

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | SUNDAY 11 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 2 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 25
Titthi: Navami/ Dashami
Star: Pusam
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
Yamagandam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.48 am
Zohar: 12.02 pm
Asar: 3.18 pm
Maghrib: 5.56 pm
Isha: 7.06 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.52 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 12.26 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 1.39 PM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+60,601)	(+597)
70,37,694	1,08,047

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+5,242)
TN: 6,51,370 10,187

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

3,73,18,298

DEATHS

10,75,409

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

214

worldometers.info

Four militants killed in J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 10

The Army said on Saturday that even though the infiltration from across the Line of Control (LoC) has been restricted to a fewer incidents due to the increased vigil being maintained by it along the de facto border, the recruitment of local youth into the militants' ranks has gone up slightly in the past one month.

Meanwhile, two Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants including a Pakistani national were killed in a gunfight with the security forces in Chinigam area of southern Kulgam district early Saturday. In the afternoon, a brief clash took place between the security forces and the militants in Dadura area of neighbouring Pulwama district, leaving two unidentified 'militants' dead, the police said. ■ **P4**

COUNTER POINT



Leave it on, dad. They are paying me to watch their programme!

A. ARUL PALANI | DC CUDDALORE, OCT. 10

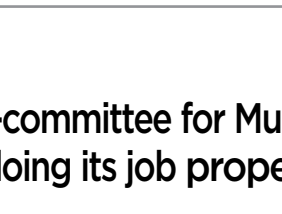
Atrocities and discrimination against Dalit local body members and office bearers continues unabated in the State. The women members face worse as they are not only prevented from performing their official duties but also constantly abused by men belonging to the dominant castes.

In an incident that has just come to light, Dalit Village Panchayat president, S Rajesewari, 31, was made to sit on the floor while all oth-



S. Rajesewari

ers were seated on chairs in a panchayat meeting at Therku Thittai village near Chidambaram in Cuddalore district. The photo of the incident in which she was seen



Sub-committee for Mullaiperiyar dam doing its job properly: TN to SC

STATE | 3

PARMOD KUMAR | DC with agency inputs NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

A loan moratorium exceeding six months might result in vitiating the overall credit discipline, which will have a debilitating impact on the process of credit creation in the economy, the Reserve Bank of India told the Supreme Court on Saturday.

In its 17-page "consolidated affidavit" filed ahead of the hearing on Tuesday of the loan moratorium case, the RBI stated that extension of the moratorium beyond the six-month period that expired on August 31 will impact credit behaviour of borrowers and increase the risks of delinquencies. The moratorium, the RBI stated, "would not even be in the interest of borrowers" as it does not address "deeper cash flow problems" of borrowers, but, in fact, "exacerbates the repayment pressures".

The RBI submitted that



● **The RBI in its affidavit also urged the Supreme Court to vacate its September 4 interim order restraining banks from declaring any new non-performing accounts**

any waiver of interest on interest would also entail significant economic costs which cannot be absorbed by the banks without serious dent of their finances, and this, in turn, would have huge implications for the depositors and the broader financial stability.

Thus, a more durable solution was needed to rebalance the debt burden of viable borrowers, both businesses as well as individuals, relative to their cash flow generation abilities.

The banking regulator filed the affidavit in pursuance to the apex court's October 5 order asking the Centre and the RBI to place

on record the K.V. Kamath committee recommendations on debt restructuring because of Covid-19 related stress on various sectors as well as the notifications and circulars issued so far on loan moratorium.

The Union of India vide its affidavit dated October 2, 2020, has submitted before the court the decision of the government to bear the cost of the interest on interest for MSME loans and personal loans up to Rs 2 crore. This decision by the government to provide additional relief to a large segment of borrowers has addressed the primary prayers of the petitioners, the affidavit

said.

The top court is hearing a batch of pleas, including the one which has sought a direction to declare the portion of an RBI notification, issued on March 27, "ultra vires to the extent it charges interest on the loan amount during the moratorium period..."

The RBI in its affidavit also urged the Supreme Court to vacate its September 4 interim order restraining banks from declaring any new non-performing accounts (NPAs) and said its August 6 resolution framework is only for those borrowers who were not in default for more than 30 days as on March 1, 2020, leaving out standard and NPA accounts.

"If the stay is not lifted immediately, it shall have huge implications for the banking system, apart from undermining the regulatory mandate of the Reserve Bank of India," the Central bank said.

AIADMK's collective leadership cannot be broken: Munusamy



CM nominee for the 2021 Assembly polls after ironing out differences between him and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam. Stalin had made the remark while reacting to it. Assembly elections are due in Tamil Nadu during April-May 2021.

Stalin's repeated allegations of graft against the government was baseless

TRP SCAM ENQUIRY

Republic TV CFO fails to appear

Mumbai, Oct. 10: Despite summons, Republic TV's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) did not appear before the Mumbai police on Saturday to record his statement in the TRP manipulation racket, saying the channel has approached the Supreme Court in the case, a senior official said. Shiva Subramaniam Sundaram, the channel's CFO, against whom summons had been issued on Friday, also requested the police not to record his statement saying the top court's hearing is scheduled within a week, the official said.

However, Sam Balsara, chairman and managing director of Madison World and Madison Communications appeared before the crime branch on Saturday to record his statement, he added.

The Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the Mumbai crime branch had issued summons against Sundaram and he had been asked to join the investigation at 11 am on Saturday. "However, he did not appear before the probe team. He informed the police that the channel has approached the Supreme Court," the official said. — **PTI**

BJP to launch Bihar campaign

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

The BJP will formally launch its election campaign on Sunday with the party president J.P. Nadda addressing an election rally at Gaya's Gandhi Maidan for the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls. The BJP, which is contesting 121 Assembly seats of the total 243 seats and giving 11 seats to its new ally, Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), held its central election committee (CEC) meeting on Saturday, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah among others.

Chief minister Nitish Kumar led JD(U) is contesting 122 seats, out of which

ASSEMBLY POLLS

● **Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address around 20 rallies in the poll-bound state**

seven will be contested by ally, Hindustan Aawam Morcha (HAM). NDA ally Chirag Paswan led LJP is contesting alone.

The BJP election committee for the Bihar polls is also finalising the PM's schedule for the campaign, with Mr Modi likely to address around 20 rallies in the poll-bound state. Exuding confidence that the NDA will retain power in the state, BJP's Bihar in-charge Bhupendra Yadav took a

dig at the Opposition RJD-Congress-CPI(ML) camp, claiming that Bihar will never give a chance to the "unholy alliance" and return of an era when "class clashes, mayhem and Left extremism" used to rule the streets.

Mr Yadav also took a dig at the RJD, saying it is carrying on its back the same Congress against whose policies the regional outfit was established by Lalu Prasad Yadav. The party's poll slogan for Bihar is, "Jan jan ki pukaar, atanirbar Bihar". Giving details of Mr Nadda's day-long visit to the poll-bound state, BJP spokesperson Sanjay Mayukh said the BJP president will also visit the famous Hanuman Mandir in Patna.

Cong releases list of star campaigners

New Delhi, Oct. 10: The Congress on Saturday released a list of 30 star campaigners for the first phase of Bihar assembly polls on October 28, with party president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and former PM Manmohan Singh leading them. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi and former actors and ex-MPs Shatrughan Sinha and Raj Babbar are also on the list which has been sent to the Election Commission. Former LS Speaker Meira Kumar and Congress chief ministers Ashok Gehlot and Amarinder Singh also figure in the list. — **PTI**



Chennai boy Washington Sundar's brilliant spell (2/16) complemented skipper Virat Kohli's unbeaten 90 off 52 balls as Royal Challengers Bangalore drubbed Chennai Super Kings by 37 runs in an IPL game in Dubai on Saturday. It was CSK's fifth defeat in seven matches this season. ■ **Report on P8**

FROSTY FRONTIER

China has amassed 60K troops on LAC: Pompeo

Washington, Oct. 10: China has amassed 60,000 troops on India's northern border, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said as he hit out at Beijing for its "bad behaviour" and the threats it poses to the Quad countries. The foreign ministers from the Indo-Pacific nations known as the Quad group — the US, Japan, India and Australia — met in Tokyo on Tuesday in what was their first in-person talks since the coronavirus pandemic began.

The meeting took place in the backdrop of China's aggressive military behaviour in the Indo-Pacific, South China Sea and along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"The Indians are seeing 60,000 Chinese soldiers on their northern border," Pompeo told The Guy Benson Show in an interview on Friday after his return from Tokyo wherein he attended the second Quad ministerial with his counterparts from India, Japan and Australia.

"I was with my foreign minister counterparts from India, Australia, and Japan — a format that we call the Quad, four big democracies, four powerful economies, four nations, each of whom has real risk associated with the threats imposed — attempting to be imposed by the Chinese Communist Party. And they see it in their home countries too," he said.

Pompeo met external affairs minister S. Jaishankar in Tokyo on Tuesday and they underscored the need to work together to advance, peace, prosperity and security in the Indo-Pacific and around the globe. He described his meeting with Jaishankar as "productive." "They see, the people of their (Quad) nations understanding that we all slept on this for too long. For decades, the West allowed the Chinese Communist Party to walk all over us. The previous administration bent a knee, too often allowed China to steal our intellectual properties and the millions of jobs that came along with it. They see that in their country too," he said in the interview. — **PTI**



● **US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said as he hit out at Beijing for its "bad behaviour" and the threats it poses to the Quad countries**

General rues India still imports winter equipment

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 10



Lt Gen SK Saini

As Indian army prepares to keep thousands of its troops at forward positions against China during harsh winters in Ladakh, Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen S K Saini on Saturday rued the fact that the country still had to import winter clothing and equipments"due to the lack of viable indigenous solutions."

"Special clothing and mountaineering equipment is another aspect which needs to be highlighted. A large number of our troops are deployed in super high altitude areas where the temperature touches minus 50 degrees celsius. However, we are still importing cold-weather equipment, mainly due to the lack of viable indigenous solutions," Lt Gen Saini said at a webinar organised by Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) on "Force Protection India 2020". He said a collaborative effort needs to be put in this field to fulfil our vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

His comments came at a time when Indian Army is preparing to keep some 30,000-40,000 additional troops in forward positions at the line of actual control (LAC) against China in Eastern Ladakh during winters where tempera-

tures dip to as low as minus 30 degrees. India has been rushing winter clothing and tents to Ladakh for these additional troops so that they can survive the harsh winters at LAC.

Lt Gen Saini said amongst other threats, drones and UAVs stand out in their innovative employment and destructive potential. He pointed out that considering their low cost, multi-use and dense proliferation, the threat will no doubt increase manifold in the years to come. "In this context, third dimension threats may take precedence in the near future, for which we need to plan now. Both hard kill and soft kill counter-drone solutions including swarm technology are the need of the hour," said Vice Chief.

Lt Gen Saini said that IEDs represent a threat that is here to stay." This threat seems to be gaining traction as a favoured tool for Terrorists and Anti National Elements.

SHORT TAKES

First double lung transplant done at Apollo Hospitals

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

The Apollo Hospitals Group in Chennai has conducted the first double lung transplant in India during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The transplant was done on a 39-year-old patient whose lung condition deteriorated significantly. He was put on ECMO or Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation to support his heart and lungs till donor lungs were available. The double lung transplant surgery took place successfully on July 29, 2020 at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, and after a robust recovery, the transplant recipient was discharged on August 27.

Today, the Apollo Hospitals group has the largest solid organ transplant programme in India with over 3,500 transplants performed to date with success rates comparable to the best in the world."

26 goats killed in lightning

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

As many as 26 goats were killed by lightning strike near Madurantakam in Chengalpattu district on Friday night.

According to the police, Srinivasan and Vijaya of Vayur village were grazing their goats in a land near Vayur lake. On Friday evening, there was a drizzle with lightning and heavy thunder across city suburbs.

While grazing, a heavy lightning struck, killing all the 26 goats. Neighbours, who witnessed the incident, immediately alerted the Madurantakam police. The locals of the area are shocked after these deaths as their main source of livelihood is these domestic animals. A case has been registered by the police.

In a similar incident, at least nine goats were electrocuted after a high tension electric wire fell on the goat shed in Gurupathamedu village, due to heavy rains near Cheyyur on Friday night.

Tangedco officials said that they cut power supply to that line immediately after residents alerted them about the incident. A team of local Tangedco officials are looking into the problem.

The Cheyyur police registered a case and investigations are underway.

One more dies of coronavirus in Pondy; 337 new cases

Puducherry, Oct 10: Puducherry registered one more death due to coronavirus on Saturday, raising the toll to 559 in the union territory.

Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said in a release that a 62 year old woman hailing from neighbouring Vanrapet village succumbed to the infection.

Total patients discharged during the last 24 hours from hospitals stood at 411.

He said 337 new cases were reported at the end of examination of 4,829 samples in the union territory, pushing the total caseload to 31,233.

Of the total 31,233 cases, 4,719 were active while 25,955 patients recovered and discharged so far.

The Director also noted that the fatality and recovery rates were 1.79 percent and 83.10 percent respectively.

The Ministersaid 2.30 lakh samples were tested so far and 1.95 lakh out of them were found to be negative and result of examination of the remaining samples was awaited.

Puducherry region accounted for 241 fresh cases out of the total 337, while Karaikal had 31, Yanam 8 and Mahe 57 new cases. —PTI

Residents demand desilting, repair of stormwater drains

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

The residents of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) have demanded immediate repairing works to ensure safety of stormwater drain and desilting before the onset of northeast monsoon.

A concrete slab that covers the manhole on the stormwater drain in 155th ward of Rayalanagar 4th Cross Street near Ramapuram in Valasaravakkam zone, lies broken for more than a week now, creating trouble for the residents as well as motorists. V. Kishore, president, Rayalanagar Residents Association, said the slab was damaged within a month of repairing.

He alleged that concrete slabs are damaged frequently due to substandard construction. "The slab got repaired only a month ago. Now only iron rods inside the concrete are left. The manhole was constructed in the turning point of the road over which vehicles pass. As this is an accident-prone area, the GCC should take immediate steps to repair the damage before the onset of Northeast Monsoon. Recently, two bike riders were injured when the vehicle hit the damaged portion," he said.

Meanwhile, Nagar residents urged the GCC to take up the de-silting of stormwater drains in various streets to avoid water-



A concrete slab that covers the manhole on the stormwater drain in 155th ward of Rayalanagar 4th Cross Street near Ramapuram in Valasaravakkam zone, lies damaged for more than a week now.

logging during monsoon.

V.S. Jayaraman, a local resident, said T Nagar, which had most of the residential complexes, was prone to flooding as the

floor level was far below the road levels.

Following the re-laying of the roads by the GCC over and above the surface over a period of time, the rain

Moonsoon ready

Electrical appliances such as main switches and meters of the flats are fixed on the ground floor. When the water level raises, the residents are forced to switch off the power supply to avoid electrocution. So the GCC should take up the desilting of all the drains immediately before the onset of monsoon and make it functional

water on the road flows into the nearby complexes, causing inundation. The floodwater also pollutes the water in the wells and the sump.

Electrical appliances such as main switches and meters of the flats are fixed on the ground floor. When the water level raises, the residents are forced to switch off the power supply to avoid electrocution. So the GCC should take up the de-silting of all the drains immediately before the onset of monsoon and make it functional.

An official with GCC said the concerned department will be alerted to get the damaged stormwater drains repaired.

Beckoning more students with art work

N. SAMPATH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

The Ennore Annai Sivagami Nagar Corporation Primary School, started about 30 years ago with 70 students in Tiruvottiyur, now has about 300 students.

Now, the school has been given a facelift. Thanks to the headmistress and the teachers, the walls of the school have been painted with pictures of Chennai Metro Rail and some cartoon characters to attract more students to the school.

People from nearby areas have been visiting this school to see the newly painted walls which have helped the school to get 120 more students this year.

The school building was damaged due to a fire near the school last year and the students and residents had

Noisy news, who is to blame?

There is a raging debate in our country today about TRP thieves. It's a free for all battle royale where TV channels are running prime time bulletins headlined with attacks on one another. Earlier, no one dared to mention their competition or openly attack them. But today, it's a sad day for the fourth estate.

A franchise that's meant to report on issues that matter to the people and improve lives has shamelessly indulged in admitting, "We run stories based on TRPs. Let me blatantly admit to honest viewers that if there's no traction we move on," said a salt and pepper beard sporting anchor. His statement is a reflection of the times we live in now.

Another got into a frenzied rant on how his network is the number one and prided himself on dedicating over 90 days to the mystery death of Sushant Singh Rajput! Each day in India thousands of children die of curable diseases and malnutrition. There is a near battle-like situation we are facing with our neighbouring country and India's reputation as a safe country is fast taking a beating with brutal rapes happening every day. And then we have news anchors glorifying their reportage and time dedicated to a death of a film actor.

Not that Sushant's death should be ignored and certainly investigative journalism is an essential part of a democracy. But, in the pursuit of the selective truth, journalism has lost its soul. Hounding people



Apsara Reddy

And the point is..

for responses, terming them "druggies" and flashing phone chats in the public domain, without even cross checking facts, goes to show the pits that TV journalism has fallen to. Journalists who stick to the story, a story that matters to our lives and economy are trailing in popularity. Networks that try to set the news agenda with a balance of news seem to lose out in the TRP war. The answer lies not in the deviant tactics to buy or manipulate TRPs. The answer lies with us. We who choose the antics of television tamasha and noisy newsrooms instead of turning it off. We encourage clowns who champion their own agenda and then fret about the dipping quality of television news. Every debate on English news television has a set agenda and the hashtags or the headlines tell you right

at the beginning how the debate is going to go. All the panellists who make it to the debate do so for popularity of the "token of appreciation" and they do it knowing fully well they'll be shouted down or ignored.

Honestly, have you ever noticed an articulate voice being allowed to complete what they set out to say? Have you ever noticed that the anchor across the board leads the speaker into a question and the answer? None of this will change unless we choose to switch the channel or demand for better quality of news. Quite frankly, it suits the political agenda of all parties when issues are never thoroughly addressed. Shouting matches make for great drama and the nation is engrossed.

But slowly and slyly the real issues are never being addressed.

Poster menace returns ahead of elections

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

With the political parties beginning warm up for the high-voltage Assembly elections in the state scheduled to be held early next year, the menace of wall posters, a hurdle for the beautification efforts of authorities, has made a comeback.

Though movie promotional posters have retreated to digital spaces from public places due to the pandemic, the long multi-colour posters of political parties and leaders have started appearing on the walls in every nook and corner of the city. For instance, if you take a stroll on the roads near Arasamaram in Ramapuram, you can see different kinds of posters of political parties all over, be it pillars of bridges, walls, lamp posts, Tangedco junction boxes or name boards of streets. Even barricades put up for road repairing are not spared.

For several years, the corporation had introduced many measures to tackle the menace but it always made a comeback due to the insincere approach. In 2015, the civic body, when Saidai S Duraisamy was the mayor, had prepared an action plan and sent it to the then Chief Minister, late J. Jayalalithaa, to approve the plan. But it was never implemented. Though the DMK's M. Subramanian, during his tenure as mayor, had imposed a ban on wall posters on arterial roads in Anna Salai, Kamarajar Salai, Thiruvottiyur and in subways, flyovers and all government buildings in

An official with the corporation said that there was already a standing instruction to the concerned authorities to take action regarding the defacement of public places under the Tamil Nadu Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1959

the city, the effort too didn't yield the desired result. Antony Rubin, an environmental activist, says that people should be more vigilant to end such pollution. The city is going to become a bin of poster wastes as the elections have become more competitive. The residents should not allow the political parties to paste posters on their compound walls. If anybody misuses the public places by pasting posters, the residents should alert the authorities," he said.

Meanwhile, public rights activists suggest that the civic body should set up exclusive spaces for pasting posters and banners in each wards and administration can collect daily rent from the people who use the space.

"The posters pollute not only the environment but also hinders the vision of commuters as well," said M.B. Nirmal of Exnora International. He also recalled the corporation's initiative of the beautification of public spaces by engaging artists some years ago during the tenure of Subramanian. It was a beautiful campaign and had gained traction among people.

Health dept honchos insincere: HC

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

Criticising the officials of the health department for their lethargy in filling up vacancies to the post of health officers in the Tamil Nadu Public Health Service 2013-2014 in the community category, the Madras high court has said these officers, occupying top positions in the government, do not have service motive and are not sincere to the government, where they are working, and also to people they are expected to serve.

Stating that the attitude indicated a caution that "all is not well", Justice R. Suresh Kumar imposed a cost of Rs 10,000 each on Dr T. S. Selvavinayagam,

Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and the earlier incumbent Dr K Kulanthaisamy, for unnecessarily wasting the time of the court and making misleading and confusing statements before the court in the case.

The judge made the observations while coming to the rescue of Dr B. Dinesh Kumar, who was driven from pillar to post for the past six years and denied appointment to the post of health officer.

The judge directed the TNPSC to operate the reserve list meant for MBC/DC (general) for the post of health officer in the Tamil Nadu Public Health Services 2013-14, for which selection was conducted by it and sponsor the candida-

ture of the petitioner, who is undoubtedly in S.No.1 in the waiting list meant for MBC/DC (general) and on receipt of the same, the appointing authority shall issue the order of appointment to the petitioner within two weeks.

The judge had on last September 24 called for the original records pertaining to the selection relating to notification dated December 10, 2014, in respect of candidates belonging to MBC/DC (general), in order to ascertain the actual facts. After perusing the entire records, the judge passed the present order.

Justice Suresh Kumar directed the state government to call for the entire files and appoint an officer,

not below the rank of joint secretary to the government, to enquire into the matter as to why such misleading statements were filed by the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine before this court including the confused content, purposefully made by him in his order dated April 1, 2020 and based on such enquiry report, it was for the government to decide to initiate disciplinary action against the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, if any substance to that effect was unearthed, pursuant to the said enquiry.

If any such decision was made by the government to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the

Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, the same shall be initiated immediately.

While conducting the inquiry by the government, the role of both the present incumbent as well as the earlier incumbent in the office of Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine shall be taken note of, the judge added.

Quashing the order of the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine dated April 1, 2020, denying appointment to the petitioner, the judge allowed the petition filed by Dr B. Dinesh Kumar, which sought a direction to the authorities to appoint him by direct recruitment to the post of health officer

Major fire at St Thomas Mount head post office

DC CIRRESOIBDEBT
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

A major fire broke out on the second floor of St. Thomas Mount head post-office here in the early hours of Saturday.

The fire and rescue services personnel, with the help of a fire tender from Guindy station, fought the flames for more than an hour.

A police officer said the fire was first noticed around 3:30 am on Saturday by the security personnel.

Smoke emanated from

the second floor of the office where important files and documents were kept, he added.

The firemen struggled to reach the windows of the tall building and doused the flames.

An electrical short-circuit is suspected to have caused the fire.

Initial probe indicated that the fire had destroyed important documents and furniture on the second floor.

The St. Thomas Mount Police registered a case and began an investigation.

SHORT TAKES

20 tonnes of smuggled ration rice seizedDC CORRESPONDENT
KANYAKUMARI, OCT. 10

The Thakkalai police here seized 20 tonnes of ration rice being smuggled to Kerala.

Intercepting a fully-loaded lorry at the Thakkalai check post bordering Kerala, police found 20 tonnes of ration rice, and the two men on board the lorry including its driver Murugan, did not have valid documents for the load.

Hence, police took Murugan and the other person, Ajith, for interrogation, where they confessed that it was ration rice from Thoothukudi district being smuggled to Kerala.

It may be recalled that a couple of days back, in a similar vehicle check at Kulithurai check post, a mini-van carrying 2.5 tonnes of ration rice to be smuggled to Kerala, was seized.

GRT Jewellers receives award

Chennai: GRT Jewellers has been the most trusted jeweller in South India since its inception in 1964. Today, with many showrooms worldwide, the brand is renowned for its value-driven, customer-delight approach. GRT Jewellers offers customers the widest range of collections and designs, in Gold, Diamond, Platinum, Silver and Gemstones. GRT Jewellers is a household name and appeals to people across all age groups. Recently, GRT Jewellers was awarded 'Most Trusted Legendary Brand, according to a press release.

'THEY ABUSE US REPEATEDLY'

From P1

The village consists of around 500 families who are mostly Vanniyars and 100 Dalit households. The panchayat was reserved for SC community. Since January the panchayat has conducted four meetings and in all of them Rajeswari was asked to sit on the floor while the vice-president and four members of the panchayat belonging to the dominant caste sat on chairs. The fifth member from the SC community, Suganthi, member from ward 1, was also not allowed to sit on a chair. Nor was she allowed to hoist the tri-colour during Independence Day and the flag was hoisted by vice-president.

Suganthi, a Dalit ward member of the panchayat said that Therkuthittai village is Vanniyar-dominated.

"They act in a rude manner against us. They consider Dalits as their servants. Besides ill-treating us they also abuse us repeatedly. In the same way, they conduct themselves in the panchayat also."

The incident came to light two months after V. A m u r t h a m, Aathupaakam village panchayat president in Tiruvallur, was prevented from unfurling the national flag on the occasion of Independence Day. However, Amurtham, hoisted the tricolour five days later after the district administration intervened.

Reacting to the incident, S. Karuppiyah, state secretary, Dalit Liberation Movement (DLM), said this is not an isolated incident. Such atrocities and discrimination are common across the state.

"Dalit panchayat presidents, especially women Dalit leaders, continuously face threats in villages. The government must provide adequate security to them and allow them to perform their duties freely," he said.

He recalled that six Dalits were murdered in Melavalavu village on June 30, 1997, after they won in the local body polls, by those belonging to an upper caste community. After a long legal battle the accused were sentenced to life imprisonment. Now, they were released, he added.

NEW FACILITY



The Airports Authority of India is working to complete the new integrated terminal between the domestic and international terminals at Chennai.

— DC

Markendeyan issue inconsequential, says ministerARULOLI M | DC
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT. 10

"We are least bothered about former Vilathikulam MLA joining the DMK as he was already expelled from the party," was information and publicity minister, Kadambur C. Raju's reaction to his arch political rival, G V Markendeyan, joining the DMK.

"I even don't want to name that person as he turned a traitor to the party," said the minister, who without naming Markendeyan, said, "He was expelled for his anti-party activities in the 2019 by-election. Hence, his joining the DMK would have no impact in the AIADMK vote bank in Vilathikulam constituency."

Kadambur Raju further referring to the DMK district presidium chairman and former Vilathikulam MLA, N K Perumal, switching loyalty to AIADMK three months ago, said, "The AIADMK in Thoothukudi district has grown stronger than before."

The minister earlier inspected the ongoing preparatory works in the district to receive Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanisami, visiting the district on October 13.

Man booked under Pocso ActDC CORRESPONDENT
KANYAKUMARI, OCT. 10

A 35-year-old man was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (Pocso) for sexually harassing his stepdaughter at Nagercoil, in Kanyakumari district.

Acting on a complaint about the missing of a 16-year-old girl last month, the Nagercoil All women police rescued the girl from Nagercoil along with a 25-year-old youth. The girl was produced before the court, but refused to go with her mother, as her stepfather, Manikandan (35), sexually harassed her when her mother was not at home.

A Collector's 100 days on the fieldG. BABU JAYAKUMAR | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

Chandra Sekhar Sakhamuri loves being on the field, meeting people. The district collector of Cuddalore district, who completed 100 days in office on Thursday, has been out on the field since he took charge in the midst of the coronavirus induced lockdown.

Of course the first priority was to manage the pandemic, which he did effectively by following what was being done in Chennai by launching a door-to-door survey engaging 2300 persons to check people living outside the containment zones and thus found new hot spots and emerging hot spots.

But what he did simultaneously, along with tackling the coronavirus spread, is also worth taking note of. Taking care of the interests of farmers, taking a futuristic view in making efforts to prevent flooding when the north-east monsoon sets in, preparing the schools for a better performance in the coming academic year, tackling malnutrition among children and ensuring that the Kudimaramthu scheme was implemented properly are some of them.

In an interview with Deccan Chronicle over the phone, Sakhamuri, who just returned from a field visit on Saturday, explained how the district administration flattened the Covid-19 curve. Apart from ramping up fever camps and intensifying testing, he also ensured that the number of hospital beds were



Chandra Sekhar Sakhamuri

increased from 1,700 when he took charge to the present 7,400. Even the beds with oxygen facilities were increased considerably in the three months, he said.

As the testing was increased from 2,400 samples in July to 47,870 in August to 1,07,000 in September the number of positive cases that was initially between 60 to 70 a day went up to 450 to 500 a day. But soon it was brought down to an average of 120 a day, thus flattening the curve, he said. Yet, the testing was not stopped or even brought down and even now 3,000 samples are tested a day.

Since Cuddalore is primarily a pastoral district with eight rivers cutting through it and five major tanks located there, farming is its backbone. So to help the farmers, Sakhamuri opened more district procurement centres during the Kuruvai harvest season, taking the numbers from 10 to 15 to 93.

Thus 60,000 tonnes of paddy was procured from farmers enabling them to get the minimum support price for their produce. Then, to facilitate them to

a reply from the state government on a plea filed by Joe Joseph in which he expressed apprehensions that there was lack of supervision of safety in the over-a-century-old dam. In an affidavit, filed through advocate M. Yakesh Kanna, the Tamil Nadu government said the plea alleging

that it has abdicated its duties was "wholly misconceived".

The affidavit said the sub-committee is chaired by the executive engineer of the Central Water Commission (CWC) and has members from Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The sub-committee

inspects the dam, collects data and gives details to the supervisory committee. Tamil Nadu ensured that no water is released without any warning, and sudden releases are not made through the spillway, the affidavit t said, adding that "the releases are made in steps so as not to cause any

problem to the people who are living downstream of the dam".

"The supervisory committee duly assisted by the sub-committee are monitoring the system with reference to all safety aspects of the dam," the affidavit said.

— PTI

GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS SIX IAS OFFICERSDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 10

The State Government on Saturday transferred six IAS officers, an official release from the Chief Secretary said.

N. Venkatesh, IAS, Additional State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, has been posted as Commissioner of School Education, replacing Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan, IAS.

Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan, IAS, has been appointed as managing director of Tamil Nadu Industrial Investments Corporation.

Kranthi Kumar Pati, IAS, Joint Commissioner in Commercial Taxes, Erode, is posted as Executive Officer of A r u l m i g u Dhandayuthapani Swami Temple, Palani. Dr. V. Jaya Chandra Bhanu Reddy, IAS, who held the position was already transferred.

S. Saravanan, IAS, Sub Collector, Kancheepuram has been posted as Joint C o m m i s s i o n e r, Commercial Taxes, Erode, a post held by Kranti Kumar Pati, IAS.

R. Kirosh Kumar, IAS, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Ltd. has been transferred as managing director of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. Dr D. Karthikeyan, IAS, was holding additional charge of the position.

D. Mohan, IAS, Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise is posted as managing director, Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Ltd., replacing R. Kiroshkumar, IAS.



Fire and rescue personnel bringing Anandaraj's body down the Annamalaiyar hills on Saturday. He died while trekking on the hills.

— DC

Centre, State failed common man, says CPM leaderDC CORRESPONDENT
NAGAPATTINAM, OCT. 10

CPM state secretary G Ramakrishnan on Saturday accused both the Centre and state governments for their failure to protect the livelihood of the people during the pandemic.

He took strong exception to the reported remarks of state BJP president L Murugan, that the new state government in Tamil Nadu after the coming elections, would be formed by a political party shown by the BJP. They make such arrogant remarks simply

because of the BJP government at the Centre, he added.

Can the BJP in Tamil Nadu win a single assembly seat facing the election on its own, he challenged. He said the party was going to organise a nationwide protest on November 26, against the Centre's farm bills.

He expressed concern over water released from Mettur reservoir which did not reach the tail-end areas of the Cauvery delta region, and appealed to the government to ensure the entire quantity of water reaches all tail-end areas.

NFIW protests Hathras murderDC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, OCT. 10

Members of the National federation of Indian women (NFIW) staged a demonstration before the head post office here on Saturday, seeking justice for the dalit girl who was allegedly raped and killed at Hathras in Uttar Pradesh. Condemning the incident and criticising the police for allegedly cremating the victim hurriedly, members led by M Vijayalakshmi, district president, NFIW, demanded action against the guilty, and sought protection for the suppressed community people.

Stalin seeks white papers from govt

Chennai, Oct. 10: DMK president M. K. Stalin urged the State government to come out with two white papers, one of the reported investments that were brought to the State during its tenure and the other one on the procurements made during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement on Saturday, Stalin lashed out at the government for its failure in tackling the pandemic and pointed out that disease was spreading unabated.

Since the people were not fully aware of the MoUs signed by the government, it should bring out a white

paper on that, instead of just blowing its horns on bringing investments to the State.

He also urged the government to come out with details of the purchases they had made, accusing the government of indulging in corruption.

Kurinji, African tulips add to autumn charm of NilgirisB RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT. 10

The blooming of the Kurinji flowers, an ancient legendary flower along the TR Bazaar and Naduvattam slopes on the Ooty-Gudalur-Mysuru highway here, has thrown a new charm to the hillside here.

The blooming of Kurinji was extensive in 2018, and the district administration then organized a 'Kurinji festival' in Kallhatti slopes near here. For the past two years, the bloom of this rare flower was not reported much. This year, in early October, when the autumn tourist season popularly known as the second-season of Ooty is underway, the Kurinji bloom has just commenced.

Managing trustee of the Nilgiris Environment and Socio-Cultural Trust V. Sivadass said that though there is a general perception that Kurinji blooms once in 12 years, there are also varieties which bloom any time between one and 16 years. The brilliant purple-blue coloured, bell shaped flowers with a unique fragrance, bloom in clusters. The bloom may last up to two months in a particular locale. Honey



Bloom of Kurinji flowers at Naduvattam slopes on Ooty-Gudalur-Mysuru NH.

bees visit Kurinji flowers in good numbers for its nectar. The Kurinji species which is in bloom in Naduvattam slopes is the one which generally blooms once in three years. The Kurinji bloom now at Naduvattam has brought the ancient touch of beauty of nature and fragrance for the present generation to have a glimpse of its splendour, he added.

The forest department in coordination with green organizations should study the Kurinji habitats extensively and install a display board featuring the year of



Bloom of African Tree Tulip flowers at Coonoor slopes along Ooty-Coimbatore NH.

plantation premises, where it is grown as ornamental avenue tree.

Former field botanist, Central Ayush wing, Dr S Rajan, a plant taxonomy expert, said that Spathodea tree is known to be the most spectacular among the flowering trees, as its fairly large bell-shaped flowers with their brilliant orange-scarlet colour enhances the ambience of nature's beauty. "These flowers attract certain species of nectar-loving birds and insects in large numbers," Dr Rajan added.

Custard apple season picks up in NilgirisB RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, OCT. 10

The Nilgiris with its unique agro-climatic conditions is known for the cultivation of varieties of exotic fruits. At present, the fruiting season of custard apple (Sitapazham in Tamil) has begun.

Shiva Subramanian Samraj, joint director, horticulture, The Nilgiris, said that 'custard apple', a fruit of South American origin, is known for its unique shape and taste, and is certainly the pick of autumn fruits here. The custard apple tree is found to grow well in the Coonoor belt where the agro-climatic conditions support its growth. The tree is found in small numbers in Kotagiri and Gudalur taluks also.

"Many farmers grow custard apple trees in their tea fields and in vegetable fields to practice pomological culture and reap rich benefits. The fruiting season stretches between mid-September and February. This fruit is cultivated in good quantities in Thothurmattam area near Coonoor in the past. But due to factors like monkey menace, some farmers have given up custard apple cul-



Photo shows the hill grown custard apple.

— DC

The custard apple tree is found to grow well in the Coonoor belt where the agro-climatic conditions support its growth. The tree is found in small numbers in Kotagiri and Gudalur taluks also

tivation there. However, the horticulture department is producing the saplings of this tree to encourage farmers to revive the custard apple tree growing culture," Samraj added.

Prince Sampson, a fruit vendor here, said that custard apples grown in the Nilgiris is a very tasty fruit with its blend of sweetness and mouthwatering whitish creamy pulp inside. The fruit is known for its rich nutritive content and good pack of vitamins. In the market, it is being sold for Rs 120 per kg now. For anybody visiting the Nilgiris now, custard apple will surely add to the autumn flavour, Sampson noted.

SHORT TAKES

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER
FROM MYSURU
MISSINGM.B. GIRISH | DC
MYSURU, OCT. 10

Abhishek Reddy Gulla, 26, working as scientific officer attached to Baba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mysuru has gone missing for 20 days. Police have launched a search to trace him.

According to the police, Abhishek Reddy was working as a scientific officer at the research center for over a year and was staying at a rented house in New Janata Colony, Yelwala, about 20 kms from Mysuru.

Reddy did not attend office for about 20 days. Later, BARC administrative officer T.K. Bose lodged a complaint with the Yelwala police on October 8.

In the complaint, Reddy is said to have left the house on his two wheeler (KA09 JA0013). Reddy is 5 feet nine inches in height, has wheatish complexion and is bald.

Police have ruled out the possibility of a kidnap but suspect that he might have gone missing under depression and a search is on to trace him.

ACTIVE COVID
CASES BELOW 9L
FOR SECOND DAYDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 10

With 73,272 fresh cases of coronavirus, India till Saturday had 69.79 lakh overall cases while the number of deaths were 1,07,416 after 926 new fatalities were recorded in the last 24 hours.

According to the union health ministry, 59.88 lakh people have recovered so far from Covid-19, taking the recovery rate to 85.81 per cent. The case fatality rate stands at 1.54 per cent. Union Health Ministry officials said, the number of active cases remained below 9 lakh, for the second day in a row — there are 8.83 lakh active cases in the country as of now.

“Presently the active cases comprise merely 12.65 per cent of the total positive cases of the country. These are nearly 1/8th of the total cases in the country. The total recovered cases are close to 60 lakh thereby enhancing the difference with respect to the active cases. As many as 82,753 patients have recovered and discharged in the last 24 hours whereas the new confirmed cases stand at 73,272,” officials said adding 18 states and UTs have recorded Recovery Rate more than the national average.

MAN PADDLES
WIFE 90 KM TO
HOSPITALAKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO |
DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 10

In an incident identical to that of the 2016 Dana Majhi case, a 70-year-old man from Sakhigopal in Puri district on Friday paddled his unwell wife for 90 kms on a rented trolley rickshaw after he failed to hire an auto-rickshaw to take her for treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack.

Kabir Bhoi had admitted his wife Sukanti at the Puri district headquarters hospital. The doctors there advised him to shift her to Cuttack. As he did not have money to take Sukanti to Cuttack, Kabir brought her back home. However, when Sukanti's health worsened, he hired a trolley rickshaw for ₹50 per day and paddled all the way from Sakhigopal to Cuttack.

REPUBLIC TV
MOVES SC OVER
TRP SCAMDC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 10

A day after the Mumbai police issued summons to chief financial officer (CFO) of Republic TV, for being questioned in the TRP manipulation case, he did not turn up stating the media house had approached the apex court seeking relief.

The CFO also informed the police that since the Supreme Court could hear the matter in a week, the process of recording his statement should be held up until then.

The crime branch, meanwhile, recorded the statement of Madison World & Madison Communication's Sam Balsara on Saturday.

End of an era



Chirag Paswan, son of Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader late Ram Vilas Paswan, lights the funeral pyre containing the mortal remains of his father during the cremation at Digha Ghat in Patna on Saturday. Chirag fainted after lighting the funeral pyre, but was saved from crashing on to the ground by his cousins who had been beside him, helping him perform the rituals. — PTI

Soldiers posted along LAC
mostly rely on foot mobility

Even in 1962, soldiers moved on foot and it has remained unchanged

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD OCT. 10

Technology and firepower aside, soldiers of the Indian Army posted in the rugged terrain along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh are mostly relying on foot mobility in the ongoing military operations.

To take on the People's Liberation Army of China (PLA), the Indian troops are sticking to the basic war principles which is advantageous in the theatre which mostly comprises mountains and ridges. When it comes to cross-country, the Indian Army is one of the best in the world.

On a day US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that China has amassed more than 60,000 troops along the LAC, highly placed sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that basic fighting principles have hardly changed in this region. This is true since the 1962 war between both the countries.

“Foot mobility continues to be the key in mountain

warfare and both sides know that too well. Helicopters will find it difficult to land as there are limited landing sites in this mountainous region. They will have to fly at lower speeds while the harsh weather will limit visibility. Despite having the best helicopters, flying through the limited approach between the valleys without being detected by the enemy is another huge task. This is precisely the reason why our soldiers are relying on cross-country,” they explained.

Ever since tensions between the two armies increased, especially after the Galwan valley clashes, Indian troops have taken up arduous journeys on foot for several kilometres, which enabled them to quickly dominate the areas and consolidate their positions.

Like it is for all armies, cross country is one of the key aspects of training of soldiers and officers of the Indian Army.

Carrying heavy loads, they are made to run several kilometres at a

stretch, non-stop. They are fully trained for survival in the mountainous regions while moving on foot, which tests the limits of physical endurance and determination.

“In this theatre, military operations will largely depend on how quickly soldiers are able to capture ground on foot. There needs to be quick link-ups between the special forces and soldiers from other units who will dominate and consolidate positions. Even in the 1962 war, soldiers moved on foot and it has remained unchanged in this region ever since. The intense training on foot mobility that a soldier or an officer undergoes during training are being put to use,” sources said.

Since moving on foot frequently requires unhindered logistical support, all logistical arrangements are in place for the soldiers who would need to sustain for several days at different points along the LAC. As winter sets in, the soldiers are fighting the harsh weather and the PLA alike.

Meanwhile, two Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants including a Pakistani national were killed in a gunfight with the security forces in the Chinigam area of southern Kulgam district early

Army says local
recruitment in
militant ranks upYUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 10

The Army said on Saturday that even though the infiltration from across the Line of Control has been restricted to a fewer incidents due to the increased vigil being maintained by it along the de facto border, the recruitment of local youths into the militants' ranks has gone up slightly in the past one month.

Meanwhile, two Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants including a Pakistani national were killed in a gunfight with the security forces in the Chinigam area of southern Kulgam district early

Saturday. In the afternoon, a brief clash took place between the security forces and the militants in Dadura area of neighbouring Pulwama district, leaving two unidentified ‘militants’ dead.

“In the past six months the recruitment of the youths into the terrorist ranks had come down but now it has again seen a little rise,” Lt. Gen. B. S. Raju, the General-Officer-Commanding of the Srinagar-based 15 Army Corps told reporters here.

At the same time, he noted with great satisfaction that many among those who are already in the militants' ranks are coming forth to surrender.

Detention centres
have to be outside
jail premises: HCMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, OCT. 10

The Gauhati High Court has directed that detention centres cannot be inside the jail premises and if suitable accommodations are not available, the state government should look for and hire private buildings to run the detention centre.

There are six detention centres in Assam to detain ‘illegal foreigners’ but all are inside jails.

In these six detention centre altogether 425 detainees are lodged. Following a Supreme Court's order in April to prevent congestion in jails due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 350 detainees languishing in various detention centres had been released on bail.

The high court order came in response to a batch of petitions related to detention of ‘foreigners’ in Assam.

The petitions were filed by a team of lawyers and activists, facilitated by Studio Nilima, a research collective. Renowned advocate Nilay Dutta argued the case on behalf of the petitioners.

The High Court observed that the declaration of a part of the jail premises in six districts of Assam as detention centres are not the complete requirement of the order of the Supreme Court in Bhim Singh vs Union of India case, communications of the MHA as well as the Model Manual for the Detention Centres.

The decision in the Bhim Singh vs Union of India as reported had held that detainees cannot be treated as prisoners and cannot be confined to prison and deprived of basic human rights and human dignity.

The Court noted that

J&K police on toes as obscure
website calls 27 journalists, 12
activists ‘gang of Indian payrolls’YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, OCT. 10

The Jammu and Kashmir police appears to be on their toes following a social media post from an obscure source mentioning the names of as many as 27 local journalists and other media persons and 12 political and social activists as being on the payroll of the Indian government.

Though the post assumed by some security officials here as a ‘hit list’ or, at least, a ‘warning list’ titled the “whole gang of s o c a l l e d journalist/media fraternity working under Indian payroll” was deleted later, the J&K police authorities have taken the matter “very seriously” and decided “leave nothing to chance”.

Over the past few days, the police have got in touch with almost all Valley-based media persons individually to inquire if they feel threatened and needed security or any assistance from it. The list had categorized fourteen media persons and ten activists as ‘A+’,

● **THERE ARE** six detention centres in Assam to detain ‘illegal foreigners’ but all are inside jails.

● **IN THESE** six detention centres, altogether 425 detainees are lodged.

the directions of the Supreme Court, communications of Ministry of Home Affairs and the Model Manual for Detention Centres, 2019 provides that detention centres should be set up outside the jail premises.

“If suitable accommodation is not available, the state government may look for hiring of private buildings for the purpose,” the court stated.

Part of the jail premises in Silchar and Kokrajhar have been declared as detention centres in 2010 as a “temporary measure”.

Later, parts of the existing jail premises in Goalpara, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tezpur were also declared as detention centres for the purpose of detaining persons declared as illegal foreigners, pending their deportation.

“It is discernible that more than 10 years have gone by since a part of the jail premises in Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Silchar had been declared to be detention centres. Certainly a period of more than 10 years cannot be understood to be a temporary arrangement,” the court observed.

It may be noted that the court has directed the Home and Political Affairs Department of the state government to submit an action taken report by October 16 as to what steps have been taken to set up detention centres outside the jail premises in compliance with the law.

nine as ‘B’ and four as ‘C’ grade members of the ‘gang’. The remaining two had been left without any ranking.

On Friday, the police also installed CCTV cameras in almost every nook and cranny of Mushtaq Press Enclave, the media hub of Srinagar named after photojournalist Mushtaq Ali who was killed in a parcel bomb explosion in this correspondent's office in September 1995. It was in this area only where ‘Rising Kashmir’ editor Shuja'at Bukhari was gunned down by unknown assailants — accused by the authorities of being L a s h k a r - e - T a y y a b a cadres — on June 14, 2018.

Another journalist Parvaz Sultan was also murdered here in February 2003.

The area, less than 300 yards from City centre Lal Chowk witnessed grenade attacks, kidnappings and some other atrocious incidents involving various parties to the conflict since 1990 when the Kashmiri separatist campaign burst into a major violence.

BJP TARGETS RAJ GOVT OVER
‘RISE’ IN CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Kota, Oct 10: Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia on Saturday targeted the Congress government over the “rising” incidents of rape and crime against women in the state and demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

The crime rate has gone up alarmingly in the last 20 months in Rajasthan and Gehlot, who also holds the charge of the home ministry, has no right to continue on his seat, he said.

“The way the incidents of rape and crime against women have been rising in Rajasthan under Ashok Gehlot's rule is unfortunate and horrendous,” Poonia

said. The BJP leader was speaking to reporters during a one-day visit to the district. Earlier, he visited the house of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to offer condolences on the demise of his father Shrikrishna Birla.

“At least 4,35,000 cases, including 3,05,000 cases under sections of IPC, were lodged in the state in last 20 months. “Over 10 per cent of them were heinous crimes, and crimes against women shot up 14.8 per cent,” Punia said.

“The government has lost the trust of the people. Gehlot has failed to ensure the safety of the daughters of the state and has proved to be a bad father,” he said.

— PTI

Women safety: Centre
issues fresh advisoryDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT 10

Following outrage over the Hathras rape case, Home ministry in an advisory to the states directed that all relevant laws and guidelines in cases of sexual assault and crimes against women be strictly enforced. Any lapses, if noticed, need to be investigated and stringent action taken immediately against the concerned officers, the ministry has stated.

According to the advisory issued on Saturday, the Union home min-

istry has primarily stressed on three sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr PC) that focus on “compulsory registration of FIR”, completion of investigation related to rape cases within 60 days along with a mandatory medical examination which should be conducted with the individual's consent by a qualified medical professional within 24 hours of receiving information of such a crime.

“It is requested that states/UTs, may suitably issue instructions to all concerned to

ensure strict compliance with the provisions in the law.. also requested to monitor the cases on ITSSO (an online portal to track sexual offence cases) to ensure suitable follow up action,” the notice said.

The ministry further said that “failure of police to adhere to these mandatory requirements may not augur well for the delivery of criminal justice in the country, especially in context of women safety,” and warned of “stringent action” against those not following these rules.



Cadets perform during a passing out parade at Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre (JAKLI), at Rangreth in Srinagar, Saturday. — PTI

IN BRIEF

Graft charges: Zuma summoned

Johannesburg: Former South African president Jacob Zuma has been issued with a legal summons to appear before an inquiry commission probing corruption charges, including the veteran politician's alleged role in assisting the controversial Indian-origin Gupta family in looting billions of rands from the state-owned entities. Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo said Zuma would be required to appear on November 16-20, adding that if the former president wished to present his evidence virtually rather than in person, it would be permitted. Zuma, 78, has evaded appearing before the State Capture Inquiry, complaining about his illness with controversial doctors' letters, as well as claims that he needed time to prepare for the separate court cases where he is facing corruption charges. Zuma's supporters have also called for Zondo to recuse himself.

UK calls back envoy to Belarus

London: Britain has joined several eastern European nations in withdrawing its ambassador from strife-torn Belarus in protest at President Alexander Lukashenko's expulsion of diplomats from Poland and Lithuania. In a tweet late Friday, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the UK "condemns Belarus' decision to expel Polish & Lithuanian diplomats". "Completely unjustified and will only isolate the Belarusian people. In solidarity, we are temporarily recalling our Ambassador for consultations on the situation in Belarus," he said. The ambassadors of Lithuania and Poland were recalled on Monday after Minsk accused them of backing mass protests that have erupted against Lukashenko since a disputed election on August 9. Following a demand from Belarus, Poland and Lithuania recalled a further 35 diplomats on Friday, Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia and Latvia have all withdrawn their ambassadors.

Don-Biden 2nd Prez debate cancelled

WH offers \$1.8 tn stimulus

Ballot drop-off order blocked

Washington, Oct. 10: The second presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden set for October 15 has been cancelled, the organisers have announced, after the incumbent US President refused to do a virtual face-off with his Democratic challenger despite concerns over his Covid-19 diagnosis.

In a statement, the non-partisan (CPD) confirmed on Friday that the second version scheduled to be held in Miami, Florida, would be scrapped. The CPD said it was preparing for the next debate to be held on October 22 in Nashville, Tennessee, less than two weeks ahead of the November 3 presidential election. The first presidential debate between Trump and Biden was held on September 29 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The one-off debate between the vice presidential candidates Mike Pence

and Kamala Harris took place on October 7 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"On October 8, CPD announced that for the health and safety of all involved, the second presidential debate, scheduled for October 15 in Miami, would be conducted virtually," the CPD said in a statement, officially announcing the cancellation of the second debate.

"Subsequently, the campaigns of the two candidates who qualified for participation in the debate made a series of statements concerning their respective positions regarding their willingness to participate in a virtual debate on October 15, and each now has announced alternate plans for that date." "It is now apparent there will be no debate on October 15, and the CPD will turn its attention to preparations for the final presidential debate scheduled for October 22," the CPD added.

Washington, Oct. 9: With the presidential election fast approaching, the White House on Friday proposed a beefed-up \$1.8 trillion economic rescue plan to try to coax congressional Democrats into an agreement.

President Donald Trump, who this week has veered wildly in his position on stimulus to help the world's largest economy recover from the damage done by the Covid-19 pandemic, now seems to be making a major push to

roll out funding before he stands for re-election on November 3.

The new proposal, an improvement over the administration's previous \$1.6 trillion offer, brings them closer to the Democrats' latest package costing \$2.2 trillion.

White House spokeswoman Alyssa Farah said the administration was "willing to come up on the level" but wanted to keep the price tag "below \$2 trillion." But Trump, who is trailing in the polls again

st Democratic rival Joe Biden, said he wants an even more robust plan.

"A lot of people are being hurt. I would like to see a bigger stimulus package, frankly, than either the Democrats or the Republicans are offering," Trump said in an interview with conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh.

"I would like to see money going to people. It was not their fault." That marked the latest dramatic shift from the president.

— AFP

uled for October 22," the CPD added.

The cancellation is the culmination of a furious 48-hour back-and-forth between the commission and the Republican and Democratic campaigns over the

format of the second presidential debate. The commission, with the backing of their health advisers, announced on Thursday that — because Trump tested positive for the Coronavirus — the debate

that was scheduled for Miami would be held virtually, with the two candidates appearing from remote locations. Trump swiftly rejected that plan, saying he would not show up.

— PTI

Taiwan: Lessen China tensions

Taipei, Oct. 10: Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Saturday she has hopes for less tensions with China and in the region if Beijing will listen to Taipei's concerns, alter its approach and restart dialogue with the self-ruled island democracy.

Speaking at Taiwan's National Day celebrations on Saturday, Tsai took note of recent remarks by Chinese leader Xi Jinping in a video message to the UN General Assembly that China would never seek hegemony, expansion or to establish a sphere of

influence. "As countries in the region and around the world are now concerned about China's expanding hegemony, we hope this is the beginning of genuine change," Tsai said in her annual address at the Presidential Office in downtown Taipei.

If Beijing can "heed Taiwan's voice, change the way it handles cross-strait relations, and jointly facilitate cross-strait reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, I believe that regional tension can surely be resolved," Tsai said. China's ruling Communist Party

claims the self-governing island as Chinese territory to be annexed by force if necessary. Beijing cut contacts with Tsai's government following her election to a first term in 2016 and has steadily increased diplomatic, military and economic pressure on the island of 23 million people to compel her to endorse its contention that Taiwan and the mainland constitute a single Chinese nation, which it refers to as the "1992 Consensus".

In Beijing, a spokesperson for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office responded to Tsai's address by renewing China's demand for concessions and accusing her of "disrupting the exchanges and cooperation" between the sides, according to state broadcaster CCTV. Zhu Fenglian also accused Tsai of "deliberately misleading the people of Taiwan".

Tsai, of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, was reelected by a wide margin this spring, and especially since September, China has been sending warplanes and ships into areas under Taiwanese control.

— AP

Prez warnings on Columbus Day

Washington, Oct. 10: President Donald Trump's proclamation Friday commemorating Columbus Day veered from a typical White House holiday announcement, with stark warnings of "radical activists" seeking to tarnish the explorer's legacy.

Native American advocates have pressed states for years to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day over concerns that Christopher Columbus helped launch centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas.

"Sadly, in recent years, radical activists have sought to undermine Christopher Columbus's legacy," Trump said in his proclamation declaring Monday Columbus Day.

"These extremists seek

to replace discussion of his vast contributions with talk of failings, his discoveries with atrocities, and his achievements with transgressions."

Trump has been projecting himself as a defender of America's history and monuments as he seeks reelection. He signed an executive order recently to establish a commission to promote what he calls "patriotic education".

The move is in part a response to *The New York Times*' "1619 Project", which highlights the long-term consequences of slavery and the contributions of People of Colour Americans.

Trump frequently cites the commission at his campaign rallies, and he did so again in his proclamation Friday.

— AP

TRUCE BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN, ARMENIA FAILS

Moscow, Oct. 10: Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a Russia-brokered cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh starting on Saturday, but immediately accused each other of derailing the deal intended to end the worst outbreak of hostilities in the separatist region in more than a quarter-century.

The two sides traded blame for breaking the truce that took effect at noon (0800 GMT) with new attacks, and Azerbaijan's top diplomat said the truce never entered force. The cease-fire announcement came overnight after 10 hours of talks in Moscow sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The deal stipulated that the cease-fire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict.

— AP

WHO: RECORD 3.5L DAILY CASES

Geneva, Oct. 10: The World Health Organisation has announced a new daily record high in Coronavirus cases confirmed worldwide, with more than 350,000 infections reported to the UN health agency on Friday.

The new daily high of 350,766 cases surpasses a

record set earlier this week by nearly 12,000. That tally includes more than 109,000 cases from Europe alone.

In a press briefing on Friday, WHO emergencies chief Dr Michael Ryan acknowledged that even as Covid-19 continues to surge across the world, "there are

no new answers".

He said that although the agency wants countries to avoid the punishing lockdowns that have devastated economies, governments must ensure the most vulnerable people are protected and numerous measures must be taken.

— AP

Creating a Roadmap for Better Future Ensuring the Right to Education as a Treasure

Bhupesh Baghel

H'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Swami Atmanand English Medium School Scheme

- ❖ 53 new school buildings to be ready in the current financial year
- ❖ 27,431 students admitted in the govt run English medium schools
- ❖ Robotics, computer and linguistic equipped labs
- ❖ Recruitment of teaching staff through rigorous process

Free Textbooks and Uniform

- ❖ 45.43 lakh students provided free textbooks
- ❖ 48.19 lakh students given two sets of free uniform

Padhai Tuhar Dwar

- ❖ Two models of online and offline classes
- ❖ 39.57 lakh online classes conducted on www.cgschool.in web portal

Gadbo Nava Chhattisgarh

Teachers Recruitment

- ❖ Recruitment process for 14.58 thousand teacher underway

Ensuring Mid-day Meal amid Covid-19

- ❖ Chhattisgarh has become one of the leading states in providing dry ration under Mid-day Meal Scheme to 28.29 lakh children covering 97.31% of the eligible number

**EDUCATED CHILDREN
EMPOWERED CHHATTISGARH**

DECCAN Chronicle

11 OCTOBER 2020



Nilofar Suhrawardy

Off the beaten track

Papa's haircuts and other hair-raising experiences

Covid-19 has forced quite a few young fathers or fathers with small children, particularly boys, to turn into barbers. They cut their sons' hair with an apparent air of professional expertise. Interestingly, these "neo-barbers" have had no qualms about displaying photographs of their handiwork. They do so, through various social media platforms. The photos, of course, cannot hide the serious look on the fathers' faces and the puzzled, perplexed, even slightly disturbed, expression on the kids'. The latter seem disturbed about what they look like after being subjected to a first-time experience of their fathers' mercy on their hair.

Paradoxically, the father's pride and sense of achievement in becoming a "barber" is hardly pleasing to the child. So what if the father is a professional expert in the medical field, business, academics or some other area? The little ones care little when their hairstyle faces their scissors. Even toddlers of today's day and age seem fairly smart in judging their parents' expertise at whatever they may be attempting. It isn't surprising that a certain number of children have preferred going totally bald than opt for the said haircut.

The fairer sex is luckier. With the mask on, they can afford to be calous about their facial hair. Why should they care if the make-up industry is suffering from a sudden fall in demand? They have too many things to bother about — having to stay at home for too long a period, precautions to be exercised because of the pandemic, and so on. And as far as their hair is concerned, it can just be knotted into a bun or clipped as convenient. Of course, men, too, exercise the option of having long hair and styling it as they please. But leaving it loose isn't considered "safe" while Covid-19 lasts.

This hairy issue is a cause of great concern for celebrities. Covid-19 has not diminished their love for the lime-light. But it certainly appears to have had a great impact on their hair. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hairstyle and beard is no more what they used be before the vicious virus struck this country. Politically speaking, this is perhaps one way of his letting others know that he is not above board where the impact of coronavirus is concerned.

Paradoxically, his rival Rahul Gandhi's hairstyle is less wild than what it earlier used to be. Rather, sometimes, not a hair seems to be out of place.

Of course, Modi, Rahul and all other celebrities have a personal right to do what they like with their respective hairstyles and beards. The same can be said about the styling of their moustaches and sideburns. On this front, men may be said to be as lucky as women, though. For they can let their masks hide what they don't want seen.

Also, till masks remain compulsory, all conscious of their looks can certainly extend their "cosmetic moves" beyond their lips — to their eyebrows and hair. They can style their hair along the forehead and around the ear. Clearly, Covid masks don't spell the end of style for both ladies and gentlemen. Amazingly, the little ones aren't far behind. Even before they learn how to walk and speak, toddlers appear to have become fairly conscious about their looks. It is not without reason that they are extra-fond of staring at their faces in the mirror. When it comes to haircuts, several adults are needed to hold down the yelling chappies throwing their arms and legs into the wind.

Also, a rudimentary analysis of such hairy issues suggests that political celebrities as well as those in the entertainment industry are almost equally conscious about this subject. After all, they are extra-concerned about presenting a "good" image of themselves before the public. Both are public figures, counting on their stars for their success in how people view them. They have the right as well as, in their perception, the "duty" to care. And the media has no other option but to play its part. It is up to the audience to notice, ignore, criticise or even praise what they are presented, including changing hairstyles, growing beards and other hairy issues.

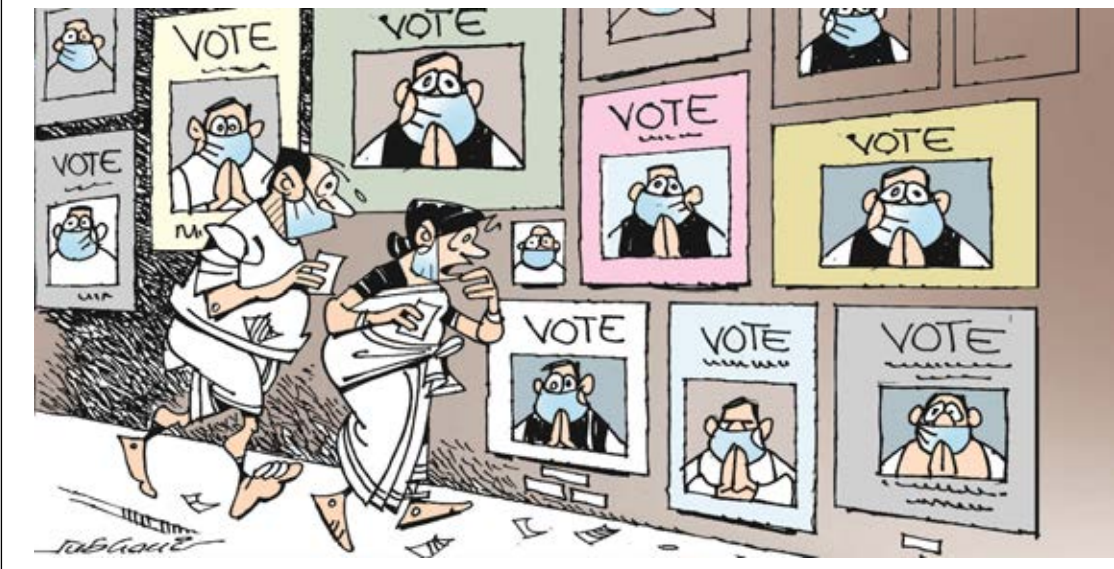
Frankly speaking, of late, quite a few media outlets are also facing hair-raising experiences. This is not only linked with too many people losing jobs but also with the media being pushed into a corner for according too little and much importance to various issues. Now, who should be blamed for all that hair pulling that is to be witnessed? Give it a thought!

The writer is a journalist with specialisation in communication studies and nuclear diplomacy. She is also the author of several books.



Paradoxically, the father's pride and sense of achievement in becoming a 'barber' is hardly pleasing to the child. So what if the father is a professional expert in the medical field, business, academics or some other area? The little ones care little when their hairstyle faces their scissors.

Subhani



Why Eco Prize is the most prized Nobel of them all



Mohan Guruswamy

The truth is that there is no Nobel Prize in Economics, yet it is the most prized among all the Nobels. The winners of these prizes often acquire the voice of God in the intellectual discourse of nations. What is thought of as the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences is officially the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel. It is administered by the Nobel Foundation established by the Swedish inventor of dynamite. The prize was established in 1968 by a donation from Sweden's central bank to commemorate the bank's 300th anniversary. It is now easily the most awaited of the Nobels. To know who will get it in 2020 we will have to wait till Monday.

The winners last year, the husband-and-wife duo of Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Dufo, won it ironically enough for their study in eastern Odisha of one the most spectacular development economic bombs of recent times. It was a scheme to replace open-fire cooking used by three billion of the world's poorest people with more efficient, less polluting stoves. The \$400 million project was backed by the United Nations and launched by former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton in 2010. It set out to reduce indoor air pollution, which kills two million people a year, while empowering women and helping the environment. After its initial success, millions of stoves built in India were largely abandoned within four years.

Banerjee and Dufo studied the reasons for it and told the world why such an altruistic and even rational project flopped. The

reasons were quite mundane, something which the world's finest development economics and policymaking minds didn't anticipate. The new stoves needed more attention, were prone to break down and took longer to cook food. They couldn't be moved because they were tethered to fixed chimneys sending the smoke outside. I don't think Narendra Modi's genius factored the more mundane considerations when the government of India launched its colossal public toilets scheme, which we now know is also a spectacular flop. Open defecation is again rampant. It is little wonder that Mr Modi has given the duo a big avoid.

But Economics Nobel winners also spawned spectacular flops. The hedge fund Long Term Capital Management (LTCM) had a plan to apply expert knowledge and theories of academics to the real world. The collapse of this \$125 billion fund directly led to the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 1998 Russian default that brought the financial world to the brink of collapse. LTCM had recruited some of the biggest names in economics and trading, hiring people like 1997 Nobel Economics winners Myron S. Scholes and Robert C. Merton to sit on their board of directors. But the combined brilliance of the top academics and high-flier bankers couldn't spot the coming disaster. Both failures highlighted an inability to understand how ordinary people behave.

Classical economics was linked closely with psychology. Adam Smith's other great work was *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and dealt with

the psychological principles of individual behaviour. Smith emphasised the concept of empathy, the capacity to recognise feelings that are being experienced by another being. Jeremy Bentham described utilitarianism as "the greatest happiness of the greatest number that is the measure of right and wrong" and is seen by many as father of the welfare state. Classical economic theory, also known as laissez faire, claims that leaving individuals to make free choices in a free market results in the best allocation of resources. Since individuals made choices, the emphasis was on understanding human beings and their behaviour as individual and as groups.

Neo-classical economists based their thinking on the assumption that people have rational preferences; that individuals maximise utility and firms maximise profits; and people act independently. Consequently, neo-classical economists distanced themselves from psychology and sought explanations for economic analysis heavily based on the concept of rational expectations. For most of the past century, economics became increasingly mathematical. Much of economic theory came to be presented as mathematical models, mostly calculus, to clarify assumptions and implications.

It is not as if the switch was complete. Many great economists like Vilfredo Pareto, John Maynard Keynes and Joseph Schumpeter continued to base their analysis on psy-

chological explanations. In more recent times, this school of economics has been given greater importance and is reflected in the award of Nobels to behavioural economists like Daniel Kahneman of Princeton University and to Richard Thaler at Chicago. Banerjee and Dufo are considered development economists but the focus of their research was in how beneficiaries looked at gift horses.

The dominance of the classical school on the world of economics can be gauged by the fact that since the relatively recent inception of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1968, the Chicago economics faculty have won the Nobel as many as 12 times, twice as many as MIT, which has six Nobel laureates. Seen from Harvard's ivory tower, even MIT is considered as leaning more towards classical economic theory. Recent Harvard winners for economics like Oliver Hart (2016), Alvin Roth (2012) and Eric Maskin (2007) were rewarded for their work based on mathematical empiricism rather than behavioural speculation. Amartya Sen (1998) was one of the few who broke this mould and won it in recognition of his work and abiding interest in welfare economics. A well-known economist explained that Sen won it for being a good person!

Every politician worth his salt knows the national mood and perceptions are decisive in determining national outcomes. People often don't make rational choices, something that marketers of diverse products like soap and automobiles, as well as political dreams, are fully aware. But economists took their time recognising this, and the Nobel Committee even longer.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

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Hathras is not another 'Nirbhaya', but another Surekha. The participation of caste Hindu women in the rape and lynching of a dalit woman and her children in Khairlanji (2006) shocks the human conscience. It did not shock the nation, however.

dalit woman and her children shocks the human conscience. It did not shock the nation, however.

It took more than a week's time for the news of the Khairlanji massacre to appear in print. Neither did any candlelight march take place, nor did the media give a thought to changing the victims' names the option of which is given to them by the law. And, to top it off, the brahminical media actually distorted the case by reporting that Surekha Bhotmange had had an extramarital affair with her cousin that thence "justified" the atrocity. But the media, police and politicians have operated according to the interests of the dominant castes. While "Nirbhaya" was considered by the media as an innocent young person and a "pure" victim,

Surekha was constructed as sexually impure by the same media.

Sexual purity/caste purity determines the value of a woman in brahminical society. Brahminical society constructs the brahmin and caste-Hindu women as sexually pure and aims to "protect"/control their sexual purity. Dalit women are constructed outside the normative of caste purity and sexual purity as the caste system sanctions the upper caste man's access to the dalit woman's sexuality, body and labour. Endemic caste-based sexual violence against dalit women is condoned and considered normal. Dalit women are casually exploited in agricultural fields and construction sites where they toil for their livelihoods. They are also raped, paraded naked and/or lynched by dominant castes when they want to teach a lesson to dalit caste groups for transgressing the caste order. Any act of transgression ranging from dalits inadvertently entering sacred spaces such as temples to fighting for a hike in wages leads to violence against dalits.

The police, politicians, judiciary and the media have so far protected the interests of dominant caste perpetrators in every case of caste atrocity.

LETTERS

SPY IN HAL

It is distressing and shocking to read the report that an employee of Hindustan Aeronautical Limited was arrested for allegedly spying for Pakistan's ISI and passing information on India's fighter jets. Mobile handsets and SIM cards have been seized from him. It is reported that the accused (Deepak Shirsat) had been in employment with HAL for over 10 years. It is a matter of concern and surprise as to how this act of the accused was not noticed by anyone in HAL, including the employees and his higher officials. This seems to be only a tip of the iceberg and a thorough investigation will bring out several secrets and more skeletons will fall out of the cupboard. Severe action should be taken against the accused.

M.C. Vijay Shankar, Chennai

LUCKY LALU

ALTHOUGH THE Jharkhand high court has granted bail to Lalu Prasad Yadav in the Chaibasa treasury case, the RJD chief has to remain in jail as he is undergoing imprisonment in another case relating to Dumka treasury. The jail term, however, has not made any material difference to Lalu's life. He has spent only two months, out of 35 months since his conviction in the fodder scam, in the Birsamunda jail in Ranchi. He has been in Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) for more than two years, the longest record of any patient in the medical college hospital. Now he has been shifted to RIMS director's bungalow for treatment. If Lalu can be treated in the director's bungalow, why can't he be treated in the jail hospital? Indeed, the criminals of Indian politics have a different set of rules.

P.G. Menon, Chennai

HC ON BRIBERY

THIS REFERS to the news report Why demand bribe for doing your duty, HC asks officials (Oct.10). The people, on the other side, are also responsible for encouraging the same since they want things done immediately and whether the application made is for a lawfully admissible claim. The possible main reason would be the adaption of business system in government offices with outdated legacies of the British rule and the enormous departmental code rules, most of them framed during the British regime with undue formalities which needs to be re-examined to frame them to present day needs. The banks are extending online services without even seeing the customers' faces and transact crores of rupees worldwide. But, we still follow making an application for any work to be done by the departments and wait indefinitely for its outcome, which is the root cause of corruption. A drastic change is required for an automatic process without need for the public to make several trips to the departments.

R. Murali Kumar, Chennai

Mail your letters to editor@deccanmail.com

Sowjanya Tamalapakula



Desexualise, don't deny caste rape

Dalits live like Jews in Holocaust Germany and Black slaves in pre-capitalist America. Yet, the world knows nothing about their pain!

Dalits live in this country without any respect and recognition of their right to life. Dalits don't have access to legal justice in the world's largest democracy since its inception.

From the first reported incident of caste violence in Independent India, the Kilvenmani massacre in Tamil Nadu in which 44 dalits were burnt alive by dominant caste landlords in 1968 for demanding a hike in wages to the Chunduru massacre of 13 dalits in 1991 in Andhra Pradesh and the Khairlanji atrocity (2006), dalits have been vainly hoping for change. The rape and murder of a dalit woman in Hathras is only the tip of the iceberg that endemic violence against dalits represents. From Khairlanji to Hathras, what dalits witnessed was manipulation of witnesses, a faulty prosecution to cover up crimes and distorted reportage by a brahminical media.

Caste is the most pertinent and compelling factor in understanding sexual violence in India. In December 2012, a young middle class educated woman, "Nirbhaya", was gang-raped,

tortured and murdered in the national capital of Delhi. The gruesome incident had shocked the nation. Nationwide protests erupted. Still, was the rape of "Nirbhaya" the first of its kind that took place in India? During the Nirbhaya protests, dalit scholars have repeatedly questioned the absence of a similar response from the general public against the Khairlanji atrocity.

A few years before "Nirbhaya", on December 5, 2006, a mob of dominant caste men and women attacked a dalit woman, Surekha Bhotmange, and her three children in the village Khairlanji, Maharashtra. Surekha Bhotmange had been fighting for her land rights against dominant castes. They had encroached on her small piece of agricultural land. Enraged by a dalit woman's assertiveness, dominant castes have dragged Surekha Bhotmange, her daughter and two sons out of their home, paraded them naked, raped them and lynched them. Burnt charcoals were inserted into the private parts of Surekha Bhotmange and her daughter, Priyanka. Their bodies were dumped on the outskirts of the village. The participation of caste Hindu women in the rape and lynching of a

SHORT TAKES

Bengaluru United face Garhwal FC

Kalyani: Having lost their respective opening games of the I-League Qualifiers 2020, FC Bengaluru United and Garhwal FC will look to get off the mark when they lock horns at the Kalyani Municipal Stadium here on Sunday. This is the first sporting event to be held in India post the seven-month long Covid-19-forced hiatus. On the eve of the match on Saturday, Bengaluru head coach Richard Hood sounded cautious, stating that he expects nothing less than a "hard battle" from the Delhi-based side.

"We have maintained right from the start that there are no favourites or underdogs in this tournament and Garhwal proved us right. They are a very well-drilled unit that has everyone on the pitch playing out a very clear game plan," said Hood.

Garhwal FC head coach Vikas Rawat was appreciative of the efforts put in by FC Bengaluru United to play an expansive style of football. However, he implied that his charges will have their own plans of putting the ball in the Bengaluru net. — PTI

Honda riders climb in France

Le Mans, France: Ever-changing conditions made for a demanding day in France with Honda riders Alex Marquez and Stefan Bradl adapting throughout the day and pleased with the work done in Free Practice 4. Alex Marquez was able to keep the pace and improved his lap time on multiple occasions throughout the first session to remain in top-ten contention. Unfortunately, the MotoGP rookie was the victim of a harmless crash at Turn 3, typical of the Le Mans circuit in the cold conditions. A red flag during Free Practice 4 added further disruption to the day, but Alex made a strong start to Q1 and saw himself in contention for a transfer spot. A 1'32.774 will see Alex lining up just behind fellow rookie Brad Binder with the Honda rider eyeing progress forward with so many riders showing a similar pace. The colder temperatures did not deter a refreshed Stefan Bradl who headed on track as soon as FP3 began and ended the session as the 11th fastest rider.

Sharma makes cut at BMW golf

Wentworth, UK: India's Shubhankar Sharma closed his second round with a birdie to comfortably make the cut and ensure weekend action at the BMW PGA Championship, the third Rolex Series event of the 2020 Race to Dubai.

Sharma, who had his season's best finish of tied 26 at the Scottish Open last week, looked solid despite back-to-back bogeys on fifth and sixth. He shot two-under 70 with five birdies against three bogeys after a first round of 1-over 73 on the first day, when he had four birdies against three bogeys and a double bogey.

Things, however, did not improve for Gaganjeet Bhullar (73-77) who missed his third cut in a row. Sharma birdied two of four Par-5s, but what must be concerning is that he bogeyed two Par-3 each day. Gavin Green shot 71 after a first round 67, and stayed on in the top 10 at the halfway stage. — PTI

Stadium collapses in South Sudan

Geneva: Part of a FIFA-funded stadium in South Sudan has collapsed during renovation work.

The world body said on Friday it was in contact with the South Sudan Football Association and seeking further information on a "minor incident" this week at Juba National Stadium in the country's capital.

Currently, we understand that there are no casualties or injuries that occurred as a result of the incident, FIFA said, adding it involved the setting of concrete.

The Juba National Stadium is South Sudan's only international-standard stadium and is being renovated using money from the FIFA Forward Program. FIFA gave \$5 million for the renovation. Work has been halted, although it might restart in weeks, youth and sports minister Dr. Albino Bol said. The renovation began last year and it is already behind schedule.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino pledged to fund the renovation during a visit to the conflict-torn country in 2016 and he was expected to attend its inauguration. — AP

SWEET SWIATEK

Polish teenager shines, wins French Open title

Paris, Oct. 10: With the poise of a veteran and the shots of a champion, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek picked the perfect place for her first tour-level title: The French Open.

Unseeded and ranked merely 54th, Swiatek grabbed the last six games to beat Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the final at Roland Garros on Saturday, becoming the first Polish tennis player to win a Grand Slam singles trophy.

When she smacked one last forehand winner to the corner to end things, Swiatek placed her right hand over her mouth then crouched, shaking her head.

"It's crazy. Two years ago, I won a junior Grand Slam, and right now I'm here. It feels like such a short time. I'm just overwhelmed," Swiatek said, her voice cracking.

Hard to believe? Maybe. This was, after all, only her seventh major tournament; she'd never been past the fourth round.

But the way she played these two weeks made this outcome less of a surprise. Swiatek is the first woman to triumph in Paris without ceding a set since Justine Henin in 2007. She lost only 28 games across seven matches, too. She is the first teen to win the women's title at the French Open since Iva Majoli in 1997.

And Swiatek did it with victories over such opponents as 2018 champion Simona Halep and 2019 runner-up Marketa Vondrousova, both by scores of 6-1, 6-2.

So it made sense that Swiatek would be able to get past Kenin, a 21-year-old American who was trying to claim her second major title of 2020 after winning the Australian Open in February.

Kenin was 16-1 in Grand Slam matches until Saturday. But she dealt with a leg issue in the second set and showed frustration by kicking her red-white-and-blue racket after lost points.

And then there was this: She ran into the composed Swiatek, who only recently completed her high school studies, listens to Welcome to the Jungle by Guns N' Roses before walking on court, travels with a sports psychologist and meditates during changeovers, breathing slowly with her eyes closed.

"I was just mentally consistent. I felt like today was really stressful for me, so it was kind of hard. This weekend is the culmination of an unusual two weeks, to say the least," Swiatek further added. — AP

It's crazy. Two years ago, I won a junior Grand Slam, and right now I'm here. It feels like such a short time. I'm just overwhelmed.

— IGA SWIATEK after clinching French Cup trophy



Poland's Iga Swiatek kisses the trophy after beating Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the women's singles final of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on Saturday. — AP

Djoker does it again, in final

Paris, Oct. 10: Novak Djokovic set up a blockbuster French Open title showdown with Rafael Nadal after a dramatic five-set semifinal victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas, but insisted Sunday's eagerly-awaited championship duel will "not be the biggest match of my life."

World No.1 Djokovic, the 2016 champion at Roland Garros, reached his fifth final in Paris, defeating Greek fifth seed Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 in a roller-coaster of a contest where he had held a match point in the third set.

On Sunday, Djokovic can win an 18th major and become the first man in half a century to win all four Slams twice.

Nadal, the World No.2, can equal Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam title wins.

Djokovic is one of only two men to have defeated Nadal at Roland Garros in 15 years.

"This is the house of Rafa," said Djokovic ahead of the pair's 56th career clash and his 27th appearance in a Slam final.

"I will have the motivation to win. I beat him in the quarterfinals in 2015 but this will be the biggest challenge — playing Nadal on clay," he added.

However, the Serb insisted that he has played far more significant finals



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after beating Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 in the men's singles semifinal match of French Open tournament in Paris on Friday. — AFP

and pointed to his first win over Nadal at a Slam at Wimbledon in 2011.

Djokovic also put his 2016 Paris final win over Andy Murray, which allowed him to celebrate a career Grand Slam, above Sunday's latest instalment of his Nadal rivalry. "Every French Open

able two-set lead.

Tsitsipas had seen 10 break points come and go and his first Roland Garros semifinal looked to be heading for an early finish until he staged a stunning comeback.

In the 10th game of the third set, Djokovic was unable to convert a match point. He then picked up a time violation and the Greek exploited the top seed's sudden unease to claim the third set.

Djokovic squandered a huge 10 break points in the fourth set as Tsitsipas, who had also been two sets down in his opening match against Jaume Munar, levelled the tie.

However, Tsitsipas, feeling a thigh injury picked up in Rome, faded away in the decider, dropping serve twice to hand Djokovic a 4-1 lead.

He saved another match point but was powerless on the third as Djokovic fired a clean winner. For 34-year-old Nadal, his win over Schwartzman was his 99th at Roland Garros.

He is into his 28th final at the majors and has not dropped a set in the tournament this year.

Nadal has a 6-1 career edge of Djokovic at Roland Garros although their last meeting was in 2015 when Djokovic won in straight sets in the quarterfinals. — AFP

Heat hit back to lay Lakers low

Orlando, Oct. 10: Jimmy Butler's triple-double propelled Miami to a 111-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday that kept the Heat alive in the NBA Finals.

Butler scored 35 points with 12 rebounds and 11 assists and the Heat withstood a 40-point performance from Lakers superstar LeBron James to deny Los Angeles a title-clinch win in the NBA's quarantine bubble at Orlando.

The Lakers still lead the best-of-seven series three games to two and can secure the title with a game-six victory on Sunday.

"We just played hard," said Butler, who has insisted the Heat can become just the second NBA team to rally from a 3-1 deficit to win the championship series.

Butler drained two free throws with 16.8 seconds left to put Miami up by one.

The Lakers' Danny Green missed a three-pointer and Tyler Herro added two more free throws for Miami before James's last-gasp heave at the buzzer came up well short.

On a night that saw the Heat lead much of the way,

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's three-pointer with 6:18 remaining put the Lakers up 97-96 — their first lead since the first quarter.

But the Heat dug in, Duncan Robinson's three-pointer putting Miami back up, 101-99 with 3:16 remaining, and it was a heavyweight slugfest the rest of the way, the lead changing hands seven more times.

Duncan Robinson added 26 points for Miami. Kendrick Nunn had 14, Bam Adebayo 13, Herro 12 and Jae Crowder 11.

James added 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers.

Anthony Davis added 28 points and Caldwell-Pope scored 16.

The Lakers got an early injury scare when Davis, battling Andre Iguodala for a rebound late in the first quarter, took an awkward hop and limped off the court.

The Lakers, trailing 25-24 through one quarter, said Davis had aggravated a right heel contusion. He stayed on the sideline, testing the injury as the game continued and returning in the second quarter. — AFP

JAMES URGES LAKERS TO STAY 'EVEN-KEELED'

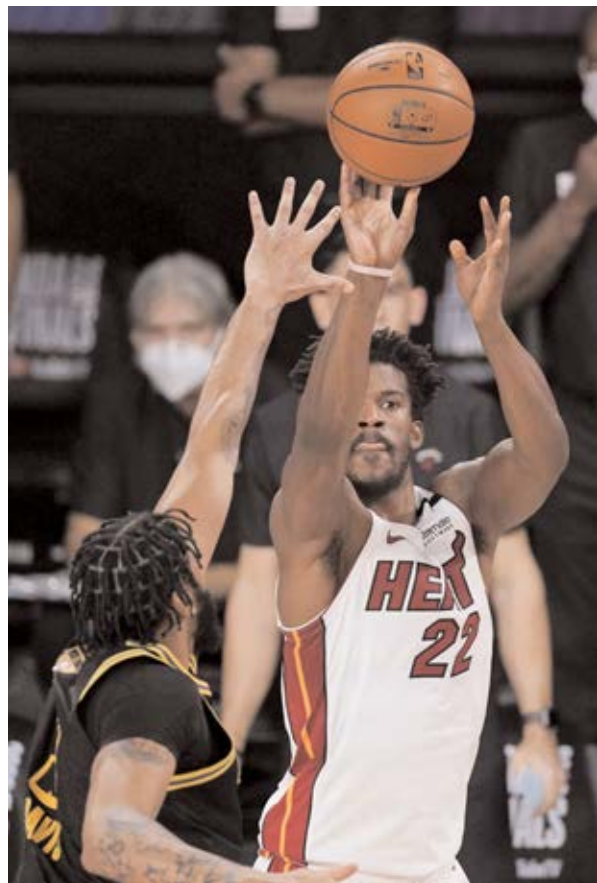
Orlando, Oct. 10: "King" James and the Los Angeles Lakers were ready for their coronation, but Jimmy Butler and the Miami Heat had other ideas.

Now, Lakers superstar LeBron James says, the key to closing out the Heat for a first NBA title in a decade on Sunday will be focusing not on lifting the trophy but on winning a single game.

"Listen, at the end of the day, you don't predetermine anything and you take the game as it's going and you play," said James.

"You play each quarter, you play each possession and you live with the results," he said.

"You don't think about what could happen at the end of the game and things of that nature. You don't get caught up in the aftermath. You have to live in the moment and prepare yourself each and every possession, because if you start to wander and your mind starts to go, you make a mistake," James added. — AFP



Jimmy Butler (right) of Miami Heat shoots over Anthony Davis of Los Angeles Lakers during their first half in Game 5 of NBA Finals in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, on Friday. Heat won 111-108. — AP

Firmino nets brace as Brazil bulldoze Bolivia

Sao Paulo (Brazil), Oct. 10: Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino scored a brace as Brazil romped to a 5-0 victory over Bolivia in their opening 2022 World Cup qualifier on Friday.

Barcelona playmaker Philippe Coutinho and Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos also got on the scoresheet while star forward Neymar set up two goals in a totally one-sided encounter that sent Brazil top of the South American qualifying table. On 65 minutes, a cross from Coutinho flew into the net off the unlucky Jose Carrasco's chest.

In a Corinthians Arena deserted due to Covid-19 restrictions, Bolivia showed almost no ambition as Brazil dominated throughout, with PSG's



Roberto Firmino of Brazil in action during a FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualifying match at the Neo Quimica arena in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Friday. — AP

Neymar starting after overcoming a back problem.

Inside the first minute, winger Everton volleyed wide from inside the six-yard box and three minutes later his cross was headed off-target by

Marquinhos from a similar position.

Meanwhile, in the night's other match, Atlanta pair Duvan Zapata and Luis Muriel fired Colombia to a 3-0 win over Venezuela. — AFP

Bottas barges to Eifel pole

Nurburgring (Germany), Oct. 10: Valtteri Bottas topped the times ahead of championship leader and Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton in Saturday morning's belated and sole practice session ahead of Sunday's Eifel Grand Prix.

The Finn maintained the momentum from his victory in Russia two weeks ago as he clocked a best lap in one minute and 26.225 seconds to outpace the six-time champion by a tenth of a second.

After both Friday sessions were cancelled due to fog and rain that prevented the use of the circuit medical helicopter, there was relief when on-track action began albeit with the notable absence of Racing Point's Lance Stroll, due to an unspecified illness.

The team confirmed that Stroll was unwell and unable to take part, adding that a decision on their plans for qualifying later Saturday would be



Mercedes Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas drives during the third practice session at the Nuerburg circuit in Nuerburg, western Germany, on Saturday ahead of the German Formula One Eifel Grand Prix. — AFP

reviewed after practice.

It was not made clear if Stroll had tested positive for Covid-19.

His teammate Sergio Perez was quarantined for two weeks after returning from Mexico and testing positive for the coronavirus ahead of the British

Grand Prix in July.

German driver Nico Hulkenberg, who was drafted in at short notice to substitute for Perez at Silverstone, arrived during the session and, subject to passing a Covid-19 test, was clearly set to replace Stroll if required.

The Mercedes team were hit this week by two positive test results in their travelling race team, resulting in six of the team going into isolation. Six replacement staff were flown to Germany to replace them on Thursday.

Conditions at the Nurburgring remained cool with an air temperature of only eight degrees and a track temperature of 14 as the teams began a major 'catch up' process on F1's first return to the track since 2013.

Both Mercedes cars were fitted with new engines for a session in which the teams concentrated on gathering data in the difficult conditions, working specifically on tyre performance. Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third fastest, as the Italian team showed improved form in the cold weather, with Max Verstappen fourth for Red Bull and Sebastian Vettel fifth. — AFP

SHORT TAKES

No reduced Aussie isolation for India?

Sydney: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly's request for a shorter than mandated quarantine period for the Indian team in Brisbane, ahead of its tour of Australia, is likely to be rejected, said a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the rules of the game, which restarted with the Test series between England and the West Indies in July. Players have to be in quarantine for two weeks and be tested for the virus before they can take the field. "Queensland health officials are set to make cricket's most powerful nation adhere to strict national protocols, details of which have delayed Cricket Australia announcing a revised schedule for its \$300 million summer," the daily wrote in its report. India is keen on a reduced quarantine and wants the players to be allowed to train in a bio-secure bubble instead of being restricted to a hotel room, which, the BCCI fears, can take a toll on the fitness of its players. The report added that the BCCI has filed an application, requesting that an extended squad, coaches and support staff land in Brisbane days after the final of the Indian Premier League, which is under consideration. — *PTI*

Lynch reveals racial abuse

London: Monte Lynch, a former England cricketer, has revealed he was racially abused by fellow players and spectators during his time in county cricket. Lynch thus becomes the latest player to talk about racial abuse in the game, weeks after Azeem Rafiq suggested Yorkshire, as a cricket club, was "institutionally racist". "Racist notes were slipped under my hotel (room) door," Lynch said in an interview with *The Cricketer* magazine. "My coffin (sic) was filled with orange juice and milk. There were lots of issues. At Headingley, when I played the ODI, three Yorkshiremen walked past and said: 'We are going to give you black **** a good ***** hiding tomorrow.' "We were often called 'chocs' and referred to as 'you lot'." Lynch, who was born in Guyana but moved to London as a 13-year-old, had a long county career with Surrey and then Gloucestershire. He also played three ODIs for England in 1988 and has been involved in coaching since his retirement as a player. His comments are the latest in a series of similar revelations that have rocked English cricket this year. — *PTI*

Ex-Ranji player Suresh hangs self

Alappuzha: A former Ranji trophy player, M. Suresh Kumar was found dead in his house on Friday night, police said. Police said Kumar (47) was found hanging in his bedroom at his residence near here. "It was his son who found the cricketer hanging in his bedroom and informed us around 7.15 PM. Prima facie it is a suicide, but we are looking further into the matter," police said.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals from 3.30 pm; Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

French Open men's singles final: Novak Djokovic vs Rafael Nadal from 3 pm on Star Sports 2, 3, Select 2

FORMULA ONE

Elifel Grand Prix: Main race from 5.35 pm on Star Sports 3

FOOTBALL

UEFA Nations League: Ireland vs Wales from 6.30 pm; England vs Belgium from 9.30 pm; France vs Portugal from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Croatia vs Sweden from 9.30 pm; Poland vs Italy from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Six, HD

BASKETBALL

NBA Finals (Game 6 of best-of-7): Los Angeles Lakers vs Miami Heat from 5 am (Monday) on Sony Six

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Knightmare for Kings

Punjab choke again to hand KKR a two-run win

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: Rahul Tripathi b Shami 4, Shubman Gill run out 57, Nitish Rana run out 2, Eoin Morgan c Maxwell b Ravi Bishnoi 24, Dinesh Karthik run out 58, Andre Russell c Simran Singh b Arshdeep Singh 5, Pat Cummins (not out) 5. **Extras:** (b-1, lb-2, w-6) 9. **Total:** (for 6 wkts, in 20 Overs) 164. **FoW:** 12-1, 14-2, 63-3, 145-4, 150-5, 164-6. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 4-0-30-1, Arshdeep Singh 4-1-25-1, Chris Jordan 4-0-37-0, Muejeb Ur Rahman 4-0-44-0, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-25-1.

Kings XI Punjab: K.L. Rahul b Prasidh 74, M. Agarwal c Gill b Prasidh 56, N. Pooran b Narine 16, P.S. Singh c Rana b Prasidh 4, G Maxwell (not out) 10, M Singh c (sub) Green b Narine 0, C Jordan (not out) 0. **Extras:** (lb-2) 2. **Total:** (for 5 wkts, 20 Overs) 162. **FoW:** 1-115, 2-144, 3-149, 4-151, 5-158. **Bowling:** Cummins 4-0-29-0, Krishna 4-0-29-3, Nagarkoti 3-0-40-0, Chakravarthy 4-0-27-0, Narine 4-0-28-2, Rana 1-0-7-0.

play with Pat Cummins bowling three of the first six overs.

Rahul was dropped by Andre Russell off the bowling of Prasidh Krishna in the second over when he was on two. Russell hurt himself while fielding after a few overs but returned in the 11th over only to leave the field again in the 13th over.

KKR were 76 for no loss at the halfway mark and the duo kept on getting the ones and twos without much trouble with the KKR suddenly finding a death over bowler less without Russell. — *PTI*



Prasidh Krishna (left) of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates the wicket of Mayank Agarwal of Kings XI Punjab during their Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

— *BCCI*

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	6	5	1	0	10	+1.267
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	4	2	0	8	+0.017
Royal Challengers Bangalore	6	4	2	0	8	-0.820
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	+0.232
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	0	4	-0.588
Rajasthan Royals	6	2	4	0	4	-1.073
Kings XI Punjab	7	1	6	0	2	-0.381

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

WE LET DELHI OFF THE HOOK, SAYS SMITH

Sharjah, Oct. 10: Rajasthan Royals skipper Steve Smith said they let Delhi Capitals off the hook by conceding an extra 15-20 runs in their Indian Premier League match on a slow Sharjah pitch.

Delhi posted 184 for eight, the lowest first innings total at the ground this season on Friday.

"I think the wicket did slow down a bit, probably it was not that good as it was in our first two games, but having said that, we probably let them off the hook in the first innings, we probably let them get 10-15 too many," Smith said.

Delhi Capitals' Harshal Patel agreed with the Australian run-machine at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Smith added, "During the chase, we lost wickets again, I got out, we just kept on losing wickets at regular intervals, and chasing 180 odd on a wicket that has slowed up is not easy." — *PTI*

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 11
● Hyderabad: 6
● Rajasthan: 5

MEETING IN 2019

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Rajasthan Royals by 5 wickets in Hyderabad.

● Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 7 wickets in Jaipur.

FOR THE RECORD

● David Warner, who scored 4,933 runs at an average of 42.89 in 132 innings of as many matches, needs 67 runs to become fourth batsman to score over 5,000 runs in IPL.

● Steven Smith, who hit 98 sixes in 174 innings of 198 matches, needs two more sixes to complete a century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

look to stage a comeback.

The top guns — Jos Buttler, Smith and Sanju Samson — will again need to live up to the expectations by contributing in a big way. — *PTI*

Kohli-ty win for Bangalore

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Devdutt Padikkal c du Plessis b Thakur 33, Aaron Finch b Chahar 2, Virat Kohli (not out) 90, AB de Villiers c Dhoni b Thakur 0, Washington Sundar c Dhoni b Curran 10, Shivam Dube (not out) 22. **Extras:** (lb-1 w-10 nb-1) 12. **Total:** (for 4 wkts, in 20 overs) 169.

FoW: 1-13, 2-66, 3-67, 4-93. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 3-0-10-1, Sam Curran 4-0-48-1, Shardul Thakur 4-0-40-2, Dwayne Bravo 3-0-29-0, Karn Sharma 4-0-34-0, Ravindra Jadeja 2-0-7-0.

Chennai Super Kings: S. Watson b Washington Sundar 14, Faf du Plessis c Morris b Washington Sundar 8, A. Rayudu b Udana 42, N. Jagadeesan run out (Morris) 33, M.S. Dhoni (c) 'c Gurkeerat Singh b Chahal 10, S. Curran c 'de Villiers b Morris 0, RA Jadeja c Gurkeerat Singh b Morris 7, D.J. Bravo c Padikkal b Morris 7, D. Chahar (not out) 5, S. Thakur (not out) 1. **Extras:** (w 5) 5. **Total:** (for 8 wkts, in 20 overs) 132.

FoW: 1-19, 2-25, 3-89, 4-106, 5-107, 6-113, 7-122, 8-126

Bowling: C. Morris 4-0-19-3, N. Saini 4-0-18-0, I. Udana 4-0-30-1, Washington Sundar 3-0-16-2, Y. Chahal 4-0-35-1, S. Dube 1-0-14-0.

over, led from the front with a majestic 52-ball knock that was the finest blend of skill and peak fitness. His innings had four fours and as many sixes but in searing Dubai humidity, ran four twos in the final over, a testament to the hours put in rigorous physical training.

The RCB captain was involved in two half-century partnerships — one with opener Devdutt Padikkal (33 off 33 balls) and Shivam Dube (22 off 14 balls) for the fifth wicket, an unbeaten 76-run stand, which powered the total. — *PTI*

Mumbai, Delhi in crunch clash

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 24
● Delhi: 12
● Mumbai: 12

MEETING IN 2019

● Delhi Capitals beat Mumbai Indians by 37 runs in Mumbai.
● Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 40 runs in Delhi.

FOR THE RECORD

● Rishabh Pant, who has smashed 99 sixes in 60 innings, needs just one more to become the 20th batsman to complete a century of sixes in the IPL.

● Quinton de Kock, who has dismissed 27 batsmen behind the wickets in 22 innings, needs one more to equal Parthiv Patel's record (28 in 40 innings) for Mumbai Indians in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

batsman with their pace and accuracy. The good news for Capitals is Shimron Hetmyer getting his touch back with the innings against Rajasthan Royals on Friday. He seemed to be the only weak link in Capitals' ranks but his six-laden knock against Royals has removed that worry. — *PTI*

Royals bank on Ben's return

Dubai, Oct. 10 Bruised and battered after a string of defeats, Rajasthan Royals will hope the presence of Ben Stokes gets the adrenaline flowing as they seek a revival of fortunes after a charged-up Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League on Sunday.

Rajasthan are struggling at the penultimate spot on the points table after two wins and four straight defeats, while Sunrisers have won three out of their six games so far and occupy the fifth position.

The Royals will be relieved to have the services of Stokes who completes his mandatory quarantine on Saturday. His absence has severely impacted the team's campaign, as the inaugural season champions struggled to figure out their best combination.

Stokes had taken compassionate leave in the middle of England's home Test series against Pakistan in August and travelled to New Zealand to attend to his father who had been diagnosed with brain cancer.



Ben Stokes

It was Stokes' father who reminded the star all-rounder of his duty towards his job and that night he was playing in the 29-year-old's mind.

It is to be seen whether the World Cup winner, who has been out of action for some time now, is afforded the luxury of some practice or is played

straight up.

"Stokes hasn't had a lot of practice, he gets out of quarantine tomorrow, so we'll see if he plays the day after tomorrow," skipper Steve Smith had said after the match against Delhi Capitals.

Rajasthan, having lost to Delhi Capitals by a big margin of 46 runs, will

IPL's mid-season transfer rule can bring twist in the tale



Ayaz Memon
Over The Top

The IPL's mid-season transfer rule — which comes into effect from October 13 — not only adds an interesting dimension to the league but could well end up influencing the outcome of matches. Perhaps even which team wins the title this year!

For instance, imagine Ajinkya Rahane, who is struggling to find a place in Delhi's strong batting line-up, moving to Chennai Super Kings, who have been desperate for stability and runs in the middle order. Or indeed, going

back to Rajasthan Royals who also have a fragile middle order.

A marquee name like Rahane, with a proven record could substantially alter CSK's or RR's progress in the tournament. There are several established names — along with others of good experience and newbies — eligible for such transfer. But first let's put the backdrop to what the scope and ambit of this rule is.

This is not the first time the mid-season transfer window comes into effect. In 2019 too, the rule exist-

ed, but with an important difference: where last year, only uncapped players could be transferred, in IPL2020, even capped players have been made eligible.

The previous year, where franchises had shown little or no interest in the mid-season transfers, this time there is expected to be a fair amount of movement. In fact, some franchises had planned for the rule to kick in and make their decisions accordingly.

For instance, before IPL2020 began, Mike Hesson, Director of Cricket Operations with Royal Challengers Bangalore, had talked about this in a press conference conducted virtually.

"We've got a small squad and we've done that for a reason. If something was

to occur, we'd certainly look at that," Hesson had said.

Managements of other franchises may not have been as vocal, but all have been seized of the possibilities that the mid-season transfer offers and have been working on how to gain from this as one gathered from some sources.

One can assume that injuries to players would not be the sole determinant in choosing or discarding players' mid-season. Form would be equally important, as well as finding the right team combination, though injury replacement could be the excuse.

One other factor which has willy-nilly come into play is that the tournament had to be shifted to the UAE because of the Covid pandemic, while

franchises chose their squads based on playing in Indian conditions. Some tweaking of personnel may become imperative.

The mid-season transfer is not a simple exchange of players between franchise but governed by a set of conditions that constitute the rule. Briefly, these are as under:

1) The transfer season comes into effect only after the half-way mark in the league phase when all franchises have played seven games each i.e. from October 12.

2) Both capped and uncapped, domestic and overseas players are eligible this year for this transfer.

3) The player to be transferred should not have participated in more than two matches.

4) Transfer will take

place with mutual consent between franchises and would be binding on the player.

5) Price for the player under transfer can't be lower than what he was sold for in the pre-season auction.

As is to be expected, there is a great deal of speculation and conjecture about how the mid-season transfer will unravel this year. Inquiries with franchise managements have been met with tight-lipped response.

Understandably, cards are being held close to the chest. But it seems inevitable that some big ticket transfers will happen, more so given the topsy-turvy nature of IPL2020 so far.

Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians are frontrunners so far in the