


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
VIJAYAWADA | MONDAY | 19 OCTOBER 2020

## WEATHER

 **Max:** 35.0°C  
**Min:** 25.0°C  
**RH:** 81%  
**Rainfall:** 1.8mm  
**Forecast:** Rain.  
Max/Min temp.  
35/25 °C

## NATION | 4

**Mar Thoma church head passes away**



## WORLD | 5

**Trump leans on fear tactics to win polls**



## SPORTS | 6

**Ferguson wins the game for Kolkata Knights**



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## Covid hits rural, agency areas

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 18

While Coronavirus cases have come down in urban and city areas of north coastal Andhra, the virus is spreading into rural and agency areas, according to health officials.

A senior officer disclosed that 80 per cent of cases now being reported are from rural, semi-rural and agency areas. Citing an instance in Visakhapatnam district, the official said Narsipatnam revenue division has registered 15 per cent positive cases when the district average is less than eight per cent. Rolugunta, Natavaram and Narsipatnam are reporting more cases when compared to urban areas.

Srikakulam, Meliaputti, Patapatnam and Nandigam mandals have reported more Covid-19 cases compared to urban towns like Srikakulam, Rajam and Palasa. Srikakulam registered 168 cases on Sunday and most of them are from these three mandals. The total positive cases are 42,901. Of them, 1,505 are active cases.

In Vizianagaram district, however, cases have come down to double digits both in urban and rural areas.

● A SENIOR officer said disclosed that 80 per cent of cases now being reported are from rural, semi-rural and agency areas.

● SRIKAKULAM, Meliaputti, Patapatnam and Nandigam mandals have reported more cases compared to urban towns

Health officials regret that people are not following Coronavirus guidelines in rural areas. This is despite government giving three masks free to every individual per month. They hardly use sanitisers and are not very particular about washing hands with soap.

Officials say even government establishments like banks and insurance offices are not insisting on people to follow Coronavirus guidelines. "They have enough security personnel to insist on these aspects, but they are unable to handle customers," said a senior official.

Positive cases in Visakhapatnam have crossed 55,000 of which 2,119 are active. An official said only 717 patients are undergoing treatment in hospitals, while 1,190 of them are in home isolation and 284 in Covid care centres.



Water being released from the Srisailem dam after the reservoir was filled due to heavy rains upstream on Sunday.

## At 7 lakh cusecs, Srisailem sets 10-year water record

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC KURNOOL, OCT. 18

For the first time this decade, Srisailem reservoir officials released over seven lakh cusecs of water in a 24-hour period by lifting 10 crest gates to the height of 33 feet.

The dam has seen huge flood water coming into it in the past three days as torrential rains in Maharashtra and upper reaches of Krishna river filled up Narayanapur dam in Karnataka and Jurala

project in Telangana state to the brim.

Jurala has a live capacity of just 6.79 tmc and its full reservoir level is 318.52 tmc. As per Central Water Commission (CWC) alert, the flood trend on the Srisailem reservoir was steady with 4,85,485 cusecs coming into the reservoir from Jurala and Sunkesula barrage across Tungabhadra river near Kurnool.

Srisailem dam opened 10 spillway gates to a height of 20 feet on Sunday and

5,10,597 cusecs of water. The reservoir level is 884.60 feet against the total height of 885 feet. The present storage at the dam is 213.4011 tmc.

A retired engineer, who worked at Srisailem, found fault with the authorities for holding so much water in the reservoir. He raised concern that it is against flood management and would have a devastating impact on the structural stability of the dam.

■ Page 2: Homes in Kurnool inundated

## Women head 50% BC corporations

### AP appoints 12 directors for 13 dists

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18

YSR Congress government has announced governing bodies for 56 BC corporations formed to develop the status of backward classes belonging to 139 castes in Andhra Pradesh.

Names of persons appointed as chairpersons of these corporations were announced at a press conference by a Group of Ministers led by BC welfare minister Chelluboina Venugopala Krishna. The ministers reiterated that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been giving top priority to BCs in every welfare scheme. Formation of BC corporations is a measure to ensure their development.

Minister Venugopala Krishna said as 50 per cent reservations have been provided to women, nearly 29 of the total 56 corporations will be led by women as chairpersons. In addition to this, the state government has also appointed 12 directors representing all the 13 districts to each corporation. He asserted that the Chief Minister has set up 56 corporations for the 139 BC

### YSRC, TD OUT TO CONSOLIDATE BC SUPPORT

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18

Hectic activities are underway with the ruling YSR Congress and main Opposition Telugu Desam going all-out to woo Backward Classes and get their support.

Earlier, the BCs were traditional supporters of TD but YSRC penetrated it by attracting their support, which helped them win with a landslide majority.

With BCs constituting 50 per cent of the state population, YSRC after coming to power is according priority to them and filled all BC Corporation posts in one shot.

■ Full report on Page 2

castes to focus on their all-round development. "The CM firmly believes that BCs are Backbone Classes and not Backward Classes," he remarked.

Recalling the promise of Jagan Mohan Reddy during the 2019 elections, Venugopala Krishna said, "As promised, the Chief Minister has formed separate corporations for every community, thereby standing by his word. He pointed out that after a careful study of the 139 castes, 56 castes with over 30,000 population have been given separate corporations for their development. CM Jagan has also stood by his decision to implement 50 per cent women quota and provide more posts to women," he stated.

Municipal administration minister Botsa Satyanarayana said in a first of its kind initiative taken up by any state in the country, the state government has given equal opportunity for development of each BC caste. He slammed Telugu Desam leaders for not fulfilling promises made to BCs but only using them as a vote bank for political gains.

Ministers Dharmana Krishnadas, Anil Kumar Yadav, Ch. Venugopala Krishna and Shankar Narayana, apart from MP Mopidevi Venkataramana were present.



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\*As per lab test on select organism.



COVID-19  
COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+55,582)	(+789)
75,46,882	1,14,621
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,436)	(+6)
TS: 2,22,111	1,271
(+3,986)	(+23)
AP: 7,80,237	6,429

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,01,53,666
DEATHS
11,16,974
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213
worldometers.info/ coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

<b>Sarvari:</b> Dakshinayana Titthi: Nija Ashwayuja Tadiya till 2.12 pm <b>Star:</b> Anuradha till 3.53 am (Tuesday) <b>Varjyam:</b> 9.45 am to 11.12 am <b>Durmuhurtam:</b> 12.24 pm to 1.10 pm; 2.43 pm to 3.29 pm <b>Rahukalam:</b> 7.30 am to 9 am <b>HIJRI CALENDAR</b> <b>Rabiul Awwal 1, 1442 AH</b>
<b>PRAYERS</b>
<b>Fajar:</b> 5.35 am <b>Zohar:</b> 1.30 pm <b>Asar:</b> 4.45 pm <b>Maghrib:</b> 5.56 pm <b>Isha:</b> 8.15 pm
<b>SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.01 AM</b> <b>SUNSET TODAY 5.43 PM</b> <b>MOONRISE TODAY 8.26 AM</b> <b>MOONSET TOMORROW 9.00 PM</b>

## COUNTER POINT



**I can't find a safe place to shift flood affected people, sir!**

## SHORT TAKES

GOLD DEPOSITS IN  
PSBs FOR PAST 15  
YEARS, SAYS TTD

**AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT. 18**

Reacting over the campaign on the TTD gold deposits by a cross-section of people, the temple body clarified that it has been depositing the temple's gold in public sector banks under the gold deposit scheme for the past 15 years.

In a statement released on Sunday, the TTD clarified that the temple trust board had earlier resolved to keep the gold reserves under the gold monetisation scheme (GMS) of the Centre so as to earn interest at 2.5 per cent which is fixed by the Centre.

According to the statement, the State Bank of India (SBI) is the primary Bank, which undertakes the gold deposits under GMS in a big way, which was announced by the Centre in 2015. Even at present, many banks are not actively coming forward to undertake the long-term gold deposits in bulk. The SBI is a renowned public sector undertaking bank and hence the TTD was depositing gold with this bank since more than a decade.

"TTD holding gold deposits of around 7,800 kgs with the SBI and it reiterates the fact of long standing banking relationship of TTD with the bank. Even in the 7,800 kgs of gold deposits, the SBI is holding around 4,470 kgs since 2017, 920 Kgs since 2018, 1,380 kgs since 2019 and the balance is from 2020," the temple body said in its statement.

The TTD also clarified that there is no hidden agenda in making gold deposit with the SBI as the Indian Overseas Bank has not accepted gold for the long-term deposit scheme. "In fact, the IOB have requested TTD to give six months to return the gold and agreed to pay the interest at 2.5 per cent which TTD otherwise would have earned by placing under the long-term gold deposit scheme. Given the circumstances, the same gold is deposited with the SBI," added in the statement.

## YSRC, TD out to consolidate support of BCs

Once bitten twice shy TD has started giving preference to BCs in the party and appointed 10 leaders

**MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18**

Hectic activities are underway with the ruling YSR Congress and opposition Telugu Desam going all-out to woo Backward Classes and get their support.

Earlier the BCs were traditional supporters of TD but YSRC penetrated it by attracting their support, which helped them win with a landslide majority.

With BCs constituting 50 per cent of the state population, YSRC after coming to power is according priority to them and filled all BC Corporation posts in one shot.

The once bitten twice shy TD has started giving preference to BCs in the party and recently appointed 10 leaders from the community in the parliamentary constituencies to win back their support.

After facing defeat in 2014, YSRC found that the lack of BCs support had caused the debacle. They delved into why BCs were supporting the TD. TD founder N.T. Rama Rao gave preference to BCs and the strategy was continued by N. Chandrababu Naidu, which helped TD to come to power several times.

Before the elections, YSRC had appointed BC Adhyana Committee led by BC leader Janga Krishnamurthy to interact with BC groups and to understand their prob-



Ministers Botsa Satyanarayana and Dharmana Krishnadas before announcing the BC Corporation chairman and directors at the media conference on Sunday.

lems and aspirations. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy drew a strategy to woo BCs and the poll manifesto promised BC Sub-plan and YSRC Cheyutha scheme for BC women, which clinched the issue in YSRC favour. Interestingly, Mr Naidu also announced a BC plan but it did not work.

Senior political analysts stated that Jagan Mohan Reddy on coming into power implemented welfare schemes as promised during elections, including to BCs.

They said that earlier TD used to fill nominated posts one year before the

elections, which has boomeranged. With 50 per cent of AP's population and as they are decision makers, Jagan Mohan Reddy formed 56 BC Corporations. They stated that to regain their support, TD has appointed BCs as presidents in 10 of the 25 Parliament committees.

Ministers Gummanur Jayaram and Muttamsetti Srinivas Rao (Avanti Srinivas) and other leaders alleged that TD never worked for the development of BCs hence they dealt a humiliating defeat to them in 2019. They said

that Jagan Mohan Reddy was a man of integrity.

TD MLA Anagani Satya Prasad and other leaders said that Jagan Mohan Reddy was doing everything possible to break the backs of BCs. They alleged that the YSRC was just giving Chairman and Directors' posts to the BC corporations of different castes only for political rehabilitation. They claimed that the ruling party was not interested in real welfare of the BCs as was evident from lack of funds to corporations for implementing self-employment schemes.

## Drone camera helps restore power in rain-hit villages

**VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, OCT. 18**

Drone cameras are being used for multiple purposes, including surveillance, mapping and weddings while the government makes optimal use of them during floods and other natural disasters.

For the first time, officials of the AP Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited (EPDCL) used drone cameras for restoration of power in six villages — Kolimeru, Subbayamma Pet, Gandhinagar, NSV Nagar, N.Suraram and Kotalah Palem village in Tuni Rural Mandal. Thanks to the usage, they were able to restore within 24 hours to nearly 4,500 services, including agriculture connections.

According to sources, due to heavy rains, the Tandava River gates were lifted and the overflowing flood waters caused erosion of bund sides of the river and many trees and electric poles fell into the

river. This resulted in a complete night blackout on October 14. Spotting and connecting electrical poles, which fell on either side of the river, was a Herculean task.

Even swimmers did not dare to dive and fix wires to the conductors while revenue officials did not agree to operate boats for the purpose.

Meanwhile, officials proposed to supply power to the village with an alternative line from Kotananduru Mandal. Deputy executive engineer of APEPDCL of Tuni Mandal, Ch. Meena Kethana Rao, stated that power could be restored by connecting conductors by making use of drone cameras. In Kolimeru village, B.V. Ramana, who uses drone cameras to cover marriages, came forward to help the officials.

"Initially, we made an experiment that linked wires making use of the thread of fishing net and later a rope, both of which

were successful. Then two electrical conductors were connected with wires to two poles of both sides of the river with the help of drone cameras. This helped restore power supply to the villages within hours," said Meena Kethana Rao.

He said that the experiment proved that electrical conductors and wires can be connected with the help of drone cameras during catastrophes.

The locals recalled that they faced severe hardships when cyclone Neelam wreaked havoc in the district. There was no power in the villages for almost six days.

Divisional engineer of Jaggaampeta division Y. David said that was for the first time in electricity department's history that drone technology was used to restore power. Superintendent engineer Surya Prakasa Rao has given green signal to make use of the technology during future exigencies.

JANA SENA DEMANDS INVESTMENT  
BY FARMERS TO BE COMPENSATED

**DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18**

Jana Sena Political Affairs Committee (PAC) chairman and former Assembly Speaker Nadendla Manohar demanded the government to pay the total investment as compensation for the damage to the crops to farmers. He insisted that the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan

Mohan Reddy to give assurance to the farmers during such a massive catastrophe.

Mr Manohar on Sunday toured the flood-hit areas in the Krishna river basin in Guntur district on the advice of party president Pawan Kalyan. He visited Veerilapalem and Pedakonduru villages in Mangalagiri constituency, Bommuvaniapalem in Tenali constituency.

## LIVING | DANGEROUSLY

About 35 residential colonies on the hillocks in Visakhapatnam

## Thousands of families face landslide threats

**V.K.L. GAYATRI | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 18**

Though a landslide threat faces thousands of families, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) is not taking concrete steps to prevent disaster.

Every monsoon, there are fatal incidents reported but the GVMC is not constructing retaining concrete walls to save families located on the hillocks in the city.

With the continuous heavy rains, a large number of houses constructed on the hillocks are in danger after the soil has eroded, and the residents are tense. In the recent heavy

rains, two deaths reported in a landslide, and many houses are in danger.

With a large number of guest workers, particularly from the working class, in the city, living space has become a problem and they take shelter on the hill slopes. Some influential local leaders are making money by constructing houses and sheds for the weaker sections and selling them. With this, a large number of residential colonies have developed on the slopes. In several areas, the residents have become big vote banks for political leaders.

The GVMC is constructing staircases, providing street lighting and water

supply to these houses and collecting taxes from the residents. According to GVMC statistics, there are about 35 residential colonies on the hillocks located in

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According to GVMC statistics, there are about 35 residential colonies on the hillocks located in

## Women outnumber men in BC corp posts

**DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18**

For the first time in AP history as many as 29 women and 27 men got chairman posts for the 56 BC Corporations' chairperson posts announced here on Sunday.

The women appointed as chairpersons to Thogata Corporation: Gaddam Sunitha (Anantapur), Kunchitiga Vokkaliga Corporation: Dr. B Nalini (Anantapur), Vannia Kula Kshatriya Corporation: K Kalyani (Chittoor), Eediga Corporation: K. Shanthi (Chittoor), Gandla: S Bhavani Priya (East Godavari) Perika: Purushottam Ganga Bhavani, Ayyaraka: Avala Rajeshwari (East Godavari) and Vaddera: Devalli Revathi.

Krishna Balija / Pusala: Kola Bhavani (Guntur), Padmashali: Vijaya Lakshmi (Kadapa), Noor Basha Dudekula: Apsari Fakurbi (Kadapa), Sagara Uppara: Ganugapenta Ramanamma (Kadapa), Vaddelu: Saidu Gayatri Santosh (Krishna) Bhatraju: Kurapati Gitanjali Devi (Krishna), Kurmi / Karikala: Butta Saradamma (Kurnool) and Jangam: Prasanna

(Nellore). Muslim Nomadic Tribes: Syed Asifa (Nellore), Arekatika: Dada Kumar's Lakshmi (Prakasam), Medara: K Lalitha N a n c h a r a m m a (Prakasam), Polinati Velama: P Krishnaveni (Srikakulam), Kurakula / Pondara: Rajapu Hymavathi (Srikakulam), Srisaina: Cheepuru Rani (Srikakulam) , Nagarala: Pilla Sujatha (Visakhapatnam), Yatha: Pili Sujatha (Visakhapatnam), and Nagavamsa: Boddu Appala Kondamma (Visakhapatnam). Shishta Karanam: Kantimahanti Anusha Patnaik (Vizianagaram), Dasari: Rangumudri Ramadevi (Vizianagaram) and Surya Balija: Setti Anantha Lakshmi (West Godavari).

Men were appointed as chairman to Rajaka Corporation: S. Ranganna (Anantapur) Kuruba Corporation: Koti Suryaprakash Babu (Anantapur), Palakari: T. Muralidhar (Chittoor), Muddaliar: Tirupatur Govindaraju Suresh (Chittoor) (East Godavari), Agnikula Kshatriya: Bhandana Hari (East Godavari).

## YSRC HAILS BC CORPNS, TERMS BCs BACKBONE

**DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18**

YSR Congress MLAs Jogi Ramesh and Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao hailed Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for appointing chairpersons for 56 Backward Class Corporations and said that it was a boon for the weaker sections of the society.

Addressing the media on Sunday, MLA Jogi Ramesh said it was for the greater good that Jagan Mohan Reddy called the BCs as the Backbone Classes of the society by incorporating 139 BC sections in the 56 corporations. He said the great decision of setting up 56 BC Corporations and the appointment of 672 directors would remain as a major one in the annals of the history of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr Ramesh said the decision was taken by the Chief Minister in Eluru before the elections when Jagan Mohan Reddy declared that he would keep the BCs close to his heart and that they can live with dignity.



Lord Malayappa taking a celestial ride on 'Simha Vahanam' inside Tirumala temple on Sunday as part of the ongoing Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams.

## Lord Malayappa on Simha Vahanam blesses devotees

**AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, OCT. 18**

On day three of ongoing Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams on Sunday, Lord Malayappa Swamy rode out on the Simha Vahanam in Abhaya Ahwana Narasimha Swamy Alankaram and blessed devotees. Because of restrictions due to Covid-19, Vahana Seva was organised at the Kalyana

Mandapam inside the Srivari temple on Tirumala.

The Simha Vahana Seva represents incarnation of Lord Vishnu as Mrugendrudu (Lion) to punish wrongdoers and protect the righteous in society. In Yoga Shastra, lion is an embodiment of power and speed. The valour of Lord Venkateswara, who rides such an animal as His vehicle, is displayed in abundance through the Simha

Vahana Seva. Statues of lions at Ananda Nilayam, idol of Narasimha in Yoga Mudra in Srivari temple and statue of Lakshmi Narasimha on way to Tirumala along the Alipiri foot route exhibits the significance of lion in the celestial entourage of Lord Venkateswara.

Later in the evening, Lord Malayappa took a pleasure ride on the pearl-studded 'Muthyapu Pandiri Vahanam' inside the temple. Legend says

Muthyam (pearl) symbolises peace, tranquillity and serene love. Lord graces the pearl canopy Vahanam to shower His benign blessings on devotees.

Tirumala pontiffs Pedda Jeeyar Swamy and Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, TTD executive officer K.S. Jawahar Reddy, MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Additional EO A. V. Dharma Reddy, JEO P. Basant Kumar and others were present.



## OTHER STORIES

VOLUNTEERS HELP  
IN CREMATION  
AS KIN AVOIDPATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC  
NELLORE, OCT. 18

Volunteers assisting the Red Cross Society to dispose of bodies of Covid-19 victims at the mobile crematorium have helped a family to perform final rites of a loved one after their relatives and friends failed to help them at Nellore on Sunday.

The volunteers, Shaik Rahul and S. Sai Teja, volunteered after the staff manning the mortuary at the GGH told them about the inability of family members to collect the body or perform last rites.

While the wife of the deceased is ill, one of her daughters is mentally challenged and another is working in a hotel near the RTC bus stand at Nellore. The hotel staffer daughter said that the volunteers helped her shift the body to the graveyard and cremate it in the mobile crematorium.

Rahul said they purchased a garland and gave it to her. A priest came just before placing the body in the crematorium to help the daughter to perform the last rites.

State crosses 70 lakh  
mark of Corona tests

The recovery rate continues to increase, reaches 94.53%

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18

Andhra Pradesh has crossed the 70-lakh mark in Corona tests, apart from recording the lowest 23 Covid-19 deaths on a single day in the past three months on Sunday.

The dropping of Corona positive cases continued with registration of 3,986 new positive cases against an earlier average of 10,000 cases per day.

The total Corona positive cases reached 7,83,132 on Sunday in which 7,40,229 are recoveries, 36,474 active cases and 6,429 deaths. The recovery rate continues to increase and has reached 94.53 per cent on Sunday.

West Godavari district is on top by recording single day highest Corona cases of 528 on Sunday. 4,591 patients in the district have been discharged after cure in the past 24 hours.

Highest number of four deaths each have been registered in the past 24 hours in Chittoor, Guntur

● **AP HAS** tested a total of 70,66,203 samples for Corona till date and is at the top place in Covid-19 tests conducted in the entire country.

and Krishna districts, followed by two deaths each in Anantapur, EG, Nellore and WG districts, and one each in Kadapa, Prakasam and Visakhapatnam districts. East Godavari registered a total 1,10,092 cases and is top among all districts and WG is in the second place with 79,131 total positive cases.

As many as 74,945 Corona tests have been conducted in the past 24 hours in which 3,986 have been diagnosed as Covid-19 positive. The single day highest number of 528 Corona positive cases has been registered in WG district, increasing the total to 79,131 in which 4,495 are active cases. The second single day highest number of 503 Corona positive cases has been registered in Krishna district, increasing the total to 34,598 in which 2,618 are active cases. The third single day

highest number of Corona positive cases of 496 has been registered in Guntur district, increasing the total to 62,348 in which 3,839 are active cases.

EG district is in the fourth place, registering 481 new positive cases in the past 24 hours, increasing total positive cases to 1,10,092 in which 6,326 are active cases. 458 new Corona positive cases have been registered in Chittoor district, increasing total positive cases to 73,655 in which 4,605 are active cases. 334 new Corona positive cases have been registered in Prakasam district, increasing total positive cases to 56,582 in which 3,141 are active cases.

Kadapa district recorded 266 new Corona positive cases in the past 24 hours, increasing total positive cases to 49,863 in which 2,813 are active cases. 218 new Corona positive cases

have been registered in Visakhapatnam district, increasing total positive cases to 53,806 in which 2091 are active cases.

Anantapur district registered 201 new cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total positive cases to 62,469 in which 1,862 are active cases. 196 new Corona positive cases have been registered in Nellore district, increasing total positive cases to 58,125 in which 1,182 are active cases. 168 new Corona positive cases have been registered in Srikakulam district increasing total positive cases to 42,606 in which 1,337 are active cases.

The second least number of single day 82 new Corona positive cases during the last 24 hours has been registered in Vizianagaram district, increasing total positive cases to 38,180 in which 1,195 are active cases. The least number of 55 new Corona cases have been registered in Kurnool district, increasing total positive cases to 58,782 in which 970 are active cases.



Police personnel attend duty wearing PPE kits at the entrance of sanctum sanctorum of Kanaka Durga temple during Dasara celebrations in Vijayawada on Sunday. —DC

10,655 devotees visited  
Durga temple on SundayDC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 18

Goddess Kanaka Durga was adorned in Bala Tripura Sundari as the Devi Avatar (attire) on the second consecutive day on Sunday in the Dasara Navarathri festival on the hilltop Indrakeeladri Durga temple. The devotees, following the Covid-19 protocol, visited the temple and performed pujas worshipping Bala Tripura Sundari Devi.

Temple priests explained that Tripura is the first goddess in the Tripura traya and she is the main

goddess of all in the Sriyantra.

They said that without having got the mantra of Bala one is not eligible to perform the Sri Yantra puja. They stated that in the first Annaya of Srichakra Bala resides, so without worshipping Bala, one cannot perform puja to Sridevi.

They further noted that Kanaka Durga is decorated as Bala as Sri Adi Shankara, has established Srichakra here and so to beget the *Anugraha* of Bala she is decorated as Bala. One has to see her beauty in this *alankaram*.

They mentioned that worshipping the goddess was the vital part of the Shakti puja.

Temple executive officer M.V. Suresh Babu and Trust Board chairman P. Somi Naidu said that as many as 10,655 devotees took darshan of Goddess Durga on Sunday.

They said that the temple had earned ₹8,25,100 revenue through sales of laddus, tickets and saree auctions on Sunday. They expressed hope that goddess Bala Tripura Sundari Devi would shower good health, peace and happiness to the devotees.

Improve quality of services to  
devotees: TTD EO instructsDC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUPATI, OCT. 18

TTD EO Dr K.S. Jawahar Reddy inspected the Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annarasadam Complex (MTVAC) and Vaikunta queue complex at Tirumala on Sunday and gave instructions to employees to improve quality of service and amenities to devotees.

The TTD EO along with

additional EO A.V. Dharma Reddy also par-took *annarasadam* at the MTVAC during the inspection and appreciated the quality of food items given to devotees.

Speaking to media persons near the MTVAC, he said devotees coming for Srivari darshan were happy about all the facilities being provided by TTD in Tirumala like quality *annarasadam*

and accommodation etc. At the MTVAC, he inspected the cold storage, kitchen and the dining halls and lauded the services of staff after interaction with the devotees for providing delicious and quality food items.

TTD EO further inspected the Vaikuntam queue complex and reviewed the system for depositing mobiles, footwears, supply of *annarasadam*, etc.

AU to go ahead with  
degree exams todayDC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 18

Andhra University (AU) is going ahead with the conduct of degree examinations ignoring the protests launched by students in several places under its jurisdiction. The second and fourth semester examinations will be conducted from Monday as per the schedule announced earlier.

University authorities issued a circular giving an option to the students to appear for the same examination in December, which would be treated as a regular examination. But government degree colleges and autonomous colleges told the students that they did not receive any circular and warned them that the December examination would be

● **CANCELLATION** or postponement of exams would adversely affect the prospects of final year students who have backlogs.

treated as supplementary examination.

"The students have made up their mind to appear for the examination fearing loss of an academic year," said SFI Visakhapatnam city president Prabhudas Killo.

He said that around 12,000 would be appearing for both the second and fourth semester examination, 7,000 of whom would be from Visakhapatnam alone.

Students elsewhere also demanded cancellation of the examinations due to the Covid-19 factor. Students of PR Deg-

ree College, Kakinada launched an SMS campaign against the proposed exams. There was also a protest in Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajamahendravaram last week.

The UGC in its guidelines to higher educational institutions, made the exams for graduating or outgoing students mandatory.

However, for the Intermediate semester or year, the universities will have the freedom to conduct exams based on a comprehensive assessment of the situation or even grading the students based on their performance in the previous semesters and internal evaluation. He said universities should have considered the pandemic situation and promoted students based on the UGC parameters.

RLYS TO RUN  
SPECIAL TRAIN  
FOR DASARADC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT. 18

East Coast Railways will run special trains to clear extra rush of passengers during the festive season.

A release from Waltair division of East Coast Railway on Sunday said Puri-Chennai Central special express will leave Puri on every Sunday at 17.30 hrs from October 25 to November 29 which will reach Chennai Central at 14.55 hrs the next day. In return direction the train will leave Chennai Central on every Monday at 16.25 hrs from October to November 30 which will reach Puri at 15.10 hrs on the next day.

The Visakhapatnam-Chennai Central special express will leave Visakhapatnam on every Monday at 19.05 hrs from October 26 to November 30 which will reach Chennai Central at 08.55 hrs on the next day.

In return direction the train will leave Chennai Central on every Tuesday at 21.10 hrs from October 27 to December 1 which will reach Visakhapatnam at 10.25 hrs on the next day.

Similarly two special trains will run from Visakhapatnam to Nizamuddin and one each to Rayagada, Gandhinagar, Cuddapah, double decker train to Vijayawada. The other special trains include Bhubaneswar-Tirupati, Bhubaneswar-Chennai Central, Bhubaneswar-Bangalore Cant, Bhubaneswar-Puducherry and Bhubaneswar-Rameswaram.

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**Tender Notice No. : 15-CWMLGD-ETENDER-2021**  
Dated : 15-10-2020

Chief Workshop Manager / Lallaguda acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E- Tenders against Tender No.15-CWMLGD-ETENDER-2021 closing date 16-11-2020 at 15:00 hours. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through demand draft, banker's cheque, deposit receipts, FDR etc., are not allowed.

SI. No. 1. Tender No. : 15-CWMLGD-ETENDER-2021, Dated : 15-10-2020. Description of work : Stripping and Cleaning of Bogie Components at Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad.

Approximate Cost (Rs.) : 3,44,51,016/- (Rupees Three Crores Forty Four Lakhs Fifty One Thousand and Sixteen only). Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) : 3,22,300/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand and Three Hundred only). Period of Completion : Twenty Four months. Date of closing : 16-11-2020 at 15:00 hours.

1. Website Particulars : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

2. Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen : Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad - 500017.

Chief Workshop Manager, CWS, Lallaguda, Secunderabad.

**Tender Notice No. : Y/SG/36/2020-21/11**  
Dated : 15-10-2020

On behalf of the President of India, Senior Division Signal & Telecom Engineer, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites open Tenders for the following works through E-procurement up to 15:30 hours of 11-11-2020.

SI. No. 1. Tender No. : Y/SG/36/2020-21/11. Name of the work : Hyderabad Division : Secunderabad - Mudkhed section : Interlocking of LC gate No. 189A at Km 446/8-9 between Navipet - Jankampet Junction stations. Approximate Value (Rs.) : 51,45,618.31. Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) : 1,02,900/-

For further details visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Hyderabad.

**E - Tender Notice No. : GNT/SG/36/196 to 197**  
Dated : 14-10-2020

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below up to 11:00 hours of 05-11-2020.

ID.No. : 196. Name of the work : Provision of sliding boom arrangement for 14 nos Interlocked LC gates over Guntur Division.

Approximate cost (Rs.) : 27,85,073/- Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) : 55,700/- Cost of tender document (Rs.) : 3,000/-

ID.No. : 197. Name of the work : Proposed Interlocking of Mid section LC Gates No.63 at 75/5-6 bet. BMKD - PGRL in Guntur Division.

Approximate cost (Rs.) : 34,99,412/- Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) : 70,000/- Cost of tender document (Rs.) : 3,000/-

1. If the date of opening of tenders happens to be declared holiday at later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.

2. Last date for online submission of E-bids is 05-11-2020 up to 11:00 hours. For detailed information login to our website at [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

3. Any further communication / corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Sr. Div. Signal & Telecom Engineer/ A1169 Guntur.

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

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## IN BRIEF

## Museum on ex-Prez Pranab in the offing

**Berhampore:** A museum will be built in the memory of former president Pranab Mukherjee in West Bengal. It will come up at his residence in Jangipur of Murshidabad, former Congress MP and Mukherjee's son Abhijit Mukherjee informed. Pranab Mukherjee, who was a two-time MP from Jangipur and held several ministerial portfolios including finance and external affairs from time to time during the Congress rule at the Centre, died on August 31 in Delhi after a prolonged illness. At a condolence meeting in memory of his father at Rabindra Bhavan in Jangipur Abhijit said, "My father had built a house at Deuli on the outskirts of Jangipur and named it as Jangipur Bhavan. We have decided to build a museum at the ground floor of the house very soon." The leaders many photos and mementos received from foreign countries would be showcased in the museum.

## MAR THOMA CHURCH HEAD PASSES AWAY

**Thiruvalla, Oct. 18:** Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, the primate of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, died early on Sunday at a private hospital here after battling cancer, church sources said.

The 90-year-old head of the Marthoma community was under treatment for pancreatic cancer and breathed his last around 2.30 am, hospital sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of the spiritual leader, saying the Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives of the poor.

"His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives of the poor and down-trodden. He was blessed with abundance of empathy and humility. His noble ideals will always be remembered. RIP," Modi tweeted.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the demise of the Metropolitan was not only a loss to the church but to the society as a whole. "He worked for the liberation and welfare of the homeless and marginalised people in the society. His involvement in rehabilitating children from the Red Street in Mumbai and uplifting transgender persons into the mainstream shows how he battled for the down-trodden," Vijayan said in a statement.

Born as P.T. Joseph to Alakunnathu T. Lukose and Mariamma couple at Maramonin Pathanamthitta district, Joseph Mar Thoma became Mar Thoma metropolitan in October 2007 after the then Mar Thoma, Philipose Mar Chrysostom, expressed his desire to transfer responsibilities of the church to his successor due to his deteriorating health.

## SENA ACCUSES BJP OF USING GUVs AS AGENTS

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 18**

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has accused the BJP of using the Governors as its "political agents" to destabilise all the governments run by the Opposition parties. This is not a sign of a good ruler, said senior leader Sanjay Raut.

"In Maharashtra, the BJP has engaged in anti-government propaganda since there is a non-BJP government in the state. In fact, wherever there are Opposition governments, the BJP has trained its guns at them by appointing governors as their political agents," said Raut in his weekly column in the Sena mouth-piece *Saamana* on Sunday.

The Sena leader cited several states where Governors are at loggerheads with the governments of Opposition parties. "In West Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar is seen posing daily challenges to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is not budging to him. In Delhi too, there is a clash between Arvind Kejriwal and the lieutenant-Governor. There is no trouble in Punjab due to the fear of invoking the wrath of the Sikh community. In Maharashtra, the Thackeray government is stable despite various attempts from the Governor, whereas all efforts to destabilise the Ashok Gehlot government were foiled in Rajasthan," he added.

## Raksha Bhavan to be razed

## Shram Shakti Bhavan also to be demolished for controversial Central Vista

**ANIMESH SINGH | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 18**

Raksha Bhavan, which houses the accommodation suites of officers attached with the prestigious National Defence College (NDC), as well as Transport Bhavan (office of the road transport & shipping and tourism ministries) and Shram Shakti Bhavan (which houses the labour, water resources and power ministries), are all set to be demolished under the controversial Central Vista project.

Transport Bhavan and Shram Shakti Bhavan will make way for chambers for MPs next to the proposed new Parliament building, while Raksha Bhavan will be replaced by the common Central Secretariat (CCS) build-

ings that will house the offices of all Central ministries, top sources aware of these development told this newspaper.

The much criticised Central Vista project — which envisions the building of a new Parliament House, a new accommodation for the Prime Minister and offices of all Central ministries at the 3 km stretch between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate — entails shifting the entire staff of these ministries as well as officers' suites of the NDC to the under construction Grameen Vikas Bhavan, which was earlier supposed to be the new address of the rural development ministry.

The entire cost of shifting the staff of the ministries as well as that of

the NDC officers' suites to the under-construction erstwhile Grameen Vikas Bhavan and its fresh construction will come to around ₹350 crores, the sources added. They claimed that this cost will be less than the cost of building the new office of the rural development ministry.

The proposal has been approved by the urban affairs and the defence ministries, the sources said. The erstwhile Grameen Vikas Bhavan will be known as General Pool Office Accommodation (GPOA) building.

The proposed Grameen Vikas Bhavan, which had been sanctioned by the rural development ministry in November 2018, as its new address, and whose construction had

begun in July 2019, was abruptly stopped after it was decided in December 2019 by the Centre that all ministries will be accommodated in the CCS buildings under the Central Vista project.

At the time of halting its construction, the government had already spent around ₹12 crores on Grameen Vikas Bhavan, sources privy to the details said.

Subsequently, according to highly-placed sources, it was decided that the under-construction Grameen Vikas Bhavan or the proposed GPOA building will now house the twin offices of all these five ministries as well as suites for the NDC officers.

Keeping security aspects in mind, the GPOA build-

ing will have separate entry and exit points for civilian and military establishments, and even the basement parking area will be partitioned by walls so that there is no intermingling of ministries' staff with that of the NDC officers.

The Central Vista project has been shrouded in controversy ever since it was officially announced in September last year. It has faced allegations ranging from seeking hasty approvals, lack of transparency and absence of public consultation, and seeking the advice of experts as well as not taking the all-important approval of Parliament, and going ahead with it despite the fact that the Coronavirus pandemic is raging in the country.

## Minister confirms Covid community transmission

**New Delhi, Oct. 18:** Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Sunday said community transmission of the Coronavirus infection is restricted to certain districts in a limited number of states, clarifying that "this is not happening across the country".

The minister said this during an interaction with his social media followers on the sixth episode of "Sunday Samvaad".

He was responding to a question from a participant, who cited West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remark that there are instances of community transmission in her state and asked the minister which are the states that have witnessed community transmission of the disease.

"In different pockets across various states, including West Bengal, community transmission of Covid-19 is expected to occur, especially in densely-populated areas. However, this is not happening across the country. Community transmission is limited to certain districts, occurring in a limited number of states," Vardhan said.

He added that as yet, no mutation of the Coronavirus has been detected in India that is either more transmission-efficient or more pathogenic.

The Centre so far has denied community transmission of the Coronavirus infection in

● **HARSH VARDHAN** says community transmission of the Coronavirus infection is restricted to certain districts in a limited number of states and that this is not happening across the country.

the country.

Health ministry officials had said the World Health Organisation (WHO) has not given any standard definition of community transmission.

It permits its member nations to assess the spread of the disease, based on their own analysis of the situation, and do their reporting, which the global body shows on its website.

Broadly, if it is not possible to trace the transmission chain, it means there is community transmission, officials said. The Centre has maintained that there are clusters of cases and there are pockets of localised transmission.

Meanwhile, with Kerala witnessing a spike in Coronavirus infections recently, Harsh Vardhan said the state was paying the "price for gross negligence" during Onam festivities when unlocking of services along with an increase in travel for trade and tourism led to the spread of Covid-19.

The minister said this ought to serve as a good lesson for all the state governments that were being negligent in planning for the festival season. — PTI

## Lights of victory



Iconic Howrah Bridge illuminated with the official colour of historical Mohun Bagan Club after the official handover of the I-League 2019-20 trophy to the champions Mohun Bagan at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kolkata on Sunday.

— PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

## BJP-Cong spar over Tharoor's remarks

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 18**

Berating the Congress over its senior leader Shashi Tharoor's remarks at the recent Lahore Think Fest, where he criticised the Indian government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, "bigotry and prejudice" against Muslims and "problem with northeast citizens who look different."

Describing Tharoor's virtual address as a Congress "debut rally" in Pakistan, the BJP asked whether Congress leader Rahul Gandhi intends to contest elections in Pakistan. It said that henceforth, the Congress leader should be called "Rahul Lahori."

Hitting back, the Congress said that the BJP had always responded to substance and facts with "jumlebaazi (rhetoric)" and that such reactions from the ruling party "ridicule" the debate and "diminish us as a democracy."

Citing Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi's earlier statement on nullification of Article 370, P. Chidambaram's tweet on restoration of Article 357, Mani Shankar Aiyar's statement during a Pakistani TV debate in 2015 and Salman Khurshid's remarks at an event in Islamabad, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "We want to ask andhi whether he is planning to contest from Pakistan."

● **SHASHI THAROOR** at the recent Lahore Think Fest criticised the Indian government's handling of the Covid-19 situation, "bigotry and prejudice" against Muslims and "problem with northeast citizens who look different."

"...Tharoor said Gandhi should get credit which he is not getting in India or by the Indian media but seems he is getting much affection from Pakistan... Tharoor has already held the debut rally(of Congress) there (Pakistan)," Dr Patra said. He questioned the need to discuss Indians from the northeast at a Pakistani forum while adding that "there is no country in this world as democratic and just as India."

Taking on the Congress over Tharoor's remarks on Indian Muslims, Patra asked did the Congress leader or its leadership ever dare to ask how minorities are treated in Pakistan and how Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and Sikhs are forcefully converted or killed.

Hitting back, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said, "The BJP has always responded to substance and pointed facts with 'jumlebaazi'. The BJP has always believed in rhetoric, not substance. Yes, it does sometimes catch you by the eyeballs or the eardrums when you hear it, but, within seconds, logic takes over and tells you how empty a rhetoric the BJP is indulging in."

## Nath's reference of woman mantri as 'item' sparks row

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, OCT. 18**

Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Sunday joined ranks of politicians who have made crass, sexist remarks by reportedly describing Madhya Pradesh women and child welfare minister Imarti Devi, who hails from a dalit community, as an 'item'.

Addressing an election meeting at Dabra under Gwalior district in MP, Nath, 74, said, "Who is she...(the crowd calls out Imarti Devi's name)... why should I take her name... you all should

have warned me... what an item!). Shockingly, former minister and senior Congress leader Bijoylaxmi Sadho who was present at the dais burst into laughter along with others while reacting to Nath's sexist remarks.

Devi, who is contesting from Dabra Assembly constituency in the November 3 by-elections as a BJP candidate, was also a minister in the Kamal Nath government which fell in March this year following the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs.

BJP took strong exception to the 'derogatory'

remarks by Nath against the woman minister and moved the Election Commission demanding to bar him from campaigning in the state.

The party declared to move the women commission and national scheduled caste commission demanding action against Nath for making insulting remarks against the woman minister.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed shock and dismay at Nath's 'outrageous' utterances against a woman minister, saying it smacked of his arrogance and narrow mindset.

## OFFICIAL | APATHY

## Bridge built to ease transportation to local markets, hospitals

## Villagers build timber bridge over river

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 18**

Residents of Birindipada, a remote forest village under the K. Nuagaon block in Odisha's Kandhamal district, have built a timber bridge over the local Kalipan river to establish physical links with the local markets, hospitals, schools and colleges.

The locals on Sunday said they have been deprived of basic transport and communication facilities for decades and all their appeals to build a concrete bridge over the river always fell on "deaf ears" of the administration.

Despite repeated appeals

and petitions to the local representatives of the state administration, no step was taken to construct a bridge.

As a result, they always crossed the dangerous Kalipan river with the help of cables tied to the trees on both sides of the river.

"We have appealed to the local MLA and MP umpteen times. They have always assured us that they will look into our request. Unfortunately, they never made any move to build a bridge here. Pregnant women and ailing people were left to their fate as we could not carry them to the nearby hospitals," said the villagers.

They added that the gov-



The timber bridge constructed by villagers of Birindipada in Odisha's Kandhamal district.

— DC

ernment-supplied ration often did not reach them as the river served as a barrier.

"Earlier we used to cross the river with the help of metal cables tied to big trees on both the sides of the river. When our plight

was highlighted by the media, the administration removed the cables, pushing us to utter confinement. Our brothers and fathers collected logs from the forest and made this timber bridge. If the government removes it, we

will once again be stranded and will be paddling through water risking our lives," said a pregnant woman.

Though no government official was forthcoming on the allegation of apathy made by the villagers, sources said the government has constructed a bridge over the river six km upstream from the village. However, the villagers are not using that bridge as they have to travel that extra distance.

"The government is still considering building a bridge at Birindapada. We have drawn the attention of the higher authorities and a decision will be taken soon" a senior government official who did not want to be quoted said.



## IN BRIEF

**16 killed in Pak landslide**

**Islamabad:** At least 16 people were killed on Sunday when a bus they were travelling in fell into a deep ditch after being struck by a landslide in Gilgit-Baltistan region, according to a Pakistani media report. The bus was going from Rawalpindi to Skardu when it was hit by the landslide which was so massive that it pushed the vehicle into a deep ditch, killing at least 16 people in the Roundo area in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Radio Pakistan reported. Landslides are common in the region which is famous for its scenic beauty as well as treacherous roads.

**Plan to retrieve Titanic radio**

**Norfolk (US):** People have been diving to the Titanic's wreck for 35 years. No one has found human remains, according to the company that owns the salvage rights. But the company's plan to retrieve the ship's iconic radio equipment has sparked a debate: Could the world's most famous shipwreck still hold remains of passengers and crew who died a century ago? Lawyers for the US government have raised that question in an ongoing court battle to block the planned expedition. "Fifteen hundred people died in that wreck," said Paul Johnston, curator of maritime history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. "You can't possibly tell me that some human remains aren't buried deep somewhere where there are no currents." The company, RMS Titanic Inc., wants to exhibit the ship's Marconi wireless telegraph machine.

**UAE min accused of sex assault**

**London:** The chair of Britain's Hay literary festival said Sunday the event will not return to Abu Dhabi after one of the festival's curators alleged that she was sexually assaulted by the tolerance minister of the United Arab Emirates while working with him. Caitlin McNamara alleged she was attacked in February by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, a member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, the *Sunday Times* reported. The *Times* said McNamara, who had travelled to the UAE to work on the launch of the literary festival there, claimed she was assaulted by the sheikh when they met at a remote island villa. The Foreign Ministry of the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula also home to Dubai, said it does not comment on personal matters. When asked about the case, Britain's Metropolitan Police confirmed that a woman contacted the force on July 3 to report an allegation of rape, and said an initial statement has been taken from her. The *AP* does not usually name sexual assault victims, but McNamara agreed to be identified by the *Times*, which ran her picture on the front page. Festival chair Caroline Michel said her colleagues are committed to supporting McNamara.

**AFGHANISTAN CAR BOMBING KILLS 13**

**Kabul, Oct. 18:** A suicide car bombing on Sunday killed at least 13 people and wounded around 120 others in Afghanistan's western Ghor province, officials said. The head of a hospital in Ghor, Mohammad Omer Lalzad, said emergency staff were treating dozens of people with both serious and light injuries from the bombing. He expected the death toll to rise. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Aran said the car bombing struck near the entrance of the provincial police chief's office and other nearby government buildings in the area. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Ghor, which comes amid an uptick in attacks by the Taliban as representatives of the group and Afghan government officials hold their first-ever face-to-face talks in Qatar, where the Taliban have had a political office for many years. The negotiations are meant to end the country's decades-long war. Arif Aber, spokesman for the provincial governor in Ghor, said the blast was so strong that its sound could be heard across Feroz Koh, the capital city of the province. "It damaged and partially destroyed a few government buildings, including the police chief's office," Aber said.

# Covid vaccine deployment in UK by New Year: Report

The vaccine has a Serum Institute of India tie-up as it undergoes trials

## Living Covid found on frozen food packaging

**London, Oct. 18:** One of the UK's senior-most medical chiefs has indicated that a vaccine against Covid-19 could be ready to be deployed by the start of the New Year, according to a media report on Sunday. Jonathan Van-Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer and one of the government's advisers on the Coronavirus pandemic, has reportedly told members of Parliament (MPs) that the vaccine created at Oxford University and being manufactured by AstraZeneca could be ready for rollout soon after Christmas in December.

In India, the vaccine has a Serum Institute of India tie-up as it undergoes trials. "We aren't light years away from it. It isn't a totally unrealistic suggestion that we could deploy a vaccine soon after Christmas. That would have a significant impact on hospital admissions and deaths," *The Sunday Times* quoted Van Tam as telling the MPs during a briefing last week.

An MP who attended another briefing with Van-Tam told the newspaper that the medic was "very bullish about the third

**Beijing, Oct. 18:** China's health authority has confirmed the detection and isolation of living Coronavirus on the outer packaging of imported frozen marine fish in the port city of Qingdao, in what it described as the first detection of its kind on the cold food chain in the world. The authorities in Qingdao, where a new cluster of Covid-19 cases were reported recently, conducted tests on all of its about 11 million population. No new clusters of cases were found after the tests, the local authorities said. In July, China suspended imports of frozen

stage AstraZeneca results, which he expects between the end of this month and the end of next." "Van-Tam expects it to protect the elderly and vulnerable. He gave us to understand that it stopped the virus

shrimp after the deadly virus was found on packages and the inner wall of a container.

The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Saturday said it detected and isolated the living Coronavirus on the outer packaging of imported frozen cod (large marine fish) in Qingdao. The finding was made during an investigation to trace the source of recent infections reported in the city. It has proved that contact with packaging contaminated by living Coronavirus could lead to infection, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported,

'shedding' in the young. He said he would expect vaccination to start in January," the MP was quoted as saying.

It comes as the UK government introduced new laws on Friday that would

allow larger numbers of healthcare workers to administer flu and potential Covid-19 vaccines. "Covid-19 vaccines are being developed at speed which, if successful, will save lives," said Van-Tam. — *PTI*

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## AIRLINES PUSH FOR TESTS OVER QUARANTINES

**Frankfurt, Oct. 18:** What will it take to get people flying again? International air traffic is down 92 per cent this year as travelers worry about catching Covid-19 and government travel bans and quarantine rules make planning difficult.

One thing airlines believe could help is to have rapid virus tests of all passengers before departure. Scattered experiments on improving safety are under way around the world, and a UN organisation is leading talks to set guidelines. There is a lot at stake.

With no end in sight to the pandemic, the near total halt to international travel will hinder economies as they try to bounce back from recession and return to normal levels of business activity. Millions of jobs at airlines, airports and travel related businesses are affected. — *AP*

## Don plays fear tactics to win Midwest states

**Janesville (Winconsin), Oct. 18:** President Donald Trump leaned into fear tactics Saturday as he accused the Left of trying to "destroy the American way of life" in a late reelection pitch to voters in Michigan and Wisconsin — two Midwestern states that were instrumental to his 2016 victory but may now be slipping from his grasp.

In back-to-back rallies, Trump accused the Left of wanting to "erase American history" and "purge American values". He claimed, with no basis, that Democratic rival Joe Biden would put communities at risk. Trump offered the dark message as he faces headwinds not only in national polling, which shows Biden leading, but also in key battleground surveys. His comments come after his campaign, with far less cash than Biden's, largely retreated from TV advertising in the Midwest, shifting much of its money to Sun Belt states such as Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Georgia, as well as Pennsylvania.

As he tries to energise his base and keep on the fence voters from turning against him, Trump sought to paint Democrats as "anti-American radicals" and said moderates had "a moral duty" to join the Republican Party. "The Democrat Party you once knew doesn't exist," he said. It was the same on issue after issue, as he claimed in hyperbolic terms that Biden's election would spur "the single biggest depression in the history of our coun-

**●** The left is trying to destroy the American way of life and purge American values. Democrats are anti-American radicals. Moderates have a moral duty to join the Republican Party.

**DONALD TRUMP, US President**

try" and "turn Michigan into a refugee camp."

Addressing the Coronavirus crisis, Trump warned that Biden would "shut down the country, delay the vaccine and prolong the pandemic". Public health experts say the nation would be in far better shape had Trump's administration taken more aggressive action early on. And while he repeatedly predicted victory, Trump seemed to grapple throughout the day with the prospect that he could indeed lose in November. In Michigan, he quipped that, in January, he "better damn well be president". In Wisconsin, he wondered how he would process a loss. "Can you imagine if I lose? I will have lost to the worst candidate in the history of American politics," he said.

"What do I do?" Trump has continued to hold rallies despite the threat of the Coronavirus, which hospitalised him for several days earlier this month. Wisconsin broke the record for new positive virus cases on Friday — the third time that's happened in a week. — *AP*

## US, Israeli envoys in Bahrain to ink deals

**Jerusalem, Oct. 18:** A joint American-Israeli delegation headed Sunday for Bahrain, where officials will be signing a number of bilateral agreements following an announcement last month to normalise relations.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser, Meir Ben-Shabbat, led the delegation that flew out of Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. Israel's commercial El Al flight 973 — a nod to the international dialing code for Bahrain — will fly through Saudi Arabia's airspace en route to Manama, where dignitaries from all three countries will speak at a ceremony after landing.

US, Israeli and Bahraini flags festooned the tarmac before take-off. Ben-Shabbat, one of the key Israeli officials involved in negotiations with Bahrain, said ahead of take-off that the visit will "translate plans to actions and concrete agreements" with the signing of a range of deals involving finance, investment, trade, tourism, communications, technology and agriculture. Another Israeli official said the visit represents the official establishment of diplo-

**● AN ISRAELI official said the visit represents the official establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries with the sides expected to sign a joint statement establishing full diplomatic relations.**

**● THE DECISION to establish ties with Israel has outraged the Palestinians, whose leadership has blasted the Bahraini move, and a similar Emirati deal, as a betrayal and an undermining of the Arab stance.**

matic relations between the two countries with the sides expected to sign a joint statement establishing full diplomatic relations.

The decision to establish ties with Israel has outraged the Palestinians, whose leadership has blasted the Bahraini move, and a similar Emirati deal, as a betrayal and an undermining of the Arab stance that recognition of Israel should come only after Palestinians achieve an independent state of their own. Bahraini civil society groups and opposition figures have also spoken out against normalisation with Israel. — *AP*

## CHINA RESTRICTS SENSITIVE EXPORTS WITH NEW LAW

**Beijing, Oct. 18:** China has passed a new law restricting sensitive exports to protect national security, allowing Beijing to reciprocate against the US as tensions mount between the sides over trade and technology. The law, which will apply to all companies in China, was passed on Saturday by the National People's Congress Standing Committee and will take effect on December 1.

Under the law, China can take "reciprocal measures" toward countries or regions that abuse export controls and threaten its national security. It will apply to civilian, military and nuclear products. — *AP*

## Parisians pay respects to Samuel Paty



People gather on Place de la Republique in Paris on Sunday, in homage to history teacher Samuel Paty two days after he was beheaded by an attacker who was shot dead by policemen. — *AFP*

## INDIAN-ORIGIN BUILDER WHO KILLED 3 FREED

**London, Oct. 18:** An Indian-origin builder who was arrested in connection with the killing of three men, also of Indian origin, following a deadly knife fight on the streets of east London will not face any murder or manslaughter charges as the incident was deemed to be an act of self-defence. Gurjeet Singh, 29, had been arrested by the Metropolitan Police in connection with the killing of Narinder Singh Lubhaya, 29, Harinder Kumar, 30, and Malkit Singh Dhillon a.k.a. Baljinder Singh, 37, back in January.

The three murdered men, originally from Punjab, were found to have set upon Gurjeet Singh at Seven Kings in Redbridge area of London and were killed in the ensuing street fight. "Gurjeet Singh was arrested on January 20 on suspicion of murder. He was charged with possessing an offensive weapon in a public place and was remanded in custody to appear at Snaresbrook Crown Court, where he pleaded not guilty," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. "He appeared for trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court on August 19 charged with being in possession of an offensive weapon. Following trial, the jury found him not guilty," the statement said. — *PTI*

## UN arms embargo on Iran expires

**Tehran, Oct. 18:** A decade-long UN arms embargo on Iran that barred it from purchasing foreign weapons like tanks and fighter jets expired Sunday as planned under its nuclear deal with world powers, despite objections from the United States.

While insisting it planned no "buying spree", Iran in theory can purchase weapons to upgrade military armament dating back to before

its 1979 Islamic Revolution and sell its own locally produced gear abroad.

In practice, however, Iran's economy remains crippled by broad-reaching US sanctions, and other nations may avoid arms deals with Tehran for fear of American financial retaliation.

The Islamic Republic heralded the end of the arms embargo as "a momentous day for the international community... in defiance of the US

regime's effort".

The Trump administration, meanwhile, has insisted it has re-invoked all UN sanctions on Iran via a clause in the nuclear deal it withdrew from in 2018, a claim ignored by the rest of the world.

"Today's normalisation of Iran's defence cooperation with the world is a win for the cause of multilateralism and peace and security in our region," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

wrote on Twitter. The United Nations banned Iran from buying major foreign weapon systems in 2010 amid tensions over its nuclear programme.

An earlier embargo targeted Iranian arms exports. The US Defence Intelligence Agency predicted in 2019 that if the embargo ended, Iran likely would try to purchase Russian Su-30 fighter jets, Yak-130 trainer aircraft and T-90 tanks. — *AP*

## NAMES | OFF

## Immigration and passport panel directed to meet biannually

## Pak removes 5K from travel blacklist

**Islamabad, Oct. 18:** Pakistan authorities have removed the names of over 5,000 individuals from the travel blacklist after the government took note of the problems faced by citizens whose names have been blacklisted for a long time, according to a media report on Sunday.

Interior Minister Ijaz Shah, in a meeting held recently, directed the review committee of the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports to meet biannually to review cases of blacklisted individuals. The meeting was held after a gap of almost four years. The previous meeting was held in December 2016. Taking note of problems faced by the blacklisted citizens, the minister directed the

## ‘Illegal’ hiring: PIA ex-MD held

**Islamabad, Oct. 18:** Pakistani International Airlines' former managing director Aijaz Haroon has been arrested on charges of illegal appointment of a Pakistani-American to a senior position at the national flag carrier at a huge salary package in violation of human resource department rules, according to a media report on Sunday. The Federal Investigation Agency on Saturday also arrested PIA's former human resource director Mohammad

Haneef Pathan along with Haroon, *The Dawn News* reported, quoting FIA Deputy Director Abdur Rauf Shaikh.

An FIR has been registered against the two former officials on charges of illegal appointment of Salim Sayani as deputy managing director (DMD) in PIA in 2009 in "clear violation of PIA HR rules", the report said.

Sayani has also been booked in the case. He was appointed on a monthly salary of \$20,000 along

with other perks and privileges that caused huge loss to the national exchequer. Sharing details of the perks and privileges, Shaikh said apart from the salary in US dollars, Sayani was allowed to stay at a five-star hotel for three months and his family was also provided accommodation in Dubai on PIA's expense. The "illegal appointment caused a loss between Rs 200 million and Rs 250 million to the exchequer", the report quoted Shaikh. — *PTI*

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report in the *Dawn* newspaper. The committee reviewed the names of citizens falling in category B of the blacklist and removed the names of 5,807 individuals out of a list of 42,725 people.

The committee will consider rest of the cases in its forthcoming periodic review, the report said. There are two main blacklist categories- Category 'A' includes names of those involved in serious crimes like terrorism, money laundering and anti-state activities, whereas the 'B' category mainly has names of deportees who had either travelled abroad on forged documents or were found involved in crime in the host country, it said. — *PTI*

remove names from the blacklist after the due process, according to a



## SHORT TAKES

## Narine action gets IPL's clearance

**Abu Dhabi:** Kolkata Knight Riders' West Indian spinner Sunil Narine was on Sunday cleared by the IPL's suspect bowling action committee after being reported last week. Narine was reported for a suspect action during his team's clash against KXIP last Saturday and another such instance could have led him to being barred from bowling in the league. But, in a relief for the player as well as for his franchise, the IPL committee found his bowling action to be clean. "Sunil Narine, the Kolkata Knight Riders player, has been cleared by the IPL's suspect bowling action committee," the IPL said in a statement. After being reported, Narine was placed on the IPL warning list. KKR requested for an official assessment of Narine's action from the specific committee, submitting action footage in slow motion with back and side angles. — PTI

## Gold for Elavenil, Shahu gets silver

**New Delhi:** World number one Indian Elavenil Valarivan won a gold medal and Shahu Tushar Mane bagged a silver in the Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship, held virtually on Sunday. The championship was organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF). Thanks to her gold, Elavenil got richer by \$1000 while Shahu Mane pocketed \$700 for his effort. In the 60-shot competition in which shooters from six nations participated, including hosts Bangladesh and India, Elavenil shot a modest 627.5 to come out on top. Shiori Hirata won the silver with 622.6, while Indonesian Vidya Toyyiba took the bronze with 621.1. Japan, however, won the gold in the men's event as Naoya Okada shot a solid 630.9 to leave India's Shahu behind. Shahu shot 623.8 to settle for second place. — PTI

## Blues held to a draw by Saints

**London:** Southampton scored a stoppage-time equaliser to rescue a 3-3 draw at Chelsea in the Premier League on Saturday, highlighting how the home team's defensive vulnerability remains despite its off-season spending spree. Jannik Vestergaard glanced in a speculative shot from deadline-day signing Theo Walcott in the second minute of added-on time as Southampton rallied for a second time, having fallen 2-0 behind to Timo Werner's first goals in the league. Then adding to that Kai Havertz scored the third goal for Chelsea. Danny Ings pulled a goal back for Southampton just before halftime, and Che Adams took advantage of dreadful defending by Chelsea to equalize in the 57th minute. Chelsea, which has already drawn two matches 3-3, missed the experience of one of its new recruits center back Thiago Silva. — AP

## Barca, Real lose ahead of Clasico

**Madrid:** Real Madrid and Barcelona will each head into the Clasico next weekend on the back of a defeat after La Liga's two title favourites were punished for slack performances on Saturday. Zinedine Zidane made four substitutions at half-time but could not spark a lethargic Madrid into life as his team fell 1-0 at home to newly-promoted Cadiz. Madrid's was perhaps the more concerning display, the reigning champions managing just two shots on target against Cadiz, who could have scored more after Anthony Lozano's early strike. Then two hours later on the opposite side of the city, Ronald Koeman tasted his first competitive loss as coach of Barcelona as they followed Madrid's example by being beaten 1-0 by Getafe at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez. — AFP

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** West Brom & Albion vs Burnley from 10 pm; Leeds United vs Wolverhampton from 12.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 2

**Italian League:** Verona vs Genoa from 12.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

## WWE RAW

Bouts from 5.30 am on Sony Ten 1

## Lockie locks it for KKR

## Ferguson floors SRH in Super Over with brilliant bowling

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 18:** A fast and furious Lockie Ferguson produced one of the most incredible bowling performances of this IPL edition to lead KKR to a thrilling Super Over win over SRH, here on Sunday. Ferguson proved to be the "Knight in Shining Armour" with his storehouse of variation as he dismissed David Warner and Abdul Samad in the Super Over, leaving KKR with only a three run-target to chase.

This was after David Warner's unbeaten 47 and 18 runs off the final Andre Russell over saw Sunrisers level the scores at 163 with KKR in the stipulated 20 overs.

Ferguson was magnificent during the regulation 20 overs also as his 3/15 in 4 overs had SRH in all sorts of trouble.

Earlier, Dinesh Kartik's carefree approach was well complemented by skipper Eoin Morgan's grace as Kolkata Knight Riders managed a par 163 for five after being put into bat. — PTI



Lockie Ferguson of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates the wicket of Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner during the super over of an Indian Premier League match in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. — BCCI

## SCORECARD

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** S. Gill c Garg b Rashid Khan 36, Rahul Tripathi b Natarajan 23, N. Rana c Garg b V. Shankar 29, Andre Russell c Shankar b Natarajan 9, E. Morgan c Pandey b Thampi 34, D. Karthik (not out) 29. **Extras:** (lb-2, nb-1) 3. **Total:** (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 163. **FoW:** 1-48, 2-87, 3-88, 4-105, 5-163. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-27-0, B. Thampi 4-0-46-1, T. Natarajan 4-0-40-2, V. Shankar 4-0-20-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-28-1.

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** Jonny Bairstow c Russell b Chakravarthy 36, Kane Williamson c Rana b Lockie Ferguson 29, Priyam Garg b Ferguson 4, David Warner (not out) 47, Manish Pandey b Ferguson 6, Vijay Shankar c Gill b Cummins 7, Abdul Samad c Gill b Mavi 23, R. Khan not out 1. **Extras:** (lb-7, w-2, nb-1) 10. **Total:** (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 163. **FoW:** 1-57, 2-70, 3-70, 4-82, 5-109, 6-146. **Bowling:** P. Cummins 4-0-28-1, S. Mavi 3-0-34-1, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-32-1, A. Russell 2-0-29-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-15-3, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-18-0.

**Super Over:** SRH 2/2 (w.2,w) lost to KKR 3/0 (c-1,-2lb).

## Gayle, Mayank stun mighty Mumbai in Super Over-2

**Dubai, Oct. 18:** Kings XI Punjab beat Mumbai Indians via Super Overs in their IPL match here on Sunday.

After the first Super Over failed to separate the two teams, the match stretched to second Super Over where Chris Gayle and Mayank Agarwal made sure Kings XI Punjab prevail.

Mumbai scored 11/1 in the second Super Over and in reply Kings reached the target with two balls to spare.

Earlier, Quinton de Kock continued his rich vein of form, scoring a 43-ball 53 before Kieron Pollard and Nathan Coulter-Nile provided the late flourish as Mumbai Indians posted 176 for 6 against Kings XI Punjab.

De Kock hit three fours and as many sixes for his fourth fifty of the tournament to anchor the innings before Pollard (34 not out off 12) and Coulter-Nile (24 not out off 12) added 57 runs off

## SCORECARD

**Mumbai Indians Innings:** Rohit Sharma b Arshdeep Singh 9, Quinton de Kock c Mayank Agarwal b Chris Jordan 53, Suryakumar Yadav 7, M. Ashwin b Shami 0, Ishan Kishan c M Ashwin b Arshdeep Singh 7, Krunal Pandya c Deepak Hooda b Ravi Bishnoi 34, Hardik Pandya c Pooran b Shami 8, Kieron Pollard (not out) 34, Nathan Coulter-Nile (not out) 24. **Extras:** (b-4, lb-2, w-1) 7. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 176. **FoW:** 23-1, 24-2, 38-3, 96-4, 116-5, 119-6. **Bowler:** Glenn Maxwell 4-0-24-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-30-2, Arshdeep Singh 3-0-35-2, Chris Jordan 3-0-32-1, Murugan Ashwin 3-0-28-0, Deepak Hooda 1-0-9-0, Ravi Bishnoi 2-0-12-1.

**Kings XI Punjab:** K.L. Rahul b Bumrah 77, M. Agarwal b Bumrah 11, C. Gayle c Boult b Chahar 24, N. Pooran c Coulter-Nile b Bumrah 24, G. Maxwell c Sharma b Chahar 0, D. Hooda (not out) 23, C. Jordan run out 13. **Extras:** (w-4) 4. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 176. **FoW:** 1-33, 2-75, 3-108, 4-115, 5-153, 6-176. **Bowling:** T. Boult 4-0-48-0, K. Pandya 2-0-12-0, J. Bumrah 4-0-24-3, N. Coulter-Nile 4-0-33-0, K. Pollard 2-0-26-0, R. Chahar 4-0-33-2. **Super Over scores:** KXIP 5/2 vs MI 5/1. **Super Over 2 scores:** MI 11/1 (1,1w-1,4,1w-1, 0, 2) lost to KXIP 15/0 (6,1,4,4).

21 balls in the death overs to lift MI past the 170-run mark.

Opting to bat, MI were at a spot of bother when they were reduced to 43 for 3 but De Kock and Krunal Pandya (34 off 30) shared a 58-run stand to steady the ship.

It was the pace duo of Arshdeep Singh (2/35) and Mohammed Shami (2/30) who provided the

early breakthroughs, dismissing Rohit Sharma (9) and Suryakumar Yadav (0) respectively to reduce MI to 24 for two in 3.3 overs.

New man Ishan Kishan then became Arshdeep's second victim when he was caught at deep third man while trying to go for a upper cut as MI ended the powerplay at 43 for 3. — PTI

## Dhoni clarifies Bravo was unfit

**Sharjah, Oct. 18:** The proven Dwayne Bravo was not available to bowl the final over against Delhi Capitals due to fitness issues, Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said after their heartbreaking loss here.

Instead, spinner Ravindra Jadeja was entrusted with the task and Delhi Capitals knocked off the 17 runs required to win the game on Saturday night.

Bravo, who was off the field, is normally very effective with his slower balls in crunch situations. Axar Patel smashed three sixes off Jadeja to take his side past the finish line.

"Bravo was not fit. He went out and didn't come back. The options were Jaddu and Karn. I went with Jaddu," Dhoni said.

Dhoni admitted that fielders let the side down.

"Shikhar's wicket was important but we dropped him quite a number of times. If he keeps batting, he will keep the strike rate high. Also the wicket played better in the second half, but we can't take the credit away from Shikhar," he added. — PTI

## BRAVO COULD BE OUT FOR A FEW WEEKS

**Sharjah, Oct. 18:** Chennai Super Kings' death bowling expert Dwayne Bravo could be "out for a few days or a couple of weeks" due to a groin injury, according to head coach Stephen Fleming.

Bravo's inability to bowl the final over cost CSK their IPL game on Saturday as Delhi Capitals knocked off the required 17 runs.

"He (Bravo) seems to have a right groin injury, obviously it was serious enough to keep him from coming back to the field, he is just really disappointed that he was not able to bowl the final over, that's pretty much for what he is in the team for," Chennai Super Kings coach Fleming said.

The seasoned all-rounder's injury would have to be reassessed going forward. — PTI

## Jamaican sprinter Blake slams MSD

**Sharjah, Oct. 18:** Star sprinter Yohan Blake said Mahendra Singh Dhoni had "made the worst decision in a long while", fuming in front of his TV set in faraway Jamaica as DC closed in on a remarkable win in IPL. Blake, an ardent admirer of the sport, questioned Dhoni's move to give Jadeja the final over on Saturday night.

He was oblivious to the fact that everyone's preferred choice, death bowling specialist Dwayne Bravo, was not fit to bowl the last over after walking off the field. "I think Dhoni made the worst decision in a long while. Dhoni, that's a poor decision to bowl Jadeja at the last part. What happened to Bravo. Really?" he asked in a video posted on Twitter.

"Poor poor poor poor choice Mahendra Singh Dhoni. You just can't bowl Jadeja to the left hand batsman," Blake, the youngest 100m world championship winner, tweeted.

Engaging in a conversation on the social networking site, Blake later realised that Bravo was injured. But he was still not convinced with Jadeja bowling the final over with Delhi Capitals requiring 17 runs to win the game, which they did with a ball to spare. — PTI

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