Sethupathi and his career getting affected because of acting in this film. I came to know that Vijay Sethupathi is getting a lot of pressure to quit the film. I don't want him to face any hurdles. So, I am asking him to opt out of this project."

— MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

Vijay Sethupathi responded by acknowledging the former cricketer's request with a tweet, "Vanakkam, Nandri," which could be a hint that he was opting out of the film. "It's all over and that is the meaning," he told reporters later about his tweet.



VSP could become darling of Tamils

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR | DC CHENNAI, OCT. 19

Actor Vijay Sethupathi stepping out of the 800 film project without precipitating the situation, despite getting open support from sections of people urging to go ahead with his plans, is likely to turn him into a darling of the Tamil people.

The award winning actor, who had been silent when the issue raged like wildfire with several leading politicians and film personalities like director Bharathiraja and lyricist

NEWS ANALYSIS

Thamarai personally requesting him to bow down to popular demand, has at last decided to call it off.

Apart from the hashtags, #ShameOnVijaySethupathi and #BoycottVijaySethupathi, trending for one full day, the entire social media was continuously filled with scorn for the actor, who had agreed to play the role of the ace Sri Lankan bowler Muthiah Muralitharan in the biopic titled after the number of wickets he took in Test cricket. ■ P3

ED grills Farooq on J&K cricket funds

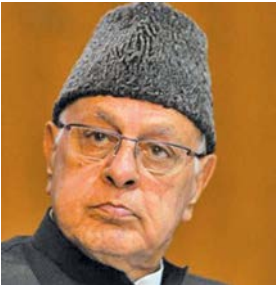
YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 19

Former chief minister and National Conference (NC) president, Farooq Abdullah, was on Monday questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here in connection with an alleged multi-crore scam in Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

The ED's summoning Mr Abdullah to its Srinagar office prompted the NC and other opposition parties to link the move with their forming an alliance last week to fight for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.

The NC accused the BJP government at the Centre of using official agencies to bully its president "after failing to fight him politically".

People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader and former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti, termed it the Modi government's "political vendetta". She tweeted, "ED's sudden summon to Farooq Sahab displays the extent of GOIs nervousness about mainstream parties in J&K fighting as one unit. Also reeks of political vendetta & won't in the least blunt our collec-



tive resolve to fight for our rights."

Mr. Abdullah's son and NC vice president, Omar Abdullah, also reacted sharply to the ED's summoning his father. He wrote on the micro-blogging site, "This is nothing less than political vendetta coming days after the formation of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration. To set the record straight, no raids are being conducted at Dr Sahib's residence."

Farooq Abdullah, 82, was called by the Srinagar wing of the ED to its office here early Monday where he was "interrogated" for seven hours over his alleged role in misappropriation of ₹113.66 crore (including bank interest) received by J&KCA from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) between April 2002 and December 2011.

Chinese soldier captured by Indian Army in Ladakh

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

A Chinese soldier was apprehended by the Indian Army in the Demchok sector of eastern Ladakh on Monday after he had "strayed across the Line of Actual Control". The Indian Army said the PLA soldier would be returned to the Chinese Army after the completion of all formalities at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point in Ladakh.

The Chinese soldier has been identified as Crporal Wang Ya Long.

"The PLA soldier has been provided medical assistance, including oxygen, food and warm clothes, to protect him from the vagaries of extreme altitude and harsh climatic conditions," said the Indian Army in a statement. It said a request has also been received from the PLA about the whereabouts of the missing soldier.

"As per established protocols, he will be returned to Chinese officials at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point after the completion of formalities," the Indian Army statement said.

Both the Indian and Chinese armies have deployed over 50,000 troops each along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, including in Demchok sector. The military standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh has now entered the sixth month, where for

● **"As per established protocols, the Chinese soldier will be returned to Chinese officials at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point after the completion of formalities," the Indian Army statement said.**

● **China's state-owned *Global Times* newspaper said on Monday that the smooth handling of the latest incident involving the Chinese soldier was a "good sign".**

● **The incident occurred at a time when India and China are preparing to hold the eighth round of corps commanders' talks soon, but a date is yet to be worked out**

the first time in 45 years guns have been used and shots have been fired.

China's state-owned *Global Times* newspaper said on Monday that the smooth handling of the latest incident involving the Chinese soldier was a "good sign". It said the incident will not lead to new conflicts in border areas and solving the matter will also signal new progress in the bilateral negotiations.

The incident occurred at a time when India and China are preparing to hold the eighth round of corps commanders' talks soon, but a date is yet to be worked out.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army's top commanders will discuss the threats emerging from China and Pakistan at the commanders' conference due to be held next week, from October 26 to 29. The conference will also discuss

proposals to cut down expenditure on ceremonies like colour presentations, regimental reunions and raising days, among others.

India has asked for complete disengagement from all points in eastern Ladakh, where China has transgressed into Indian territory, including Pangong Tso and Gogra Post-Hot Springs. India has made it clear that since it was China which had first transgressed, it will have to make the first move towards disengagement. India wants restoration of the status quo ante of April 2020 in eastern Ladakh. The Chinese PLA wants India to vacate the strategic heights it has occupied on the Kailash range which overlook the entry points of the Spanggur Gap in the Chushul sector during the pre-emptive action of August 29-31.

For Raj Royals, it's Buttler service



Jos Buttler's unbeaten 70 off 48 balls powered Rajasthan Royals to a convincing seven-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in an IPL game in Abu Dhabi on Monday. Buttler shared an unbroken 98-run stand with captain Steve Smith. It was CSK's seventh defeat in 10 matches. As they languish at the bottom of the table their chances of making it to the playoffs look bleak now. On the other side, the victory powered Royals to fifth position with 10 points. — BCCI

■ Report on P8

MP CM protests 'item' comment on min

Bhopal, Oct. 19: BJP leaders in Madhya Pradesh, led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, on Monday held a protest against Kamal Nath, while the National Commission for Women sought an explanation from the Congress leader for his 'item' jibe against state minister Imarti Devi.

Chouhan also wrote to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, asking her to condemn Nath's remarks and remove the former chief

minister from all party posts. Nath, who heads the Congress in Madhya Pradesh, also came in for flak from Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayawati, who asked Dalits to "teach the Congress a lesson" over the remark. Imarti Devi, the state's women and child development minister, who quit the Congress to join BJP, is a Dalit leader. "Will Sonia Gandhi tolerate if such a remark is made against her daughter?"

Imarti Devi said, attacking Kamal Nath.

Addressing a rally at Mandhata in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh on Monday, Kamal Nath said, "Both Shivraj ji and BJP are finding false issues. I have never disrespected anyone. As they don't have any issues to speak on, that is why sometimes they sit on silent fast and sometimes say Kamal Nath drinks Coca-Cola. This is their condition."

At a bypoll campaign meeting in Dabra (SC) Assembly constituency in Gwalior district on Sunday, Kamal Nath had compared the qualities of the Congress candidate Suresh Raje and rival candidate Imarti Devi from the BJP. He had said, "Suresh Raje is a simple man. He is not like the person. What is the name of the person? As the crowd shouted Imarti Devis name, Kamal Nath called her an 'item'. — PTI

ASSAM-MIZORAM BORDER CLASHES

Union home secretary talks to top state officials

Guwahati: The situation on the Assam-Mizoram inter-state border continued to be tense as Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla reviewed the situation on Monday and tried to pacify both states amid charges of transgression of state borders. Security sources said the situation was now under control in Assam's Kolasib district and Mizoram's Cachar district. The violence erupted on Saturday after people living on both sides of the border clashed over a Covid-19 testing centre set up by Mizoram within territory claimed by Assam to test Mizoram-bound trucks and other people without Assam's permission. ■ P4

SHORT TAKES

ELDERLY WOMAN
FOUND DEAD
IN HOUSEDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 19

An 82-year-old woman was found dead in her son's house in Madipakkam in the city on Monday.

The woman, identified as Saraswathi, was spotted by her son with head injuries.

She had a son and a daughter. Her daughter passed away a few years back and she lived with his son Ravi's family in Alamelu Mangapuram in Madipakkam.

Ravi told police that on Monday morning, Saraswathi fell from the bed and hurt her head. However, police suspect a foul play as he did not inform his relatives or the police about the incident and arranged a funeral immediately.

The Madipakkam police sent the body for a post-mortem to ascertain the exact cause of the death. Police initiated an investigation into the death.

NEWLY-WED
COLLEGE GIRL
COMMITTS SUICIDEDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 19

A 20-year-old newly-wed woman allegedly took her own life in Old Pallavaram on Monday.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as Stella, a college student and a resident of Tirusulam. She was married to one Venkatesh (22), also a student, who resides in Subam Nagar, Old Pallavaram.

Police said the duo were in a relationship for a few years and tied the knot three months back. They moved to Venkatesh's house in Old Pallavaram.

On Monday morning, when the family knocked on the door and tried to reach Stella through the phone, she did not respond.

Venkatesh broke open the door and found her hanging from the ceiling. He rushed her to a private hospital but she was pronounced dead.

The Pallavaram police recovered the body and sent it to the Chrompet government hospital for post-mortem. The police registered a case and are investigating. The case was also forwarded for an inquiry by a revenue divisional officer to verify if the woman ended her life due to dowry harassment.

MAN DROWNS IN
LAKE WHILE
BATHINGDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 19

A trip to the Chembarambakkam lake on Sunday evening proved fatal for a 34-year-old man who drowned while taking bath in the water body. The deceased Vairamuthu, who worked as an accountant at a private hospital in Kundrathur, went to the lake with his friends. He was a resident of Nandambakkam in Kanchipuram district, the police said.

Sources said the group members were drunk before they dived into the lake. He ventured into the deeper part of the lake and struggled to swim back. He subsequently drowned getting caught in the slush. The friends tried to rescue him, but failed.

They alerted the Somangalam police and the TN fire and rescue department. Even after a joint operation, the officials were not able to find him. The search continued on Monday morning and they found his body from a slush in the lake.

'Docs, lawyers allowed to practise with fake certificates'

'Fakes' dangerous
to society, says HCDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 19

Observing that it will be highly dangerous to society if the so-called doctors and other professionals, including advocates are allowed to practise with fake certificates, the Madras high court has declined to permit a litigant, claiming to be a doctor, whose clinic was sealed by the authorities, to withdraw his petition challenging the sealing order.

Justice S. Vaidyanathan posted to November 19, 2020, further hearing of the petition filed by K. Jayapandi, which sought a direction to the authorities to remove the seal for his clinic situated in Jayam Clinic Govindam Palayam Kovai Road Karur.

The judge said when the matter is taken up for hearing it is represented that the petitioner may be permitted to withdraw the writ petition.

This court refused to permit withdrawal of the writ petition on the ground that the documents produced by the petitioner are forged documents. When this was found out by this court based on the arguments of the counsel, appearing for the registrar, Tamil Nadu Medical Council, Chennai, this court expressed displeasure that the inspector of police, K8 MMMA police station, Arumbakkam, Chennai, has not taken custody of the petitioner, as FIR has been registered as early as on March 23, 2018.

"This court feels that it

will be highly dangerous to society if the so-called doctors and other professionals, including advocates are allowed to practise with fake certificates," the judge added.

The judge said the counsel appearing for the petitioner as well as the counsel appearing for the authorities submitted that the petitioner has been taken into custody this morning from his residence at Aravakurichi to be produced before the jurisdictional magistrate at Madras. The counsel appearing for the petitioner was expected to address his arguments as it was reiterated that the petitioner will not be permitted to withdraw the writ petition and it was the discretion of the court to allow withdrawal of the matter, the judge added.

GOLD WORTH
₹33.3 LAKH
SEIZED AT
AIRPORTDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 19

The air customs at the Chennai airport on Sunday night seized gold worth ₹33.3 lakh concealed in cosmetic products in two cases.

Based on a tip-off, Jinka Sudhakara (46) from Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, who arrived from Kuwait, was intercepted at the exit on suspicion of carrying gold.

On examination of his checked-in baggage, two small plastic containers of vaseline were found. On opening these containers 16 gold cut bits concealed in jelly were recovered. Total 365 grams of gold valued at ₹ 19.14 lakh were seized.

In another case on the same night, Thamimun Ansari (33) of Chennai who arrived from Dubai was intercepted at the exit. On examination of his checked-in baggage, nine heavy hair gel tubes with marking "Well new wave" were found. The tubes contained a golden brown thick paste suspected to be gold.

Total 270 grams of gold valued at ₹14.16 lakh were recovered after extraction.

● In another case, Thamimun Ansari (33) of Chennai who arrived from Dubai was intercepted at the exit. On examination of his checked-in baggage, nine heavy hair gel tubes were found.

Enough water in reservoirs



The water level in the main lakes that meet the drinking water needs of the people of Chennai is rising rapidly. Water in Poondi lake has risen to 1,135 million cubic feet from 50 million cubic feet last month, due to flooding from the Krishna canal. If water is available in the lakes of Puzhal (pic above), Poondi, Chembarambakkam and Sholavaram, people of Chennai will be able to get regular drinking water without any difficulty throughout the year. Water for Tamil Nadu has been released from the Kandaleru dam in Andhra Pradesh which had a water level of over 30 tmc feet as on September 18. Water in the three other lakes is also rising significantly, fed by water from Poondi lake. As water level in the lakes around Chennai is approaching five tmc feet, there may not be water problem for the next five months, said CMWSSB officials.

—N. Sampath

Centre wants more SCs,
STs, OBCs as HC judgesG. BABU JAYAKUMAR |
DC
CHENNAI, OCT 19

The Centre has been requesting that due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women while making appointments to high courts. Union minister of law and justice Ravi Shankar Prasad has said.

In his reply to the matter of urgent public importance raised by DMK member P. Wilson in the Rajya Sabha, demanding social justice and diversity in the appointment of Supreme Court judges, Prasad said judges to the

Supreme Court were appointed predominantly from amongst the Chief Justices and judges of the high courts.

Also, the minister clarified that the appointments were made under Article 124 of Constitution that did not provide for any reservation.

Wilson, in his special mention, said, "certain disturbing trends are noticed in the composition of the Supreme Court. For the past few years, there is declining representation from all the sections of the society."

Requesting Parliament to step in to ensure social justice and diversity in the Supreme Court, he said many groups were poorly represented. There were

not many women and persons from historically oppressed and marginalized sections of society and it was not because they were not qualified enough, he said.

Earlier, Wilson had written a letter to the President that stressed the necessity for diversity in the Union judiciary. "The court is not indicative of the wonderful diversity and pluralistic society India is," he said.

Stating that the lack of diversity had caused a lot of fear and agony in the minds of the people, Wilson explained how diversity improved quality of judgment. "A judge who was born into privilege and raised wealthy in the upper echelons of soci-

ety might not appreciate the law pertaining to reservation as much as a judge who was born into abject poverty," he said.

To deny diversity at the Bench, merit was used as a proxy to justify the retention of a particular class or community of persons as judge, Wilson said, adding: "For the public to perceive our court system as impartial and accessible, the judiciary must reflect the diverse populations affected by its decisions."

Hence he requested the President, as an appointing authority, to make it mandatory for diversity in appointments to the Supreme Court, which he described as a 'sentinel on the qui vive.'

SENIOR JOURNO
SUBRAMANIAN
NO MOREDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 19

Senior journalist K. Subramanian, formerly Chief Reporter of Tamil daily Dinamani, passed away on Monday after a brief illness. He was 67. Among those who condoned the death of the journalist with over three decades of experience were Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, Chennai Reporters' Guild, of which was a former secretary, Madras Union of Journalists and the Chennai Press Club.



Sembakkam municipality workers remove encroachments on Chittlapakkam main road as part of measures to desilt stormwater drain before monsoon sets in. — DC

Apollo readying to administer one
million Covid-19 vaccines a dayDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 19

Supporting the government's battle against the pandemic, Apollo Hospitals has prepared to administer 1 million Covid-19 vaccines daily.

The group will leverage its pan-India web of 19 medicine supply hubs with cold chain facilities and use its 70 hospitals, 400+ clinics, 500 corporate health cen-

ters, 4,000 pharmacies alongside their omni-channel digital platform Apollo 24|7 to ensure administration of Covid-19 vaccines.

More than 10,000 Apollo employees are undergoing training and will be stationed at the group centers to administer the vaccine, according to a press release. Apollo 24|7 will host a dedicated platform for all the information



related to the Covid-19 vaccine is on e (<http://bit.ly/CovidVaccineTracker>). Users will be able to register them-

selves on Apollo 24|7. The platform will generate a unique number for every user registering on the platform and ensure interoperability with the National Digital Health Mission effort. Users will be receiving constant updates about the vaccines through the portal. To register for vaccine updates, download the Apollo 24|7 app or visit: www.apollo247.com

AWARENESS
DRIVE

Government Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital Dean Dr Vasantha Mani after taking out a breast cancer awareness rally along with doctors and nurses on Monday.

— DC

SHORT TAKES

TN GIVES ₹10 CR TO TELANGANA; CM LAUDS RAO

Chennai, Oct 19: In a gesture of solidarity, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Monday announced ₹ 10 crore towards relief efforts for rain and flood-battered Telangana and lauded his counterpart K Chandrashekar Rao for efficient handling of the situation.

In a letter to Rao, Palaniswami conveyed condolences on behalf of the government and people to the families of all those who had lost their lives in the rains and floods.

Noting that heavy rains and unprecedented floods in Hyderabad and certain districts of Telangana have led to extensive damage to property and loss of lives, he appreciated the efforts made.

"Your efficient and quick handling of the disaster and the response of your government in providing relief and rescue operations to the people have quickly mitigated the adverse effects of the flood," Palaniswami said.

As a token of support and solidarity of the government and people of Tamil Nadu with the government and people of Telangana, "I have ordered the immediate contribution of a sum of ₹10 crore from the Chief Ministers Public Relief Fund to the government of Telangana," he said.

"We are also sending blankets and mats as relief material to the affected families," he said and assured any other assistance as may be required by Telangana. — PTI



COVID: J'KHAND MIN FLOWN TO CHENNAI

Ranchi, Oct 19: Jharkhand education minister Jagarnath Mahato, who is in a critical condition after contracting Covid-19, was flown to Chennai in an air ambulance on Monday for better treatment, officials said. Mahato will undergo treatment at MGM Hospital in Chennai, they said. Chief Minister Hemant Soren and animal husbandry minister Badal Patralekh were present at Ranchi airport while Mahato was being flown to Chennai, the official said. "He was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Ranchi but as there was no improvement in his condition, he was shifted to Chennai for better treatment, as per doctors' advice," Soren said. "Mahato is still afflicted with the disease and has a severe lung infection," health department principal secretary Nitin Madan Kulkarni told PTI. The education minister's condition had worsened on Sunday, prompting Soren to call three doctors from MGM Hospital for his treatment. "The doctors from the Chennai hospital examined Mahato and suggested taking him to the southern metropolis. They went with the education minister in the air ambulance," Dr Anand Prakash, advisor to the Ranchi hospital where he was being treated, said. Mahato had tested positive for COVID-19 on September 28 and was initially admitted to state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), from where he was shifted to a private hospital in the city on October 1, after he complained of breathlessness. — PTI

Governor, Stalin, judges pay respects to CM's mother

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 19

Governor Banwarilal Purohit and leader of the Opposition M. K. Stalin were among the host of VVIPs who paid floral tributes to Thousiammal, the late mother of Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, as the portrait was unveiled at the Chief Minister's camp office in Chennai on Monday.

State Ministers like D Jayakumar, R Kamaraj, C Vijayabaskar, Kadambur Raju, K C Veeramani and K T Rajendhras Balaji were also present to pay homage to Thousiammal.

Besides high court judges, a host of bureaucrats, some leading businessmen and a galaxy of film personalities, several DMK MLAs, including the party's general secretary Durai Murugan also paid their respects.



DMK leaders pay respects to CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami's mother portrait on Monday. — DC

Auto driver fined for helmetless ride

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
TIRUCHY, OCT 19

Members of the auto-rickshaw drivers association in the city were shocked on Monday, when a colleague received a phone message from the Thillai Nagar police asking him to pay a fine of ₹100 for not wearing a helmet. Protesting against this, a group of auto rickshaw drivers assembled at the collectorate here and submitted a memo-

randum to Collector S Sivarasu, and narrated their ordeal with the police. They told newsmen that one Vijayakumar (32) of Crawford, who runs an auto-rickshaw for over 10 years now, received the message from Thillai Nagar police to pay a fine for not wearing a helmet. They also pointed out that most of them had paid fines of up to ₹ 2,000 a week, in addition to the police torture.

Lost migratory pelican rescued

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, OCT 19

A spot-billed pelican, which lost its migratory path, landed at Mathakottai near here on Sunday. Continuous rain could have left the bird tired, said wildlife enthusiasts.

Spotted in a bush by villagers, this bird from Europe, was rescued by members of 'Endangered Wildlife and Environmental Trust' (EWET), a voluntary organisation founded by one Sathishkumar, here.

The bird with a long beak and a long pouch-like flap underneath, used for trapping prey, was taken to the 'Vaduvir

bird sanctuary' near Mannargudi, and released into the lake. Sathishkumar said that such incidents of birds getting stranded, happens during migration. But it gave us satisfaction as we could rescue it and let it in the place where it intended to go. Migratory birds normally through bird sanctuaries at Vaduvir, Udhayamarthandapuram in Tiruvallur district, and the great Vedaranyam swamp at Point Calimere, in Nagapattinam district. After it was released in water, the pelican majestically swam to the mounds in the middle of the lake.

PONDY ADDS 108 FRESH 19 CASES, TALLY RISES TO 33,247

Puducherry, Oct 19: Puducherry on Monday reported 108 new coronavirus cases taking the overall tally in the union territory to 33,247. A 58-year old woman from the Puducherry region succumbed to the infection during the last 24 hours ending 10 AM today taking the toll to 575, the Department of Health and Family Welfare said in a release.

The 108 fresh cases were reported at the end of the examination of 2,533 samples, it said, adding that 230 patients were discharged during the 24 hours from hospitals after recovery.

The overall infection tally stood at 33,247 (after transfer of 14 cases to Tamil Nadu), the bulletin said, adding there were 4,152 active cases. As many as 28,520 patients

■ The only patient who died of Covid in the last 24 hours had complaints of diabetes and kidney disease

were treated and discharged so far. Fatality and recovery rates were 1.73 per cent and 85.78 per cent respectively. The release said that 2.67 lakh samples had been tested so far and it was found that 2.30 lakh samples were negative and the result of the examination of remaining samples was awaited.

The only patient who died of Covid in the last 24 hours had complaints of diabetes and kidney disease, the release said. Of the 108 fresh cases, the Puducherry region had 95 followed by Karaikal (8), Yanam (4) and Mahe (1). — PTI

Comply with corona SOPs: Collector to shops

ARULOLI M | DC
TIRUNELVELI, OCT 19

The festive crowds gathering in textile showrooms for Deepavali purchases has triggered fears of an intense spread of Covid-19.

Despite the standard operating procedures (SOPs) laid down by the Collector here for textile showrooms, none of them have cared to follow it, and allow customers to crowd without any restrictions. They also do not care to insist on customers to wear masks or maintain social distancing inside their premises.

The manager of a popular textile showroom said that it was an impossible task to strictly insist customers to wear masks or maintain social distancing, since public could misconstrue it as a 'customer unfriendly attitude' by the staff, which

can have a negative effect on the business.

Traders here have hence suggested deployment of the city police or volunteers in front of showrooms to guide the public to adhere to prescribed SOPs.

"This will help avoid unnecessary friction between traders and customers," added the manager. Tirunelveli collector, Shilpa Prabhakar Satish, however strongly warned textile showrooms of action for violating section 144, if they failed to follow the SOPs.

Stating that the district administration has taken all possible measures to prevent further increase in Covid cases during the festive season of Dasara and Diwali, the collector added that SoP violation would invite stringent action, including sealing of shops.

Murder case: Kin seek arrest of inspector

ARULOLI M | DC
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT 19

The family and relatives of an youth, abducted and murdered last month at Thattarmadam near Sathankulam here, have demanded the police to arrest Thattarmadam inspector Hari Krishnan also, now under suspension, for helping the murderers.

Due to a land dispute with Thirumanavel, then Thoothukudi district

traders' wing secretary of the AIADMK, Selvam, son of Dhanislas of Chokkan-kudiyiruppu, was abducted and murdered by Thirumanavel and his men on September 17. As the body of Selvam was found at Thisayanvilai in Tirunelveli district, Thisayanvilai police registered a case based on a complaint filed by Selvam's mother, Elizabeth, against six men including prime accused Thirumanavel.

Thattarmadam inspector Hari Krishnan too was accused of helping the murderers, and hence, he was suspended.

Following a mass protest and an indefinite fast launched by the victim's family, the case was transferred to the CB-CID. Prime accused, Thirumanavel, was also dismissed from the AIADMK and arrested along with four other accused.

The family and relatives

of the victim, Selvam, said they had lost faith in the CB-CID investigations, as Inspector Hari Krishnan was merely suspended from service, but not arrested. Selvam's 75-year-old father, Dhanislas, demanding action against the suspended inspector also wanted police to arrest the kingpin of the crime, Chinnaesakki, who is said to be the brain behind the abduction and murder of Selvam, who is now left scot-free.



After a halt of over seven months, the grievance day meeting resumed at the Tirupattur Collector's office on Monday, and Collector Sivan Arul received the petitions. DRO Thangaiya Pandian and collector's personal assistant, Vincent Rajasekar, also participated. In the photo, Collector Sivan Arul interacts with an differently-abled girl at the meeting. — K. Senthil Nathan

Tamil sentiments made him to quit film

FROM P1

Of course, there were many in cinema, politics and in the public domain who elucidated on Vijay Sethupathi's right to choose his films, how the public demand that he should not don the role of Muralitharan was an infringement of freedom of expression and so on and so forth.

Then there was another section that tried to justify the past actions of Muralitharan that were the primary cause for the plethora of objections that came from different quarters and thus trying to say that the cricketer was not such a bad guy as he had been made out to be and he should be judged by his proven talent.

The cricketer himself came out with his explanations in a bid to prove wrong the allegations against him that he was against the LTTE and did not support the Eelam cause and instead cosied

Don't want Vijay to face hurdles, says Muralitharan

FROM P1

Hashtags 'Shame on Vijay Sethupathi', 'Boycott 800' were trending on the internet objecting to VSP portraying the cricketer who was seen as supporting the Sri Lankan government in its three-decade civil war against Eelam Tamils. The protests did not die down despite a three-page statement from Muralidharan

explaining his stand as well as a press release from the film makers. Dar Motion Pictures who said '800' was only a sports biography movie and it does not make any political statement.

Vijay Sethupathi, who had seemed firm initially about his decision to do the biopic, may have had to change his mind. Muralidharan, in his statement, said - "I don't like a

celebrated actor like Vijay Sethupathi and his career getting affected because of acting in this film. I came to know that Vijay Sethupathi is getting a lot of pressure to quit the film. I don't want him to face any hurdles. So, I am asking him to opt out of this project." However, Murali expressed the hope that the filmmakers would continue with the biopic plans.

up with the Sinhala establishment.

But the demand that Vijay Sethupathi should not play the role of Muralitharan in the biopic was based purely on sentiments. For many Tamil people, the LTTE and the people of Eelam

were denied justice and the Sri Lankan government ran roughshod over them in the last days of the war.

Since Muralitharan did not condemn the excesses of the Sri Lankan army, a Tamilian should not play his part in a Tamil film

was all that the people felt. The request to abandon the project was based more on Tamil sentiments. Perhaps that was the reason that Vijay Sethupathi, too, could not cock a snook at it as some 'progressive' and 'intellectually inclined' people did.

PLEA FOR 'KARUNAI ILLAM'

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, OCT 19

The MGR Narpani Mandram appealed to chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami to establish a 'Karunai Illam' here in the name of AIADMK founder and late chief minister MG Ramachandran, where the late CM had acquired a house at Kasivilangi area in the city. In a release here on Monday, MGR Narpani Mandram founder secretary, Kannan alias Ramakrishnan, said, now some private parties were attempting to purchase the property of the late CM, which is now badly damaged. He urged the government to retrieve the property and establish a 'Karunai Illam' in MGR's name, which could be used to shelter stray cattle and also other common causes. He also urged the government to extend the term of the Justice Arumugasamy commission probing the cause of late chief minister J Jayalalithaa, and ensure that those responsible for the death of Jayalalithaa be severely punished.

TRADERS STAGE DEMO

Tiruchy: A section of platform dwellers (Tharai Kadai Vijaappaarigal) staged a demonstration near the collectorate here on Monday demanding permission to put up shami-anas in front of their shops. Later, they met the Collector S Sivarasu and submitted a memorandum in this regard.

LABOUR BOARD SEEKS CORONA RELIEF, AID

Pudukottai: Members of the Pudukottai district unit of the CITU staged a sit-in in front of the labour welfare board office here demanding that all unorganised sector labour welfare board benefits be paid to eligible labourers. The protesters said they were not even provided corona relief or aid or even essential commodities, despite their renewed membership.

Wild boar electrocuted, two held in Pandalur

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT 19

While two persons were held for installing illegal power fences on their farmland even as a wild boar was electrocuted in Pandalur on the Nilgiris border. Wildlife activists have urged the forest department officials to strengthen their patrolling to unearth such illicit power fencing found along the forest fringes.

Forest sources said that one Daniel (24) and Sundar (37), both hailing from Pandiyar hamlet near Nadugani village in Pandalur taluk on the Nilgiris border, were nabbed by their staff in Devala on charges of installing an illegal electric fence which killed a wild boar.

"Acting on a tip-off that the two had installed illegal power fencing on their farmland and killed a wild boar

Greens want check on illegal power fencing

recently, a forest team from Devala raided the houses of the duo. The forest teams found some left-over portions of the wild boar carcass, in their residential premises. They had erected

a solar-fence on their farmland, but during the nights they illegally passed electricity to poach for animals," sources noted.

Meanwhile, wildlife activists on the Gudalur-Pandalur belt have sought for a joint inspection both by the electricity department and the forest department to earnestly patrol the area and unearth illicit power fencing, and identify misuse of residential power connec-

tions, which is used as power fencing during the night.

"There are chances that the arrested duo would have been in the practice of poaching small animals like rabbits and deer, and escaped unnoticed all these days. Regular inspection and raids need to be stepped up to stop such activities on farmlands along the forest fringes," a wildlife activist opined.



Special pujas being performed for the newly installed gantanadham (bell) at TTD temple in T Nagar on Monday. — DC

SHORT TAKES

POLICE OFFICER
SHOT DEAD IN
ANANTNAGDC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT. 19

A police official was shot dead by suspected militants in southern Anantnag district on late Monday evening following which the security forces launched a massive operation in the area to capture the assailants dead or alive.

The police sources here said that inspector Muhammad Ashraf was targeted by the gunmen in Anantnag's Kenalwan area while he was returning home from a local mosque where he had gone to offer evening prayers.

"He was rushed to a nearby hospital in critical condition. However, the doctors pronounced him dead on arrival," a police official said over the phone from Anantnag.

The J&K police's counterinsurgency Special Operations Group along with Central armed police forces quickly cordoned the area off and started searches "to get the assailants dead or alive," the sources said.

Earlier during the day on Monday, one suspected militant was killed in a gunfight with the security forces in neighbouring Shopian district's Melhura village.

CAA TO BE
IMPLEMENTED
SOON: NADDADC CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA, OCT. 19

Hoping for success in the Assembly polls in Bihar and West Bengal, BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda said on Monday that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be implemented soon after Covid pandemic ends in India, blaming the ongoing pandemic for the delay in the CAA's implementation.

Referring to the "Gorkhaland" separate statehood demand, Mr Nadda also made it clear the BJP was "determined and committed" to fulfil its promise.

He was speaking at the Samajik Samuha meeting in Siliguri of North Bengal, a stronghold of the BJP, during a day-long tour.

"As far as the CAA is concerned, you will get its benefits. It is sure. Rules are being made now. Due to the coronavirus, a little delay has occurred. As corona is going away, the rules are also being drafted. We will fulfil it." About the Gorkhaland demand, Mr Nadda added, "As far as the Gorkha community is concerned, I am thankful to them."

SDMA TO TAKE
CALL ON NANDED
GURUDWARAPARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Maharashtra's State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) to take a call by Tuesday on whether to permit Nanded gurudwara to hold its annual procession of the Guru Granth Sahib at 5 am, with limited gathering, in the town. A bench of Justice L. Nageswara Rao, Justice Hemant Gupta and Justice Ajay Rastogi in a special hearing on a plea by the Gurdwara Sachkhand management board seeking to be permitted to hold the customary annual procession on the death anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh - the tenth Guru of the Sikhs, who breathed his last in the Gurdwara there.

Starting Monday, the top court is on a week-long Dussehra holiday.

The top court was moved by the Nanded Sikh Gurdwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Board - that manages historic Nanded Gurdwara. The court asked the gurdwara management to approach the secretary, SDMA with the request to hold an annual procession and if not satisfied with its response, then approach the Bombay High Court.

The court directed the SDMA to hear the Gurdwara management's plea on Tuesday and take the decision depending on the prevailing Covid scenario.

Maharashtra government informed the court that the gurdwara management board had sought the permission to conduct the Dussehra, 'Takht Isnan, Deepmala and Gurta Gaddi' events as per the three centuries-old custom being observed by the gurdwara.

FM: Punjab govt consulting
experts on farm laws issue

Oppn slams Punjab govt for not tabling Bill against farm laws on Day 1

Chandigarh, Oct. 19: The opposition on Monday slammed the Punjab government for not tabling a Bill to counter the Centre's new farm laws on the first day of a special Assembly session, which also saw a dharna in the House by AAP MLAs.

The Aam Aadmi Party MLAs sat in the Well of the House till late evening demanding copies of the Bill which the state's Congress government is now expected to introduce on Tuesday.

Earlier, Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal said the state government is consulting constitutional experts on the issue and copies of various Bills to be tabled during the two-day session will be given to the Opposition parties by the evening.

Even after the adjournment of the session for the day on Monday afternoon, AAP legislators continued their dharna, demanding copies of the Bill to counter the legislation enacted at the Centre.

Leader of Opposition and AAP leader Harpal Cheema said they will continue the protest till they get copies of this and other Bills to be tabled during the session.

AAP will support the legislation against the farm laws but the government should supply us with its copies. We haven't got copies of other Bills as well. How can our legislators discuss and debate important issues, Cheema said.

The Shiromani Akali Dal



Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh along with other members pays homage to farmers who have lost their lives during the ongoing agitation over new farm laws, on the first day of a special session of the state Assembly in Chandigarh on Monday.

● **THE TWO-DAY** special assembly session began with obituary references with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh leading the House in paying homage to the farmers who lost their lives during the ongoing agitation against the farm laws.

Said the Bill should have been introduced on Monday.

A delegation of the party met Speaker Rana K.P. Singh in the evening and objected to not getting copies of the Bills to be tabled in the assembly.

The SAD leaders termed it a "murder of democracy".

Earlier reacting to it, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal said they are consulting constitutional experts over the issue and copies of various Bills to be tabled during the session will be given to the opposition parties by the evening.

The two-day special assembly session began with obituary references with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh leading the House in paying homage to the farmers who lost their lives during the

ongoing agitation against the farm laws.

Punjab MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu attended the assembly session for the first time since his resignation from the state Cabinet last year.

SAD MLAs rode tractors to reach the Vidhan Sabha in protest against the farm laws. They tore copies of the Centre's farm laws.

AAP MLAs staged a protest outside the assembly complex wearing black capes. They tore and burnt copies of the farm laws.

The House was adjourned for an hour by Speaker Rana K.P. Singh

after the assembly took up obituary references. The House reassembled for nearly 15 minutes before being adjourned till Tuesday.

As it reassembled, Harpal Cheema said the special session was called to counter new farm laws but the members "have not been given copies of the Bills".

"Will we get copies of the Bills after the session is over," he asked. SAD member Gurpratap Singh Wadala said it seems the state government "does not have clarity" over the issue.

— PTI

HC TO EXAMINE
POLICE CASE
IN TRP SCAMDC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 19

The Bombay high court on Monday sought investigation papers pertaining to Television Rating Points (TRP) case wherein Arnab Goswami, a television news anchor and editor-in-chief of *Republic TV* is being called for questioning.

"The FIR is not an encyclopedia. We would like to peruse the investigation papers and see what probe has been done from today till the next date of hearing," the court said.

A division bench of justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik was hearing a petition filed by ARG Outlier Media Pvt Ltd, which owns Republic TV, and Goswami seeking to quash the FIR lodged on October 6. The petition has also sought a direction to transfer the case to CBI to ensure a fair and transparent investigation.

Senior counsel Harish Salve, who appeared for Mr Goswami and for the company, sought protection from arrest for Mr Goswami. Kapil Sibal, appearing for Maharashtra government and police, said since Mr Goswami has not been named as accused in the case as of now, there cannot be any order granting him protection. Mr Sibal said till now police have issued summons to eight and questioned them.

Karnataka increases testing in
capital to arrest Covid spreadDC CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU, OCT. 19

The Karnataka government has increased the number of tests in Bengaluru by about 73 per cent in the last one month in an effort to identify and start treatment of the patients in the capital city, which contributes almost half of the total daily caseload and deaths. Karnataka health and medical education minister K. Sudhakar said over 13.20 lakh tests had been conducted here till September 19 and then the number of tests was increased to 22.90 lakh.

Meanwhile, the state's Covid-19 tally rose to 7.70 lakh with the addition of 5,018 new cases while the death toll mounted to

10,542 as 64 more people succumbed to the disease on Monday. The active cases stood at 1,06,214 with 1,05,282 of them in stable condition. As many as 17 of the 64 fresh deaths were from Bengaluru Urban.

Kerala records 5,022 new cases: Kerala, which has been recording a high test positivity rate of late, on Monday reported 5,022 new Covid-19 cases after testing 36,599 samples, pushing the infection count to 3,33,881 while the death toll mounted to 1,182 with 21 fatalities. At present there are 92,731 patients under treatment, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here. All districts reported less than 1000 cases, with Malappuram accounting for 910 cases, Kozhikode

772, Ernakulam 598, Thrissur 533 and Thiruvananthapuram 516. **2,918 new cases in AP:** The Covid-19 tally in Andhra Pradesh rose to 7,86,050 on Monday as 2,918, the day which also saw 4,303 patients got cured. At present, the state has just about 35,000 active cases. The overall death toll in the state increased to 6,453 after 24 more casualties were reported in 24 hours. East Godavari district reported

the highest of 468 fresh cases and Vizianagaram the lowest at 44.

Kadapa became the 10th district in the state to cross the 50,000 cases mark after it added 155 in 24 hours, a state government bulletin said.

Rain hits testing in TS: Testing for Covid-19 has been badly affected due to the rain havoc in the state as well as the regular dip in weekend testing. Only 26,027 samples could be collected on Sunday, the state health department said on Monday. A total of 30,210 samples had been tested on October 12.

Only those who are having symptoms are getting themselves tested.

There were 948 new cases and four deaths recorded in the state.

No drug; go back to basics: experts

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 19

With high-end drugs like remdesivir, interferon and hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) stated to be not working, experts state that it is back to basics with the prevention of Covid-19.

Anticipating a second wave in winter in India, experts are of the opinion that people must not neglect the use of masks, hand-washing, cough etiquette and must avoid mass gatherings to prevent the spread of the disease.

The sick must not ven-

● **ANTICIPATING** A second wave in winter in India, experts are of the opinion that people must not neglect the use of masks, hand-washing and must avoid mass gatherings to prevent the spread of the disease.

ture out and rest at home as it is their duty not only to protect themselves but also others. To curtail the spread, World Health Organisation has asked countries in southeast Asia to scale up facilities and continue to test, track and trace cases.

People have been urged to remember three C's - avoid crowded places, avoid closed settings and avoid confined places with poor ventilation. With sea-

sonal influenza viruses active in winters, the health care system has to brace for a dual challenge this year.

Dr K.K. Aggarwal, president of the Confederation of Medical Organisations of Asia and Oceania, said "Masks are very important in the prevention of the spread. Medical masks are regulated. But maximum people in India are wearing fabric masks. We need to bring it under

regulation for quality and efficacy checks."

Dr Sudhir Kumar, senior consultant neurologist at the Institute of Neurosciences at Apollo Hospitals, said the next three to four months will be crucial in the fight against the virus.

"With the relaxation in the norms, there are marriage parties and social functions where Covid guidelines are not followed. People have to continue to exercise care and be alert as only that will help in preventing the second wave," Dr Sudhir Kumar said.

REAL | DRAMA

Tamil Nadu donates `10 crore to flood-affected Telangana state

Hyd braces for another spell of rains

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 19

With the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting heavy rainfall in the next three days, K.T. Rama Rao, municipal administration and urban development minister, has said 80 special officers have been deployed in the GHMC limits and adjoining municipalities for taking up rescue and relief measures.

He said that all other offi-

cial operations have been suspended and the GHMC will focus only on pre-disaster, disaster and relief and rehabilitation measures.

Eighty colonies and 54 apartment complexes are still inundated, and 164 electric transformers are yet to be fixed. The southern part of the city, especially Charminar and LB Nagar zones are the worst-affected.

In view of the rain warn-

ing, the government is on high alert, and has alerted the Army and National Disaster Response Force to be on standby.

The minister said the state government had spent over ₹60 crore so far and another ₹670 crore will be spent for relief and rescue. This is only a preliminary estimation of the losses.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister E.K. Palanisami on Monday announced an assistance of ₹10 crore from the Chief

Minister's Relief Fund to Telangana state.

Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao thanked Mr Palanisami for the assistance that was meant to provide relief to those affected by rains and floods.

In a letter, the Tamil Nadu CM appreciated Rao for his efficient and quick handling of the disaster and the response of the Telangana state government in providing relief to the flood-affected.

He said, "At this difficult time, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu government, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the family members of all those who have lost their lives in the rains and floods. As a token of the support and solidarity of the government and people of Tamil Nadu, in the hour of their need, the Tamil Nadu government has contributed ₹10 crore from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to Telangana state."

Centre reviews
Assam-Mizoram
border tensionMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, OCT. 19

The situation on Assam-Mizoram inter-state border in Southern Assam continued to be tense even as union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla reviewed the situation on Monday and tried to pacify the situation that started with charges of transgression of state border territory by each other.

Security sources, however, said that situation is now under control in the area, which is in Kolasib district of Mizoram and Cachar district of Assam.

The violence erupted on Saturday after people living on both sides of the border clashed over a Covid-19 testing centre set up by Mizoram within territory claimed by Assam to sample Mizoram-bound truckers and other people without the permission of the Assam authority.

According to locals, some young men from the Mizoram side of the border came to Lailapur and attacked truck drivers and villagers and burnt more than 15 small shops and houses which was retaliated by locals on Assam side.

Police said that five-six people including one Nizamuddin Lahskar were injured in the violence. Security sources in Mizoram claimed that at least eight youths from their state were also injured in the clash.

Pointing out that Assam Director General of Border Mukesh Agarwal was camping on the bor-

der, sources said that both the sides, in a video conference meeting with union home secretary on Monday, have agreed to allow the movement of vehicles which were stranded at the border since Saturday.

The chief secretaries of the two states were also present in the meeting. Admitting that territorial dispute between the two states is yet to be resolved, security sources said that Assam government claims its territory basing the map of the survey of India but its counterpart in Mizoram refuses to accept the map and stakes claim on areas under traditional *jhum cultivation* as its territory.

Earlier Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office and the Union Home Ministry about the situation. He also spoke to Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga over phone and stressed on joint efforts to address the border issues and settling disputes amicably, the Assam government said in a statement.

Tejashwi woos
Chirag Paswan
ahead of pollsNAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 19

The RJD which is keen on expanding its voters' base in Bihar is reportedly trying to woo Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) ahead of assembly elections.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday expressed sympathy for Paswan who recently defied the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and pulled out of the NDA in Bihar.

"Nitish Kumar's attitude towards Chirag Paswan was not right. In my view, he was unfair to him. Chirag Paswan needs his father more than anything right now but, sadly, he is not among us anymore," Tejashwi Yadav said.

His statement has come at a time when the entire NDA in Bihar including the BJP has been calling LJP "a vote katwa" party for fielding candidates against the JD(U) and two smaller alliance partners.

Chirag, who recently lost his father Ram Vilas Paswan, is upset over being ignored by the Bihar CM. While talking to reporters earlier this week he had said that when the body of his father was flown from Delhi to Patna, Chief Minister cold-shouldered him at the airport.

"While other senior leaders paid their tributes to my father, Nitish Kumar who was also present at the airport ignored

me repeatedly. Even when I went to him and touched his feet he didn't respond," Chirag Paswan said.

The LJP has announced 42 candidates against the JD(U) and two other NDA partners — HAM and VIP in the first phase of polls.

He is likely to field around 100 more candidates on seats where JD(U) is contesting.

He had recently created a stir in Bihar politics by giving tickets to several sitting BJP MLAs after their seats went to the JD(U). The LJP had earlier decided not to field any candidates against the BJP during the entire polls.

Sources said that Chirag is banking on LJP's traditional Dalit vote bank created by his father. Experts also feel that Ram Vilas Paswan's death ahead of Bihar polls will cast a shadow on the results.

Aware of the LJP's political combination, Tejashwi Yadav is looking forward to benefiting on several key seats if he manages to convince Chirag Paswan ahead of Bihar polls.

Reacting on Tejashwi Yadav's statement Hindustani Awam Morcha spokesperson Danish Rizwan called LJP "a B team of RJD" in Bihar. He said, "It seems that Chirag Paswan is raising questions on Prime Minister Narendra Modi by defying the leadership of Nitish Kumar".



Congress Bankipur candidate and Shatrughan Sinha's son, Luv Sinha, during door-to-door election campaign ahead of Bihar assembly polls, in Patna on Monday.

— PTI

IN BRIEF

Japan, Vietnam up defence ties

Hanoi: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, in his first overseas summit since taking office last month, agreed with his Vietnamese counterpart to step up defence and security cooperation in the face of China's expanding influence in the region. In talks in Hanoi on Monday, Suga and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc set a basic agreement allowing Japan to export defence equipment and technology to Vietnam. Japan has been pursuing such agreements in recent years to bolster ties with Southeast Asia and sustain its own defence industry. Suga says his four-day trip to Vietnam and later Indonesia is key to pursuing the "free and open Indo-Pacific" vision for multilateral economic and security cooperation to counter China's growing power and protect sea lanes in disputed areas of the South China Sea.

Suspended terms for Golden Dawn

Athens: A prosecutor on Monday recommended that all former lawmakers of Greece's extreme right Golden Dawn party who have been convicted and sentenced to prison for leading or participating in a criminal organisation should be allowed to remain free until their appeal has been heard. Prosecutor Adamantia Economou argued that none of the former lawmakers was a flight risk or at risk of re-offending while they remain out of jail, and said most had a clean criminal record prior to this.

CEASEFIRE, YET NEW FIGHTING OVER KARABAKH

Stepanakert, Azerbaijan, Oct. 19: A new ceasefire agreed between Armenia and Azerbaijan to halt fighting over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh was again failing to hold on Monday as both sides accused each other of fresh attacks.

The truce, backed by international mediators to put a stop to three weeks of fighting that has left hundreds dead, was supposed to have come into force at midnight (2000 GMT Saturday) but both sides immediately accused each other of violating the deal.

But it has never been recognised by any other state, including Armenia, while Azerbaijan has always made clear its desire to regain control in one of the most combustible conflicts left after the fall of the USSR. The Azerbaijani defence ministry said Monday that Armenian armed forces had shelled areas in four districts inside the country overnight.

Meanwhile, the local authorities in Karabakh said Azerbaijani artillery fire continued overnight, with the Karabakh army taking "proportionate actions" in response. However Nagorno-Karabakh's main city Stepanakert was quiet overnight, an AFP correspondent said.

The ceasefire was a second agreed after a previous truce thrashed out in Moscow earlier this month never showed any sign of seriously holding.

Karachi, Oct. 19: Prime Minister Imran Khan is "incapable and clueless", and his government is worse than a dictatorship, Pakistan's opposition leaders have said at the second rally of an alliance formed to oust the premier. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of 11 opposition parties formed on September 20, has launched a three-phased anti-

government movement under an "action plan" to remove the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. Under the plan a number of rallies public meetings and demonstrations will be held across the country, before a "decisive long march" to Islamabad in January next year. The first of these rallies was held on Friday in Gujranwala near Lahore.

with Israel formally established ties, the agreement with Bahrain was less detailed and included a mutual pledge to follow suit. Sunday's visit appeared to complete that task, clearing the way for the countries to open embassies and exchange ambassadors in the coming months. "It was indeed an historic visit, to start opening relations between both countries, to have fruitful bilateral relations in both fields," said Bahrain's foreign minister, Abdullatif al-Zayani, at the signing ceremony.

— AP

Chile church set ablaze



The dome of the church of Asuncion falls down burning in flames after being set on fire by demonstrators on the commemoration of the first anniversary of the social uprising in Chile, in Santiago, on Monday, as the country prepares for a landmark referendum.

— AFP

Israel, Bahrain establish relations

Jerusalem, Oct. 19: Israel and Bahrain on Sunday agreed to establish formal diplomatic relations, making the small Gulf country the fourth Arab state to normalise ties with Israel.

The US-brokered agreement capped a one-day visit by a high-level delegation of American and Israeli officials to Bahrain. Bahrain joined the United Arab Emirates at a festive White House ceremony last month marking the "Abraham Accords," a pair of US-brokered diplomatic pacts with Israel.

While the UAE's deal

First Emirati flight lands near Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv, Oct. 19: The first commercial passenger flight to Israel by a carrier from the United Arab Emirates landed near Tel Aviv on Monday, further cementing a normalisation deal between the two countries.

Etihaad Airways Flight No. 9607 landed at Israel's Ben-Gurion international airport just after 7 am.

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner departed for Abu Dhabi later Monday with an Israeli travel and tourism delegation on board, according to an Etihaad statement. Etihaad said it plans regular passenger flights between the countries in the future and was launching a dedicated Hebrew website.

— AP

have?" Zardari said targeting Prime Minister Khan and added that "this is not a new fight but this will be a decisive fight".

The rally here also marked the 13th anniversary of the twin blasts in Karsaz that targeted the homecoming procession of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto in 2007. The blast left around 200 people dead and several injured.

— PTI

Trump inciting domestic terror: Michigan Gov.

Detroit, Oct. 19: Michigan Gov Gretchen Whitmer said Sunday that President Donald Trump is inciting "domestic terrorism" following "lock her up" chants at his rally in the state the night before.

Whitmer told *NBC's* "Meet the Press" that the rhetoric is "incredibly disturbing" a little more than a week after authorities announced they had thwarted an alleged plot to kidnap the Democratic governor. "The president is at it again and inspiring and incentivising and inciting this kind of domestic terrorism," Whitmer said.

"It is wrong. It's got to end. It is dangerous, not just for me and my family, but for public servants everywhere who are doing their jobs and trying to protect their fellow Americans. People of good will on both sides of the aisle need to step up and call this out and bring the heat down."

At a rally in Muskegon Saturday evening, Trump urged supporters to push Whitmer to reopen the state following Covid-19 restrictions. When the crowd starting chanting "lock her up" Trump added, "Lock 'em all up." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, speaking on ABC's "This Week," said Trump's statements were "irresponsible" and accused him of injecting fear tactics.

— AP

Biden not good for India: Donald Trump Jr New York, Oct. 19: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is not good for India as he could be soft on China, US President Donald Trump's son said at an event to celebrate the "success" of his book that talks about graft allegations against



Donald Trump

DON, BIDEN GO ON THE OFFENCE IN STATES

Las Vegas, Oct. 19: President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden went on offense Sunday, with each campaigning in states they are trying to flip during the Nov. 3 election that is just over two weeks away.

Trump began his day in Nevada, making a rare visit to church before an evening rally in Carson City. Once considered a battleground, Nevada hasn't swung for a Republican presidential contender since 2004.

While seated in the front row at the nondenominational International Church of Las Vegas, Trump received blessings from the church's pastors, with Denise Goulet telling attendees that God told her Trump is the apple of his eye and would secure a second term. "At 4:30, the Lord said to me, 'I am going to give your president a second win,'" she said, telling Trump, "you will be the president again."

the Bidens.

Forty-two-year-old Donald Trump Jr is leading the re-election campaign of his 74-year-old father.

— PTI

BOOKS

Towards an Indian realism



Sreeram Chaulia

review

Rarely does an incumbent foreign minister have the time or inclination to write a book on foreign policy. But when a seasoned practitioner of diplomacy with a scholastic mind like Dr S. Jaishankar is in the saddle, a long work drawing upon deep reflection is not out of turn.

The India Way is both an act of self-expression by a keen observer and lover of international relations, and a vehicle to communicate to the world how India is adapting to historic changes. The running theme in the book is that we exist in a drastically altered international landscape, wherein liberal globalisation and multilateral cooperation of the post-Cold War era are out and nationalistic contestation and geopolitical conflict are back.

Unlike in earlier eras, when India paid a heavy price by remaining insular and apathetic to big transitions in the international system, Jaishankar assures readers that it has its eyes on the ball this time. His book can be summed up as a call for India to exploit the growing fissures among the great powers and shed past inhibitions to self-confidently play the *realpolitik* game.

Since China's rapid rise and muscular assertions of dominance are the defining features of the present order, Jaishankar devotes considerable space to how India must size up the dragon and manage its challenge. He states upfront that "creating a stable balance in Asia is India's foremost priority" and makes a passionate plea for Indians to regain their "intuitive feel" for forging and maintaining balances of power

by harking back to Chanakya's maxims and the cold-blooded manoeuvres in the Mahabharata. 'Bharat', as opposed to the modern construct of India, had the gene for power politics and Jaishankar seeks to reincarnate that part of our civilisational heritage in the current "era of greater nationalism" and sharpening international divisions.

Lamenting the history of India as a 'soft state' when confronted by violations of its sovereignty and terrorist violence, Jaishankar argues that what the country lacked in earlier periods was "a national elite with a strong and validated sense of its bottom lines" to reply categorically to foreign threats. He contrasts the "lack of response to 26/11" (the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks) with the post-Uri surgical strikes of 2016 and the Balakot airstrikes of 2019 to contend that the willpower to perform the "dharma of the state" is now firmer.

One of the motifs of the book is 'strategic clarity' and the need for India to be alert to the opportunities presented by schisms in the prevailing contentious international climate. During the Cold War, the flexibility with which China swapped alignment with the Soviet Union to the United States and took risks to advance its geopolitical interests gave it an edge over India, which was rigid and wedded to "consistency". Jaishankar, who was India's Ambassador to China from 2009 to 2013, insists India must take a leaf out of its crafty neighbour and master the art of "strategic deception" and cunning which China skillfully deploys to its advantage.

At the operational level, what

exactly is the "great pragmatism" Jaishankar advocates as the talisman for India to emerge as a leading power? Since Washington under the Donald Trump administration has diminished alliances and disrupted coalitions, India's chief diplomat is not sanguine about doing a China-like somersault, when Chairman Mao Zedong met President Richard Nixon in 1972 to corner the Soviet Union.

Instead of allying India formally with the US to counter-balance China, Jaishankar doubles down on the mantra of 'multi-alignment' and "loose working arrangements with convergent powers", including the US but apparently not over-reliant on it. For Europe and North America, which share India's democratic values, he posits India as a "safe partner" to reduce their dependence on authoritarian China as the go-to outsourcing destination.

What Jaishankar does not dwell upon is whether soft and loose coalitions on military and economic fronts will be sufficient to force China to back off from its expansionist path or at least mellow it down. Robust debate is required on the present Indian strategy to push the dragon back into its permissible confines. Is it optimal, or are more radical moves such as reopening the question of India's recognition of Tibet

Jaishankar's prose style is heavy and elliptical, compelling even specialists in foreign affairs to read and re-read sentences and paragraphs. He is conceptually dense but light on empirical illustrations and comparisons.

and Taiwan as parts of China and overtly militarising the 'Quad' grouping, necessary?

An entire chapter of the book is devoted to Japan to make the case that without it, the construct of 'Indo-Pacific' which expands India's maritime influence is a non-starter. The Japan-USA-India trilateral (JAI) and Japan-Bangladesh-Myanmar connectivity initiatives are cited in the context of an overall Indian strategy to achieve "a new Asian balance". One could add to this 'plurilateral' mix the recent formation of a France-Australia-India trilateral to stabilise the Indo-Pacific. If China is a consummate player of what Jaishankar terms "the logic of power", so should India.

The book's epilogue brings readers up to speed with how the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the nationalistic fervour sweeping the world and rendered "geopolitics and geo-economics more heated". Jaishankar shows how purely commercial calculations, which used to dominate in the heydays of globalisation, have now been overlaid with a heavy dose of politics. India, he believes, can benefit from this more conflicted environment as a "trusted partner", as opposed to a rapacious China.

The India Way is a clarion call for a sophisticated Indian nationalism that digs into cultural roots and maximises gains from the uncertainties of a multipolar world order. For a career diplomat who only recently joined party politics in India, Jaishankar's openness to policy changes and questioning

of old dogmas is refreshing.

But the book has drawbacks. Although Jaishankar criticises 'bureaucratism' as a hurdle hampering a coordinated and cohesive Indian foreign policy, he does not propose administrative reforms such as lateral entry of experts and intellectuals into the Ministry of External Affairs and recruitment of foreign service officers based on specialisation in the discipline of international studies.

Jaishankar wants Indian foreign policy to get brand recognition in the world and is brilliant at articulating the Indian ethos. But the lack of an Indian world news TV channel promoting Indian perspectives globally, and the absence of an organised Indian social media presence to counter negative imagery of India in international public opinion, are glaring gaps which he does not contemplate.

Jaishankar is also coy about judging the key personalities, including top world leaders, with whom he is intimate. Not even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom Jaishankar served first as Foreign Secretary and then as External Affairs Minister; gets much mention as an individual despite his personal imprint on transforming Indian foreign policy. Jaishankar's limitations of holding a high political office show in the absence of candour in the book.

Lastly, Jaishankar's prose style is heavy and elliptical, compelling even specialists in foreign affairs to read and re-read sentences and paragraphs. He is conceptually dense but light on empirical illustrations and comparisons.

But all said and done, given the official position that Jaishankar occupies and his bold projection of an India that is no longer reluctant to do power politics, this book is educative about what the future holds for an aspirational country.

Sreeram Chaulia is dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs

Telling the India story, one dream at a time



Sucheta Dasgupta

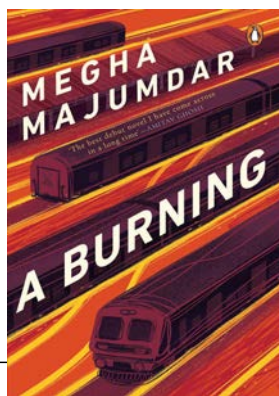
review

A certain solipsism tends to pervade works by modern-day Indian English litterateurs, whether in the themes chosen by them or in the style of their exposition, which recently led one of them to dryly compare them to the musings of diarists who survived, trite or profound. Refreshingly, for story lovers, this novel takes a giant step away from all that.

A Burning is an intimate and clear-eyed rendering of the lives and dreams of three people — a readymade garments showroom salesgirl who wants to be independent and affluent like a 'city girl', a traditional transgender with an acting dream and a simple-minded physical education teacher who is stern and loving to his wards in the old style but is also motivated by a gung-ho patriotism that germinates in him an incremental desire for acquiring the charisma of leadership. The story is set in Kolkata, with a few, unobtrusive "fabled city" references. In a moment of do-gooder sentimentalism, the girl reacts to a video on Facebook, and she is promptly arrested and jailed for connivance in a train burning. It is almost coincidental that the girl is Muslim.

It is a simple enough storyline, hence so much for spoilers. The writing keeps you holding on to the edges of your seat. Right up to the very end of it.

As the life of the *bhadrolok*, the genteel, in West Bengal grows smaller and smaller, and staler and staler, *A Burning* takes a hard individualist look at the lives of the modern marginalised, shunning broad collective assumptions, thus humanising them. Characterisation is the writer's forte. In telling the characters' stories, the writer candidly describes their weaknesses, without judgment or evaluation, which lends a strange tenderness in the reader's mind when they witness their individual denouements. A reader of Bengali literature is reminded of the Bengali tragic realist literary tradition (Samaresh Basu et al.) that the writing, probably organically,



A BURNING

By MEGHA MAJUMDAR
Penguin Random House
₹599

reproduces.

The writer writes large parts of the novel in pidgin English. For example, she writes the voice of the hijra in the present continuous tense. Just like the Internet meme, lolcats, has bad grammar; it accurately portrays the hijra's stream of consciousness. What is remarkable is the writer's confidence that it will all work out well.

Is the novel political? That is the question many readers will ask. Do you agree with its politics, if any? The answer intrigues.

Slim at 300 pages, linear, intense and imbued with a spare, almost short story-like beauty, *A Burning* stands out with the lambent perfection of a single lily rather than an awe-inspiringly elaborate, non-linear, surrealist/speculative/magical realist, multi-dimensional, dazzling rose of a story. And it is, in fact, flawless, save for its lack of closer attention to bleeding heart liberals, a group that forms an important part of the dynamic. They are equally culpable in what this study aims to criticise. And they shift shape. The media, for instance, in this story could have been that group, but you cannot be sure, as there isn't a clue. However, you will hardly regret the hours spent between the pages of this burning exposé and exposition of a book.

DECCAN Chronicle

20 OCTOBER 2020

Cut back on festivities, Covid-19 threat is real

It's normal for the people to expect scientists to analyse data and provide a conclusive and independent opinion while taking the statements of the politician with a pinch of salt. But it looks like the report of the expert panel, appointed by the department of science and technology, which says India has gone past the peak with respect to the spread of the coronavirus, is comforting but comes with too many ifs and buts. On the other hand, Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has been consistent and unequivocal in all his communications, insisting that the forthcoming festival season is going to be a game changer for the worse and cautioning people against being lackadaisical in their approach to the pandemic.

Dr Vardhan was persuasive enough to cite the example of Kerala and the way the state's containment strategy went completely awry after its annual festival Onam in late August to drive home the point that lapses in the coming season would prove to be too costly. The state, which reported almost zero new Covid-19 cases in the first week of May saw the numbers rise, albeit nominally, after the Union government decided to open inter-state and international traffic. But the number grew rapidly after Onam: the state's share in the total caseload shot up from 2.9 per cent until September to 6.4 per cent in the second half of the month to almost 10 per cent now. The state's total active cases of 96,000 contribute almost 10 per cent to the total cases in India at present. It is a fact that large congregations of people who threw caution to the winds undid all Kerala had done in the initial phases to stop the spread of the pandemic. A section of experts also blames the series of agitations the opposition had launched against the state government during the same period for the sudden spurt of cases.

The Union government had announced two weeks ago it was launching Jan Andolan, a massive awareness campaign about the need to observe the critical points that have proved to be effective against the virus: hand hygiene, social distancing and wearing of mask. But we are yet to find the government taking it up seriously and make the message reach the nook and cranny of the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the best communicator India has today, but the nation is yet to hear him talk about this campaign with the force it warrants and the frequency it calls for. Instead, it looks like the government is now getting into preparing the protocols for the distribution of the evasive vaccine when it arrives.

The need of the hour, and the priority of the government, should be to prepare the nation to get past the festive season without an uncontrolled escalation in the number of Covid-19 patients, and the only way to do is to get into a massive campaign; vaccine protocol can at best be a parallel exercise. It pays to be mindful of the wolf at the door instead of counting the pie in the sky.

Thrills & spills in Super Overs

A historic second Super Over bowled to break a tie in T20 and the succeeding Super Over in the IPL match between Kings XI Punjab and Mumbai Indians illustrated how the quest for a result can be fair. There's logic to the demands of a winner being spotted on the day in sport, which in a way is like war minus the shooting. It's a pity that the World Cup final, in which England and New Zealand tied in the 50-overs a side match and tied again in the Super Over, was not decided in this sensible and extended tie-breaker as in IPL rules. How ridiculous that England were declared the winners because they had scored more boundaries in their innings.

The drama, as a microcosm of life played out in such sudden death situations, enhances the thrills and spills of condensed cricket. The question of what makes winners stand apart from the chokers will, perhaps, never be satisfactorily answered. The fact that the defending champions Mumbai Indians have lost two games in Super Overs adds to the mystique of what makes winners different. Is it just calm nerves controlling sporting skills or the smile of lady luck or both? Be that as it may, the IPL season, which the corona virus seemed to have blighted, is now the harbinger of fine entertainment from the Arabian desert.

The T20 format might not have been thought of as a medium in which fast bowling would shine so lustroously in terms of speeds achieved in the air as measured by radar guns. The T20 of 2020 appears to be the glorious exception as Anrich Nortje of South Africa cracked the record kept from IPL speed guns in sending down the white cricket ball at 156.2 kmph, only to be reverse scooped for a boundary by Jos Buttler. Quality UAE cricket grounds with good run-ups are inspiring settings in which Nortje and other fast bowlers have sparkled with sheer pace achieved from the poetry of their bowling actions and Nortje came back with an incutтер at 155 kmph to bowl Buttler and win the day. That's entertainment!

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Subhani



Delineate & demarcate LAC to end China mess

Akash Deep Anand

Tuesday, October 20, marks 58 years to the day the Chinese launched their synchronised and coordinated attack in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, then known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) on October 20, 1962. It is pertinent to note the choice of a Saturday as a mark of Chinese planning and cunning; the Indian decision-making apparatus would be enjoying a weekend break, though the concept of a five-day week was to come much later. In NEFA, their chosen theatre of operations, the Chinese successfully eliminated all military opposition by the time they declared a unilateral ceasefire on November 20, 1962. The Chinese attack in Ladakh overran the small standalone posts in Galwan, Pangong Tso and Chip Chap River areas. The Indian troops here gave a valiant account of themselves but were heavily outnumbered and out-gunned by better-prepared Chinese.

This area is again active 58 years later as the outstanding matter of settling the borders between the two nations hasn't been resolved. Unlike the India-Pakistan Line of Control (LoC), in J&K and Ladakh, the 1962 war led to the concept of a Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the Sino-Indian frontier. There is no demarcation in both situations. In the LoC's case troops on both sides are generally within range of small and medium arms, in an eyeball to eyeball deployment, except in certain gaps where physical deployment is not possible. Incidentally, these are the gaps used for infiltration from across the border. In the LAC's case, troops have been separated by far greater distances except in a few locations like Nathu La. As long as troops maintain considerable distances, the chance of clash-

es are minimal unless one side chooses to press a claim line by moving forward going by their assessment or comprehension of the LAC. It is because of such an action of staking their claim over Galwan Valley by the Chinese that the June 15 clash took place, resulting in casualties on both sides, an unspecified number of Chinese and 20 of ours, with Col. Santosh Babu, 16 Bihar's CO, and 19 soldiers killed in action.

With the LAC not being delineated (specifically described and agreed) and demarcated (marked with pillars, fences), the alignment is open to interpretation by troops and their commanders on the ground. Further clashes thus cannot be ruled out. Since the Chinese have been obdurate in disengagement by not pulling back, let's examine the factors behind China's behaviour:

India's border infrastructure development, particularly the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road opposite Aksai Chin through which runs the Chinese G-219 Highway connecting Sinkiang and Tibet, both restive provinces.

Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) lies 8 km from Karakoram Pass, through which passes the Karakoram Highway linking Sinkiang with Pakistan. It is 9 km north-west of the LAC in Aksai Chin. The highway is important for the One Belt One Road (OBOR) project initiated by Xi Jinping with massive financial and political commitment. Indian infrastructure developments in the area are considered a potential threat to G-219 and the OBOR project.

India is raising objections to the OBOR project in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Shaksgam Valley (ceded to China by Pakistan) and the Gilgit-Baltistan area,

Did the present Union government lull itself into the belief that our actions to ramp up border infrastructure would not attract a belligerent response?

which are claimed as part of J&K.

Chinese objections to the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of J&K into the UTs of J&K and Ladakh which is claimed by China as one of "five fingers" of Tibet, the others being Nepal, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

Development of Indian maritime infrastructure in the Indian Ocean region, where China intends to extend its reach and influence.

India aligning its strategy with the United States, which is engaged in a trade war with China over tariffs, the 5G infrastructure of Chinese IT giant Huawei, Covid-19, theft of intellectual property and American technology, to name a few.

China has been hit hard by the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, which originated at Wuhan in Hubei province. The consequent suspension in exports has led to a loss of earnings and reduced consumption in China. There are reports of food shortages and large-scale migration into the urban centres, leading to social tensions.

The Chinese exchequer is simultaneously burdened with the expenditure on OBOR.

A comparison with 1962 and China's then leadership under Mao Zedong is in order. Communist China's 2nd Five-Year Plan 1958-63 undertook the "Great Leap Forward", an overambitious project to boost agricultural and industrial growth. It is beyond our scope here to detail the specifics of that debacle. It's sufficient to say that overambitious unachievable targets led to a famine which caused an unspecified number of deaths: around 18 million to 45 million. Other purges

like the Cultural Revolution were to cause many more deaths; some estimates put the total number of Chinese deaths due to Mao and his policies at 80 million. That such a tyrant died peacefully in his own bed is a mark of how much control the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its undisputed leader has over China's public. However, even dictators like Mao have detractors, thus they too need distractions. One of the reasons why Mao chose the opportune moment of a US-Soviet nuclear standoff over Cuba to divert the attention of detractors by ordering his PLA (People's Liberation Army) to launch the 1962 attack against India.

One also has to look at the role played by the then Indian leadership, and its principal players like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, V.K. Krishna Menon, Generals P.N. Thapar and B.M. Kaul through their amateurish "Forward Policy" of establishing small standalone posts along the frontier in the territorial claim line, assuming against all evidence and intelligence that the Chinese would not launch an offensive.

Starting in the 1980s, India has taken steps with China to ensure tranquility along the disputed frontier. Did the present government lull itself into the belief that our actions to ramp up border infrastructure would not attract a belligerent response? Did Narendra Modi end up imitating the blunder of Pandit Nehru? Did he assume his personal rapport with Xi Jinping after his back-to-back summits at Wuhan and Mamallapuram had cemented such bonds that Mr Xi would simply acquiesce with our actions on an unsettled frontier that would raise the hackles of China's strategic hawks as well as his own detractors?

The writer is a retired colonel with 37 years' experience in the Indian Army infantry, including stints in Poonch-Rajouri and Ladakh

LETTERS

HUNGER INDEX

This has reference to your editorial *India shown poorly in global hunger index* (Oct. 19). This also refers to one more report *Kids dump studies, turn breadwinners*. Though it is the one of the indicators of economic prosperity, GHI has delivered a shocker putting India in the "serious hunger" category. Indian population is undernourished. GHI is only a signal or a wake-up call. Hunger is not a new phenomenon in India. It can be resolved by means of improving its score with a targeted approach. As said in the report, not all is lost. The hope is National Nutrition Mission will make the difference.

Suresh V.V., Vellore

PROVIDE MONETARY HELP

APROPPOS YOUR report *Theni cowherd's son clears Neet* (Oct. 19). Jeevithkumar, in clearing Neet, shows that government school students are no less with regard to education. Despite being from a poor background and facing every difficulty, his keen interest to attempt the examination and the support from his school teachers depict great examples. It is sad that without financial assistance he would not be able to achieve his dream of becoming a doctor. Students from such poor families need to be provided monetary grant by the government so as to enable them pursue their further studies.

Jacqueline Netto, Chennai

NEET AND HARD WORK

IT IS heartening to know that Jeevithkumar, a cowherd's son from Theni in Tamil, could crack Neet, also topping the list of students from Government schools in India with 664 marks out of 720. This clearly brings to light the chaos, agitations, hullabaloo and spreading of misinformation/unreality by the political parties of Tamil Nadu against Neet exams for mere political reasons. Entry into any profession is tough. It is only hard work and dedication which will help a student. The politicians add fuel to fire and try to create an illusion that students in Tamil Nadu cannot pass the exams. This mindset of politicians has also been responsible for the death of a few students who committed suicide unnecessarily fearing the Neet exams thanks to the insensitive preaching and brainwashing of students and parents by the selfish politicians.

M.C. Vijay Shankar, Chennai

Mail your letters to editor@deccanmail.com

Aakar Patel



Bangladesh to overtake India? PR can't fix all our problems...

Complex problems require many minds. Leadership is important but mostly in terms of directionality. The solutions need to be produced by those implementing, not the person directing. If this is reversed, progress will not to be made and generally what results in retardation.

For solutions to be produced below the level of leadership, it is necessary that there be some devolution of authority and power. Such is not the case in India in these present times. The leadership of this large and complex nation is centralised in a way that it has never been in our history. There are some parallels with Indira Gandhi, true, but the 1970s was altogether another world.

Some of the most important positions in the Union Cabinet are filled by those who have never won an election. The finance minister, external affairs minister, railways and commerce and industry minister are none of them elected. The previous finance minister was also not elected. They owe their position not to their personal political popularity but to the patronage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They cannot defy him, and they will always

do what he says. That is why they have, in fact, been chosen and placed there.

The moment they defy or question, they will be replaced by someone who will keep their mouth shut but keep their job. There is no devolution of authority and none of accountability.

When things begin to go wrong in such a place, the leader cannot be blamed or even named. It will be assumed that he is right and the solution lies not in correcting his behaviour but in something else.

A few weeks ago there was this headline in the online publication The Print: "Modi govt plans media blitz for 'image correction' to boost India rank on global lists". It reported that the government was trying to improve India's ranking on some 30 global indices by "building a massive publicity campaign" which was a "planned perception-overhaul exercise".

These indices are those which monitor religious, economic, political, media freedoms, the rule of law, innovation, terrorism and other things. Either data is compiled or global experts are asked for their perceptions and then countries given a score or rating.

Many of these are compiled by bodies

One reason for Bangladesh overtaking India is that that the Bangladeshi leadership handled the Covid-19 hit to their economy better. The other reason is that in the past six years, Bangladesh has been growing much faster than India. It would have overtaken us anyway.

that are multilateral, such as the World Bank or the United Nations. It is not clear how India will get its poor ratings improved through a media campaign when it comes to such bodies or when it comes to hard data.

For instance, India is ranked 142 on the World Press Freedom Index, falling from 140 in 2019 and 138 in 2018. The main reason for its fall is the violence against journalists and the number of Internet shutdowns in Kashmir. These are objective things that are measurable. They cannot be corrected by publicity campaigns. This year India has introduced a new media policy in Kashmir that has more or less throttled all freedom of the media in that state.

The government's response in the instance of the media index was to set up its own "Index Monitoring Cell" which would have journalists Rajat Gupta (of *Aap ki Adalat* fame) and P. Sainath. Not much has been heard from this cell since and it will not affect the global rating. India's ranking in press freedom is not going to improve globally next year either and spending money on marketing an image that is removed from reality is neither wise nor will it be effective.

India's numbers on Covid-19 are self-declared. These are government numbers. They can and they will be compared to how India is doing versus the rest of the world and particularly the rest of South Asia with which an honest comparison can be made. On infections and fatalities, our performance is below the rest. A media blitz will not correct the perception that India has been the least competent at addressing the issue because the perception is based on reality.

This week has come news that in the current financial year, Bangladesh will overtake India in terms of per capita income. Meaning that the average Bangladeshi's income will be more than the average Indian's. Even to

those who are referred to as Modi haters, this was shocking. It was not expected because India was far ahead of Bangladesh in terms of per capita income in 2014.

One reason for Bangladesh overtaking India is that the Bangladeshi leadership handled the Covid-19 hit to their economy better. The other reason is that in the past six years, Bangladesh has been growing much faster than India. It would have overtaken us anyway in time. The Covid-19 fall just made it sooner. It has been a long slide that has been not been in the public realm because the leader does not acknowledge it and the minions cannot speak.

It seems like we were talking about competing with China and the United States only a few years ago. Now we must first compete with Bangladesh. This is not what we had been promised. How will this be corrected by a media blitz? It will not. But it is what the great man has ordered, and so it will be done. The slide will continue, but the noise about "*ache din*" will also continue.

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist and columnist

quick
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,431.60	1.12
Nifty 50	11,873.00	0.94
S&P 500*	3,476.78	-0.20
Dollar (₹)	73.36	0.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.29	0.44
Euro (₹)	86.08	-0.20
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,682 ▲135	0.27
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.91	-0.02
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.940	0.006
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.769	0.025

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Malabar Gold offers 'one India one Gold rate'

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched 'One India One Gold Rate', an initiative that offers uniform gold rate across all states in the country. While the international gold prices are transparent and uniform custom taxes, in India, there exists a disparity across states in the rates of gold, though gold is sourced from the designated banks.

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FinMin asks eight PSUs to buyback Centre's shares

■ Windfall from state firms to reduce widening fiscal deficit

AFTAB AHMED & NIDHI VERMA
NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

India has asked at least eight state-run companies to consider share buybacks in the fiscal year that runs through March 2021, two government officials said, as New Delhi scours for ways of raising funds to rein in its fiscal deficit.

The firms asked include miner Coal India, power utility NTPC, minerals producer NMDC and Engineers India Ltd, said one of the sources, who sought anonymity as the discussions are private.

"Buyback is an important tool in our strategy and it helps in building market price," added the second official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

India is unlikely to be anywhere near its fiscal deficit target of 3.5 per cent of GDP for 2020-21 as coronavirus curbs hit tax collections and delayed efforts to privatise energy firm Bharat Petroleum Corp and flag carrier Air India.

In February, the government had set itself a target of raising more than \$27 billion from privatisations and sale of minority stakes in state-owned companies this fiscal year.

However, some companies, particularly in the oil sector, may not be able to do buybacks, the sources warned, as the government's stake is just sufficient to ensure its position as a majority holder.

Centre bets on PSUs to kick-start capital spend

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 19

With central PSUs spending only 32 per cent of its capex target for the fiscal, the finance ministry has directed state-run firms to spend 75 per cent of their capital expenditure by the end of December.

While reviewing their performance, the ministry stressed on more coordinated efforts at the levels of secretary of concerned ministries and chairpersons and managing directors of CPSEs to achieve capital expenditure targets.

The government finds that the better performance of CPSEs can help the economy in a big way to recover from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

The central PSUs have a capital expenditure target of ₹1,15,934 crore for the fiscal 2020-21. Till the first

half of the year, they have only achieved 32 per cent or ₹37,423 crore of this target. This is 13 per cent lower than the capital expenditure made in the first half of last fiscal.

In H1 FY20, CPSEs had spent ₹43,097 crore even when the total target was ₹1,11,672 crore. However, by the end of the year, they had achieved 104 per cent of the capex target.

The government, however, has claimed that CPSEs have cleared ₹13,400 crore of pending payments to MSMEs in the past five months. Out of this, payments worth ₹3,700 crore have been made in September only.

Though it is mandatory for all CPSEs and companies with turnover of more than ₹500 crore to join the TReDS platform started by Reserve Bank of India, many companies are yet to join it or trans-

act on it. The MSME ministry has now written to the top management of over 2,800 corporates by name to make payment of pending dues of MSMEs in this month itself.

Last month, the ministry had written to top 500 corporates about the pending payments of MSMEs.

According to reports, MSMEs have around ₹5 lakh crore of pending dues from PSUs, government agencies and private enterprises.

The MSME Development Act, 2006, mandates companies to make the payment to MSMEs within 45 days. If the cash flows of MSMEs improve, they can make use of the festival season when there is opportunity to earn by supplying goods and services. Some of the MSMEs look for such a period for their sustenance of the whole year.

But for those with sufficient funds and capital expenditure below target for this fiscal year, the government could seek approval from the cabinet to prune its stake to less than 51 per cent in individual firms without giving up control, the official said.

● **THE FIRMS** asked include miner Coal India, power utility NTPC, minerals producer NMDC and Engineers India Ltd, said one of the sources.

● **THERE IS** a competing claim on their cash in the form of huge capital expenditure commitment and dividend payments, the second source said.

"The government stake in these state-run companies is about 51 per cent and there is a competing

claim on their cash in the form of huge capital expenditure commitment and dividend payments,"

Centre must borrow ₹2.3tr for GST: Kerala

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 19

Having agreed to borrow money to fund shortfall in GST collections on behalf of states, the Central government should negotiate with the states on how much should be borrowed, said Kerala finance minister Thomas Issac.

He wants the entire shortfall of ₹2.35 lakh crore (₹2.35 trillion) to be provided to the states this year itself.

"Having come the half-way through for an amicable settlement on the issue of who should borrow, the Centre should take initiative to settle the remaining issue: How much to borrow?" he said in a tweet.

Last week, the Centre had agreed to borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore on behalf of the states, ending an impasse with the states.

Talking to *Financial Chronicle*, Issac said the Centre has to negotiate

● **IF YOU** can borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore, why can't it be higher? We should be getting the full ₹2.35 lakh crore this year. We are facing an economic recession now and not tomorrow, said Kerala finance minister Thomas Issac

with the states as to what is the requirement.

Considering the current economic recession, he said, the states should be provided the entire shortfall of ₹2.35 lakh crore.

The Centre in August had estimated that the GST shortfall for FY21 would be around ₹2.35 lakh crore. Of the ₹2.35 lakh crore, Centre has agreed to borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore. Out of the remaining ₹1.25 lakh crore, ₹50,000-60,000 crore will come from the current year's compensation cess. The remaining amount

will be paid only in 2023 from the compensation cess, he said.

"If you can borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore, why can't it be higher? We should be getting the full ₹2.35 lakh crore this year. We are facing an economic recession now and not tomorrow. I need to spend today. If for some reason, the Centre cannot give it, it is a negotiable point," he said.

Issac said he was not bothered about increase in the fiscal deficit of states. "I am not bothered about that. I think, in a recession the fiscal deficit can go much higher. Look at the developed countries, what is their fiscal deficit," he said.

"Further, I don't believe in this number game. Nothing is sacrosanct - this 3 per cent, 5 per cent or 10 per cent. It is the macro economic situation that determines fiscal deficit," the Kerala minister added.

Kalyan Jewellers gets Sebi approval for ₹1,750-cr IPO

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, OCT. 19

Kerala-based Kalyan Jewellers has received market regulator Sebi's approval to float ₹1,750-crore initial public offer (IPO) just two months after filing a draft red-herring prospectus.

Kalyan Jewellers has 137 retail stores spread across India and the Middle East. Besides over 100 stores across 21 states in India,

as on June 30, 2020, Kalyan Jewellers has 30 showrooms in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries spread across the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman.

The IPO comprises the issue of fresh equity shares aggregating up to ₹1,000 crore and an offer for sale worth ₹750 crore, according to the DRHP.

Kalyan Jewellers promoter T.S. Kalyanaraman proposes to offload shares

worth up to ₹250 crore, while Highell Investment would sell shares aggregating up to ₹500 crore through the OFS route.

The proceeds from the fresh issue of shares would be utilised for working capital requirements and general corporate purpose. Axis Capital, Citigroup Global Markets India, ICICI Securities and SBI Capital Markets are merchant bankers.

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: Prioritise your closest relationships. Be proactive about your finances; clarify doubts about new proposals. You're on track regarding your career.



Taurus: Resolve issues instead of trying to escape them. Others cooperate if they think they're setting the agenda. Watch out for minor details; avoid risks.



Gemini: Businesspersons' plans will be productive, helping in defining your role in new ventures. You may feel like spending time with your partner, enjoy the evening together.



Cancer: Grab the opportunity when you meet your dream person. Your initiatives yield positive results. Today, working women may opt for a vacation.



Leo: Despite your insecurity about finances, believe that abundance will find you. Rumours of romantic partner being involved elsewhere unnerve you.



Virgo: Best to ignore a colleague's jealousy. Businessmen may expect financial difficulty owing to lower revenues. Those dealing with government agencies find relief.

You share your b'day with

Virender Sehwag, former Indian cricketer.

Sehwag played as an aggressive right-handed opening batsman and also bowled part-time right-arm off-spin.



Libra: Failures cause anxieties. Quarrels with relatives bring domestic unhappiness. A family member's deteriorating health condition worries you. Expect unnecessary expenditures.



Scorpio: Expect new responsibilities during the day. You may not gain admission to the college of your choice, which can cause distress. Financial position improves.



Sagittarius: A bothersome financial transaction brings a pleasant surprise. Your relationship with a loved one improves though he/she could be slightly demanding.



Capricorn: Some receive a lucrative work opportunity. You might consider spending time with your partner. Spend time with family members.

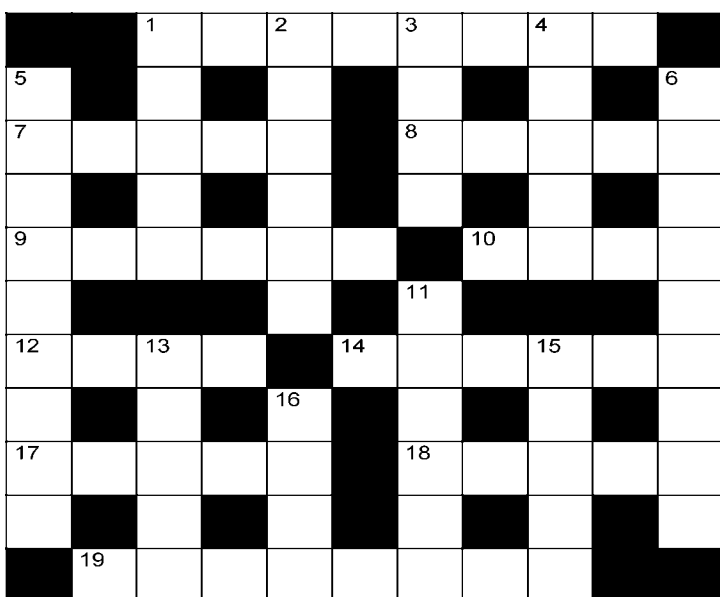


Aquarius: Good understanding with partner brings pleasure. Stringent cost-cutting makes you financially strong. Work will be challenging.



Pisces: Your alertness gives you an edge in business transactions; don't worry about competitors. An older friend helps in a personal situation. Despite feeling fortunate at home, a nagging doubt keeps you from resting easy.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across
1. Cumbersome (8)
7. Bid (5)
8. Sword (5)
9. Irregular in quality (6)
10. Engrave with acid (4)
12. Hankering (4)
14. Beer maker (6)
17. Skin abrasion (5)
18. World-weariness (5)
19. Philip (8)

Down
1. Out of condition (5)
2. Deserving (6)
3. Facilitate (4)
4. First appearance (5)
5. Closing up (anag) (9)
6. Sluggish (9)
11. Trying experience (6)
13. Map (5)
15. Tapers off (5)
16. Appear to be (4)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER
Across: 1. Walkover, 6. Lint, 7. Nearly, 9. Order, 11. Cheer, 12. Issue, 13. Ogres, 16. Grotto, 18. Kiwi, 19. Daybreak.
Down: 1. Welcoming, 2. Lined, 3. Vent, 4. Roadhog, 5. All, 8. Yardstick, 10. Erupted, 14. Raise, 15. Cosy, 17. Raw.

Word Mine

H
F
E
T
G
I
R
R
E

TODAY'S RATINGS: 12 AVERAGE: 16

GOOD: 20 OUTSTANDING

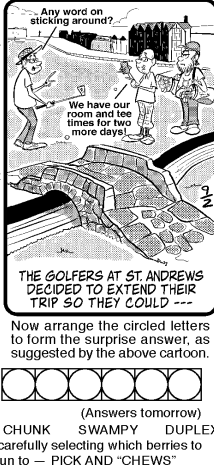
How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

North
♦ G 9 4
♦ A 9 3
♦ K 9 2
♦ A K Q 3 0
♦ J 6 3
♦ K Q
♦ 9 8 5 3
♦ 7 3 2
♦ 10
♦ J 9 6 4
South
♦ A K B 7 5 2
♦ 4 3
♦ 10
♦ J 9 6 4
Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West
Pass Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: ♥ K

Jumble

C U E N L
R S O C S
N E T Y D R
L L A O E C
T H E

Yesterday's Jumbles: COMIC CHUNK SWAMPY DUPLEX
Answer: They were carefully selecting which berries to eat. It was fun to -- PICK AND CHEWS

bridge
PHILLIP ALDER
ASSUME HIS CHOICE WAS RESTRICTED

Dave Barry, a humor columnist and author, wrote, "Although golf was originally restricted to wealthy, overweight Protestants, today it's open to anybody who owns hideous clothing."

That's a tad harsh -- or was it just true when he wrote that some time ago? But one word in that sentence applies to this deal. South is in four spades. West leads the heart king and continues with the heart

queen, which East overtakes with his ace. (East thought South had a doubleton because at trick two West would have led his low heart if he had had one.) What should South do if East either leads another heart or cashes the diamond ace before playing that third heart?

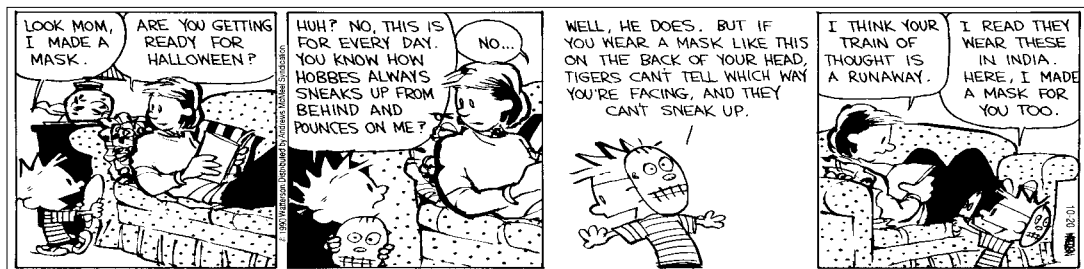
In the auction, East guessed well not to bid five hearts. North would have happily doubled and probably collected 500 for down two.

Suppose East immediately plays a third heart. South should make a loser-on-loser play, discarding his singleton diamond. East wins the trick, but declarer takes the rest. East hopes that his side can take two hearts, one diamond and one spade. When trying for a trump promotion, cash all of your side-suit winners first. Here, East must take the diamond ace before playing another heart. South must ruff high with the spade ace. Then,

needing to draw trumps, he cashes the spade king: three, four, 10. What next? Should declarer play a low spade to dummy's nine or to the queen? The Principle of Restricted Choice advises finessing dummy's nine. If East had the spade jack and 10, he might have played the jack. But with the singleton 10, he had no choice. Assume that.

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CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



SHORT TAKES

Indian girls enter Asian chess last 8

Chennai: The top-seeded Indian women recorded three wins on Monday to finish on top in the Swiss system preliminaries and qualify for the quarterfinals of Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Championship. They will face Kyrgyzstan in the last eight after topping the preliminary phase with 16 match points (two match points for a win and 1 for a draw) ahead of the Philippines (13) and Iran (13).

On a good day for the Indians, they beat the Philippines 3-1 in round seven, Kazakhstan 2.5-1.5 in the eighth round before edging out Vietnam 2.5-1.5 in the ninth and final round.

In the fixture against the Philippines, Mary Ann Gomes and PV. Nandhidhaa posted victories while R. Vaishali on the top board and Padmini Rout on the second board, settled for draws. The tournament will conclude with the finals on October 25. — *PTI*

Spurs rocked on Bale's return

London: West Ham ruined Gareth Bale's Tottenham return with a stunning late fightback from three goals down to rescue a thrilling 3-3 draw, while Aston Villa extended their perfect start with a dramatic 1-0 win at Leicester on Sunday.

Tottenham were leading 3-0 when Bale came on as a 72nd minute substitute for his first appearance since joining on a season-long loan from Real Madrid. But he suffered a debut to forget as Tottenham capitulated in astonishing fashion. The Wales star was one of the main Tottenham culprits as he missed a golden opportunity to wrap up the points before West Ham's Manuel Lanzini snatched a stoppage-time equaliser.

Tottenham took the lead with just 45 seconds gone when Son Heung-min and Harry Kane combined to create a goal for the seventh time this season. — *AFF*

Sociedad go top with Betis win

Madrid: Real Sociedad continued La Liga's unpredictable start to the season by going top of the table on Sunday, after a 3-0 win away at Real Betis.

Villarreal had temporarily claimed first place earlier in the day by beating Valencia 2-1 at la Ceramica but Real Sociedad's impressive victory put them ahead on goal difference. They are the sixth different team to lead La Liga after six rounds of fixtures so far. — *AFF*

Alex takes 850th podium for Honda

Alcaiz, Spain: Alex Marquez continued his fine form aboard his Honda RC213V on home ground at the Aragon MotoGP on Sunday finishing second to Alex Rins of Suzuki Ecstar. When the lights went out, Alex leapt forward and immediately gained a handful of places to move into the top ten. Alex briefly battled with Andrea Dovizioso, the rookie quickly dispatching the Ducati rider and continuing his march forward with Miller next in line. Race-leading pace saw Alex as the fastest rider on track, cleaving his way through the pair of Petronas Yamahas and moving up into podium battle for the second week in a row. The podium is Alex's first dry weather podium in MotoGP and Honda's 850th in the premier class.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Kings XI Punjab vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Zenit vs Brugge from 10.25 pm on Sony Six; Dynamo Kyiv vs Juventus from 10.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Chelsea vs Sevilla from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six; Lazio vs Dortmund from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3; Barcelona vs Ferencvaros from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1; Paris Saint Germain vs Manchester United from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2

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Editor: **KAUSHIK MITTER**

Resurgent Royals

Rajasthan defeat Chennai by 7 wickets to climb to fifth spot

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 19: Rajasthan Royals defeated Chennai Super Kings by seven wickets in their Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

Batting first, Chennai Super Kings were stopped at 125 for five as Rajasthan Royals produced a fine bowling effort at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

In reply, RR chased down the target in 17.3 overs and climbed to the fifth spot on the leader board, who were earlier languishing at the bottom of the table.

Jos Buttler top scored for Royals with an unbeaten 70.

Opting to bat, CSK never got going and lacked the fire power to put up a decent score after being reduced to 56 for four in 10 overs.

Ravindra Jadeja top-scored for CSK with a 30-ball unbeaten 35 and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, playing in his 200th IPL game, made a run-a-ball 28 while adding 51 runs for the fifth wicket.

Jofra Archer (1/20) was terrific with the new ball but he would be disappointed with his outing on the field. Besides Archer, the spin duo of Shreyas Gopal (1/14) and Rahul Tewatia (1/18) were economical in the middle overs, while young Kartik Tyagi (1/35) too was impressive.

Dhoni's decision to bat first backfired as RR picked up wickets at regular intervals to make life difficult for CSK.

CSK lost the in-form Faf du Plessis (10) in the third over, caught by Jos Buttler off Archer. — *PTI*



Rajasthan Royals players celebrate the wicket of Chennai Super Kings opener Faf du Plessis in an Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

— *BCCI*

SCORECARD

Chennai Super Kings: S. Curran c Buttler b Gopal 22, Faf du Plessis c Buttler b Archer 10, S. Watson c Tewatia b Tyagi 8, A. Rayudu c Samson b Tewatia 13, M.S. Dhoni run out 28, R. Jadeja not out 35, K. Jadhav not out 4. **Extras:** (b-1, lb-2, w-1, nb-1) 5. **Total (for 5 wks, in 20 overs) 125.**

FoW: 1-13, 2-26, 3-53, 4-56, 5-107

Bowling: Archer 4-0-20-1, Rajpoot 1-0-8-0, Tyagi 4-0-35-1, Stokes 3-0-27-0, Gopal 4-0-14-1, Tewatia 4-0-18-1.

Rajasthan Royals: Ben Stokes b Chahar 19, Robin Uthappa c Mahendra Singh Dhoni b Josh Hazlewood 4, Sanju Samson c Mahendra Singh Dhoni b Chahar 0, Steve Smith not out 26, Jos Buttler not out 70. **Extras:** (lb-6, w-1) 7. **Total (for 3 wks, in 17.3 over) 126.**

FoW: 1-26, 2-28, 3-28.

Bowling: D. Chahar 4-1-18-2, J. Hazlewood 4-0-19-1, R. Jadeja 1.3-0-11-0, S. Thakur 4-0-34-0, S. Curran 1-0-6-0, P. Chawla 3-0-32-0.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	9	7	2	0	14	+0.921
Mumbai Indians	9	6	3	0	12	+1.201
Royal Challengers Bangalore	9	6	3	0	12	-0.096
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	5	4	0	10	-0.607
Rajasthan Royals	10	4	6	0	8	-0.591
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	+0.008
Kings XI Punjab	9	3	6	0	6	-0.262
Chennai Super Kings	10	3	7	0	6	-0.463

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

PCB WANTS ICC TO ENSURE INDIA VISAS FOR PAK TEAM

New Delhi, Oct. 19:

The Pakistan Cricket Board wants the ICC to assure visas for its players and officials when India hosts the T20 World Cup in October next year, by January 2021, CEO Wasim Khan has said. The PCB CEO also confirmed that there is "no chance" of an Indo-Pak bilateral series in "foreseeable future" and neither will it be a part of fresh the Futures Tours Programme that starts in 2023.

India would be hosting the global T20 event in October and given the tense diplomatic ties between the two neighbours, the PCB has sought assurances that the visa process of their players and support staff would be dealt with by the ICC.

"This is an ICC matter. We have discussed

T20 WORLDS

our concerns. There is a 'Host Agreement' that states very clearly that host nation (India in this case) will have to provide visas and accommodation for teams that are due to participate in T20 World Cup and Pakistan is one of them," Khan told said. "We have sought assurances from the ICC that our players will receive visas and ICC is now taking this up with the BCCI because that directive and confirmation will clearly need to come from their government." He then clarified that it's only fair that there is a time-frame for such a deadline. "We have asked for a deadline till December-January, which we believe is the right thing." — *PTI*

High-flying Kings XI run into table-leaders Delhi

Dubai, Oct. 19: The nail-biting win over defending champions Mumbai Indians was certainly a morale-lifter but the inconsistent Kings XI Punjab have another tough battle at hand when they take on table leaders Delhi Capitals in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

Having lost two tight games they should have won at the start of the season, KXIP managed to get on the right side of the results in the last couple of games, although it was too close for comfort by their own admission.

The fact that KXIP have struggled this season despite having tournament's top two run-getters in openers K.L.Rahul (525) and Mayank Agarwal (393) best sums up their erratic run.

On a positive note, the successful return of Chris Gayle has reduced the bur-

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 25
● Kolkata: 14
● Bangalore: 11

MEETING IN 2019

● Kolkata Knight Riders beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets in Bengaluru.
● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 10 runs in Kolkata

MEETING IN CURRENT EDITION

● RCB beat KKR by 82 runs at Sharjah

FOR THE RECORD

● AB de Villiers, who has scored 8,942 at an average of 37.57 in 301 innings of 319 matches, needs 58 runs to become the eighth batsman to score 9,000 runs in Twenty-20 cricket.
● Lockie Ferguson claimed 50 wickets at an average of 26.92 in 52 innings of as many matches in T20 cricket.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

den on the shoulders of the star openers, especially allowing Rahul to play more freely.

Delhi are clearly the team to beat in the tournament and have gained in confidence with a close win against Chennai Super Kings on Saturday night.

DUBEY JOINS DELHI AS MISHRA'S REPLACEMENT

Delhi Capitals on Monday named Karnataka leggie Pravin Dubey as a replacement for veteran spinner Amit Mishra, who was ruled out of the IPL due to a fractured finger.

The 27-year-old leg-spinner has played 14 domestic T20 matches for his state, and has 16 wickets to his name with an economy rate of 6.87.

Mishra was ruled out of the tournament after sustaining an injury to the ring finger of his bowling arm. — *PTI*

High praise for Super Shami

Dubai, Oct. 19: Kings XI Punjab captain K.L. Rahul lauded his pace spearhead Mohammed Shami for his ability and clarity of thought to bowl six yorkers in the Super Over while defending just five runs in their dramatic IPL match against Mumbai Indians here.

The match on Sunday night ended in a tie in the regulation 20 overs and KXIP could only score five runs in the first Super Over but Shami bowled brilliantly to restrict MI to the same score.

KXIP eventually won the match in the second Super Over.

"You can never prepare for Super Overs. No team does. So you have to trust your bowler's gut. You trust your bowler, and let them believe their instinct and gut," Rahul said at the post-match presentation.

"He (Shami) was very clear he wanted to go with six yorkers. He has been phenomenal, and keeps getting better every game. It is important that senior players win the games for the team."

Rahul, who was named man of the match for his 77, expressed happiness at the victory but said his side would not want to make a habit of winning like this. Even in the last game against RCB, KXIP could have finished the job earlier than they eventually did.

"It is not the first time.



Mohammad Shami

But we don't want to make a habit out of it. We will take the two points in the end. It doesn't always happen the way you plan so you don't really know how to stay balanced.

"I was just hoping we get over the line because the boys have been working really really hard. In the games that we have lost, even then we have played well and just not been able to get over the line." — *PTI*

UNIVERSE BOSS WAS 'ANGRY' HEADING INTO SUPER OVER

Dubai, Oct. 19: The big-hitting Chris Gayle revealed that he felt "angry and upset" going into the Super Over after Kings XI Punjab were in a comfortable position to win the IPL match against Mumbai Indians in regulation period.

Chasing 11 runs in the second Super Over, the "Universe Boss" cracked a six off the first ball before opener Mayank Agarwal smashed successive fours to give KXIP their second consecutive win.

"No, I wasn't nervous. I was a bit more angry and upset that we got ourselves in this position. But it's a game of cricket and these things do happen," Gayle told Agarwal and Mohammad Shami during a post-match show for IPLT20.com.

"Even when we were going out to bat (in the second Super Over) you asked me 'who is going to face the first ball'. I was like 'Mayank you really asked that question? It has to be the boss who faces the first ball'," Gayle added. — *PTI*

Ganguly not in fray for ICC chief's post

New Delhi, Oct. 19: New Zealand Cricket's Gregor Barclay and Imran Khwaja of Singapore are the only two prominent names who will be fighting for the ICC chairman's post to replace Shahshank Manohar.

Sunday was the last day for filing nominations and a one-month window has been kept by the ICC Board to see if it can have an unanimous candidate.

"As of now, it looks like there will be an election between Barclay and Khwaja, who is ICC's acting chairman. They are the only two who have filed nominations. Both have their share of support in board," a senior official, privy to developments in ICC Board, said.

In a 17-member ICC board, 16 can cast their vote (17th member is CEO Manu Sawhney without

voting rights) and as per the existing rules, either Barclay or Khwaja would need 11 votes (2/3rd of board) to become the next chairman.

In case Cricket South Africa (CSA) gets suspended by the ICC over government interference, then the number of voters will come down to 15.

While Colin Graves, the former England and Wales Cricket Board chairman was the favourite to become the next ICC chief, it was learnt that he didn't file his nomination after it became certain that neither he is an unanimous choice nor does he have the numbers to win an election. There is a buzz that the BCCI will lend support to Barclay against Khwaja, who is known to be close to a former ICC head. — *PTI*

Revival of domestic season a boon for home players



Hemant Kenkre
Silly Point

A significant meeting went unnoticed thanks to the Indian Premier League (IPL) bandwagon proceeding in grand fashion over the weekend. With matches extending to three super overs in a single day and an 'Act of God' to describe irreplaceable AB de Villiers' innings, the announcement made by the Apex Council of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) got smothered under the scrum of news dedicated to the IPL.

BCCI gave a glimmer of hope to hundreds of players that comprise the 'home' structure of India by speaking about the revival of the Indian domestic season, tentatively from January 1, 2021. The decision of the Apex Council, as of now, is in the thought stage as they plan to host tournaments like the Ranji Trophy by creating bio-bubbles to ensure safety in a pandemic-ravaged country.

Holding tournaments for 38 teams is going to be a humongous exercise for the BCCI and, towards

this, they are looking at hosting the Ranji Trophy in selected cities by creating mini bio-bubbles. Their plan, from what one understands through the usual BCCI 'sources', is to look at cities that have three or more cricket playing venues that will host the national championship of cricket.

Though there has not been any official communication on the format of the tournament, it does seem that the BCCI plans to go back to the zonal/knock-out one that was played in the old days. This will make it easier for the BCCI to conduct the Ranji Trophy (and other shorter-format tournaments) with one city per zone looking like the safest bet.

One assumes that the plan, at this point in time,

is subject to the health situation closer to January, the proposed month of the start of the domestic schedule.

The 2020-21 season has already lost out some time and starting it five months behind the usual period (August, in the past) will have its issues with the programme being truncated. Nevertheless, the restart of the Ranji Trophy will provide succour to thousand plus cricketers and support staff across India who have been twiddling their thumbs since the March lockdown.

The BCCI also announced that they have received an itinerary from Cricket Australia for India's proposed tour which comprises three Twenty20s (T20), three One Day Internationals

(ODI) and four Test matches. Though the dates for the series haven't been finalised, it is believed that the Test leg of the tour will begin with the first encounter being a day-night 'pink ball' game in Adelaide. This brings us to an important element — team selection for the tour.

There has been no comment from the BCCI or any official about when the selection for this long tour will take place. The IPL will culminate in three weeks and the selected players (those part of the IPL) are expected to head straight down under post the tournament as the quarantine regulations in Australia are stringent, as one would expect, and differ from state to state. The selection, therefore, will have to be conducted within a week, at the latest, to

enable players to get mentally ready for a tough tour as well as for BCCI to execute the logistics pertaining to travel, etc.

With no domestic cricket since March this year and the lack of any likely to happen till January, the IPL is the only platform for the selectors to judge the form of those they will pick for the three segments of the tour. This works very well for selecting the team for the T20 segment of the tour and may suffice when the ODI team is picked, as the format is a short one.

The real examination that Chief Selector Sunil Joshi and his team will be faced with will be to choose the squad for the Test series.

Considering this is part of the ongoing World Test Championship of the

International Cricket Council (ICC) and the opponents, Australia, happen to be sitting at the number one position in the ICC Test rankings, Joshi and Co. have their task cut out for them.

While most players have been exposed to match practice while playing the IPL, a few Test specialists like Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari will only have their past experience to stand up for them.

For many youngsters who have shown remarkable form in the current IPL so far, this is a heaven sent opportunity. The next few matches of the IPL will have young Indian talent showing their very best with the added incentive of the much wanted chance of wearing the India cap.