

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VIJAYAWADA | SATURDAY | 31 OCTOBER 2020

## WEATHER



Max: 33.0°C  
Min: 22.0°C  
RH: 81%  
Rainfall: 1.8mm  
Forecast: Humid and Partly cloudy.  
Max/Min temp. 33/22 °C

## NATION | 4

**Urmila Matondkar likely to join Shiv Sena**



## WORLD | 5

**Trump, Biden head to face-off**



## SPORTS | 7

**Tyson back in ring for exhibition bout**



## 7 KILLED AS VAN IN PARKING LOT ROLLS OFF HILL

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 30

Seven persons of a marriage party were killed and 10 injured when their minivan rolled off a parking lot at a hilltop temple in East Godavari just as they were leaving for home, at about 2.30 am on Friday.

Police said the victims had come from different parts of the two Godavari districts to the Lord Venkateswara temple at Thantikonda village of Gokavaram mandal for the marriage, which was performed at about 11.30 pm on Thursday.

The newly married couple left in another vehicle and their other family members, numbering about 20, got into the minivan.

Police said that it is suspected that the driver began coasting down the slope from the parking lot and did not switch on the engine.

This led to the brakes not activating. The vehicle rolled off the hilltop and fell on the temple steps located nearly 10 feet below.

Five persons were killed on the spot.

The injured were shifted to government private hospitals in Rajahmundry and Kakinada, where two died while undergoing treatment. The condition of two critically injured persons is said to be stable.

■ Page 3: Rash driving case booked

## OBC QUOTA IN SAINIK SCHOOLS FROM 2021-22

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

Sainik Schools across India will introduce 27 per cent reservation in admissions to OBC students from the year 2021-22.

A letter regarding this was issued to all Sainik Schools on October 13, 2020.

Sainik Schools act as feeder institutions for preparing cadets for the armed forces. At present there are 31 Sainik schools under the ministry of defence.

The reservation for OBC-NCL category will be considered as per the central list of Other Backward Classes available in National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

GROUND | REPORT

## Farmers faced problems while tilling, sowing Bumper farming despite Covid

MD. ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 30

Though Coronavirus has dealt a severe blow to all since seven months, farmers have stood their ground; cultivating 97 per cent (36.43 lakh hectares) of the targeted area of 37.42 lakh hectares during Kharif-2020 season. In fact, cultivation has improved despite Covid-19 since sowings during Kharif-2019 were only 34.94 lakh hectares against the targeted 38.30 lakh hectares.

Farmers worked hard to overcome the crises of labour not being available and poor transport facilities to bring in agricultural inputs.

The Kharif season starts in June and ends with October. All types of crops

are grown during this season due to abundant availability of water because of rains – paddy, jowar, maize, groundnut, cotton, tobacco, turmeric, castor, pulses and millets.

The Coronavirus pandemic broke out in March and the lockdown followed immediately. Farmers faced lots of problems when tilling and sowing as Covid-19 protocol had to be followed including physical distancing. Excess rainfall of 26.8 mm during South-West Monsoon and 27.7 mm rainfall brought in by North-East Monsoon helped cultivation. The recent incessant rains, however, have damaged crops to a large extent.

As per the agriculture department, cultivation has been 100 per cent dur-

ing Kharif in Krishna, Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool districts. Srikakulam, Only 75 per cent of targeted cultivation could be achieved in Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari, East Godavari, Guntur, Prakasam and Anantapur districts.

Farmers P. Ramulu and G. Narsimulu said they faced severe problems in finding agriculture labour for sowing, as majority of workers had returned to their native villages due to Covid-19. As a result, they paid double to triple wages to workers for completing sowing. Earlier, a group of labour would charge Rs. 2,000-3,000 for sowing an acre. Coronavirus took the price up to Rs 5,000-10,000. At the same time, prices of

pesticides, urea, seeds and seedlings, apart from transportation costs too increased.

Farmers fear that if they fail to get a good price for their crop, they would incur huge losses. They hoped the government will provide a good price for their produce, taking into account the huge input costs. Farmers, whose crops have been damaged in the recent rains, have sought sanction of adequate compensation, so that they are able to restart their agriculture activities.

Agriculture minister Kurasala Kanna Babu asserted that as the government supplied essential agricultural inputs, farmers could largely achieve their cultivation targets in Kharif-2020.

## Festival procession



Youngsters coming out of a masjid after prayers at One Town on the occasion of Milad Un Nabi in Vijayawada on Friday.

— C. NARAYANA RAO

## TN woodcutters strike again

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC  
TIRUPATI, OCT. 30

After a six-month pause, there is a gradual movement of woodcutters from Tamil Nadu into Seshachalam hills, which is spread across parts of Chittoor, Nellore and Kadapa districts.

Despite counter-measures by AP Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Taskforce (RSASTF), smuggling of precious wood continues unabated in the region. Arrests of smugglers by the taskforce, police and

● ARRESTS OF smugglers by the taskforce, police and forest sleuths in the past few weeks indicate the intensity of smuggling activity.

forest sleuths in the past few weeks indicate the intensity of smuggling activity. It may be recalled that the Chittoor district police wing had seized 2.5 tonnes of logs worth over ₹2 crore in the international market and had arrested 11 smugglers in Thavanampalle limits on October 21.

Other major operations include nabbing eight smugglers and seizing ₹3.5 crore worth logs on September 28 at Rollamadugu village in Rajampet of Kadapa district, where 100 logs worth more than ₹2 crore were also seized on October 13. In a fresh case, the task force has recovered 46 logs and arrested four smugglers from Thalakona forests on Friday.

Smuggling activity in Seshachalam ranges had come to a standstill in March following the imposition of Covid-19 lockdown.

However, though on an insignificant scale, TN-based woodcutters resumed their activity in the next three months despite restrictions on inter-state transportation movements. Soon after relaxation, smugglers have been active for a few weeks. Going by the claims of the taskforce, there are still around 46-50 woodcutters present in the Thalakona ranges, apart from those who ventured into the Bhimavaram and Chamala ranges.

■ Page 3: Task force to intensify combing operation

## AP incurs ₹9,720 cr rain loss

₹5k cr needed to restore infra

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 30

AP has suffered losses to infrastructure and crops to the extent of ₹9,720 crore due to the heavy rains and floods during August, September and October. The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has come up with this estimate on the loss based on reports received from 12 departments, including roads, fisheries, agriculture, horticulture, energy and others, and from district revenue authorities.

● THE STATE disaster management authority came up with this estimate on the loss based on reports received from 12 departments, including roads, fisheries, agriculture, horticulture, energy and others, and from district revenue authorities.

● THE CENTRE team will assess the damage from November 4-10

Centre release such an amount as temporary relief immediately.

Sources said that after the Central team expressed its willingness to visit affected parts in four districts in AP between November 4-10, the state government may confirm the dates of the visit as November 9-11, subject to acceptance by the team members.

Agricultural crops alone suffered crop damage/loss of more than 1.38 lakh hectares, affecting 2,39,790 farmers and it is estimated to cost ₹20,552.95 lakh to the state government in order to provide input subsidy to affected farmers to help them grow the crops again.

A senior official from SDMA said "The state government is going to seek central assistance to the tune of ₹950 crore to take up immediate restoration work on a temporary basis and to provide some relief to affected farmers during the visit by the Central team."

## COUNTER POINT



Instead, we are selling our gold for some money... I have lost my job!

## SHORT TAKES

### FinMin notifies revised ITR date

**New Delhi:** The finance ministry has notified the extended due date for filing income tax returns (ITR) for the 2019-20 fiscal. While the deadline for filing ITR by individual taxpayers has been extended by a month till December 31, the due date for those taxpayers whose accounts need to be audited has been extended to January 31, 2021. Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said although the government had announced the extension of ITR and audit report filing due dates last week, but there was an ambiguity if such extension is available for corporates.

### Navy missile fired during drill

**New Delhi:** The Indian Navy on Friday successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from its guided missile corvette INS Kora in the Bay of Bengal as part of a drill that reflected its combat readiness in the strategic sea lanes around India, officials said. The Navy said the missile hit the target at maximum range with precise accuracy. "Anti-ship missile fired by Indian Navy's Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora hits the target at max range with precise accuracy in Bay of Bengal. Target ship severely damaged and in flames," the Navy tweeted.

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## OTHER STORIES

POSCO PLANT  
IN VIZAG MIGHT  
BE A REALITYK.M.P. PATNAIK | DC  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 30

At a meeting in Tadepalle between AP Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and top executives of POSCO, the latter expressed their company's interest in making huge investments in Andhra Pradesh.

There were also clear indications that the South Korean company will be getting a green signal for setting up a green field steel plant on the premises of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), in association with Rashtriya Ispath Nigam Limited (RINL).

A joint working group of state-owned RINL and POSCO has had three virtual meetings involving experts from both companies to set up the steel plant. The plant, with a capacity of seven million tonnes per annum, will manufacture flats and value-added special steel, which is not manufactured by VSP. The Vizag plant produces only longs and other products. After commissioning its various expansion projects, VSP is currently producing 7.5 million tonnes of various steel products per annum.

"POSCO steel company will be a separate entity and will have no connection with RINL," disclosed a senior official, while speaking to Deccan Chronicle on Friday.

Earlier in July this year, Ministry of Steel had asked the Korean steel major to form a joint working group for facilitating implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed between POSCO and RINL regarding the former's investment on the land owned by the state-owned firm in Visakhapatnam. RINL has 22,000 acres under its control.

The current attempt is the second being made by POSCO to set up a steel plant within India. A ₹52,000 crore 12-million tonne steel plant of the South Korean company proposed at Jagatsinghpur in Odisha never took off, as it faced hurdles from the environment ministry and stiff opposition from local people. This was despite POSCO and Odisha government signing an MoU in 2005.

Farmers fear NGT stay will  
badly hit Seema interests

Officials feel implementation of the project could be delayed

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC  
KURNOOL OCT. 30

With the National Green Tribunal (NGT) making environment clearance mandatory for the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS), irrigation officials feel implementation of the project could be delayed.

There is, however, a chance that the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), after examining the NGT order in detail, may conform to earlier assurances of Ministry of Jal Shakti, which said there is no need for environment clearance, as RLIS is not a new project, the officials maintained.

Siddeshwaram Sadhana Samithi president Kamanur Venugopal Reddy said the NGT judgment has undermined hopes of farmers not only in Kurnool, but also Kadapa and Nellore districts. He claimed that Krishna waters to Rayalaseema for drinking and irrigation needs is mandated under the Bachawat Award and several other agreements.

However, as RLIS is getting into controversies, Venugopal Reddy referred to the Central government's nod for Somasila-Siddeshwaram bridge across Krishna River. He suggested that instead of just a bridge, a bridge-cum-barrage could be constructed to help Rayalaseema farmers to get Krishna water and also reduce the burden on Srisailem Reservoir.

Rayalaseema Saguneeti Sadhana Samiti president Bojja Dasarath Reddy meanwhile felt that environmental clearance is not a big issue, as RLIS could pass the test easily.

The detailed project report (DPR) sought for

AVINASH P.  
SUBRAMANYAM | DC  
TIRUPATI, OCT. 30

Irrigation minister P. Anil Kumar Yadav on Friday made it clear that there is no question of compromise on the Polavaram project. He said that the state government is committed to getting it ready by December 2021.

Speaking to mediapersons at Nellore, Mr Yadav flayed Opposition leaders for neglecting the project during the TD regime in the state by making secret pacts with contractors for the sake of commissions. He accused the previous government of welcoming the package announced by the Union government and bringing the Polavaram project under the package without considering the cost escalation involved in the project.

Recalling that TD was part of the BJP-led NDA at the Centre when the irrigation component of the

scheme is nothing but a deliberate tactic to delay the project.

Dasarath Reddy took the position that if RLIS in Andhra Pradesh is delayed, the Palamur-Rangareddy project in Telangana must accordingly be stopped from

● **ALTHOUGH** THE Centre promised to complete the Polavaram project at their own expense, at the request of Naidu's government, it handed over the responsibility of construction to the state and it was ruined by the previous government.

● Mr Yadav wondered how Mr Naidu agreed to cap the cost of the project at ₹20,399 cr when the total project cost was put at ₹55,450 cr at 2017-18 price level.

project cost was capped by the Union Cabinet in March 2017, Mr Yadav wondered how Mr Naidu agreed to cap the cost of the project at ₹20,399 crore when the total project cost, after being considered by the stakeholders, was put at ₹55,450 crore at the 2017-18 price level.

This situation would not have arisen but for TD's greed for commissions which has put the project in this spot, said Mr Yadav. "Although the Centre promised to complete the project at their own expense, at the request of Naidu's government, it handed over the responsibility of construction to

going ahead. To avoid this, the Rayalaseema Saguneeti Sadhana Samithi chief said that the Chief Ministers of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State should meet and find a political solution to speed up their respective projects.

the state and it was ruined by the previous government," Mr Yadav said, while during the TD chief to reveal the Cabinet note of 2017.

TD leaders are stating that 70 per cent of the work was completed in their rule and that they spent only ₹17,000 crore, while the entire cost of the project is ₹55,000 crore, said Mr Yadav. "They have left R&R works from the project profile and claim that 70 per cent of the work was completed. They have to explain how they completed 70 per cent of the work with only one fourth of the budget," the minister said.

Criticising Nara Lokesh for making allegations against CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Mr Yadav said that Lokesh was no match for Mr Jagan and doesn't have any moral right to speak about him. He stated that the public are ready to reject TD in the coming elections.

● **Rayalaseema Saguneeti Sadhana Samiti president Bojja Dasarath Reddy felt that environmental clearance is not a big issue, as RLIS could pass the test easily.**



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy makes his presence at the wedding ceremony of Chodavaram MLA Karanam Darmasri's daughter, Dr Suma and Dr Chinnam Naidu in the presence of Rajya Sabha member Vijay Sai Reddy and AP Cabinet ministers at The Park Hotel in Visakhapatnam on Friday. The Chief Minister arrived in a special flight from Vijayawada at 5.30 pm and after blessing the newly wedded couple he returned to the airport and flew back at 6.45 pm.

—DC

HM: Cops given full  
functional freedomDC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 30

The police department has been given full freedom to discharge their duties after the government headed by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power last year, said home minister and deputy Chief Minister Mekathoti Sucharita after inaugurating the newly-built model police station in Anakapalle on Friday.

Talking to reporters later, she said that police personnel were asked to spare none, including the party leaders and workers, if they violated the law. She said the department won accolades from all quarters and had won 48 out of the 84 awards given at the national level.

"Unlike in the past, the police are not filing false cases and harassing people. They are going by the facts and discharging their duties with integrity and impartiality," she said.

Showering praises on the police personnel, she said the uniformed men

● **67 TYPES OF services could be availed under the AP Police Seva App**

and women did commendable service during the lockdown period resulting in reduction of the mortality rate.

Many of them also laid down their lives while working in the frontline, she added.

On services to women, she said the Chief Minister gave utmost importance to the security of women. She said the government launched 18 Disha police stations and a women police station for every district. Using technology, the department also launched Disha and AP Police Seva App to render immediate help to the victims. She said 67 types of services could be availed under the AP Police Seva App.

Making it more innovative, zero FIR was also introduced in the state and for the first time week-offs were given to police personnel, she added.

CM SERVING  
DALIT INTERESTS,  
SAYS SUCHARITADC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 30

Praising the CM, home minister Mekathoti Sucharita said Jagan Mohan Reddy gave utmost importance to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes by offering them the head positions of decision-making bodies.

Inaugurating Dr B.R. Ambedkar statue in the Old Town of Visakhapatnam on Friday, she said the CM made one Dalit as the home minister and another as the deputy CM. She said the CM reserved 50 per cent of the nominated posts for the SC, ST, BCs and minorities creating a history in the country.

"The CM also deposited ₹65,000 crore directly into the accounts of women of oppressed classes under various social welfare schemes. This is not done in any part of the country," she said. To encourage Dalit entrepreneurs, the CM brought out a new industrial policy recently, she added.

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## SHORT TAKES

RASH DRIVING  
CASE BOOKED

FROM PAGE 1

Police booked a case under Section 304 (A) and 338 of IPC dealing with driving the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner.

J.V. Santhosh, DSP, Rajahmundry Urban central zone, who is the inquiry officer, said, "Though the driver was killed in the mishap, we found his negligence based on preliminary inquiry."

The deceased were identified as Yallapragada Naga Sreelakshmi, 33, Diwan Cherukuri; Kambala Bhanu, 33, Gokavaram; Simhadri Durga Prasad, 19, Thakurpalem; Chaganti Hema Sreelalitha, 13, Gadarada; Yallapragada Divya Siva Gayatri, 13, Diwan Cheruvu; Somarouthu Gopalakrishna, 72, Thallapuram and Pachikuri Narasimha Murthy Dora, 25 Gangampalem.

## Covid awareness



Medical staff take part in the Covid-19 awareness rally in Kakinada on Friday.

— A. MANIKANTA KUMAR

State records 2,886 new  
Covid cases, 17 deaths

## West Godavari district records the highest 493 patients in 24 hours

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 30

Andhra Pradesh has registered 2,886 new Coronavirus cases, raising the overall tally to 8,20,565; apart from 17 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 6,676.

State health authorities released their Covid-19 bulletin here on Friday reporting that from among the 84,401 samples tested, 2,886 individuals have been found infected with the virus. Out of a total 79,46,860 samples tested so far in the state, 7,88,375 patients have been discharged after recovery, while 25,514 patients are active with the virus.

Among daily cases of confirmed Coronavirus,

West Godavari district recorded the highest 493 patients, followed by 448 cases in Krishna, 405 in East Godavari, 385 in Guntur, 296 in Chittoor, 152 in Visakhapatnam, 151 in Anantapur, 148 in Kadapa, 146 in Prakasam, 80 in Nellore, 77 in Srikakulam, 69 in Vizianagaram and 36 in Kurnool. East Godavari district continues to lead the state with the highest cumulative 1,15,373 Covid-19 cases, followed by 85,258 in West Godavari, 77,991 in Chittoor, 66,896 in Guntur, 64,436 in Anantapur, 59,434 in Kurnool, 59,410 in Nellore, 59,267 in Prakasam, 55,700 in Visakhapatnam, 51,911 in Kadapa, 43,865 in Srikakulam, 39,230 in

● Krishna district registered three deaths, followed by two each in Anantapur, Chittoor, Guntur, Kadapa and Visakhapatnam; and one each in E. Godavari, Prakasam, Vizianagaram and W. Godavari districts

Vizianagaram, 38,899 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Rate of recovery among Coronavirus-infected patients is highest in East Godavari district with 1,10,011 recoveries, followed by 81,138 in West Godavari, 74,763 in Chittoor, 62,782 in Guntur, 62,679 in Anantapur, 58,669 in Nellore, 58,514 in Kurnool, 57,301 in

Prakasam, 53,207 in Visakhapatnam, 50,095 in Kadapa, 42,609 in Srikakulam, 38,624 in Vizianagaram, 35,088 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

With regard to daily cases of deaths among virus-infected patients, Krishna district registered three deaths, followed by two each in Anantapur, Chittoor, Guntur, Kadapa and Visakhapatnam; and one each in East Godavari, Prakasam, Vizianagaram and West Godavari districts.

Chittoor topped the state in registering the highest number of 778 cumulative deaths among Covid-19 patients, followed by 616 in Guntur district, 610 in East

Godavari, 571 in Prakasam, 563 in Krishna, 559 in Anantapur, 507 in Visakhapatnam, 496 in West Godavari, 486 in Nellore, 482 in Kurnool, 439 in Kadapa, 339 in Srikakulam and 230 in Vizianagaram.

State health authorities have discharged 3,623 Coronavirus-infected patients after recovery from various hospitals in the state during the last 24 hours.

AP has carried out Covid-19 tests on 1,48,818 samples per one million population, registering a Covid-19 positive rate of 10.33, while Maharashtra tested 70,754 samples with a positive rate of 18.86 and Telangana tested 1,06,793 samples with a positive rate of 5.61.

TASK FORCE  
TO INTENSIFY  
OPERATION

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, RSASTF SP, G. Anjaneyulu, said that the taskforce has initiated a host of counter-measures to enable it to carry out the full spectrum of its combing operations covering the entire forest region.

"Concerned over the spurt in red sanders smuggling in Seshachalam region, we have pressed teams into the woods to carry out combing operations. Though we are facing tough times because of incessant rains, our teams are advancing deep into the woods and cracking the whip on red sanders smugglers", he maintained.

The most-worrying factor is that the unemployed rural youth from the vulnerable districts are being decisively transformed into a workforce by the mafia.

SOCIAL | BVUZZ

## ‘Blue moon’ today will not be blue in colour

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

It's finally here and it has social media abuzz. The much talked about 'blue moon' that many netizens appear to be looking forward to on Saturday, however, will have the moon, appear in its usual livery of pearly gray.

According to N. Raghunandan, director, Planetary Society of India, there is no credence to the claim that the moon would appear blue in colour or larger than it usually does.

He did not rule out the sighting of a blue-coloured moon. Scientifically speaking, the moon does appear blue in

## 10th century sun god idol found

HOSKOTE  
NAGABHUSHANAM | DC  
ANANTAPUR, OCT. 30

A 10th century idol of the sun god, of historical significance, was excavated in Kalugodu village, Gummagata mandal on Friday. The idol was unearthed while farmer, H. Nagendra, of Kalugodu village, was ploughing in his fields is part of a sun god idol two feet in height with two 'padmas' in his hands.

The farmer informed nearby people who offered pujas to the sun god idol. Priests of Bommakka Palli Rajarajeshwari temple worshipped the idol where it was found. Historians believe that other idols may be found nearby.

Agricultural land is located close to Vedavathi river bed. Villagers informed the Gummagata tahsildar, Venkata Chalapati, who informed the archaeological department. Rayadurg heritage asso-



The idol unearthed in fields by a farmer.

— DC

ciation secretary, Gudekota Sivakumar, the historian and CEO of the cultural centre of Vijayawada and

● The sculptural style of the sun god mirrors the style of Nolamba Pallavas of the 10th century.

Amaravati, Emani Shivanagi Reddy.

After formal examination, Reddy said the sculptural style of the sun god mirrors the style of the Nolamba Pallavas of the 10th century. There might be a sun god temple on the banks of the Vedvathi riverbed and chances are that more idols and structures are to be found in surrounding parts. On behalf of the Rayadurg heritage association, Sivakumar hoped the archaeological department will excavate the surroundings.

Nolamba Pallavas ruled many parts of present Anantapur district and the surrounding areas in present-day Karnataka. Hemavathi, in Amarapuram mandal, was the capital of the Nolamba Pallava dynasty and structures appear in many parts.

Private tuition fee  
reduced by 30%DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 30

The AP government has reduced the tuition fee by 30 per cent in all private unaided schools and junior colleges for the academic year 2020-21.

The state government issued a GO on Friday stating that based on recommendations of the chairperson, AP School Education Regulatory Monitoring Commission and also in

consultation with other stakeholders, it had decided to impose a reduction. The fee to be collected in the current academic year should be equivalent to the fee collected in the last academic year 2019-20.

The state government has decided to reduce the tuition fee keeping in mind the prevalence of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy, affecting sources of income to the parents.

Man set on fire by  
wife over a disputeDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 30

A man was doused with petrol and set on fire by his wife following a family dispute in Machilipatnam in Krishna district at about 1 am on Friday.

According to the Inaguduru police, Machilipatnam agriculture market committee chairman Sheikh Mustafa alias Achheba's son Quadir Basha, 37, was married to Sheikh Nazia nearly 14 years ago. However, Basha allegedly married Nazia's younger sister some time ago. The couple were having a dispute on the issue.

When Basha was sleeping on the bed at his home, his wife doused him with petrol and set him on fire, causing

● Machilipatnam agriculture market committee chairman Sheikh Mustafa alias Achheba's son Quadir Basha, 37, was married to Sheikh Nazia nearly 14 years ago. However, Basha allegedly married Nazia's younger sister some time ago.

nearly 40 per cent burns on his body. He was rushed to a local government hospital and later shifted to a private hospital in Vijayawada for better medical treatment. His condition is said to be stable.

The police booked a case of attempt to murder on Nazia under Section 307 of IPC and investigation is underway.

MOCK DRILL ON  
RADIOACTIVE  
LEAKAGEDC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 30

RINL conducted the first ever mock drill on radioactive leakage, the corporate entity of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in the factory premises on Friday.

J. Siva Sankar Reddy, the joint chief inspector of factories, witnessed the mock drill conducted on the preparedness of arresting the radioactive leakage.

As part of the drill, one worker inadvertently opened the cap of Cobalt 60 Isotope (radioactive source) during the cleaning of the isotope storage room and four workers working nearby got affected.

## Public Notice

Under the instructions of My Client Smt. Chillaipalli Vanaja, W/o. Subrahmanyam, R/o. Mangalagiri Village, Mangalagiri Mandal, Guntur District, I give the following Public Notice to all the Public.

My client has got schedule mentioned property from Smt. Nandam Shanta Kumari and registered as Sale deed document No.1065/2010, dated 18-02-2010, at SRO, Mangalagiri and its link Document Nos.:21/2010, 4608/2007, 2426/2007, 5104/2005 and 359/1986.

On 29-10-2020, at about 11:00 A.M., near Mangalagiri RTC Bus-stand, while she was going to Xerox center she lost link document, Sale deed document No.359/1986, dated 11-02-1986, at SRO, Mangalagiri, after knowing the same she was searched for the said link document, but in vain. If anybody got this link document they may return to my client or to me and my client will award good prize to him.

If anybody has got objections, on sealable or mortgage any alienable rights of my client please inform the same to me within ONE WEEK from this public notice date, in writing, falling which other claims will not bind my client.

**Schedule:** - Guntur District, Mangalagiri Sub-District, Mangalagiri Village, D.No.223/C, Ward No.5, Door.No.5-182-A47, vacant house site, bounded by: East - 6 feet wide of Bazaar, 25.9 Feet. South - Site of Ponnuruba Subba Rao, 42 Feet. West - Property of Thiruvudhula Venkata Suryavathi some extent and Kagitla Pardha Saradhi some extent, 25.3 Feet. North - Mandru Shiva Nageswara Rao sold site, 36.0 Feet.

An extent of 103 Sq. yds or 86.52 Sq. mts of vacant house site with 300 Sq. feet Plinth area foundation with all easementary rights.

Mangalagiri, V. RAMA GOPAL GOUD

Dt.: 30-10-2020.

Advocate.

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## IN BRIEF

ANTRIX TOLD  
TO PAY \$1.2BN  
TO DEVAS

Washington, Oct. 30: A US court has asked Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation, to pay compensation of USD 1.2 billion to a Bengaluru-based startup, Devas Multimedia, for cancelling a satellite deal in 2005.

As per the agreement in January 2005, Antrix agreed to build, launch and operate two satellites and to make available 70 MHz of S-band spectrum to Devas, which the latter planned to use to offer hybrid satellite and terrestrial communication services throughout India.

The agreement was terminated by Antrix in February 2011. Over the next several years, Devas approached various legal avenues in India. This included the Supreme Court, which directed for a tribunal.

In his order dated October 27, Judge Thomas S Zilly, US District Judge, Western District of Washington, Seattle, ruled that Antrix Corporation pay a compensation of USD 562.5 million to Devas Multimedia Corporation and the related interest rate amounting to a total of USD 1.2 billion.

EC CAUTIONS  
KAILASH  
VIJAYVARGIYA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

The Election Commission on Friday cautioned BJP's Kailash Vijayvargiya over the *chunnu-munnu* remarks he made against Congress leaders Digvijay Singh and Kamal Nath saying they were in violation of the model code of conduct provisions.

The poll body further advised the senior BJP leader not to use any such word in his public utterances while the model code of conduct was in place.

The Commission had issued a notice to Mr Vijayvargiya on October 26 seeking his reply.

The BJP leader had made the statement in Sanwer, Indore, during an election rally on October 14. He had also dubbed Mr Singh and Mr Nath as *gaddar* or traitors.

The EC order said that the Commission has carefully considered the matter "and is of considered view that Kailash Vijayvargiya has violated Para (2) of Part I of the General Conduct Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates".

The Commission advised Mr Vijayvargiya that "while making public utterances he should not use any such word or statement during the period of Model Code of Conduct".

Mr Vijayvargiya responded that the remarks quoted in the notice are in complete misunderstanding of its context.

EC REVOKES STAR  
CAMPAIGNER  
STATUS OF NATH

RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC  
with agency inputs  
BHOPAL, OCT. 30

Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and Congress veteran Kamal Nath, who was snubbed by Rahul Gandhi for calling a female minister in Shivraj Cabinet "item" a couple of weeks ago, was on Friday stripped of the status of his party's star campaigner by the Election Commission for "repeated violation of the model code of conduct".

Taking serious note of breach of "ethical and dignified behaviour", the EC's order said, "Now, therefore, for repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct and for completely disregarding the advisory issued to him, the commission hereby revokes the status of leader of political party (Star Campaigner) of Shri Kamal Nath, ex-chief minister, Madhya Pradesh, with immediate effect for the current by-elections of Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh".

"However, if any campaign is done by Shri Kamal Nath from now onwards, the entire expenditure related to travel, stay, visit, etc... shall be completely borne by the candidate in whose constituency the campaign is done by Shri Kamal Nath," the order added.

The Congress said it will move the Supreme Court against the decision. Congress RS MP and lawyer Vivek Tankha said that a petition will be filed in the apex court as soon as possible.

Munger violence: Report by  
CISF says police fired first

Report may create trouble for Munger SP Lipi who was removed by EC

NAYEAR AZAD | DC  
PATNA, OCT. 30

The Munger incident got politically heated up on Friday after a report claimed that the state police fired in the air which instigated the crowd during the Durga idol immersion procession on October 26.

The internal report filed by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a copy of which is also available with this newspaper, clearly states that the local police fired in the air to control the crowd.

The report says that "on the request of Bihar police at 11.20 PM on October 26, a group of 20 CISF personnel of Election coy departed from their camp for procession control duty. Further state police divided 20 personnel into two groups of 10 each. Out of this one group was deployed at Deen Dayal Upadhyay chowk along with SSB and state police personnel at 11.45 pm".

The report further adds that "due to dispute between the local police and devotees present in the procession, the crowd started pelting stones at the state police and other CAPF personnel. To control the situation the local police first fired in the air which led to heavy stone pelting from the crowd. As the situation was getting out of hand the CISF personnel fired in the air, as a result, the violent procession got dispersed".

The report is likely to create trouble for the Munger SP Lipi Singh as well as the district administration which had earlier blamed anti-social elements for the incident in which a person was killed and many others injured.

Both Munger SP Lipi Singh and the DM were removed by the Election Commission on Thursday after a group of protesters went on a rampage in the town, setting police stations and outposts on fire and ransacked the SP and SDO offices.

The poll panel has also ordered an inquiry into the firing and stone-pelting during the immersion procession late Monday night in which a 20-year-old youth was killed and several others injured.

Magadh divisional Commissioner Asangba



Police personnel conduct a flag march to enforce law and order in the area following clashes between police and public during Durga Puja festival in Munger district on Friday.

— PTI

● The poll panel has ordered an inquiry into the firing and stone-pelting during the immersion procession late Monday night in which a 20-year-old youth was killed. Magadh divisional Commissioner has been asked to carry out a probe.

Chuba Ao has been asked to carry out a probe and submit a report within a week.

On Friday, a Congress delegation led by senior party leader Randeep Singh Surjewala met Bihar governor Phagu Chauhan over the incident and demanded immediate action against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi.

"We have demanded immediate suspension of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi. A compensation of ₹50 lakh must also be given to the family member of the person who

was killed in the incident," Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala said.

The grand alliance has also criticized the incident, likening the district police and the SP with General Dyer of infamous Jallianwala Bagh incident in Punjab during the British rule.

Munger SP Lipi Singh is the daughter of senior JD(U) leader and Rajya Sabha MP RCP Singh.

Political analysts believe that the incident which occurred on the eve of the first phase of voting may have impacted the polling in the area as it witnessed lower voter turnout as compared to 2015 Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, the state administration on Friday deployed additional forces in Munger to control the situation. Speaking to reporters, DIG Munger Manu Maharaj said, "Situation has been brought under control and forces have been deployed in the area to monitor the law and order in the area".

Sena, Cong attack  
BJP for its 'silence'

Mumbai, Oct. 30: The Shiv Sena on Friday hit out at the BJP for its "silence" on the firing on people during Durga idol immersion in Munger in Bihar, where the latter is in power along with the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U).

The Sena, in an editorial in its mouthpiece *Saamana*, said the BJP was, however, quick to pounce on and "communalise" the killing of two sadhus by a mob in Palghar district of Maharashtra in April.

One person was killed and over two dozen people, including security personnel, injured in firing and stone-pelting during goddess Durga idol immersion in Munger.

"If this incident had happened in Maharashtra or West Bengal (opposition ruled states), the BJP

would have raised a hue and cry. Why are those who tried to communalise the Palghar lynching quiet over Munger?" the editorial asked.

"Didn't the fake Hindutvawadis feel the insult of Goddess Durga and wasn't the subsequent firing symbol of jungle raj?" "Has the BJP put on the glasses of secularism?" the daily asked.

The BJP also came under fire from the state Congress with its spokesperson Sachin Sawant claiming the NDA lead constituent indulged in opportunistic Hindutva politics. "When the Palghar incident took place, the BJP demanded the resignation of the Maharashtra home minister. However, the party has not uttered a word on Munger," Sawant said.

Farooq stopped  
from leaving for  
Friday prayers

DC CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 30

The J&K authorities placed former chief minister and opposition National Conference president under house arrest for the day on Friday to prevent him from relocating to famed shrine of Hazratbal here to offer prayers on the day of Milad or the birth anniversary of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

A police 'bunker vehicle' stayed parked at the main entrance to Mr. Abdullah's residence along Srinagar's Gupkar Road, blocking the access to the premises.

Earlier 83-year-leader and sitting Lok Sabha MP was reportedly informed by the authorities that he cannot move out.

The NC condemned the authorities barring it's leader from joining the

congregational Friday prayers at Hazratbal.

A party spokesman said on the official Twitter handle, "J&K administration has blocked the residence of party president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and stopped him from offering prayers at Dargah Hazratbal. JKNC condemns this infringement of fundamental right to pray, especially on the auspicious occasion of Milad Un Nabi (SAW)."

The recently formed 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration' of which Mr. Abdullah is the president also condemned the move. Its spokesperson Sajad Gani Lone, said it "tantamount to interference in the religious rights of Dr. Farooq Abdullah." He added, "This marks a new low in the curtailment of fundamental rights of the people of J&K."

LeT involved in  
killing of BJP  
workers: Police

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 30

Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed that the militants involved in the murder of a local BJP youth leader and his two associates in southern Kulgam district have been identified and that Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) and The Resistance Front (TRF) carried out the attack on Thursday.

A group of gunmen had at around 8 pm on Thursday shot and critically wounded Fida Hussain Itoo, general secretary of the J&K unit of BJP Yuva Morcha, and two other party workers Umar Ramzan Hajam and Umer Rashid Beigh in Kulgam's Yaripora village. They were evacuated to an emergency trauma hospital along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Qazigund area but doctors at the hospital pronounced them dead on arrival.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range),

Vijay Kumar, during a visit of the area told reporters that the assailants came in a car and opened fire at the trio. "Then the militants fled in the same vehicle. We seized the vehicle near Achabal area of Anantnag," he said adding "With the help of our technical and human intelligence, three militants who carried out the act include a local Nisar Ahmed Khanday, another one namely Abbas Sheikh who was earlier with the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and later joined LeT, and the third one may be a foreigner".

The IGP said that the police had provided 'protection' to Mr. Hussain and that he was lodged at Hotel Dolphin at the Valley's premier resort of Pahalgam. "But he recently gave undertaking that he can move around without security. Now we are investigating what the trio was doing in the Kulgam area," he said.

Over 48,000 new Covid cases;  
Kerala, Delhi remain a concern

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

Rising daily cases in Kerala and Delhi (5,891) remain a big concern as overall fresh cases of coronavirus continue to decline in India.

On Friday, 48,648 new cases were detected as the total number of Covid-19 cases in the country moved closer to 90 lakh.

Out of this 73.73 lakh persons have already recovered while 5.94 lakh still remain infected and under treatment.

The total number of deaths so far due to Covid-19 has been 1.21 lakh with 563 fatalities reported in the last 24 hours.

The union government is now gearing up for the

● THE UNION government is now gearing up for the nationwide vaccine drive, once the vaccine candidates gets DCGA approval following successful trial results.

nationwide vaccine drive, once the vaccine candidates gets DCGA approval following successful trial results.

The Centre has asked states to constitute committees for coordination and overseeing Covid-19 vaccination drive while ensuring minimal disruptions in other routine healthcare services.

Stating that Covid-19 vaccine introduction will span over a year with multiple groups being included

"sequentially starting from health care workers", the Health Ministry has sought constitution of committees at state and district levels which will review preparatory activities in terms of cold chain preparedness, operational planning, strategies for state-specific challenges in terms of geographical terrain and hard-to-reach areas, etc.

"The Covid-19 vaccine introduction will span over a year with multiple groups being included sequentially starting from HCWs. Therefore, it is important to create a strong advisory and coordination mechanism at state and district level to guide the process of Covid-19 vaccine introduction

while ensuring minimal disruption of other routine health care services including immunisation," the letter by union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan issued on October 26 stated.

As many as 57,386 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours compared to 48,648 new cases.

The national Recovery Rate has now progressed to 91.15 per cent and 80 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 States/UTs. Kerala has contributed the maximum with more than 8,000 to the single day recoveries followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka with more than 7,000 recoveries each.

## BORDER | ROW

Locals on Assam side stop the movement of vehicles to Mizoram

## Assam-Mizoram highway blockaded again

MANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, OCT. 30

In what is the fallout of long negligence in resolving the inter-state border dispute, the blockade on Assam-Mizoram border has re-surfaced with local residents on Assam side stopping the movement of vehicles to Mizoram demanding withdrawal of forces allegedly four kilometre inside Assam territory.

Hundreds of trucks carrying essential supplies to Mizoram were once again stranded on National Highway 306, the lifeline

of the state. Pointing out that the problem re-started as Mizoram failed to honour its commitment, sources said that Mizoram had promised that it would pull back its armed police from the border area at Lailapur in Assam.

The border tension between the two states was resolved on Thursday last after Union Home Secretary held a video conference with the chief secretaries of both Assam and Mizoram to defuse the situation.

Asserting that tension was prevailing between the two neighbouring

states following a bomb blast in a school and video clips flashed on local news channel claiming that non-Mizo residents are being harassed in Mizoram, security sources said that it has created anger among the people living in bordering areas.

Meanwhile, additional director general of police (law and order) Assam Mr G.P. Singh told reporters that a recent bomb blast in a school in Lailapur along the Assam-Mizoram border may have been an attempt to terrorise the locals. Assam Police will request its counterpart to

hand over the probe of the incident to a central agency.

"An explosion had taken place in a school. I discussed with the Superintendent of Police of Kolashib districts. We have seen the additional police post set up by Mizoram. There is a feeling that a bomb explosion might be an attempt to terrorise the locals. I have asked the Superintendent of Police of Cachar to file a case under section of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the court," he said.

"In the investigation, it

has emerged that those triggering the explosion might be from Mizoram. We have discussed with police headquarters as it involves a case under unlawful activities, we will request to transfer the case to a central agency," Mr Singh told reporters.

The deadlock at the Assam-Mizoram border has been on since October 9 and took an ugly turn with around 20 shops and houses burnt and several people injured in attacks and counter-attacks by the people living along the border on October 17.

FIRST PHASE OF NAVAL EXERCISE  
MALABAR TO BEGIN FROM NOV. 3

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

The first phase of Naval exercise Malabar involving 'Quad' countries — India, US, Japan and Australia — is set to commence off Visakhapatnam in Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6.

India has invited Royal Australian Navy this year to participate in the Malabar exercise in a message to China.

India, US, Japan and Australia are part of the 'Quad' alliance, which Beijing considers as an anti-China grouping.

The phase 2 of the exercise is scheduled to be

conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November.

The phase-1 of Malabar will witness participation of Indian Navy units with US Navy Ship USS John S McCain (guided-missile destroyer), Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Ballarat (long range frigate) with integral MH-60 helicopter, and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force ship JS Onami (destroyer) with integral SH-60 helicopter.

The Indian Navy participation in Phase 1 will be led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.



## IN BRIEF

**Man pays to see leopard close, hurt**

**Davie:** A man was mauled by a captive black leopard in a backyard zoo in South Florida, wildlife officials said. The man paid \$150 for a "full contact experience" with the black leopard, which allowed him to play with it and take pictures, WPLG reported. A report by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission says the incident happened Aug. 31 in Davie, which is near Fort Lauderdale. The agency charged the owner with allowing full contact with an extremely dangerous animal and was cited for maintaining captive wildlife in an unsafe condition. The owner runs a licensed animal sanctuary for rare and endangered animals at the home, WPLG reported.

**Warsaw braces for mass protest**

**Warsaw:** The Polish capital prepared for a mass demonstration on Friday against a court ruling that would ban almost all abortions. Crowds of protesters are expected to defy coronavirus restrictions and risk contagion to join the demonstration in Warsaw. "We're prepared to fight till the end," Marta Lempart, co-founder of the Women's Strike movement, told reporters on Friday. Security is expected to be tight following some clashes between protesters and far-right activists in nine consecutive days of protests. The protest is set to start at 1600 GMT. More than 4,00,000 people took part in mostly peaceful nationwide demonstrations on Wednesday and organisers are hoping many people will travel to Warsaw for Friday's protest. Women's rights groups organising the protest face possible prosecution since any gatherings of more than five people are currently banned. Smaller rallies are also planned in dozens of other Polish cities including Krakow and Wroclaw, as well as abroad in Barcelona, Vienna and elsewhere.

# France on high alert as fears of more attacks anticipated

**Soldiers at key sites, places of worship; 47-yr-old in touch with attacker held**

**Paris/Nice, Oct. 30:** France's interior minister said on Friday more militant attacks on its soil were likely and the country was engaged in a war against Islamist ideology following the second deadly knife attack in its cities in two weeks.

Minister Gerald Darnaud was speaking a day after an assailant shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) beheaded a woman and killed two other people in a church in Nice.

The man was shot by police and is now in critical condition in a hospital.

"We are in a war against an enemy that is both inside and outside," Darnaud told RTL radio. "We need to understand that there have been and there will be other events such as these terrible attacks."

President Emmanuel Macron has deployed thousands of soldiers to protect important sites such as places of worship and schools, and France's security alert is at its highest level.

Thursday's attack, on the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad, took place at a time of swelling Muslim anger across the globe at France's defence of the right to publish cartoons depicting the prophet. Protesters who deem the cartoons an insult to the Prophet Mohammad have denounced France in street rallies in several Muslim-majority countries.

Tens of thousands of Muslims protested in Bangladesh on Friday, chanting slogans such as "Boycott French products" and carrying banners calling Macron "the world's biggest terrorist" as they marched in the streets of the capital Dhaka.

—Reuters



A woman lights a candle in front of the Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Basilica in Nice on Friday during a tribute to the victims killed by a knife attacker the day before. — AFP

## Macron remains defiant after Islamist knife attack

**Nice, France, Oct. 30:** French president Emmanuel Macron vowed his country would stand firm against religious extremists after a knife-wielding man killed three people at a church, in the country's second attack blamed on Islamist terrorism this month.

France will not "give up on our values," Macron said in Nice, after a Tunisian migrant went on a near half-hour rampage with a 30-centimetre (12-inch) knife, targeting people praying in the south-

ern city's Notre-Dame basilica.

A 60-year-old woman died inside the church and the body of a man, a 55-year-old church employee, was found nearby, his throat also slit.

Another woman, a 44-year-old Brazilian who had fled the church to a nearby restaurant, died shortly afterwards from multiple knife wounds. "Tell my children I love them," she managed to say before her death, according to French cable channel BFM TV.

The assailant, who was

shot and wounded by police, was identified as 21-year-old

Brahim Aouissau, who arrived in Italy last month, then travelled to France, judicial sources said.

Aouissau, who had a copy of the Koran and three knives with him, shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) when approached by police who shot and seriously wounded him, France's anti-terror prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard told a press conference.

—AFP

## WORLD LEADERS CONDEMN FRANCE STABBINGS

**Paris, Oct. 30:** World leaders condemned fatal stabbings in the French city of Nice on Thursday that France called an Islamist terrorist attack.

Condemnation came from US President Donald Trump, UN chief Antonio Guterres, as well as European, Arab and Israeli leaders.

"Our hearts are with the people of France. America stands with our oldest Ally in this fight," Trump tweeted. "These Radical Islamic terrorist attacks must stop immediately. No country, France or otherwise can long put up with it!"

—AFP

# Trump, Biden head to face-off in midwest US

**Tampa, Oct. 30:** Donald Trump and Joe Biden square off with rallies in key Midwestern states on Friday as a resurgent Coronavirus further highlights their sharp differences just four days before the US presidential election.

Even with the United States reaching another daily record in new Covid-19 infections on Thursday, President Trump stuck to his strategy of downplaying its dangerousness and calling for businesses to reopen.

He has also ramped up fear-mongering, warning of rampaging "socialists" and seeking to portray his Democratic challenger as intent on shutting the country down.

Biden has sought to persuade the few remaining undecided voters that he would provide a steady hand on the wheel and heal America's "soul," calling Trump irresponsible.

The former vice president has held drive-in, socially distanced rallies, while Trump's gatherings have often seen attendees ignore such guidelines and eschew masks.

The two candidates plan to be in three Midwestern states on Friday, with both campaigning in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Trump will also travel to Michigan and Biden also plans to be in Iowa.

Trump's wins in Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa helped propel him to victory in 2016.

But polling averages from the RealClearPolitics.com site show Biden up in all four of those states, ranging from 6.5 percentage points in Michigan to just one point in Iowa.

Still, Democrats and Republicans alike have repeatedly warned of the

## ZUCKERBERG WARNS 'CIVIL UNREST' IN U.S.

**San Francisco, Oct. 30:** Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg on Thursday warned of the potential for civil unrest as votes are tallied in a US election that will be "a test" for the social network.

Zuckerberg expressed his concern while describing safeguards against misinformation and voter suppression at the leading social network that are intended to avoid the kinds of deception and abuse that played out four years ago.

"I'm worried that with our nation so divided and election results potentially taking days or weeks to be finalized there is a risk of civil unrest," said Zuckerberg, who had also been grilled during a session on Capitol Hill earlier this week. "Given this, companies like ours need to go well beyond what we've done before." Confusion early this week over political ads at Facebook marred the onset of what was supposed to be a cooling-off period ahead of the US presidential election November 3.

Rival parties complained Facebook was undermining campaign efforts after blunders arose around a ban on new paid political ads being published in the week before Election Day.

—AFP

unreliability of polls, pointing to Trump's shock defeat of Hillary Clinton in 2016 despite surveys showing her to be the clear favorite.

—AFP



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## DECCAN Chronicle

31 OCTOBER 2020

### Don't relax yet, ward off India's 2nd wave

Notwithstanding the steady stream of good news with occasional reverses on the vaccine front, there is little on the ground for the world to breathe easy in the fight against the pandemic Covid-19. At present, 4.54 crore people have been infected the world over with 11.87 lakh deaths as on October 30. The US is leading the tally with 92.1 lakh cases and 2.34 lakh deaths, while India is in the second place with 80.9 lakh infections and 1.21 lakh deaths. The increase in daily caseload, which showed a decline in the beginning of September, has reversed the trend. The number was around three lakhs in the beginning of August and showed a softening effect throughout the month but slowly increased the next month. October 30 recorded the highest-ever daily increase of 5.45 lakh new patients worldwide. The same is the case with the number of daily deaths: it was around 7,000 in the end of July but it halved towards the end of September but the numbers have again crossed 7,000 by the end of October. Many are now suspecting a second wave of the pandemic. The number of new cases in the US is going up in a steady way, and the case is same in many European nations. Britain has imposed its toughest lockdown in many parts. France has imposed a lockdown while German chancellor Angela Merkel, who has ordered tougher measures, has warned of a "long, hard winter" this year. India has seen its ups and downs: the daily increase in the number of infections peaked in the second half of September and then showed a downward trend. They are hardening again.

Indian authorities and experts have been warning of another spike in infections once the festival season ends. The cue came from Kerala, which saw a sharp increase in the numbers after Onam and the state, which contained the virus exceptionally well when others faltered, is at present second only to Maharashtra in reporting new cases. Credit must be given to the Union government that launched Jan Andolan, a mass campaign to make people aware of the need to take precautionary measures such as wearing masks, observing social distancing and hand hygiene. However, it has not gained the traction it should have. Few people bothered about them while celebrating a festival last week and while voting in the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections.

The government may re-launch the campaign in mission mode with increased thrust on the rural areas so that the people take the easy and cheap option of keeping the virus away than the tougher, costlier and often fatal option of fighting it in their bodies. Lockdowns have been proved to have a debilitating impact on the economy and the government may keep that as the last option should the need arise. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned, the virus has not gone away. The government must keep reminding the people about that hard fact.

### Pak lies on terror exposed

Pakistan stands self-condemned through the shocking boast of its federal minister Fawad Chaudhry — said to be close to Prime Minister Imran Khan — that the Pulwama terrorist attack on February 14 last year, in which 40 CRPF men were killed, was a "major achievement" of the government and the Opposition parties — meaning the people of Pakistan.

Mr Chaudhry was addressing his country's National Assembly or Parliament, and his remarks were direct and emphatic, removing any scope for backtracking as he appeared to do somewhat in a subsequent tweet. So shocking and dramatic was the statement that the Pakistan PM may wonder what his minister was up to, really.

Had he given himself the mission to undermine the PM who has lately found himself in the line of fire of an effective combine of 11 Opposition parties? Was Mr Chaudhry playing the Army's game if the latter is in the process of washing its hands of Mr Khan whom it had propped up in office two years ago? Such questions are apt to arise in Pakistan's domestic debate, but in India we ought to bear in mind that the evilness of that country's policy toward us derives from the stranglehold the Pakistani military has gained in determining policy since the Ayub coup six decades ago. The civilians make up a huge constituency of incompetents and innocents, who are manipulated at will by the Army.

It is not the Pakistani "Muslim" who is the enemy but the Army. In recent years this premise has sometimes been somewhat obscured in our thinking, and, as a by-product, the Kashmir policy too lacks clarity. The Centre misidentifies the inimical forces, targeting even those who have stood by our Constitution and flag. The broader implications of Mr Chaudhry's self-shaming admission ought to be brought before the world. In this context, raising China's all-season support to Pakistan, which has emerged as its buddy pal, is also to be questioned.

Subhani



## Battle for Bihar: Super flop or a blockbuster?

Shobhaa De

It's not the time for *hawa hawai*," declared our beloved Prime Minister as he savaged the Opposition RJD in Bihar and mocked the "yuvraj" (Tejashwi Yadav). Pandemic or no pandemic, voters in Bihar showed up in decent numbers (54 per cent) during Phase 1 of the Assembly polls — the first major election of the pandemic. I am not holding my breath for Phase 2 (November 3). I don't think too many other people are either. Diwali will soon be upon us, and it's time for some cheer! Without my favourite weekend distraction (movies at the nearest multiplex), I have been getting my giggles via OTT platforms. We are all so spoilt for choice, the head spins!

I was never a gym rat... So I happily imagined I would never turn into a "pandemic binger" — *matlab*, for the first few months of the Covid curse, I stayed away from compulsively watching any and every new show dropping on this platform and that platform. My children kept recommending all sorts of amazing series — Turkish, Korean, Spanish — but I chose books and writing over those. More fool me! Now it is a bit too late to convert, jump in and spend five straight hours feeding on tight, taut, well-scripted international/national series everybody is raving over, but I do what hoarders of precious things frequently attempt — I save up my free hours for the weekend and catch one or two of the latest releases that have caught my fancy. Even though *Serious Men* is nearly a month old, I only managed to watch it earlier this week — and I was hooked from the opening scene itself. Since I hadn't read Manu

Joseph's brilliant and multi-layered book, on which the series is based, my mind was unprejudiced and receptive. In any case, I watch just about anything featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and the dialogue delivered in the trailer had me begging for more. Once I started, I got into it fully, more because the city of Mumbai itself was Ayyan Mani's (Nawazuddin's character) co-star! There is something very specific and particular about life in Mumbai's chawls. And director Sudhir Mishra captures the tiny and untidy moments through camera work that is intimate but never intrusive. The script is economical and revelatory without being over-reaching or obvious. Apart from Nawazuddin with his controlled rage, disillusionment, anguish and impatience with his lot, the series is enriched by the presence of a marvelous little chap, Aakshath Das, playing Adi Mani, Ayyan's hearing-challenged son, with total transparency. It is a very tough role for a kid to pull off convincingly, since the dialogues are "constructed" (watch... and find out), but the line this kid hurls arrogantly at pompous adults — "Primitive minds: I can't deal you!" — was just brilliant! His clever and ambitious father has tutored Adi to spit out that scathing sentence at those asking him tough questions to establish his "boy genius" credentials. When he is stumped for an answer, Adi throws this well-rehearsed insult at them and stomps off angrily! It is also the line that ends the series on a very poignant note, on a deserted beach. *Serious Men* is a scathing commentary on caste politics, dishonesty and corruption.

As Mumbai struggles to get back on its feet, with more and more "relaxations", especially when it comes to leisure and entertainment activities (restaurants, gyms, bars, movie theatres gradually opening), I am wondering whether the pandemic has completely changed the way in which we seek a bit of fun and camaraderie. Movies have always been up there as the number one stress busters. We used to spend crazy amounts on weekend movie outings at plush multiplexes. We took the trouble to dress up and make a real occasion out of it. The entire "experience" was enjoyable, including watching a film on a big screen, particularly with other people. It didn't matter that the cinema hall was filled with strangers. The theatre experience itself was a collective one — shared emotions bound strangers together for a few short hours. That comfortable habit has been convincingly broken. Watching movies or a favourite series in the privacy of your home has become a highly personalised and transformative act. We watch at our convenience, often relaxing on a comfy bed and munching micro-oven popcorn. There is no interval to break the spell, plus, it is we who possess the power to walk away, do something else, and come back nonchalantly, after an hour or so. Just the convenience of being able to pick up where one had left off has made a lot of diehard movie fans rejig their entertainment preferences — and from the look of it, web series are winning this round.

Personally speaking, I doubt I will be foolish enough to book tickets at a multiplex to watch a big-ticket film — regardless of the star cast. I am a little bratty now and have grown accustomed to calibrating and curating my entertainment hours as per my convenience. I enjoyed *Emily in Paris* over three nights of carefully measured watching... savouring every tiny glimpse of the most gorgeous, most glamorous city on earth. That holds true for another French import *Call my Agent*, shot in Gay Paree (ummmm — pun intended). It features throw-away lines like "Fragility is an actor's strength". Rebecca was a huge let down, as was *A Suitable Boy*. But the Korean *Crashlanding* made up for those wasted hours. I am looking forward to *Scam 1992*, the Harshad Mehta story that has received great reviews and made an overnight star out of Pratik Gandhi.

These acting opportunities across OTT platforms are creating their own star system, which is far more organic and genuine than the manipulations of mainstream Bollywood. I wonder how many cine-goers will want to pay a packet to watch those tired, overexposed veterans still clinging on to their ancient superstar images. There are any number of competent, credible "non-star" actors delivering big time in one hit show after another. They have created their own fan following and niche. The best thing about watching your favourite shows from home? No masks! It feels great to just breathe minus discomfort and watch a frisky fashionista — Lily Collins as Emily — taking on the snooty French and winning the war!

It's time for "Battle cry Bihar"! And this stellar star cast can take the pants off just about any actor from Bollywood.

Readers can send feedback to [www.shobhaade.blogspot.com](http://www.shobhaade.blogspot.com)

### LETTERS

#### MISGUIDED JIHAD

Contrary to what Islam actually teaches, some misguided men are waging a violent 'Jihad' and tarnishing the image of the entire Muslim community. The recent happenings in France, Sweden and elsewhere point to the rise of one of the worst phases of Islamic Jihad. Watching the beligerence of a section of Muslims is shocking non-Muslims. Muslim countries must respond positively and create a communally harmonious atmosphere so that peace is restored for all human beings to live amicably.

Govardhana Myneedu  
Vijayawada

#### SCHOOL REOPENING

Finally, the government has decided to reopen all educational institutions (*DC, Oct. 30*). However, fearing infection, it may take longer to put the system in place. Apart from adhering to protocols, authorities need to devise confidence building measures.

Dr C. Ghanshyam  
Visakhapatnam

#### REGRET

We deeply regret if the comments in our recent editorial on the actions of the President of France, in the context of certain acts of violence in that country, have inadvertently hurt the sentiments of any of our readers. It was never our intention to offend our readers or anyone else.

Editor

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Modified Soviet maps satisfy India

NEW DELHI, October 30

Recent Soviet maps, which showed modification of the earlier maps, were satisfactory for India, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said.

Commenting on foreign secretary T.N. Kaul's talks in Moscow during the last two days the spokesman said that the new maps shown to Mr Kaul during his discussions with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Firubin had Jammu and Kashmir, except for Aksai Chin, being shown as being fully inside India.

Farrukh Dhondy  
Cabbages & Kings



"The older proverbs are the best, Repeat them Bachchoo and leave the rest: 'The Higher the monkey climb The more him parts expose.' And 'Odours change with time Don't sniff the festering rose' And 'Beware the actor who can't tell The pitiful human from the pose'" — From *One Day Martyr Rum* by Bachchoo

### Communist MP in Britain was Tata's cousin, Gandhi's friend

Idle thoughts in a supposedly idle season. I access my mobile phone more times a day than I used to before the plague of Covid restricted my visits to people and places, including the mother country in which the Ganga flows. But, gentle reader, even so, I have not succumbed to the temptations of Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok or other "time-pass" forums and platforms and don't want anyone to know what I ate for breakfast and neither do I wish to pass on to the rest of humanity some video I may have chanced on, or some witticism which has gone "viral". (By the way, isn't this description of popularity a bit

ironic since Covid-19 has invaded all humanity?)

No, no, I am not humourless, but get that way when 20 different people send me a video in which a Chinese-looking youth working at a table hears the standard ring-tone of a mobile telephone and looks around to answer it when he sees that it's his cat seated next to him playing the tune with sticks on a xylophone. Funny the first time and raised a tolerant smile the second, but then...

So, what do I do instead? I cook dishes I find in the cookbooks that have laid on the shelves for years and even download recipes for honey-and-tamarind-marinated pork ribs (apologies to my Muslim, Jewish, vegetarian, vegan and squeamish readers!). And I scribble, as writers must — except I have taken to wondering whether fingering a computer should retain the same metaphor for modest writing as in the era of the fountain pen.

And as everyone does, I read. The latest literary phase has been books and essays on Indians who brought back to India something they had picked up from their sojourns in

the West. The list of such characters includes Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Dadabhai Naoroji, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr Ambedkar and so, so many more. The latest book, which I am still reading, is a biography of Shapur Saklatvala, who doesn't quite fit the category because he never returned to India after serving twice in the UK parliament as a communist MP from North Battersea in the early 1920s and then again in the late years of that decade.

The book is called *Comrade Sak* and is written by Mark Wadsworth, a black British writer with Caribbean roots. Before I say that this is an essential book which traces the life, convictions and career of this communist Parsi, a cousin of the Tata family, I ought to declare an interest. Or even a couple. Mark, the writer, is a friend and Comrade Sak, Shapur, was a "cousin-brother", as we joint-family-Parsis used to say, of my great grandfather Jamshed Saklatvala. Not that either fact affects my reading or evaluation of the biography which traces not only his life and career but appends his speeches

and his copious correspondence with Mahatma Gandhi about the organisation and representation of Indian workers. Sak was in favour of their unionisation and his ideological insistence led him to support anti-capitalist communism. Gandhi, in very interesting letters in reply, asserted at length that workers and capital could and should live together. He quotes with approval the stance of the Tata capitalists and their supportive benevolence towards their workforce.

I have said above that the factors which may bias my reading don't, but perhaps a few pages of the book do resonate in a personal way. Jamshed Saklatvala, my great grandfather, went to work on the setting up of the steel plant in Jamshedpur, helping the Tata cousins with the survey of the land etc. At the time the Saklatvalas and Tatas were partners in this pioneering capitalist venture.

The Saklatvalas didn't get their name, as I discovered, from some village called 'Saklat' in Gujarat. The surname of my ancestors comes from the fact that they owned mills which turned Bengali

jute into sack cloth which was used for making ships' sails and storage sacks — hence 'sack cloth wala'. And where then did those mills go? Or did the discovery of plastic sacks and the end of sails for ships ruin the trade my ancestors lived off, leaving at least one of us selling words to worthy newspapers and discerning publishers?

Mark's book tells me that Jamshed Saklatvala's private papers emphatically allege that the Saklatvalas were in some sense, through devious means, short-changed or done out of their fortune and partnership by one of the heirs and descendants of the founding capitalist J.R. Tata.

If that is true, just as after the Black Lives Matter explosion, sections of the population of the USA and even of Britain are claiming reparations, perhaps I should, on behalf of the Dhondys and the Saklatvalas claim reparations from the Tata industrial empire. I suppose I would settle for the more profitable branches of the Jaguar and Landrover manufacturing plants and perhaps throw in a small claim on Tata-Tetley tea. Watch this space!



## SHORT TAKES

## Mike Tyson back in the boxing ring

**Los Angeles:** Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr. insisted Thursday they are preparing for a bruising battle when the two fifty-something fighters face each other in an eight-round exhibition bout in Los Angeles. Former world heavyweight champion Tyson, 54, will be fighting for the first time in 15 years when he meets four-division world champion Jones, 51, at the Staples Center on November 28. While the California State Athletic Commission-sanctioned event has been dismissed as a "circus act" in some quarters, Tyson and Jones bristled at criticism the pay-per-view fight would not be a legitimate contest. "Not a real fight? It's Mike Tyson versus Roy Jones. I'm coming to fight and I hope he's coming to fight and that's all you need to know," Tyson told a virtual press conference. Jones, whose last fight came in 2018 with a unanimous decision over cruiserweight Scott Sigmon, also rejected the fight's exhibition tag, while describing himself and Tyson as "freaks". — *AFP*

## Boxers Kavinder, Sanjeet in finals

**New Delhi:** Indian boxers Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) advanced to the finals of the Alexis Vastine International Tournament in Nantes, France after clinching contrasting victories. However, four-time Asian medalist Shiva Thapa (63kg) settled for a bronze after going down in his semifinal clash. He lost to local favourite Lounes Hamraoui in a 2-1 decision on Thursday. Kavinder defeated Frenchman Benik George Melkumian 3-0 to set up a summit clash against another local hope Samuel Kistohurry. Sanjeet, a gold-medallist from the India Open, got the better of American Sherrod Fulghin in a 2-1 verdict. Sanjeet will also be up against a French opponent, Soheb Bouafia in the final. Amit Panghal (52kg) is also through to the finals after beating American Christopher Herrera in a draw that only featured four boxers. — *PTI*

## Taylor ton in vain as Zim go down

**Rawalpindi, Pakistan:** Pakistan overcame Brendan Taylor's century through fast bowler Shaheen Afridi's 5-49 to record a 26-run victory in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe on Friday. The match also marked the beginning of both nations' 2023 World Cup qualification campaigns. Taylor's 112 off 117 balls ended in a losing cause as Zimbabwe was bowled out for 255 in 49.4 overs. Afridi was supported by Wahab Riaz, who claimed 4-41. For Pakistan Haris Sohail (71) and Imam-ul-Haq (58) struck half centuries in their team's total of 281-8. — *AP*

**Brief scores:** Pakistan 281/8 in 50 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 58, Haris Sohail 71; B. Muzarabani 2/39) bt Zimbabwe 255 in 49.4 overs (Brendan Taylor 112, W. Madhevere 55; Shaheen Afridi 5/49, Wahab Riaz 4/41).

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians from 3.30 pm; Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**Women's Big Bash League:** Brisbane Heat vs Hobart Hurricanes from 10.10 am; Sydney Sixers vs Melbourne Stars from 1.35 pm; Sydney Thunder vs Brisbane Heat from 4.50 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

## FORMULA ONE

**Imola Grand Prix:** Practice 1 from 4.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2; Qualifying from 6.25 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, Star Sports 3

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Sheffield United vs Manchester City from 6 pm; Burney vs Chelsea from 8.30 pm; Liverpool vs West Ham United from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 2

**Italian League:** Crotone vs Atalanta from 7.30 pm; Inter Milan vs Parma from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2; Bologna vs Cagliari from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

## UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Uriah Hall vs Anderson Silva and other bouts from 4.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

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## BIG BEN STROKES

## Stokes, Sanju help Royals snap Kings' win streak

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 30:** Rajasthan Royals beat Kings XI Punjab by seven wickets in a crucial IPL match here on Friday.

Sent in to bat, Chris Gayle smashed a 63-ball 99, while K. L. Rahul hit 46 off 41 as KXIP posted 185 for 4 against RR. However, Ben Stokes' 26-ball 50 and Sanju Samson's 25-ball 48 helped the Royals chase down the total in 17.3 overs.

Earlier, Gayle and Rahul (46) took the RR bowlers to the cleaners, stitching 120 runs for the second wicket in 13.4 overs to help KXIP post a challenging total after being put in to bat.

Nicholas Pooran played a late cameo of 22 off just 10 deliveries with the help of three sixes.

Gayle, who had four boundaries and eight sixes in his explosive innings, was out just two balls before the end of the innings and he showed his disappointment of missing out on a hundred by throwing down his bat.

During his knock, Gayle took his tally of sixes to 1001 in his glittering T20 career.

KXIP lost their first wicket in the opening over itself when Mandeep Singh got dismissed for a first-ball duck with Ben Stokes taking a brilliant diving catch off an equally superb delivery by Archer.

But Gayle and Rahul maintained a high scoring rate, reaching 53 for 1 at the end of powerplay. The self-styled 'Universe Boss' smacked two fours and six in consecutive deliveries off pacer Kartik Tyagi. Gayle reached his third fifty in six matches in this IPL in style, hitting a six off Rahul Tewatia in the 11th over as KXIP cruised along to reach the 100-run mark in the 13th over.

— *PTI*



Ben Stokes of Rajasthan Royals plays a shot against Kings XI Punjab during their Indian Premier League match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

— *BCCI*

## SCORECARD

**Kings XI Punjab:** K. L. Rahul c Rahul Tewatia b Ben Stokes 46, Mandeep Singh c Ben Stokes b Jofra Archer 0, Chris Gayle b Jofra Archer 99, Nicholas Pooran c Rahul Tewatia b Ben Stokes 22, Glenn Maxwell not out 6, Deepak Hooda not out 1. Extras (LB-1, W-8, NB-2) 11. **Total (for 4 wickets in 20 overs) 185.**

**FoW:** 1-1, 2-121, 3-162, 4-184.

**Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-26-2, Varun Aaron 4-0-47-0, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-47-0, Shreyas Gopal 1-0-10-0, Ben Stokes 4-0-32-2, Rahul Tewatia 3-0-22-0.

**Rajasthan Royals:** Robin Uthappa c Nicholas Pooran b Murugan Ashwin 30, Ben Stokes c Deepak Hooda b Chris Jordan 50, Sanju Samson run out 48, Steve Smith not out 31, Jos Buttler not out 22.

Extras (LB-1, W-1) 2. **Total (for 3 wickets in 17.3 overs) 186.**

**FoW:** 1-60, 2-111, 3-145.

**Bowlers:** Arshdeep Singh 3-0-34-0, Mohammed Shami 3-0-36-0, Murugan Ashwin 4-0-43-1, Chris Jordan 3-0-44-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-27-0.

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	12	8	4	0	16	+1.186
Royal Challengers Bangalore	12	7	5	0	14	+0.048
Delhi Capitals	12	7	5	0	14	+0.030
Kings XI Punjab	13	6	7	0	12	-0.133
Rajasthan Royals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.377
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	0	12	-0.467
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	5	7	0	10	+0.396
Chennai Super Kings	13	5	8	0	10	-0.532

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

## Ruturaj one of the most talented players: Dhoni

**Dubai, Oct. 30:** A 'reticent' Ruturaj Gaikwad took some time to make a mark in the ongoing IPL but he has managed to impress his CSK skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who believes that the young opener is "one of the most talented players going around".

Gaikwad scored his second straight half-century on Thursday to set up a six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders here. He got his chance after Chennai Super Kings decided to field untested players following a disastrous start to the season.

"(The changes) are a conscious effort. We want to give games to people who haven't played and we need them to grab those opportunities. Ruturaj we'd seen



Ruturaj Gaikwad

him in the nets, but then he got Covid positive and took 20 days. Unfortunately but he'll remember this season," said Dhoni at the post-match presentation.

"He's one of the most talented players going around. What makes it difficult is he's not somebody who speaks a lot, so

sometimes it becomes difficult for the management to gauge a player."

Gaikwad, who had tested Covid-19 positive in the lead up to the tournament, has all the shots and his style of play is pleasing to the eye.

Things did not look bright for the 23-year-old after he failed in his first three innings (0, 5, 0).

"Once he started going in the innings, you could see that he was hitting the ball the way he wants to and he was planning. When we made him play the first game, he got out, stepped out.

"It becomes difficult to tell whether it was the pressure that made him step out or whether that's his natural game. One ball isn't enough," Dhoni further added.

— *PTI*

## Good start is the key, says Quinton

**Dubai, Oct. 30:** Mumbai Indians opener Quinton De Kock says having an experienced and strong middle-order is always a plus for any team but it does not make the job of the openers easy since they are responsible for team's good starts.

MI have a strong middle order with the likes of Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Kieron Pollard and Krunal Pandya in the ranks.

Asked whether an experienced middle-order helps him to be aggressive, De Kock said, "Having an experienced middle order, just in general helps out in any situation. I wouldn't say it changes our mind-set up front. We always try and look to get off to the best start possible, whether they're there or not."

"Obviously knowing that



Quinton de Kock

they are behind you, the likes of SKY (Surya), Polly (Pollard), Hardik (Pandya), when you are out there, you just bat to the situation and if you're still lucky enough to be out there batting with them, it's just important you end up giving them strike because they're the bigger strikers of the ball, so yeah," Kock further added.

— *PTI*

## SRH lock horns with Virat &amp; Co

**Sharjah, Oct. 30:** An IPL Play-offs spot at stake, Royal Challengers Bangalore need to shrug off the disappointment of two back-to-back defeats and put up a strong challenge against strong-willed Sunrisers Hyderabad when the two teams clash, here on Saturday.

But it would be easier said than done since SRH are brimming with confidence after their crushing win over Delhi Capitals.

Going by current standings, RCB are better-placed at number two and they need to win one of their remaining two games — against SRH or DC — to make the cut.

And even if RCB lose both their matches and stay on 14 points, they can still qualify. But for that they need favourable results from other games.

RCB can ill afford to lose both their last two games as it will affect their NRR, resulting in their elimination if other teams on 14 points have higher run rates.

SRH, on the other hand, have nothing to lose. Sitting on the sixth spot with 10 points from 12 games, the Hyderabad outfit need to win their remaining two matches — against RCB and MI — to reach 14 points to stay in the reckoning.

Just winning both the games might not be enough for SRH. They would be hoping that at least one out of RCB, DC (14 points) and Kings XI Punjab (12 points) don't reach the magic fig-

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

● Matches: 15

● Hyderabad: 7

● Bangalore: 7

● Tied: 1 (Sunrisers)

Hyderabad won in super over after match ended in a tie)

## MEETING IN 2019

● Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 118 runs at Hyderabad

● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 4 wickets at Bangalore

## MEETING IN 2020

● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Dubai

## FOR THE RECORD

● Virat Kohli who smashed 296 sixes in 278 innings of 293 matches, needs four sixes to become fourth Indians and 24th batsman overall to complete a triple century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.

● Manish Pandey who scored 982 runs in 36 innings of 39 matches, needs 18 runs to become fourth batsman to score 1000 runs for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

ure of 16.

If that happens, SRH will progress to the play-offs because of a superior NRR than all the teams which can finish on 14 points.

RCB need to regroup as their confidence definitely took a beating after crushing defeats at the hands of MI and CSK.

— *PTI*

## Mumbai, Delhi to meet in a big bout

**Dubai, Oct. 30:** Their play-off berth secured, defending champions Mumbai Indians would look to add to the woes of Delhi Capitals, who are on a three-match losing streak, and consolidate their position at the top when the two teams face each other in their penultimate IPL league game here on Saturday.

CSK six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday sealed MI's play-off berth. The defending champions are currently on 16 points and with an excellent net run rate (NRR), are almost certain to finish in the top two.

Despite three defeats on the trot against Kings XI Punjab, KKR and Sunrisers Hyderabad, DC are placed third with 14 points from 12 games, courtesy their consistent run in

the first phase of the league. The three defeats should come as an eye opener for DC as they can ill-afford to take things lightly and need at least a win to seal their play-off place.

But it won't be an easy task as their last two games are against the top two teams on the table — MI and RCB.

If DC lose their last two games, it is entirely possible that KXIP will go past them on NRR even if they finish on 14 points and in such a case, the Delhi side could be eliminated if other teams on 14 have a higher NRR.

Going by paper, MI definitely have a clear-cut edge over DC and having confirmed their last four berth, the title holders would be playing without any pressure.

— *PTI*

## NUMBERS GAME — MI vs DC

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

● Matches: 25 ● Mumbai: 13 ● Delhi: 12

## MEETING IN 2019

● Delhi Capitals beat Mumbai Indians 37 runs at Mumbai.

● Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 40 runs at Delhi

## MEETING IN 2020

● Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets at Abu Dhabi.

## FOR THE RECORD

● Kieron Pollar who scored 2973 runs in 144 innings of 160 matches, needs 27 runs to become second batsman after Rohit Sharma ( 3988 runs in matches) to score 3000 runs for Mumbai Indians.

● Rishabh Pant who scored 1989 runs in 63 innings of as many matches, needs 11 runs to become third batsman to score 2000 runs for Delhi Capitals in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

## Antwerp silence Tottenham; easy wins for Milan, Arsenal

**Paris, Oct. 30:** Jose Mourinho said he would have liked to make 11 half-time changes after his Tottenham Hotspur side slumped to a shock 1-0 Europa League defeat at Royal Antwerp on Thursday, while Serie A leaders AC Milan and Mikel Arteta's Arsenal eased to straightforward wins.

Spurs failed to create a single chance of note in a lifeless display, with Gareth Bale, who rejoined the club on loan from Real Madrid in the close-season, lasting less than an hour before being substituted.

Rafael Leao and on-loan Manchester United wing-back

## THE RESULTS

<b>Antwerp</b> (Rafaelov 29)	<b>1</b>	<b>Napoli</b> (Politano 56)	<b>1</b>
<b>Tottenham Hotspur</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Real Sociedad</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Arsenal</b> (Nketiah 42, Willock 44, Pepe 46)	<b>3</b>	<b>Leicester City</b> (Vardy 18-pen, Choudhury 39)	<b>2</b>
<b>Dundalk</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>AEK Athens</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>AC Milan</b> (Diaz 24, Leao 57, Dalot 67)	<b>3</b>	<b>Villarreal</b> (Pino 80, Alcacer 85, 90+6-pen)	<b>3</b>
<b>Sparta Prague</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Qarabag</b> (Kwabena 78)	<b>1</b>

Diogo Dalot said Milan extend their unbeaten run to 23 matches in all competitions.

Also, Arsenal overcame a plucky Dundalk side with a 3-0 handsome win at the Emirates Stadium.

— *AFP*



Joe Willock (centre) of Arsenal tries to break through against Dundalk players during their Europa League first round match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Thursday.

— *AFP*



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