

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | WEDNESDAY 14 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 31°C
Min: 23°C
Rainfall: 2 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Purattasi 28
Tithi: Dwadashi/ Thrayodashi

Star: Puram
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm
Yamagandam: 7.30 am to 9 am

PRAYERS

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

3 dead, 7 injured in explosion in Aligarh

Aligarh (UP): Three people died and seven more sustained injuries in an explosion apparently caused by a gas cylinder at a building in the city's Delhi Gate area on Tuesday, police said here. While two people died on the spot, one person succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment, they added.

COUNTER

POINT



Keep an eye on him... he is wearing a saffron colour mask these days!



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Lifting Dhoni, team's morale with a house in CSK's yellow



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Kushboo returns to a rousing welcome

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Gayle hints at playing against RCB



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Former J&K CM

Mehbooba released from detention

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 13

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader, Mehbooba Mufti, was late Tuesday evening released from detention, more than fourteen months after she along with hundreds of politicians and other activists were taken into prevention custody ahead of the Centre's abrogating Article 370 and splitting the state up into two Union Territories on August 5 last year.

Many of these leaders and activists including the PDP president were subsequently formally detained under J&K's stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

CONDOLENCES POUR IN

CM's mother Thavasai passes away in Salem

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 13:

Condolences poured in from all over the State and outside to Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, who lost his mother, Thavasai Ammal, in the small hours of Tuesday.

Thavasai Ammal, who passed away at Salem at the age of 93 after a brief illness, is survived by two sons, Govindaraj and Palaniswami and a daughter, Vijayalakshmi. Hailing from a humble family of agriculturists, she led a simple life even after one of her sons became an MLA, then Minister and finally Chief Minister.

Announcing her demise, an official press release said that the among those who spoke to the Chief Minister personally over telephone were



Thavasai Ammal

Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Deputy Chief Minister O Pannerseivam, DMK President M K Stalin and general secretary Durai Murugan, MDMK general secretary Vaiko, PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss and youth wing leader Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, MDMK general Secretary Vaiko and film actor Rajinikanth. ■ **P3**

Economy to bounce back in 2021: IMF

INDIA GDP MAY SHRINK 10.5% IN 2020

Washington, Oct. 13: The Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic, is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday. However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said in its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report.

Released ahead of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the report said global growth would contract by 4.4 per cent this year and bounce back to 5.2 per cent in 2021. America's economy is projected to contract by 5.8 per

● **In the report, the World bank said the spread of the virus and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India**

cent in 2020 and grow by 3.9 per cent the next year, the IMF said. China is the only country, among the major economies, to show a positive growth rate of 1.9 per cent in 2020, it said.

The IMF, in its report, said that revisions to the forecast are particularly large for India, where Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted much more severely than expected in the second quarter. "As a result, the economy is projected to contract by 10.3 per cent in 2020, before rebound-

ing by 8.8 per cent in 2021," it said.

In 2019, India's growth rate was 4.2 per cent. According to the IMF, India is among those likely to suffer the greatest damage from global warming, reflecting its initially high temperatures. For India, the net gains from climate change mitigation-relative to inaction-would be up to 60-80 per cent of GDP by 2100.

While estimates of losses from climate change are somewhat smaller for colder regions (for example, Europe, North America, and east Asia), these are likely underestimations as they do not include a number of damages (for example, rise in sea levels, natural disasters, damage to infrastructure from thawing of permafrost in Russia) and negative global

spillovers from large economic disruptions in other parts of the world.

Last week, the World bank said India's GDP this fiscal is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent. "India's GDP is expected to contract 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year that started in March," the World Bank said in its latest issue of the South Asia Economic Focus report.

"The situation is much worse in India than we have ever seen before," Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia, told reporters during a conference call last week. "It is an exceptional situation in India. A very dire outlook," he said. There was a 25 per cent decline in GDP in the second quarter of the year, which is the first quarter of the current fiscal year in India. —PTI

LAC: India, China to pursue dialogue

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

India and China, during the 7th round of Corps Commanders level meeting on Monday, agreed not to turn differences into disputes and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

A joint press release stated that both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement as early as possible.

"The two sides had a sincere, in-depth and constructive exchange of

views on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas. They were of the view that these discussions were positive, constructive and had enhanced understanding of each other's positions," said the joint press release issued on

Tuesday.

Meanwhile Beijing objected to defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday virtually inaugurating 44 major permanent bridges in the border areas including 10 strategic bridges in Jammu and Kashmir and eight in Ladakh. ■ **Turn to P4**

GANGRAPE AND MURDER CASE

CBI team meets family members of Hathras victim

New Delhi/Hathras, Oct 13: A CBI team on Tuesday met the family members of the 19-year old Dalit victim in the gangrape and murder case in Bulgarhi village in Hathras and examined the crime scene, officials said.

The team, which reached the crime scene on Tuesday morning after registering the FIR two days back, took the brother of the victim to record his statement, they said. The victim had died a fortnight after an alleged brutal assault, including gangrape, by four men of the village on September 14.

When the brother was being taken away by the team, speculation about his arrest started doing rounds, but CBI Spokesperson RK Gaur said that "no arrest has been made".

The CBI investigators spoke to the family members at their residence in detail about the sequence of events on the day of the crime, they said. The officials directed the local police to cordon off the crime scene, which was virtually a thoroughfare for nearly 29 days since the incident.

The CBI investigators were joined by forensic



CBI officials arrive to investigate the case of a 19-year-old Dalit woman who died after being allegedly gang-raped, in Hathras, on Tuesday.

— PTI

experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) to carry out a detailed crime scene analysis, they said.

The woman had succumbed to her injuries at a Delhi hospital on September 29, following which the District Magistrate ordered cremation in the village in the dead of the night allegedly against the wishes

of her family. The case was referred to the CBI by the state government after a political storm over the alleged apathy of the administration.

The Congress, Aam Admi Party, Trinamool Congress and other opposition parties of the state, including the Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal, staged protests demanding justice

for the victim.

The officer concerned of the Uttar Pradesh police had registered a case of attempt to murder on a statement by the brother of the victim who, as per the FIR at Chandpa police station, had said that the accused tried to strangle his sister in a millet field and escaped when she raised an alarm. —PTI

SC to hear batch of pleas on loan moratorium today

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would hear a batch of petitions tomorrow which have raised issues concerning the six-month loan moratorium period announced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pleas came up for hearing before a bench, comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, RS Reddy and MR Shah, which said it would hear the matter on Wednesday.

The top court is hearing the petitions, 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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) filed an affidavit in the apex court recently saying that 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. —PTI

COVID-19 SCARE

No public gathering around Dasara jumbos this year

M B GIRISH | DC MYSURU, OCT.13

Mysuru Dasara is all set to lose its pomp this year. Thanks to Covid-19, which is witnessing a spike in entire Karnataka, as Dasara festival, which coincides with Navaratri is all set to witness a low key celebration.

However, the State government is in a fix over Dasara crowd maintenance. On one hand, the state government itself is promoting tourism in the State. Dasara being one of the biggest tourism attraction in Karnataka, is also likely to attract large local crowd. Since social distancing is difficult in such crowds, the government is worried about spike in Covid-19 in Mysuru, which has already witnessed two such bouts.

There have been multiple level high level meetings

● **The elephants participating in Mysuru Dasara festivities have come under constant observation by both CCTV surveillance and a security person deployed to keep an eye on the public, if any, from getting to the elephants**

in the government, which was chaired by Chief Minister Mr B S Yeddyurappa and Chief Secretary. The royal family members of Mysuru also have been consulted over holding a low key Dasara, as the function is held in the Mysuru Palace premises.

Apart from the crowd, the district administration is also forced to initiate protective measures for elephants, that are going to

be used during Dasara procession. Unlike previous years, people are not allowed to get close to Dasara elephants and click photographs from close quarters. The elephants participating in Mysuru Dasara festivities have come under constant observation by both CCTV surveillance and a security person deployed to keep an eye on the public, if any, from getting to the elephants.

As a precautionary measure, entry of visitors to have a glimpse of dasara elephants has been barred from visiting the place. "Since, elephants are under surveillance, if any one advances to get close to the jumbos, then, the staff will be alerted to prevent them", said Veterinarian Nagaraj who has been supervising the health of Dasara jumbos for about 20 years.

CSK beat Sunrisers by 20 runs



An all-round performance by Chennai Super Kings helped them return to winning ways as they beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 20 runs in an IPL game in Dubai on Tuesday. ■ **Report on P8**

— BCCI

Trump campaign to focus on Kamala Harris

Sacramento, (California) , Oct . 13: Grasping for a comeback, President Donald Trump and his Republican allies are intensifying their focus not on Democratic nominee Joe Biden, but on his running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris — arguing without evidence that it's Harris, the first Black woman on a major party ticket, who would really be in charge if Democrats win the White House.

The effort is laced with sexist and racist undertones, and one that is aimed at winning back Republicans and independents who are comfortable with Biden's more moderate record, but may associate Harris with Democrats' left flank, despite her own more centrist positions on some



Donald Trump



Kamala Harris

major issues.

During the past week, Trump told Sean Hannity of Fox News that Harris would assume the presidency within "three months" of Biden's inauguration. During a conversation with Rush Limbaugh, he warned that House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi would "replace" Biden with Harris. And the president called her a "monster" during an interview with Maria Bartiromo of Fox Business.

Trump's focus on Harris is building as he tries to regain an advantage against Biden, who is leading most

national and battleground state polls three weeks before the election. Trump has long sowed doubt about Biden's fitness for the job, but is especially eager to shift attention after contracting the novel coronavirus and confronting his own health scare.

At his first campaign rally since being hospitalized for the virus, Trump told a Florida crowd on Monday that Biden has "a lot of bad days coming."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Trump ally, is pushing the president to make Harris a campaign centerpiece.

"If voters understand the totality of her radicalism, they would conclude that she would be a very high-risk person to put in the White House," Gingrich

said.

He went on to call Biden "docile" and Harris "aggressive." The sexism and racism associated with such language, including Trump's reference to Harris as a "monster," are aimed at Trump's most loyal supporters.

"It is really an effort to say to their base, 'Look, we don't want a Black woman to be president,'" said Rep. Marcia Fudge, D-Ohio, a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. "'We don't want this Black person to take over in case something happens to Joe Biden.'"

Fudge said efforts to brand Harris as radical don't align with her record, particularly on law enforcement. Harris and Fudge are both former prosecutors. —AP

SHORT TAKES

'Edicts of Ashoka' to premiere today

Chennai: The first set of Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna's much awaited The Edict Project will premiere, in musical form at 6 pm, on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram (@tmkrishna) on October 14, which is the day on which Babasaheb Ambedkar had embraced Buddhism. (@ 6 PM IST). In introducing the project Krishna said, "We live in times when empathy and justice seem to be slipping away. I do hope that by rediscovering Ashoka's words we can all find compassion within."

Capturing the essence of the Kalinga King Ashoka's journey, Krishna explained, "After the violent annexing of Kalinga, King Ashoka (268 BCE to 232 BCE) underwent a transformation and dharma became the pivot of his royal policy and personal belief. He disseminated these ideas through a novel medium: a series of inscriptions incised on natural rock-faces and on pillars cut: The Edicts of Ashoka."

"Ashoka's edicts are simple, brief, personal, and yet are profound, abiding and universal. In this project they are sung in the original Magadhi Prakrit, in a garland of ragas drawn from the Karnatik Tradition, with their meaning given in English subtitles. They now carry the philosopher-emperor's vision of a humane society into the realm of the arts. This is probably the first time the edicts are being rendered in song," he said.

Textile institute invites dip course applications

Chennai: Institute of Textile Technology, Taramani, has invited fresh applications for diploma course in government textile technology. Interested candidates, who have completed 10 standard, are requested to apply for the course. The first phase counselling of the seats completed through online recently. The second phase of counselling is set to commence shortly. The principal of the institute Amaravathi has invited fresh application for the diploma course and the last date for submitting application is October 15

Pondy Covid, toll rises to 567

Puducherry: wo more people, including a 60 year old woman, died of coronavirus on Tuesday, raising the toll to 567 in the union territory. Health Minister Malladi Krishna Rao told a virtual press meet that 268 new cases were registered at the end of testing of 4,249 samples during the last 24 hours, pushing the overall tally to 32,004.

He said 4,572 patients were active while 26,865 patients recovered and discharged so far. The Minister said that 310 patients were discharged during last 24 hours. *PTI*

Smart choice

DC IMPACT



The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has replaced the damaged concrete door of a stormwater drain with a concrete slab, creating more inconvenience to the travellers. The cover on the manhole in 155th ward of Rayalanagar 4th Cross Street near Ramapuram in Valasaravakkam zone was lying broken for more than a week. It was replaced after DC car-

ried a report on it on Sunday. V. Kishore, president, Rayalanagar Residents Association, said the new concrete slab has become an inconvenience as it is in the turning of the road. Since the road is being used by lot of passengers, especially bike riders, the chance of accident is very high. So the authorities should lay a concrete door having the height of the

road. Currently, the slab is a few inches higher than the road and is simply laid on the top of the damaged door', he said. A corporation official, meanwhile, said that the door can't be put in the same place as it damaged completely. "We understand the height problem of the slab and road. So we have decided to bridge gap by tarring the road next week," the official added.

Drugs worth ₹30L headed to Oz seized; 4 arrested

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 13

The customs officials in Chennai busted a gang involved in smuggling narcotic substances to Australia via air. The officials seized pseudoephedrine drugs worth ₹30 lakh and arrested four persons.

According to Chennai customs, the security officials of private airlines intercepted the parcels declared to contain spices powder. As the packets were found to be tampered with, they were handed over to Chennai air customs.

The customs officials said they checked the parcels and found branded masala packets of 50 and 100 grams among other grocery items. Some packets contained crystalline powder. A total of 37 plastic pouches were recovered from inside the spice packets. Initially, the officials suspected the item to be white heroin. However, after the laborato-

Three kg of Pseudoephedrine worth ₹30 lakh were seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

ry examination, the powder tested positive for Pseudoephedrine. Pseudoephedrine is a much-sought-after chemical precursor in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, a popular party drug.

Three kg of Pseudoephedrine worth ₹30 lakh were seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

The customs officials said the parcel was booked in the name of a Theni-based person and was headed to Auburn, New South Wales, Australia.

When searched, it was found that Sathik (37) of Chennai, who is the mastermind in this smuggling

activity, had got the order of three kg of Pseudoephedrine powder from his buyer in Australia. He purchased the powder from a Bengaluru-based person and gave the same to his partner who is based in Thanjavur with instructions to conceal the same in spice powder packets and send to an Australian address given by him.

His partner took the help of one Khan (30) of Chennai for concealing the powder in spice powder packets. Antony (41) of Pudukottai came to Chennai and took the delivery of a parcel from Khan. He booked the same to Australia through a Chennai-based courier company in the name of his friend, Selvam of Theni, by misusing his Aadhaar card. All four involved in smuggling activity were arrested under the NDPS Act. Further investigations are underway.

Puducherry CM joins issue with Kiran Bedi over free rice scheme

Puducherry, Oct. 13: Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy on Tuesday accused Lt Governor Kiran Bedi of being keen to "bring disrepute" to his government by pushing for the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode for welfare schemes such as free rice and garments distribution.

He also claimed that implementation of One Nation One Ration Card scheme would be totally impossible in the union territory if Bedi stuck to her stand favouring DBT, which

"If distribution of rice would attract corrupt practices, what about the bigger states where rice is distributed without transfer of cash to bank accounts of beneficiaries. Does Bedi mean that there is corruption in such states?"

envisages transfer of cash equivalent to the benefits to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

"Distribution of free rice is the policy decision of the

electd government. This was the first promise our government gave after assuming office in 2016. Distribution of rice was adopted by previous governments here. It is nothing new. The Lt Governor is keen about bringing in disrepute to the elected government by taking the stand to adopt DBT mode," he charged. Talking to reporters here, he said the government would procure rice from the FCI and there was no room for any irregularity or corrupt practices. —*PTI*

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Collector Shanmugasundaram on Tuesday inaugurated 'smart classrooms' at the Vellore Adi-Dravidar government primary school in Alamelumangapuram. —*K. Senthil Nathan*

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State public prosecutor A. Natarajan has initiated filing an appeal on behalf of the state government, challenging the order of the sessions court/fast track mahila court, Dindigul district, dated September 29, 2020.

A division bench comprising Justices K. Kalyanasundaram and T.Krishnavalli before whom the appeal came up for hearing, ordered notice to the accused Kirubanandam.

In its appeal, the state represented by the public prosecutor submitted that on a complaint given by one V.Venkatachallam on April

Lifting Dhoni, team's morale with a house in CSK's yellow

ARUL PALANI | DC CUDDALORE, OCT. 13

Tamil Nadu is known for fans building temples for popular film stars in the past. But now a diehard supporter of cricket legend M.S. Dhoni and the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) team has painted his house with CSK's official yellow colour along with Dhoni's image. It has become the cynosure of all eyes in a remote village.

R. Gopikrishnan has also named the house as 'Home of Dhoni Fan' in Arangur village, Thittakudi in Cuddalore, to boost the morale of the team and Dhoni, who are at the receiving end after a string of poor performances in the IPL matches in United Arab Emirates.

With just 112 runs from seven matches, IPL 2020 is not the best of seasons for Dhoni. The CSK captain is failing to finish matches for the team. However, Dhoni is just 30 runs away from completing 4,000 runs for the team.

Gopikrishnan, who works in Dubai, painted the house with dark yellow colour. The house also has 'Whistle Podu', the tagline of the team, written on it. He never misses matches played by CSK.

After completing school-



ing, Gopikrishnan went to Dubai looking for greener pastures. Whenever he returns home he plays cricket with friends. He came to his hometown from Dubai following the pandemic lockdown and stayed in the village not able to return to work.

Gopikrishnan told Deccan Chronicle: "Since childhood I used to play cricket in my native place. After Dhoni's entry into the game I became his ardent fan and followed him closely. All the family members are Dhoni's fans. "The love for cricket

reached its peak after Dhoni led CSK in the IPL.

The team, which won three championships so far, is facing flak from people. And of late, Dhoni and team are not performing as expected by their fans. In order to lift the morale of Dhoni and the team I have decided to paint the house with CSK's official yellow colour."

"When I informed the matter to the family members they readily agreed and cooperated. I have spent more than ₹ 1.50 lakh. The completion of the

painting was delayed as I was unable to get a painter to draw Thala's image. Only recently, I found a painter and completed the work. Now people come from far off places and take a glance of the house."

Gopikrishnan said, "CSK faced five losses from the first 7 games so far in the IPL season and for the first time in 10 years the team is placed 7th almost at the half-way mark in the tournament. My small effort will lift the morale of the team and Dhoni and win the matches henceforth," he hoped.

Cinema agent killed after gas cylinder explodes at house

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 13

A 60-year-old cinema production agent succumbed to burns after a gas cylinder exploded at his house in Saligramam on Monday night.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as Chandrasekar, 60, a native of Madurai. He was staying alone in a rented house on Ekambaram Street, Saligramam, for the last 15 years.

Chandrasekar worked as a cinema production agent and cooked food for his unit at his house. On Monday night, he reportedly went to the kitchen to boil milk. When he lit the gas stove, the cylinder exploded and he suffered burns. His house was also damaged in the explosion, police said.

He was rushed to Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital where he succumbed to burns on Tuesday. A case has been registered and further investigations are on.

Hoax bomb threats to houses of Vijayakanth, Dhanush

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 13

Fake bomb threat calls were made to the residences of DMKD chief and actor-politician Vijayakanth and actor Dhanush in the city on Tuesday. It was found that the threats were issued by the same person, having mental disability, from the same number.

According to the police, the Greater Chennai Police control room at around 12:56 pm on Tuesday received a call from an anonymous person saying that he has planted a bomb in Vijayakanth's residence in Saligramam.

The Virugambakkam police rushed to the leader's residence along with the bomb squad and sniffer dogs, only to find the call to be a fake one.

In less than two hours, at 2:30 pm, another call from the same number was received by the police control room, this time with a bomb threat to the house of actor Dhanush in Abhiramapuram in the city.



Vijayakanth



Dhanush

The police after thoroughly searching the residence confirmed it was also a hoax bomb threat.

Police sources revealed that both the calls were made by the same person, with mental disability from Marakanam. He was behind the bomb hoax scare issued to actor Surya's old office in Alwarpet, last month.

Earlier, due to his health conditions, the police had restrained to file a case against him and released him with a warning. But

now since the offence has been repeated, the police are on the hunt for the absconding man.

This isn't the first occasion that top names from the Tamil film industry have received bomb threats as only a few months back actor Vijay's house in Saligramam and actor Ajith's residence in Injambakkam in Chennai received fake bomb threat calls. Likewise, a hoax bomb threat was made to Rajinikanth's house in June this year.

DMK man attacked by staffer's husband

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 13

An executive member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) was attacked with a sword in his office on Tuesday by the estranged husband of a woman working in the politician's office-cum-home in KK Nagar when he allegedly attempted to save her from being attacked by her spouse. Dhanasekaran, 56, was admitted to a private hospital, where his condition is stable.

Police said Dhanasekaran, who lives alone, came out of

Preliminary inquiries revealed that Amutha was separated from his husband and had been staying in a women's hostel. However, during the Covid-19 lockdown, Amutha moved to Dhanasekaran's place. Irked by this, Ponnuvel and his friend visited Dhanasekaran's house and attacked Amudha

his house after she heard his office staff Amudha screaming for help. Dhanasekar saw Amutha's husband Ponnuvel and another man arguing with her in front of his house. When Ponnuvel attacked Amutha with a sword, Dhanasekar came to her rescue. He attacked

too. Dhanasekaran suffered deep wounds on his hands, while Amudha suffered cuts on her head and hands. After the incident, the accused and his accomplices fled the spot.

On being alerted by residents, the KK Nagar police arrived at the spot and took

Dhanasekaran and Amutha to hospital.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that Amutha was separated from his husband and had been staying in a women's hostel. However, during the Covid-19 lockdown, Amutha moved to Dhanasekaran's place. Irked by this, Ponnuvel and his friend visited Dhanasekaran's house on Tuesday and attacked Amudha.

The KK Nagar police registered an attempt to murder case and have secured the CCTV footages and are looking for the attackers, police said.

TN moves HC against acquittal of rape accused

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 13

The state government has filed an appeal before the Madras high court against an order of a trial court, acquitting a 19-year-old boy in a case relating to rape and murder of a minor girl belonging to the hairdressers community, on April 16, 2019, in Dindigul district.

State public prosecutor A. Natarajan has initiated filing an appeal on behalf of the state government, challenging the order of the sessions court/fast track mahila court, Dindigul district, dated September 29, 2020.

A division bench compris-



ing Justices K. Kalyanasundaram and T.Krishnavalli before whom the appeal came up for hearing, ordered notice to the accused Kirubanandam.

In its appeal, the state represented by the public prosecutor submitted that on a complaint given by one V.Venkatachallam on April

16, 2019, about the suspicious death of his minor daughter, the police registered a case under section 174 Cr.P.C. After post-mortem report and further investigation, the police altered the section from section 174 Cr.P.C. to the offence under section 302 (murder), 201 IPC read with section 5 (m) read with 6 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The police arrested the accused on April 26, 2019 and recorded his confession statement. Subsequently, after further investigation the police filed the charge sheet against the accused for offences under section 449, 302 IPC and Section 5

(m) read with 6 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, before the sessions court. However, after trial, the Sessions Court/FT Mahila Court acquitted the accused in the case. Therefore it has filed the present appeal, it added.

The state contended that the lower court ought to have seen the presence of the deceased on the day of occurrence which clearly proved the guilt of the accused. The lower court ought to have seen that the cause of death found in the post-mortem certificate, which stated that the deceased was subjected to

force for sexual assault and the external injuries on the vital parts of the body, which clearly established the nature of offence and cause of death. The lower court ought to have seen the presence of the accused in the scene of crime was spoken by an eye witness in her evidence and the same was not considered by the lower court, the state added.

It may be recalled that the hairdressers across the state, expressing shock over the acquittal of the accused in the rape and murder case, downed their shutters on October 9, 2020 seeking justice for the 12-year-old girl, who belonged to their community.

SHORT TAKES

Agri minister hospitalised

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

Minister for agriculture and animal husbandry R. Doraikkannu, was hospitalized after he devolved chest pain while he was on his way to Salem on Tuesday morning to pay condolences to Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, whose mother passed away on Monday midnight. He was first admitted to the government hospital in Villupuram and later brought to Chennai in the afternoon for treatment in a private hospital.

Tourism in Nilgiris not picking up, say stakeholders

B. RAVAICHANDRAN
OOTY, OCT. 13

Tourism based economy is yet to pick up in Nilgiris as only around 9,500 tourists visited the hills after it was opened to tourism a month ago. Tourism stakeholders want further relaxation in e-pass norms to attract more tourists.

When the hills of Nilgiris was opened to tourism from September 9, after Unlock 4.0 it was widely expected in the travel and tourism industry sector that the tourism based economy will pick up fast as the autumn tourist season, popularly known as the second season of Ooty, was already underway then. But, the restrictions imposed on tourism and the e-pass mandatory for the tourists to visit the Nilgiris came as an hindrance in disguise as only few tourists began to visit the hills.

Though a month has passed since the Nilgiris was opened up to tourism, the tourist influx data show that the trend was not encouraging. The tourists inflow to the famed Botanical Garden here, an indicator of tourist influx to the hills, showed that only 9505 tourists visited the garden since September 9. That is an average of about 250 tourists visited the hills in a day.

N.Chandrasekar, the secretary of the Nilgiris Hotels and Restaurants Association, said that the restrictions for tourists entering the Nilgiris, and the difficulty in obtaining the e-pass are the reasons for the low influx of tourists to the Nilgiris. "As of now only about hundred e-pass in a day are being issued to the applicants. It should be enhanced to at least 1,500 to 2,000 per day as that only will bring a meaningful flow of tourists as well as income to the tourism sector. Since the autumn season will stretch till the Diwali weekend in November, the government should consider easing up the e-pass restrictions to help the tourism in Nilgiris to get revived and to fully capitalize the potential of autumn to charm tourists" he added.

Eight arrested for making Dalit man fall at feet

DC CORRESPONDENT
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT. 13

The eight accused in a case in which a scheduled caste person was made to prostrate before them near Kayathar in Thoothukudi district, were remanded to judicial custody on the orders of the Kovilpatti Judicial Magistrate, on Tuesday.

As a result of a wordy altercation between two shepherds, Sivasangu, belonging to an intermediate caste, and Paulraj (60), belonging to a scheduled caste at Olakulam near Kayathar, the latter was compelled to prostrate before Sivasangu and his relatives, S Periyamari, Veeraiya, Sangilipandi, Udaiyammal, Mahendran, Maharajan and Arun Karthik.

Based on a complaint of the victim Paulraj, Kayathar police registered case against the seven accused under the SC/ST

Min: DMK man made Dalit panchayat prez sit on floor

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

It was a DMK man who forced the Dalit Panchayat President of South Thittai village in Cuddalore district to sit on the floor during the panchayat meetings, minister for rural industries P. Benjamin said on Tuesday.

Alleging that DMK president M. K. Stalin had issued a statement con-

demning the instance of 'untouchability' in a bid to cover up the caste atrocities within his party, Benjamin made it clear that the Panchayat vice president Mohanraj, who was behind the cruelty, belonged to the DMK.

It was shameful on the part of Stalin to try to blame the ruling party when the crime was committed by his party mem-

(prevention) of Atrocities Act, said SP Jeyakumar.

All the accused including a woman, Udaiyammal, were produced at the Kovilpatti Judicial Magistrate Court-I, and

remanded to judicial custody.

SP Jeyakumar said that adequate protection has been given to the victim, Paulraj and his family, and security at Olaikulam village has been beefed up to

ber, the Minister said and gave a long list of anti-caste measures taken by the AIADMK.

He also gave a list of reported incidents in which DMK leaders had shown their blatant casteism and urged Stalin to teach his party men, through video conferencing, about caste equality. But before that, Stalin himself should learn about it, he added.

avert any communal uprising.

The police officer also warned of stern action against anybody who circulated the video of Paulraj prostrating on social media.

Thanjavur GH gets 21 more docs for corona wards

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, OCT. 13

Twenty-one additional doctors have been appointed on contract basis to work in corona wards in the Thanjavur medical college hospital. Collector M Govinda Rao distributed the appointment orders to them on Tuesday. The collector said that 13,684 persons were corona infected in the district so far. Of them, 12,888 got cured. Others are under treatment.

"The recovery rate stood at 94 per cent in the district. Tests are conducted and monitoring is done by 21 CT scan centres. Nearly 2,500 samples are tested per day. Death rate is only 1.4 per cent," the collector said.

Dr Maruthu Durai, dean (in-charge), was present on the occasion.



Water level in the Mettur dam on Tuesday reached 100 feet for the second time by 12.25 pm, said PWD officials. The dam's water level reached 100 feet on September 25. Due to heavy rains in the past few days in the Cauvery catchment area, water level has started rising again. Water level on Monday was 99.11 feet.

—Zakeer Hussain

Help for visually challenged students

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

In its commitment to enable a better education in the country through its Freedom Through Education (FTE) program, members of the Round Table and Ladies Circle (RT 159 & LC133) donated 2 more classrooms along with a fully equipped braille library and a play-ground for the Government Blind School in Poonamallee.

The facilities will benefit about 200 odd visually challenged children. Last year MSRT 159 had built 3 classrooms for the CSI Santhome School for the Deaf and Dumb under the same FTE program. Round Table India has over 10 different national level initiatives that enable and empower various aspects of life.

Court notice to Stalin, 17 MLAs in gutka case

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

The Madras high court has ordered notice to leader of Opposition and DMK president M.K.Stalin and 17 other DMK MLAs, on the appeals filed by the Privileges Committee and the Secretary, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, challenging an order of a single judge, which stayed all further proceedings pursuant to the issuance of fresh show cause notices of breach of privilege issued by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Secretary against Stalin and 17 other MLAs of his party for displaying the banned gutka sachets in the Assembly on July 19,

2017. The First Bench comprising Chief Justice A.P.Sahi and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy posted after four weeks, further hearing of the appeals filed by the Privileges Committee and its Chairman V.Jayaraman and the secretary, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Justice Pushpa Sathyarayana had on September 24, 2020 granted the interim stay on a batch of petitions filed by M.K.Stalin and others, which sought to quash the Show Cause notices, dated September 7, 2020. Aggrieved, the Privileges Committee and TN Legislative Assembly secretary filed the present appeals.

It may be recalled that the

First bench headed by Chief Justice A.P.Sahi had on August 25, 2020 set aside an earlier privilege notice against Stalin and the other MLAs, dated August 28, 2017, issued by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly secretary on the same issue while disposing of a batch of petitions from Stalin and others.

In their present appeals, the Privileges Committee and its chairman Jayaraman submitted that the single judge has erred in admitting the petitions when the division bench confined its decision only to the question of breach of privilege as to whether the appellant can take action for the alleged violation of the notification dated May



CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami paying his last respects to his mother at Siluvampalayam village near Edappadi in Salem district on Tuesday. — DC

Governor, party leaders convey condolences

From P1

Opposition whip in the Assembly R Chakrapani, Samathuva Makkal Katchi founder Sarathkumar, DMDK treasurer Premalatha Vijayakant and BJP State President L Murugan also spoke to the Chief Minister.

Of the AIADMK senior leaders who visited Palaniswami expressed their condolences were Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, Ministers, K A Sengottaiyan, P Thangamani, S P Velumani, K P Anbalagan, V Saroja, M C Sampath, K C Karuppannan, Udumalai K Radhakrishnan, R B Udhayakumar, K C Veeramani, K T Rajendra Bhalaji and M R Vijayabaskar and Member of Parliament K P Munnusamy.

Other AIADMK leaders were Ministers Dindigul C Seenivasan, Sellur K Raj, D Jayakumar, C Ve Shanmugham, R Kamaraj, O S Manian, C Vijayabaskar, Kadambur Raju, Vellamandi N Natarajan, P Benjamin, Nilofer Kafeel, V M Rajalakshmi, K Pandiarajan, G Bhaskaran, Sevvur S Ramachandran

DMK president Stalin and general secretary Durai Murugan, PMK founder Ramadoss, DMDK general secretary Vijayakant, VCK general secretary Thol Thirumavalavan, BJP state president L Murugan, CPM State Secretary K Balakrishnan, president of Latchiya Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam T Rajendhar and state president of BJP's farmer's wing G. K. Nagaraj issued messages expressing their grief and condolences

and S Valarmathi, deputy Speaker Pollachi V Jayaraman, State Planning Commission vice chairman C Ponnaiyan and MPs R Vaithilingam and M Thambidurai and Text Book Society chairperson P Valarmathi.

Governor Banwarilal Purohit, in his message, said 'the passing away of mother, who had nurtured right from birth with her conditional love and sacrifices is an irreparable loss' and conveyed his condolences to the Chief Minister and his family members.

He said he prayed to Almighty to give strength to Palaniswami and his family members to overcome the unfathomable loss.

In his message, released on behalf of the AIADMK, the party's coordinator Panneerselvam condoled the passing away of Thavasi Ammal.

Leaders of political parties who put out tweets and issued messages expressing their grief and condolences to Palaniswami were DMK president Stalin and general secretary Durai Murugan, PMK founder Ramadoss, DMDK general secretary Vijayakant, VCK general secretary Thol Thirumavalavan, BJP state president L Murugan. Led by the Chief Secretary K Shanmugham, a host of IAS officers and Director General of Police J K Tripathi also paid their last respect to the Chief Minister's mother.

₹2L seized from sub-registrar office

ANANTH MATHIVANAN |
DC
COIMBATORE, OCT. 13

Sleuths from Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) launched a raid at the Mettupalayam sub-registrar office, and seized ₹2 lakh unaccounted money.

Sources said, based on frequent complaints from public that officials at the Mettupalayam registrar office were demanding for more money for registration, a team of 10 officials led by district superintendent, Ganesan, raided the sub-registrar office at Mettupalayam on Monday

evening by 5 pm, which extended by more than five hours.

Officials locked the doors of the office immediately as they entered. Sub-registrar in-charge, Latha Rani and three other officials on duty, and four brokers present inside the office were grilled by the officials. Finally around 11 pm, the officials seized around ₹2 lakh that were split and kept inside the UPS battery box inside the office room, and the covered space at the back of a car parked inside the office premises.

Officials have registered a complaint and investigations are on.

Officials ignore IMD warning for fishermen

ARULOLI M | DC
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT 13

Ignoring the advice of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) prohibiting fishermen from venturing into sea, fisheries officials here on Tuesday allowed mechanised boats to go fishing.

Fishermen in 140 boats went to the sea, but returned to shore as the sea was rough.

However, miffed by the fisheries department's callousness on the matter, those fishermen who

returned, laid siege to the fisheries department in protest. The officials had also removed a board put up at the fishing harbour with the IMD's weather warning.

Assistant director, fisheries department, Thoothukudi fishing harbour, Viola, who is the authority to unlock the fishing harbour, had reportedly removed the chain put up at the entrance of the fishing harbour, facilitating the boats anchored at the harbour to go out fishing.

Kushboo returns to a rousing welcome

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

Man cannot live without change, said actress-turned-politician Kushboo, who switched over to the BJP from Congress at New Delhi Monday and returned to Chennai on Tuesday to a rousing welcome at the airport and also at the BJP State headquarters, Kamalayam.

Speaking to the media at the airport, she said that BJP state president L. Murugan was instrumental in her joining the BJP and flayed the Congress leaders for not giving her due respect. "Though I was with the party for six years, the TNCC president is now saying that they saw me only as an actress. Didn't they know that I was an actress all these years?" she asked.

Then she drove straight to Kamalayam, where she repeated her charges against the Congress leaders. She said that she was given due importance only during the tenure of EVKS Elangovan



Kushboo at the BJP state headquarters, Kamalayam, on Tuesday. — DC

as TNCC president and that his successors did not use her for party work.

"I have great respect for Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. Till yesterday I did not speak anything against the party but I cannot keep quiet after they have started speaking against me,"

she said. Claiming that she had joined the BJP with view to doing something for the country, she said there should be something behind the BJP as 128 crore people had repeatedly voted the party to power.

When asked why she

opposed the policies of the BJP till a few days back, she said she had to do it as she was then with the Congress. However, she clarified that she did not oppose the BJP for the sake of opposing and had even praised some of its policies.

It was the Congress party

that was opposing most of the things brought in by the BJP even if those schemes were initiated by them when they were in power, she said.

To a question as to what she proposed to do in the BJP by taking up any post or by contesting elections, she replied that she joined the party just the previous day and she had to wait.

She denied rumours that she had to change political loyalties at the behest of her husband, film director C Sundar, and said that her husband ever interfered in her political activities.

Asked how she felt to be in the BJP when she had acted in the film on Periyar E V Ramasamy, Kushboo said there was no contradiction in it as she had given her voice for Women's liberation and Dalit emancipation, two issues that Periyar primarily fought for. However, she clarified that her political and acting careers were different.

Electricity dept staffer sentenced to 10-yr RI for abusing girl

Puducherry, Oct 13: An electricity department employee was sentenced to 10 years Rigorous Imprisonment by a local Po-cso court on Tuesday for sexually abusing a minor girl in May last year.

Dhanabal, the Special Judge under the POCSO Act here, convicted and sentenced Vinod to 10 years RI and also slapped ₹1,000 fine on him.

The man was also sentenced to seven years imprisonment under IPC Section 450 (trespass to commit offence) and six months under section 342 (wrongful confinement).

The sentences would run concurrently, Special Public Prosecutor N Balamurugan told PTI.

The prosecution case was that the 30-year-old metre reader sexually abused the nine-year-old girl at her house in Bahoor on May 15 2019. — PTI



SHORT TAKES

'MEDIA DEBATES ON SUB JUDICE TOPICS CONTEMPT'PARMOD KUMAR IDC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

Attorney-general K.K.Venugopal on Tuesday expressed concern over the electronic and the print media commenting on sub judice matters having potential to influence judges dealing with the case and said that it bordered on contempt of court.

Mr Venugopal told a bench of Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Krishna Murari, "Today, electronic and print media carry on discussions seeking to influence the thinking of judges. This is doing great damage to the institution."

"When I see TV and a bail application is coming up, the TV is flashing conversations between the accused and someone. This may be damaging to the accused and it comes up during the bail hearing. This is contempt of court."

Mr Venugopal urged the court to consider this issue in the course of hearing the 2009 contempt case against activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan.

CONG ANNOUNCES CANDIDATES FOR ODISHA BY-POLLSAKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO IDC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 13

The Congress on Tuesday announced the names of its candidates for by-polls to Odisha's Balasore and Tirtol Assembly constituencies which are scheduled to be held on November 3, 2020.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi gave her approval to a proposal for the candidature of Mamata Kundu and Himanshu Bhusan Mallick as party candidates to contest the ensuing by-polls to Balasore and Tirtol Assembly constituencies, respectively.

Earlier in the day, BJD named Swarup Kumar Das and Bijaya Shankar Das as its candidates.

The BJP had announced its candidates - Manas Kumar Dutta and Raj Kishore Behera for the by-polls.

The BJP is pulling out all stops in Balasore to retain the seat. Its candidate Manas Kumar Dutta is the son of Madan Mohan Dutta, the sitting MLA who died in July this year. The party strategists believe sympathy factor would work wonders for the party and its nominee would post a spectacular victory.

The BJD is also trying to defend the seat in Tirtol pulling the sympathy card. Its nominee Bijaya Shankar Das is the son of Bishnu Charan Das, the sitting MLA who died in July.

CHINA MUST PULL BACK, INDIA INSISTS AT MEET

From Page 1

Chinese Foreign ministry said that "neither side should take any action in the area to complicate the situation and China opposes any infrastructure constructions for the purpose of military monitoring and control.

During the Corps Commanders meeting which took place at Chushul on the Indian side of line of actual control (LAC), India again insisted that China withdraw its troops from all friction points in Eastern Ladakh and restore status quo ante of April 2020 in Pangong Tso and Gogra Post-Hot Springs. Chinese army has also been preventing Indian patrols in the Depsang sector. India has made it clear that since it was China which had first transgressed, PLA will have to make the first move towards disengagement.

Both sides are prepared to keep their armies at these high altitude mountains during winters when temperatures dip way below zero degrees and bone-chilling wind make survival extremely difficult.

This was the last meeting under 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen Harinder Singh who will take charge as Commandant of the Indian Military Academy (IMA) later this month after completing his one year tenure.

In the last Corps Commanders meeting both had sides agreed to stop sending more troops to the front-line, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may complicate the situation.

It's showtime again

A worker wearing PPE kit sanitises a cinema hall in New Delhi on Tuesday, as multiplexes prepare to reopen from October 15 after seven months of closure due to the Coronavirus lockdown.

— PTI

Mehbooba freed after 14 months**Former J&K chief minister was detained on Aug 5 last year as Art 370 was being hollowed out**YUSUF JAMEEL IDC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 13:

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader, Mehbooba Mufti, was late Tuesday evening released from detention, more than fourteen months after she along with hundreds of politicians and other activists were taken into prevention custody ahead of the Centre's abrogating Article 370 and splitting the state up into two Union Territories on August 5 last year.

Many of these leaders and activists including the PDP president were subsequently formally detained under J&K's stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). Although most key political figures including two other former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah were freed earlier this year, Ms. Mufti remained incarcerated even after being shifted to her home here which had been declared a 'subsidary jail' in April this year.

Under the PSA, intro-



duced in J&K in 1978 initially to deal with timber smuggling but later used by successive governments often against their political opponents, a person can be detained for a period of six months to two years without the authorities seeking a formal trial.

61-year-old Ms. Mufti's daughter Iltija wrote on the Twitter handle of her mother, "As Ms Mufti's illegal detention finally comes to an end, I'd like to thank everybody who supported me in these tough times. I owe a debt of gratitude to you all. This is Iltija signing off. ?? ???? ?? May allah protect you." During her mother's incarceration, Ms. Iltija would run her twitter handle.

Earlier J&K government

spokesperson Rohit Kansal while announcing Ms. Mufti release from detention wrote a one liner on the micro-blogging site, "Ms. Mehbooba Mufti being released."

Official sources said that Ms. Mufti's detention under the PSA was revoked through an order issued by Shaleen Kabra, principal secretary to the government (home department), earlier during the day on Tuesday. The order said that the government has revoked the relevant detention order issued by the Srinagar's District Magistrate on February 5 this year and last extended for a period of three months on July 31 "with immediate effect".

Former chief minister and National Conference vice president, Omar Abdullah, while welcoming her release tweeted "I'm pleased to hear that @MehboobaMufti Sahiba has been released after more than a year in detention. Her continued detention was a travesty & was against the basic tenets of democracy. Welcome out Mehbooba."

BJP ousts 9 rebel leaders as they opt for LJP ticketNAYEAR AZADI DC
PATNA, OCT. 13

In a major move, the BJP has initiated tough action against its rebel leaders for abandoning the party and joining hands with Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) ahead of Bihar Assembly elections.

The BJP insiders said that the party has expelled nine senior leaders for six years after they decided to contest polls on LJP ticket. The suspension letter was issued by BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal on Monday evening.

Among those who have been expelled is Ravindra Yadav, sitting MLA from Jhajha. He has been fielded by the LJP after the seat went to the JD(U). Another big name to be fielded by the LJP against the JD(U) nominee is a

four-time BJP MLA from Nokha constituency. He was upset after the seat went to the JD(U).

Rajendra Singh is another prominent face who has been suspended from the BJP for accepting a ticket from Dinara constituency. He has been fielded by the LJP against the JD(U) nominee and a minister in Nitish Kumar's cabinet Jai Kumar Singh.

In 2015, he had contested against Jai Kumar Singh from the seat but lost. Rajendra Singh's switching sides has raised eyebrows in Bihar political circles as he was seen as an active RSS member.

BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal in his letter clearly states that the party's and NDA's image has been maligned by nine leaders who are contesting polls against the NDA on LJP ticket.

"You are being suspended for six years for indulging in anti-party activities", the BJP notice said.

The development is being seen as a major setback for the BJP which is contesting Assembly elections in alliance with Nitish Kumar's JD(U), Hindustani Awam Morcha and Vikasheel Insaan Party. Before the announcement of seat-sharing last week, the LJP had pulled off the NDA defying the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The LJP had, however, announced that the party's ties with BJP will remain intact and it will not field candidates against the saffron party during Bihar elections. The LJP has fielded 42 candidates against the JD(U) and two smaller parties HAM and VIP.

Maharashtra Gov, Uddhav fight it out over HindutvaSONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

War of words broke out between Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday over reopening of temples in the state. Both the leaders sent hard-hitting letters to each other. While Koshyari questioned Thackeray's commitment to Hindutva, the CM retorted saying he doesn't need the governor's cer-

tificate. NCP chief Sharad Pawar also backed the CM and wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to protest the "intemperate language" used by the Governor.

The Maharashtra Governor had written a letter to Thackeray on Monday urging him to reopen the places of worship in the state. He said that it was ironic that while the state government has allowed the opening of bars, restaurants and beaches, "gods

and goddesses have been condemned to stay in the lockdown".

"You have been a strong votary of Hindutva. You had publicly espoused your devotion for Lord Rama by visiting Ayodhya after taking charge as the Chief Minister. You had visited the Vitthal Rukmini Mandir in Pandharpur and performed the Puja on Ashadhi Ekadashi. I wonder if you are receiving premotion to keep postponing the reopening of

the places of worship time and again or have you suddenly turned 'secular' yourself, the term you hated?" Koshyari wrote to Thackeray, who also sent a strongly-worded response to the Governor.

Informing the Governor that his government will consider his request to reopen temples, Thackeray wondered if Hindutva meant merely reopening places of religious worship to Koshyari. Responding to the Governor's secularism

jibe, Thackeray wrote, "Isn't secularism a key component of the Constitution, by which you swore while taking oath as the state Governor?"

"I don't need your certificate for my Hindutva. While considering the sentiments and beliefs of the people, it is also important to take care of their lives and it is wrong to impose and lift lockdown suddenly," Thackeray wrote.

Interestingly, the Governor's letter to the CM came in the wake of two-days

protests carried out by the Bharatiya Janata Party demanding reopening of temples. The BJP on Tuesday held protests outside temples in various cities in Maharashtra. In Mumbai, BJP workers led by MLC Prasad Lad and Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Praveen Darekar tried to enter the famous Siddhivinayak temple as part of an agitation. In Pune, BJP activists staged a demonstration outside the Tambadi Jogeshwari temple.

FARM | BILLS

Policy experts, industry leaders & academicians with agri sector praise the recently passed Bills**Centre reaches out to stakeholders to clear confusion**

New Delhi, Oct. 13: Reaching out to stakeholders to allay apprehensions about the recently passed farm Bills, Union minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday met policy experts, industry leaders and academicians associated with the agriculture sector, who were all praise for the new legislation.

Singh along with agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has so far held a series of meetings with farmers and many others associated with the farm sector to deliberate upon the three agriculture-related Bills recently passed by the Parliament.

Chairman of Global Food and Retail Council Rakesh Gambhir, who was

● **RAJNATH SINGH** along with agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has so far held a series of meetings with farmers and many others associated with the farm sector to deliberate upon the three agriculture-related Bills recently passed by the Parliament.

part of the delegation that met both Union ministers, said it was a good interaction and praised the government for bringing these three Bills.

"In a way these three farm Bills will usher a new era of reforms in the agriculture sector and will give farmers' independence from the clutches of the middle men and help in getting them better prices for their produce," Gambhir told reporters after the meeting.

Echoing similar sentiments, Chairman of Punj-

ab-based Green Valley Farms, R.P.S. Gandhi said there are enormous benefits of the new farm-related legislation but the farmers need to be made aware and educated about it.

He said talking to the farmers in their own language is important so that there is no confusion about these three Bills.

Last week, Singh had a long meeting with a delegation of award winning farmers including a Padma Shri awardee to deliberate on the government's farm legislations.

Earlier in a statement, Singh had assured that the MSP mechanism will stay and the support price will continue to rise under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

The meetings with a number of stakeholders in the agriculture sector are being held at Singh's residence here.

Chairman of Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture M.J. Khan who was present in all the meetings held so far said in a way it is a dialogue process between farmers, key stakeholders in the agriculture sector and the centre to clear any apprehensions and misgivings about the farm bills.

— PTI

VINAY MADHAV IDC
BENGALURU, OCT 13:

Just a year after breaking the alliance with Congress, JD(S) headed by former prime minister H. D. Deve Gowda has started bonding with BJP, with which it had severed relationship over 12-years-ago. The triggering point is the by-election to two assembly constituencies -- Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru and Sira in

Tumakuru district. While incumbent Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Mr Muniratna resigned after switching loyalty from the Congress to the BJP, which helped formation of present government headed by B.S. Yeddyurappa, JD(S) MLA from Sira Satyanarayana had recently passed away. In Rajarajeshwarinagar, JD(S) has decided to field an insignificant candidate, while the BJP is returning

the favor in Sira. The two constituencies became prestigious issues for all the three political parties. While Rajarajeshwarinagar will be testimony for Mr Yeddyurappa on his one year administration, it would be an acid test for newly appointed KPCC president D K Shivakumar. In Sira, JD(S) has to win the constituency to establish its dominance in Vokkaliga heartland.

VACCINES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE EARLY NEXT YEAR: VARDHANDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 13

A steady decline in fresh positive cases of Coronavirus is being noted in India now as 55,342 new cases were detected in the last 24 hours taking the country's overall figures to 71.76 lakh.

According to Union health ministry, the average daily Covid-19 positivity rate has declined from 8.50 per cent between September 9-15 to 6.24 per cent between October 7-13.

Meanwhile, Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said vaccine against Coronavirus is expected to be available in India by early next year and there could be vaccines from more than one source.

"We are expecting that early next year, we should have vaccine in the country from maybe more than one source. Our expert groups are already formulating and devising strategies to plan on how to roll out the distribution of the vaccines in the country, who do we give the vaccine first and then of course we are strengthening the cold chain facilities," he said during a meeting of the group of ministers. He added at present, four vaccines are in advanced stages of pre-clinical trial in India. **8,191 new cases in K'taka:** Karnataka on Tuesday reported 8,191 new Covid-19 cases and 87 related fatalities, taking the total number of infections to 7,26,106 and the death toll to 10,123. A Health department bulletin said 10,421 patients were discharged during the day, taking the total number of recoveries in the state to over 6 lakh. The state has seen 10,123 deaths.

AP tally down at 4,622: Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday registered 4,622 new Covid-19 cases, scaling up the tally to 7,63,573, apart from 35 deaths, taking the death toll to 6,291 in the last 24 hours. The state Covid-19 bulletin said so far, 7,14,427 patients have been discharged after recovery from various hospitals, while 42,855 patients are still active with the virus and undergoing treatment.

1,708 cases in TS: A total of 1,708 new cases of Covid-19 were recorded in Telangana along with five deaths due to the disease on Monday. The total number of new cases stands at 2,14,792 and the toll at 1,233. There are 24,208 active cases in the state.

Kerala tally crosses 3 lakh: Kerala's Covid-19 tally crossed 3 lakh mark on Tuesday with 8,764 fresh cases were added while the death toll mounted to 1,046 with 21 more fatalities. Cumulatively, the state has 3,01,896 cases while the total recoveries climbed to 2,07,357. Four districts reported over 1000 cases-- Malappuram (1,139), Ernakulam (1,122), Kozhikode (1,113) and Thrissur (1,010).

(With inputs from Bengaluru, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram bureaus)

IN BRIEF

Muslims protest in Indonesia

Jakarta: Thousands of conservative Muslims marched in Indonesia's capital on Tuesday demanding that the government revoke a new law that say will cripple labour rights. Authorities blocked streets leading to the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, where clashes between riot police and rock-throwing demonstrators, including workers and students, broke out last Thursday. The protests spread and turned violent in some cities across the world's most populous Muslim nation, but calm had largely returned to Jakarta over the past four days.

US hits Taliban with airstrikes

Lashkar Gah (Afghanistan): American forces carried out several airstrikes in support of Afghan security forces under attack by the Taliban in southern Helmand province, a spokesperson for the US military in Afghanistan said on Monday. Colonel Sonny Leggett said the recent Taliban attacks in Helmand are "not consistent" with a US-Taliban deal signed in February and undermine ongoing intra-Afghan peace talks. He said the airstrikes do not violate the February deal. The Taliban "need to immediately stop their offensive actions in Helmand Province and reduce their violence around the country," Leggett said in a statement on Twitter, quoting Gen. Scott Miller, the commander of the US Forces in Afghanistan.

Indian-origin patron wins award in US

Washington: Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work in the US for meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The lifetime achievement award from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHY) was presented to Kotecha, who is founder and president of Hindu Charities for America (HC4A), at its 32nd annual conference on October 9, a statement said.

49 stranded Indians return home

Dubai: A total of 49 Indians, who were stranded for several months in the UAE after being abandoned by their employers, have been repatriated after the Indian mission here helped them secure their passports and security deposits from two companies, a media report said on Tuesday. The expats were abandoned and unpaid for the last six months after two Dubai-based carpentry firms owned by Indians shut during the Coronavirus pandemic without informing their staff, the Gulf News reported. Left to fend for themselves, the expats reached out to the Indian Consulate in Dubai in July and sought help to return home.

VIRUS REINFECTION MIGHT SEVERE SYMPTOMS

Houston, Oct. 13: Covid-19 patients infected with the Coronavirus for a second time might experience more severe symptoms, according to a study which is the first to confirm a case of reinfection with the virus in the US.

The study, published in the journal *Lancet Infectious Diseases*, found evidence that an individual with no known immune disorders or underlying conditions was infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in two separate occurrences. According to the scientists, including those from the University of Nevada in the US, the patient, a 25-year old male, was infected with two distinct SARS-CoV-2 variants within a 48-day time frame, while testing negative in between infections.

The study noted that the patient's second infection was more severe, resulting in hospitalisation with oxygen support, indicating previous exposure to Covid-19 may not translate to guaranteed total immunity. The patient tested negative for the virus after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 in April 2020, the researchers said. Then in June 2020, after experiencing severe Covid-19 symptoms, including fever, headache, dizziness, cough, nausea, and diarrhea, the patient was hospitalised and tested positive for a second time.

Trump holds 1st rally since Covid

Busy schedule of the Prez comes amid unanswered question of travel impact on his health

Amid poll fears, Microsoft targets malware network

Washington, Oct. 13: Microsoft announced legal action on Monday seeking to disrupt a major cybercrime digital network that uses more than 1 million zombie computers to loot bank accounts and spread ransomware, which experts consider a major threat to the US presidential election.

The operation to knock offline command-and-control servers for a global botnet that uses an infrastruc-

ture known as Trickbot to infect computers with malware was initiated with an order that Microsoft obtained in Virginia federal court on Oct. 6.

Microsoft argued that the crime network is abusing its trademark. "It is very hard to tell how effective it will be but we are confident it will have a very long-lasting effect," said Jean-Ian Boutin, head of threat research at ESET, one of

several cybersecurity firms that partnered with Microsoft to map the command-and-control servers. "We're sure that they are going to notice and it will be hard for them to get back to the state that the botnet was in." Cybersecurity experts said that Microsoft's use of a U.S. court order to persuade internet providers to take down the botnet servers is laudable.

— AP

NIKKI HALEY SLAMS BIDEN, HARRIS FOR THEIR POLICIES

Washington, Oct. 13: Popular Republican politician Nikki Haley has hit out at Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden for being a "status quo" on China and wanting to revive the Iran nuclear deal while accusing his running mate and Senator Kamala Harris for advancing the leftist agenda.

Indian-American Haley, 48, had so far refrained from publicly criticising 55-year old Harris, has now come out in open against the California Senator's policies, which the former US Ambassador to the UN said was reflective of Harris' leftist agenda.

"Harris pledged to repeal the 2017 tax cut and invest in the American people, revealing the left's fundamental philosophy that government is better equipped to spend people's money than the people themselves," she said in a tweet. Haley is one of the most popular Republican politicians in the US after Trump and is seen as party's potential presidential candidate in 2024. The two-term Governor of South Carolina, Haley was the first Cabinet-ranking Indian-American in any presidential administration.

— PTI



Donald Trump

I'LL GIVE YOU'LL A BIG FAT KISS, SAYS TRUMP

Sanford (US), Oct. 13: Deprived of his beloved campaign trail for 10 days by Covid-19, President Donald Trump took center stage again on Monday in Florida, vowing that he is in "great shape" with 22 days to go until he faces Joe Biden in the election.

"I went through it and now they say I'm immune," Trump told a cheering crowd in Sanford, near Orlando, few of whom wore masks.

"I feel so powerful. I'll walk in there, I'll kiss everyone in that audience. I'll kiss the guys and the beautiful women, just give you a big fat kiss."

Trump's medical team announced he had tested negative and was no longer contagious as he jetted to Florida — the first of four battleground states he plans to visit over the next four days. His claim of immunity is unproven.

— AFP

SECOND J&J VACCINE TRIAL HALTED OVER ILLNESS

New Brunswick (US), Oct. 13: A late-stage study of Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine candidate has been paused while the company investigates whether a study participant's "unexplained illness" is related to the shot.

The company said in a statement on Monday evening that illnesses, accidents and other so-called adverse events "are an expected part of any clinical study, especially large studies," but that its physicians and a safety monitoring panel would try to determine what might have caused the illness.

The pause is at least the second such hold to occur among several vaccines that have reached large-scale final tests in the US. The company declined to reveal any more details about the illness, citing the participant's privacy. Temporary stoppages of large medical studies are relatively common. Few are made public in typical drug trials, but the work to make a Coronavirus vaccine has raised the stakes on these kinds of complications.

Companies are required to investigate any serious or unexpected reaction that occurs during drug testing. Given that such tests are done on tens of thousands of people, some medical problems are a coincidence. In fact, one of the first steps the company said it will take is to determine if the person received the vaccine or a placebo. The halt was first reported by the health news site STAT.

— AP

Day of the Race



A demonstrator paints the helmet of a riot police officer near a statue of Christopher Columbus which was surrounded by a metal fence for protection, during Columbus Day in Mexico City, on Tuesday, October 12 commemorates the arrival of Columbus to America in 1492, which in Mexico is called the 'Day of the Race'. — AFP

Chinese FM terms US Indo-Pacific strategy a "huge security risk"

Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 13: The United States poses a "huge security risk" to Asia by pushing to boost engagement with the region, China's foreign minister said on Tuesday during a tour of Southeast Asia, where Beijing and Washington are locked in a battle for influence.

Speaking in Malaysia, Wang Yi said the US's real aim is "to build an Indo-Pacific NATO," in a strategy he said harkened back to the Cold War. Washington is trying to "stir up confrontation among different groups and blocs, and stir up geopolitical competition

● **WANG'S TONE** is typically of China's increasingly hard-line approach to disputes with Washington.

while maintaining the pre-dominance and hegemony system of the US," Wang said at a joint news conference with his Malaysian counterpart, Hishammuddin Hussein. "In this sense, this strategy itself is a huge security risk," Wang said.

Wang also urged Southeast Asian nations, which are aiming to draw up a code of conduct with China in the South China

Sea, to remove "external disruption" in the disputed waters, but did not elaborate. Wang's tone is typical of China's increasingly hard-line approach to disputes with Washington as it seeks to capitalise on political divisions within the US and a perceived decline in America's global influence to advance its own foreign policy aims.

China's aggressive moves to assert its territorial claims in the South China Sea, through which a third of global shipping passes, have drawn rebuke from the United States and become a flashpoint for a region in which Southeast

Asian nations Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei all have rival claims. Hishammuddin said the disputes over the South China Sea must be resolved peacefully through regional dialogue.

The US says its Indo-Pacific engagement framework supports sovereignty, transparency, good governance and a rules-based order, among other things. By using the term "Indo-Pacific," the US also wants to propagate the idea that the region stretches far beyond China's backyard and the tiger economies of East Asia to include the Indian Ocean.

— AP

POWER | ABUSE

Proposal was based on weaknesses, exploitation, says govt

Cyprus scraps 'golden passport' scheme

Nicosia, Oct. 13: Cyprus said on Tuesday it will scrap its controversial "golden passports" scheme for foreign investors next month over alleged abuses uncovered in a television programme.

Government spokesman Kyriakos Koushos said the cabinet had agreed in an emergency meeting to abolish the scheme as proposed by the finance and interior ministers. "The proposal of the two ministers was

based on long-standing weaknesses, abuse and exploitation of the provisions of the investment programme," Koushos said.

Koushos said the scheme, which has generated seven billion euros (\$8.25 billion), would be brought to an end on November 1.

The Cypriot government would "fully examine its policy to encourage investment", he added, after the completion of an investigation into the scheme.

The move came hours after Qatar-based broadcaster *Al Jazeera* aired an hour-long programme showing its reporters pretending to represent a Chinese businessman keen to acquire a Cypriot passport despite him having a criminal record.

"Posing as representatives of a fictitious criminal character, our undercover reporters were ushered through the application process for the Cyprus Investment Programme

by lawyers, property agents, leading eventually to high ranking politicians," *Al Jazeera* reported.

Those involved — a Cypriot lawmaker and the parliament speaker — denied any wrongdoing. But the lawmaker, Christakis Giovanis, later resigned from parliament and the positions he held in the left-wing AKEL party.

And the speaker, Demetris Syllouris, said he was standing down until a

police investigation into the claims was completed.

European Commission spokesman Christian Wignand said, "We watched in disbelief how high-level officials were trading European citizenship for financial gains." Cyprus began offering citizenship in exchange for substantial investment as far back as 2007, but the scheme was stepped up following the Mediterranean island's 2013 economic crisis.

— AFPs

DECCAN Chronicle

14 OCTOBER 2020

Demand stimulus on offer is too little

Spending to resuscitate the pandemic-hit economy will face longer delays because of the stalemate over making up for the revenue shortfall by way of GST. In the absence of an agreement on how to cover the Rs 2.35 lakh crore shortfall expected by March 2021, state governments will be left largely to their own devices to work out how to pick themselves up after heavy expenditure on tackling the coronavirus and looking after the sick over the last several months, in which time their SGDP would have also slackened considerably. The data flow on Monday from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) are indicators of the extent of the bind the Indian economy is in even as rising headline inflation flashes warning signs over the future of the accommodative stance of RBI's monetary policy, because rising inflation may not be transitory as the MPC may have perceived it to be.

In the face of dispiriting data, which however is common enough in a phase when a second wave of the coronavirus is threatening the world economy, came the somewhat good news over a spending stimulus estimated at around ₹73,000 crores declared by the finance minister. If states also follow suit and gladden their employees with sops and festival cash advances, the stimulus could touch ₹1 lakh crore. Even that would appear to be a drop in the ocean in a country with a GDP close to three trillion dollars. All the fiscal stimulus put together would amount to just about 1.2 per cent of GDP, including the grandstanding announcements. The much trumpeted ₹20 lakh crore stimulus had more to do with lines of credit to industry and MSMEs rather than cash payments that several countries like the US, UK, Japan and South Korea made to come to the aid of those worst hit by the pandemic — people, companies and trade.

In the final analysis, the Centre has shown a distinct lack of imagination in opening up the purse strings at a time when governments had to contribute the most to get the economies going again. Handing out lollipops to babus and the rich by way of tax write-offs through the purchase of consumer durables in lieu of leave travel concession is indicative of a conservative mindset just when a lot more was called for. Cash doles to the poorest — which some state governments did attempt but with too little in their kitty to make a real difference to lives and livelihoods of the most stricken — and tax breaks to the middle class to stimulate festive demand would have been ideal ways to show that governments at the Centre and the states were willing to cover the interests of all. The enormity of the growth hit will become known as we transit from the strict lockdowns to the final "unlock", which is when the relatively small size of the demand stimulus will show up how niggardly the Centre has been and that very quality is reflected in its reluctance to fulfil sovereign guarantees on the GST growth shortfall.

Keep Bollywood unfettered

Bollywood, cricket, politics. There is hardly an Indian citizen not occupied by any of the above. If there is a single activity that has a hold on the minds of the general public, and is arguably the lever to mould them, it is that of storytelling as performed by Indian cinema. A story has more power than it is usually given credit for. It is, at its core, the purveyor of an idea. More than television news, newspapers or literature in the various languages, the Hindi film industry is the single largest vehicle of ideas, and for long it has enacted its roles of both thought pioneer as well as force multiplier against Indian conservatism, caste tyrannies and non-egalitarian power structures. That role is now being challenged.

Quite aside from propaganda assisted by sections of the media that this industry is a den of drugs, nepotism, corruption and other venal vices, all of which are nonetheless pervasive in almost every field and walk of life, and the hounding of personalities like Deepika Padukone and Anurag Kashyap whose political opinions differ from the official line, both have, at different times, registered their protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, there is the very noteworthy departure from the trend of realist and experimental, creative, filmmaking that had begun in the early Oughties and continued to entertain us through the Twenty-tens. Starting from *Uri: The Surgical Strike* through *Kesari* to *Manikarnika*, many prominent and officially publicised films released in the last two years, including super-duper hits like *War*, *Pad Man* and *Padmaavat*, had a militaristic or moralistic theme. Wearing its patriotism on its sleeve, the National Film Development Corporation organised an online patriotic film festival as part of the Independence Day celebrations this year. It must be remembered that the Joseph McCarthy era witch-hunts and Hollywood blacklists effectively ended the careers of hundreds of directors, actors and writers.

Very recently, auteur Karan Johar has tweeted that the "film fraternity" will come together to celebrate the hoary "valour, values and the culture of India". It is, however, less unexpected than the tweet of his industry colleague, Vivek Agnihotri, who has publicly opined that Bollywood has "destroyed Indian culture". The crony capitalist nexus is well-known. Now with government forces infiltrating erstwhile independent institutions like banks, universities and the judiciary and the nationalist versus anti-national rhetoric drowning all reason, alarm bells have rung. It is time to issue a caveat. What we are witnessing today is the rise of "Godi

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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



RAW & IB set to teach tax officers about 'tradecraft'

Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers trying to nab economic offenders will now get an edge after undergoing training from spooks. Officers from the nation's premier intelligence agencies, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Intelligence Bureau (IB), have been roped in to train them in intelligence "tradecraft".

Sources say that revenue officers from the Enforcement Directorate, income tax, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, CBI and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence will be training in gathering intelligence and handling digital and forensic evidence. The training programme is being conducted by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) of the finance ministry.

Apparently, nine course modules have been developed. While RAW and IB sleuths will conduct training

of Group A officers of the Indian Revenue Service, some other modules are open to officers starting from superintendent level up to principal commissioners. Other courses include investigating economic crimes in the securities market, trade-based money laundering and also legal aspects. Hopefully, after training these "specialists" will make economic offenders think twice before violating the law.

TRANSFER TRAVAILS OF A SENIOR COP

Frequent transfer is a fait accompli in government. But Pimpri-Chinchwad police commissioner Sandeep Bishnoi who was recently transferred has approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) challenging his transfer order. He was moved out from his post in less than a year. He has been succeeded by Krishna Prakash, a

1998-batch IPS officer.

Mr Bishnoi has stated that "such abrupt transfers without justification or valid reason is contrary to law and ought to be set aside". Mr Bishnoi and Mr Prakash are part of a major reshuffle carried out by the state government in which around 50 officials were transferred.

Mr Prakash is the third police commissioner of Pimpri-Chinchwad in two years after the state government established the commissionerate in the industrial town, as law and order became a challenge following a rise in the number of street crimes and cases of vandalism. Mr Bishnoi's predecessor, senior IPS officer R.K. Padmanabhan, too was transferred before completing two years in office.

ADHOCISM MAY UNDERMINE RAILWAY REFORMS

After the heady announcement

heralding long-awaited reforms, Indian Railways is moving cautiously on the implementation. Some observers are surprised at the slow pace. From the time when Covid-19 struck and passenger rail traffic almost stopped, the Railways have had plenty of time on its hands to consider its internal rearrangement.

While all posts of members of the Railway Board are ex-cadre now and should be filled with suitable officers, based on seniority and residual service, the railway ministry is edging ahead with great caution. Sources say that the post of director general of HR (DGGHR) was filled with an Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) officer, even though more senior officers from other cadres are eligible and available. It is also being reported that the post of member, traffic and rolling stock, is likely to be given

to an officer from the Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE). Similarly, there seems to be a proposal to appoint the member (finance) from the Indian Railways Accounts Service (IRAS).

So far so good. But there is some grumbling among the Indian Railways Service of Engineers (IRSE) and Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), which seem to have lost out on apex grade posts to the other services in the new plan.

According to sources, the railway ministry is still not drafted the recruitment rules, which may explain the sense of ad-hocism prevailing in the ministry's actions.

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Can CMs help India set up political alternative?



Sanjiwan Sahni

How will a credible challenger to the incumbent Prime Minister emerge?

The current wisdom, and most opinion polls, indicate that the PM's popularity is overwhelming, leading to the TINA (there is no alternative) factor.

The largest Opposition party's leadership, even as it asks the government the right questions, fails to make any impact. There is a lack of credibility in its present leadership and little hope that it will improve in a hurry.

The divided Opposition also hasn't been able to throw up a candidate who will hold appeal on a pan-India basis. Many chief ministers and other regional leaders have local spheres of influence, but don't have a presence in most areas outside their direct domain. As a result, the nation doesn't have a credible leader in sight who could effectively take on the PM, let alone be considered as a replacement.

The question is — how will one emerge?

Over time, India has thrown up regional leaders, particularly CMs, who had the ability and in fact have shouldered the responsibility of leading the country. Even the present PM falls into that category. Experience as a CM is an important ingredient in the grooming of a Prime Minister. It's not necessarily a sufficient one, but certainly an indicator of where potential challengers could emerge.

Recent developments, including but not limited to a steep decline in economic performance, most recently reflected by the 23.9 per cent negative GDP growth; using majoritarianism to impose divisive steps like the CAA, NRC, and the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution, are illustrative. The domination of multimedia communications to reinforce this divisive agenda, dilution

of protective democratic institutions are all well known, but have not been catalysts of bringing about changed electoral attitudes. This is not new. But it seems that recent developments which have aggravated friction in Centre-state ties could become a powerful trigger, which if properly institutionalised and propagated, might provide the route to change.

What is suggested is the creation of an institutionalised forum that could become one of the supportive pillars of democracy. The compulsion to create such an institution will come from the growing Centre-state rifts. The reneging on GST commitments, intruding on the states' domain in agriculture to pass legislation without due consultation, amending laws to take control of the cooperative finance sector and authoritarian use of the Disaster Management Act for centralised pandemic management are some examples.

These should become the trigger for states (in practice, non-BJP states) to join hands in a formal forum. This could comprise the CMs and leaders of the Opposition as members. This would obviously be across party lines, but the membership wouldn't be decided by political parties. It would comprise the elected representatives in states, including CMs and LOPs, and it could in turn create a body of experienced bureaucrats, legal experts and eminent citizens both to advise the forum headed by CMs as well as act as spokespersons.

The CMs will have credible reach in their states and perhaps beyond. The spokespersons and experts would send appropriately approved messages on behalf of the forum, not themselves. Therefore, it would not rest on their individual credibility, but messaging from a mass based politically credible entity.

Think of such a body that could include people

like Raghuram Rajan, Arvind Subramanian, Ravish Kumar, P. Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal, Derek O'Brien, Shashi Tharoor and others that the CMs/LOPs and other leaders with their ear to the ground would choose. In essence, good communication skills would be backed by experience to send collective messages on matters of importance to the people.

The focus of coordination would be Centre-state relations, but clearly it would also include matters of importance to the nation as a whole.

The process of creating such an institution is far less complex and more administratively feasible than trying to create alliances between parties and multiple states. The forum also has the advantage of creating a competitive environment where state CMs and LOPs could compete for visibility to get their points of view across to their constituents and also become examples for a wider audience. This process would throw up potential leaders who would get wider acceptability from their states as well as the national audience.

There are several important issues that remain on the backburner, but which need to be debated and brought to the forefront. For the present, we will use one example as an illustration of what if collectively rather than individually brought into the public domain would help bring a new important discourse of material relevance to change the course of events in India.

Today, the nationalism card is equated with propagating India's strength. Combined with majoritarianism, aggressive stances have been taken both internally and now increasingly externally.

What is suggested is the creation of an institutionalised forum that could become one of the supportive pillars of democracy. The compulsion to create such an institution will come from the growing Centre-state rifts.

Electoral benefits have followed.

However, there is no mention, leave alone widespread understanding, of the costs of such a policy. The costs of controlling Kashmir after Article 370's abrogation, internal insurgencies, and in some ways the minorities, must be researched, assessed and broadcast. The aggressive stances with Pakistan and China have now been supplemented by differences with Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. All these entail huge costs, which the country can ill afford to bear, keeping in mind the fragile economic situation, the high level of poverty and the government's inability to provide the required stimulus.

There is no way India can achieve the growth levels it aspires to with the continuation of policies that in fact are fighting internal-external battles at the expense of funding and alleviating poverty.

What is the alternative?

Modern defence systems can offer maximum deterrence through nuclear capability and technological edge, including digital and IT innovations. This combined with diplomacy should be our key negotiating stance externally. Even Pakistan uses nuclear deterrence to keep us from taking any major military initiatives.

Internally, the divisive agenda should be replaced by policies that help the State carry along all its citizens. Most important, and relevant to the suggested changes, is cooperation rather than friction between New Delhi and the states. No other initiative will be more conducive to rapid progress all around and achieving the growth targets needed to alleviate poverty. Only a collective forum can initiate a meaningful dialogue on issues like nationalism. With properly researched facts, political will and diplomatic endeavours, this is eminently achievable. A transformation could follow peace could replace aggression all around.

The writer is a management and economic adviser

LETTERS

CHOPPING AND CHANGING

Apropos your report *No loss for Cong, no gain for BJP* (Oct. 13). The title explains it all. Everything and anything is expected in the game of politics. Gone are the days where politicians used to stick to their ideologies and ethics. While Kushboo has chopped and changed parties from DMK to Congress and now joined hands with the saffron party, she is just like many other political figures without a committed and dedicated mind-set. Politics is unfortunately becoming like a high-profile job where anyone wants to dive in. Whether Kushboo is interested in serving the people is left to be seen because it appears that she is bent on power and ruling party. The general concept of most politicians is position and power. If he/she doesn't get it easily, one prefers to jump to the next party. Nothing surprising at all.

Jacqueline Netto, Chennai

A STAR CAMPAIGNER

IT IS with reference to the news *Actor Kushboo changes party again, joins BJP now* (Oct. 13). Actor-turned politician Kushboo Sundar, one of Congress' most vocal leaders in social media has joined BJP. She was an untiring fighter for Congress on media, a star campaigner, a real crowd puller and a powerful orator. When she joined DMK in 2010, late Karunanidhi said that Kushboo had been known for her progressive views in the films. Four years later she quit DMK and joined Congress — a decision that was lauded by many. However what made her quit DMK and now Congress had seemingly similar reasons — she was sidelined by powerful leaders of both parties despite the fact that she was more than a usual celebrity-turned politician. Nothing happened when she worked with DMK and Congress and nothing more will happen in BJP too.

P. Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

KING OF CLAY

RAFAEL NADAL'S 13th awe-inspiring victory at the French Open Championships on Sunday thereby equalling the legendary Roger Federer's overall Grand Slam tally of 20 titles ensures the dream run of the maestro who continues to entertain and enthrall tennis lovers across the world with each passing year just as the proverbial wine that gets better in quality with time. Stamping his supremacy on clay courts yet again, the authoritative performance of the 'King of Clay' culminating in his convincing win by ruthlessly demolishing another legend Novak Djokovic in straight sets in a one-sided final, was truly reminiscent of his brilliant and breath-taking performances of yesterday.

B. Suresh Kumar, Coimbatore

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,625.51	0.08
Nifty 50	11,934.50	0.03
S&P 500*	3,520.22	-0.40
Dollar (₹)	73.35	-0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.61	-0.14
Euro (₹)	86.45	0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,989.133	0.25
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.55	0.83
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.904	0.005
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.737	-0.038

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Deepak Kochhar sent back to ED custody



A special court in Mumbai remanded Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till Oct. 17. Deepak Kochhar was arrested by the ED in Sept. under the PMLA in the ICICI Bank-Videocon money laundering case. He was remanded to the ED custody till Sept. 19, but it was suspended after he tested positive for coronavirus and was sent to judicial custody.

Permanent income loss for India in 2020 \$6 tn wiped off global economy

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, OCT. 13

The lockdown measures in India could lead to a sharp recession in 2020. Despite a projected rebound in 2021, the contraction registered in 2020 could translate into a permanent income loss for the country, finds the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad).

In the wake of the pandemic shocks, the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3 per cent this year, leaving global output short by over \$6 trillion by the year end of what economists had expected it to be before the Covid-19 pathogen began to spread, says the Unctad Trade and Development Report 2020.

The UN agency expects South Asia and South-East Asia to contract 4.8 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively, in 2020 and recover 3.9 per cent and 4.3 per cent, respectively, in 2021.

"In the case of India, the baseline scenario is a sharp recession in 2020 as strict lockdown measures to stem the virus' spread brought many productive activities to a halt across the country. Although we expect a rebound in 2021 in line with the growth rates of the Indian economy in recent years, the contraction registered in 2020 is likely to translate into a permanent income loss," finds the report.

The Unctad expects India's GDP to contract by



5.9 in calendar year 2020 and grow by 3.9 in 2021.

In short, the world is grappling with the equivalent of a complete wipe out of the Brazilian, Indian and Mexican economies, said the report. And as domestic activity contracts, so goes the international economy; trade will shrink by around one-fifth this year, foreign direct investment flows by up to 40 per cent and remittances will drop by over \$100 billion.

Among G20 countries, Argentina, Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa have all implemented austerity in the past years but are now struggling to access reliable sources of finance.

Looking at the global demand scenario of the past two years, Unctad has placed India in its third group of "fast-growing global demand drainers". This includes countries whose growth of domestic absorption is relatively faster than the rest of the world, but such absorption does not grow nearly as close as the growth of

their own income. In other words, they exhibit a spending pattern by which their growth of income benefits from additional demand emerging from the economies in the first two groups of "outright global expansionary stances" and "slow-growing global demand backers". But they used it not to add to global demand but rather to accumulate external financial assets.

Talking about the monetary policy, Unctad finds that in the largest developing economies, the central-bank interest rate came down substantially in Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and South Africa, where monetary easing had begun before the pandemic shock. Of the five "BRICS" economies, as of mid-2020, only the People's Bank of China has not cut its interest rate substantially. This idiosyncrasy reflects China's unique financial structure and the fact that consumer prices were accelerating in China until the beginning of 2020.

China's stock market tops \$10 trillion

Oct. 13: Chinese domestic equities are worth more than \$10 trillion for the first time since 2015, when a record crash erased half the market's value in months and saddled millions of investors with losses.

The world's second-largest stock market has added \$3.3 trillion since a low in March, helped by Beijing's policies to encourage equity trading, a flurry of new listings and the strengthening yuan. Stocks have been close to the \$10 trillion milestone since July, when China's government acted to tame a speculative rally that had suddenly pushed a gauge of large caps near a 12-year high. The country's total market capitalisation is now \$10.04 trillion and just shy of the all-time high, according to data compiled by Bloomberg as of October 12. The US has the world's most valuable stock market at \$38.3 trillion.

Chinese shares have rallied since a long holiday break on optimism the government will introduce reforms to turn the region around Shenzhen into a global technology hub and that the ruling Communist Party will introduce policies to stimulate demand when it holds a major meeting later this month. Equities surged over the summer as margin debt climbed at the fastest pace since 2015 and turnover soared.

—Bloomberg

Covid cover can be renewed or merged into other policy

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, OCT. 13

The insurance regulator on Tuesday allowed insurance companies to offer policyholders who have bought Covid-specific insurance covers to either renew, migrate or port their policies.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Tuesday issued revised guidelines in this regard. By the guidelines, 'Corona Kavach' and 'Corona Rakshak' policies of any tenure can be renewed for further terms of three-and-a-half months, six-and-a-half months or nine-and-a-half months, as per the option exercised by the policyholder, subject to the underwriting policy of the insurer.

Both the policies can be renewed till March 31, 2021. Similarly such policyholders can also port to a comprehensive



health plan.

Where the policy is renewed, an additional waiting period of 15 days should not be imposed and the coverage has to be continued seamlessly.

During renewal, policyholders can enhance the sum insured. For any increase in the sum insured, the waiting period shall start afresh only for the enhanced portion of the sum insured, said the regulator.

Renewals may be done before the expiry of the existing policy contract

said the Irdai in a circular issued to non-life and pure health insurance companies.

Inaugurated in July, Corona Kavach is an indemnity plan that will cover hospitalisation expenses. The cost of treatment for any comorbid condition, including pre-existing comorbid conditions along with the treatment for Covid-19, will be covered under this policy.

The sum insured in Corona Kavach policy ranges from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh. On the other hand, Corona Rakshak is a fixed benefit plan in which if a policyholder is diagnosed with Covid-19 and hospitalised for three days, a fixed amount (sum insured) will be paid by the insurance companies. For Corona Rakshak Policy, the minimum sum insured would be Rs 50,000 and the maximum limit is set at Rs 2.5 lakh.

Wipro net falls 3.4%; buyback at ` 9,500 cr

New Delhi, Oct. 13: IT services major Wipro on Tuesday posted a 3.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,465.7 crore in the three months ended September and projected revenue growth in the December quarter even as it announced a plan to buyback shares worth up to Rs 9,500 crore.

The Bengaluru-based company, which had a net profit (attributable to equity holders of the company) at Rs 2,552.7 crore in the year-ago period, recorded

almost flat year-on-year revenue growth at Rs 15,114.5 crore in the latest September quarter.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the company's net profit climbed over 3 per cent while revenue was up by little over 1 per cent.

Wipro CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte said the demand environment has improved from the first quarter even though the pace of decision making remains a bit slower on the larger deals.

The buyback proposal,

which is subject to shareholders' approval, will involve purchase of up to 23.75 crore equity shares, representing 4.16 per cent of the company's total paid-up equity capital, at Rs 400 per share. The buyback size will be up to Rs 9,500 crore and the price of Rs 400 per scrip is more than 6 per cent higher than the company's closing price of Rs 375.5 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday. Wipro's rival TCS unveiled a Rs 16,000 crore share buyback plan last week. — PTI

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: Creative abilities, work opportunities and income will increase. Your sincere efforts today not only solve domestic problems but also restore harmony.



Taurus: Co-workers won't be empathic towards you; keep to yourself. Close relatives' unreasonable demands cause a dilemma. Think before speaking to your children.



Gemini: A senior's recognition at work acts as a shot in your arm. Expect a love-hate relationship with a family member. Home-based changes must wait.



Cancer: Unexpected financial burden could compel a hand-to-mouth existence. Avoid pessimism or it'll disturb your body's harmony.



Leo: Your spendthrift nature may push you to the brink of financial penury today. It's a very successful day; expect your family's support on most occasions.



Virgo: Invest money carefully today. You'll develop social contacts for personal use. You'll unnecessarily overspend to catch other's attention today. Expect someone to lure you into a career in web designing.

You share your b'day with

Gautam Gambhir, an Indian politician and former cricketer, who has played all formats of the game. He is a current member of the Lok Sabha since 2019.



Libra: Spending more than you make furthers financial crises. Smokers might suffer joint pains. Don't push associates to go along with your ideas. Expect arguments over religion.



Scorpio: Use all means of communication. Avoid deals with those you know intimately. Contact experts in your field about future possibilities. You'll find advice.



Sagittarius: Better days are coming. Some strongly seek a change of work. Loved ones may arrange a surprise. Your good sense takes over reckless feelings.



Capricorn: Friends shouldn't influence financial plans. Tackle minor problems immediately. Avoid legal commitments and touchy situations.

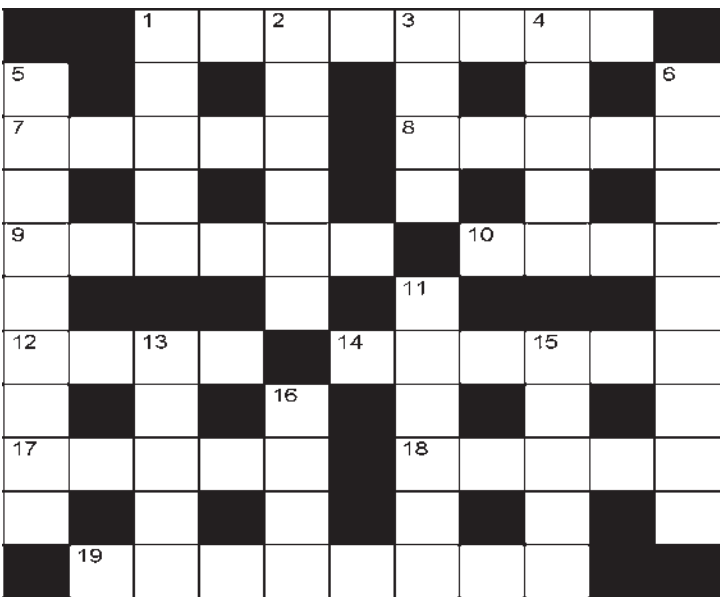


Aquarius: Financial positions improve and you'll keep your commitments. Expect extra expenditure over an auspicious event. Real-estate will be profitable.



Pisces: Your academic career has obstacles, though you'll show extraordinary courage in tackling them. Spending time away from home would cause family members to be disappointed. It will be a creatively active day.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- Across**
1. Flying (8)
 7. Sag (5)
 8. Set fire to maliciously (5)
 9. Messy (6)
 10. Find out (4)
 12. Job (4)
 14. Grain measure (6)
 17. Courage (5)
 18. Surly (5)
 19. Sparkled (8)

- Down**
1. At large (5)
 2. White water stretch (6)
 3. Makes a choice (4)
 4. Scandinavian (5)
 5. Fine-tuning (9)
 6. Rifle shot (anag) (5,4)
 9. Club (6)
 11. Disperse (5)
 13. Badger relentlessly (5)
 16. Average (4)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 1. Tailings, 6. Clef, 7. Viable, 9. Natal, 11. Civic, 12. Quack, 13. Gaffe, 16. Eczema, 18. Anti, 19. Yearling.

Down: 1. Technique, 2. Inept, 3. Navy, 4. Stamina, 5. Pal, 8. Exceeding, 10. Alchemy, 14. Fungi, 15. Gala, 17. Cob.

Word Mine

H
D
U
O
L
O
A
T
D

TODAY'S RATINGS: 8 AVERAGE: 10
GOOD: 12 OUTSTANDING

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

jumble

SOEEB
GYECA
UROCKN
SDOYTG

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Yesterday's Answer: People thought the twins were identical, but their mom — KNEW DIFFERENT

spade and cashed the heart ace. When both opponents followed, declarer claimed for plus 850. Five clubs doubled costs 1100 if North leads a psychic diamond (or a spade, and South shifts to a diamond at trick two). In an online duplicate, no one found this defense, and plus 800 was worse than the numerous 850s.

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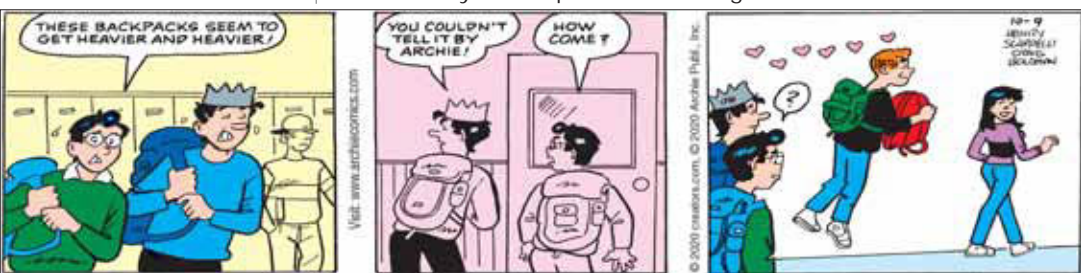
CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



bridge

PHILLIP ALDER

HOW COULD HE KNOW WHAT PARTNER HAD?

Jay Leno said, "Here's something to think about: How come you never see a headline like 'Psychic Wins Lottery?'" Since bridge has gone online, some players — even a couple of world champions — have become psychic, finding amazingly successful bids and plays. What they do is log in under two usernames. One plays at a table while the other kibitzes, so has the full deal on

the screen. The most blatant I spotted was the person who overcalled two clubs when vulnerable on a three-card suit and only 3 points. The opponents could make only one slam — six clubs! In today's deal, everyone was honest; otherwise, the auction and play would have gone differently. North's raise to four hearts was preemptive, promising five trumps and a weak hand. Then, when East competed

North	♦ A 6 5	♥ 10 7 5 3	♠ 4 3 2	♣ A 5 3
West	♦ K Q	♥ K 4	♠ K 2	♣ A 5 3
East	♦ K 2	♥ A 10 8 6 4	♠ A 10 8 6 4	♣ A 5 3
South	♦ A 10 8 6 4	♥ K 2	♠ K 2	♣ A 5 3
Declarer: East				
Vulnerable: Both				
Tricks	West	North	South	East
1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8
5	6	7	8	9
6	7	8	9	10
7	8	9	10	11
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86	87	88	89	90
87	88	89	90	91
88	89	90	91	92
89	90	91	92	93
90	91	92	93	94
91	92	93	94	95
92	93	94	95	96
93	94	95	96	97
94	95	96	97	98
95	96	97	98	99
96	97	98	99	100

SHORT TAKES

Ronaldo tests Corona positive

Lisbon: Cristiano Ronaldo has tested positive for coronavirus, the Portuguese football federation announced on Tuesday. Ronaldo "is asymptomatic" and "will not play against Sweden" in Wednesday's Nations League match, the federation said on its website.

The 35-year-old Juventus forward, who has been voted the world's top player five times, played in Portugal's goalless Nations League draw against France on Sunday.

Ronaldo has scored 101 goals for Portugal and will be a huge absence for his team against Sweden as they aim to hold on to top spot in their group.

The test result also means Ronaldo is a doubt for Juventus' Champions League group match with Barcelona on October 28, which was set to pit Ronaldo against his old rival Lionel Messi. — *AFP*

Tokyo to hold gymnastics meet

Tokyo: Tokyo is planning to hold an international gymnastics meet next month that will exempt non-Japanese athletes from a 14-day quarantine period, an approach that might foreshadow planning for next year's postponed Olympics.

The Japanese Gymnastics Association announced the meet will feature athletes from the United States, Russia, China and Japan. The one-day event is set for November 8 at the Yoyogi National Gymnasium. The Japanese news agency Kyodo reported that 2,000 fans will be allowed to attend, and it said athletes' travel will be restricted while in the country. Kyodo said the non-Japanese athletes will take a polymerase chain reaction test before they leave home, and will also be tested daily in Japan. — *AP*

Wawrinka edges Evans in 1st round

St. Petersburg: Stan Wawrinka saved three match points to achieve a comeback win over Dan Evans and reach the second round of the St. Petersburg Open, after the tournament was disrupted by an unnamed player's coronavirus case. Serving to stay in the match at 5-6 down in the second, Wawrinka gave Evans three chances to seal the match but saved them all and then won the second-set tiebreaker and deciding set to complete a 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-5 victory.

Wawrinka next plays Evgeny Donskoy after the Russian wild card beat Egor Gerasimov 6-4, 7-6 (4). Cameron Norrie managed a surprise win where his fellow British player Evans couldn't. Norrie hit 16 aces on his way to a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win over the eighth-seeded Taylor Fritz. — *AP*

Alex, Stefan look to extend good run

Aragon: Fresh off the best result of the year so far, the Repsol Honda Team land in Spain for the first of two races in Aragon primed for more as Marc Marquez continues his rehabilitation at home. A pair of unforgettable rides in Le Mans saw Alex Marquez charge from 18th to second, taking a debut podium in just his ninth race and his first-time racing in the wet while Stefan Bradl shot through the field to take eighth after starting 21st. The Repsol Honda team arrives back in Spain for the Aragon Grand Prix with renewed vigour. Claiming Honda's 849th premier class podium, Alex Marquez proved to the world why he is a double World Champion and now a factory MotoGP rider.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

BADMINTON

Denmark Open: Matches from 12.30 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

TENNIS

St Petersburg Open: Matches from 3.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

FOOTBALL

UEFA Nations League: Finland vs Ireland from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; Italy vs Netherlands from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Six, HD; England vs Denmark from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3, HD; Croatia vs France from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Portugal vs Sweden from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

WWE NXT

Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

A KING-SIZE WIN

All-round Chennai beat Sunrisers by 20 runs

Dubai, Oct. 13: Chennai Super Kings defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by 20 runs in their IPL match, here on Tuesday.

Shane Watson top-scored for the CSK with a 42-run knock while Sandeep Sharma was pick of the bowlers for SRH. The pacer took two wickets and conceded only 19 runs in his four overs.

Kane Williamson scored 57 for SRH while Dwayne Bravo and Karn Sharma took two wickets apiece for CSK.

Earlier, Watson and Ambati Rayudu shared a 81-run stand but Sunrisers Hyderabad did well to restrict Chennai Super Kings to 167 for 6.

Watson's 42 off 38 balls was studded with one four and three maximums, while Rayudu's hit three boundaries and two sixes in his 34-ball 41-run knock.

Jadeja (25 not out) and Dhoni (21 off 13 balls) played quick cameos smashing a total of five fours and two sixes between them in a stand of 32 in just 2.4 overs.

SRH bowlers did a commendable job, claiming four wickets for 47 runs in the last six overs. Sandeep Sharma (2/19), Khaleel Ahmed (2/45) and T. Natarajan (2/41) picked two wickets apiece.

Desperate to snap their two-match losing streak, CSK elected to bat. The three-time champions sent young England all-rounder Sam Curran instead of Watson to open the innings with Faf du Plessis.

Sharma drew first blood for the Sunrisers, remov-

SCORECARD

Chennai Super Kings: S Curran b S. Sharma 31, F du Plessis c Bairstow b S. Sharma 0, S. Watson c Pandey b Natarajan 42, A Rayudu c Warner b K. Ahmed 41, M.S. Dhoni c Williamson b Natarajan 21, R Jadeja (not out) 25, D. Bravo b K. Ahmed 0, D Chahar (not out) 2. **Extras:** (lb-3, wd-2) 5. **Total:** (For 6 wkts, in 20 overs) 167. **FoW:** 1-10, 2-35, 3-116, 4-120, 5-152, 6-152. **Bowling:** S. Sharma 4-0-19-2, K. Ahmed 4-0-45-2, S. Nadeem 4-0-29-0, T. Natarajan 4-0-41-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-30-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: D. Warner (c) c & b Curran 9, J. Bairstow b Jadeja 23, M. Pandey run out 4, K. Williamson c Thakur b Sharma 57, P. Garg c Jadeja b Sharma 16, V. Shankar c Jadeja b Bravo 12, Rashid Khan hit wicket b Thakur 14, S. Nadeem c & b Bravo 5, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 1, T. Natarajan (not out) 0. **Extras:** (w-6) 6. **Total:** (for 8 wkts, in 20 overs) 147. **FoW:** 1-23, 2-27, 3-59, 4-99, 5-117, 6-126, 7-146, 8-146. **Bowling:** D. Chahar 4-0-28-0, S. Curran 3-0-18-1, R. Jadeja 3-0-21-1, S. Thakur 2-0-10-1, K. Sharma 4-0-37-2, D. Bravo 3-0-25-2, P. Chawla 1-0-8-0.

ing du Plessis in the beginning of the third over. The South African sneaked one to Jonny Bairstow off the very first ball he faced for a golden duck. Curran was off to a bright start, smashing Ahmed for the first boundary of the match in the second over. — *PTI*



Shane Watson of Chennai Super Kings en route to his 42 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. — *BCCI*

Royals eye revenge against Delhi

Dubai, Oct. 13: Bolstered by the arrival of Ben Stokes, Rajasthan Royals will hope for a stronger show from their slightly off-colour top order when the side try to settle scores against second-placed Delhi Capitals in their return leg IPL match here on Wednesday.

The Capitals had beaten RR by 46 runs last week and Steve Smith's men will look to return the compliment when they meet for the second time in the tournament.

The last time the two teams clashed, RR didn't have Stokes in the ranks and even though the England all-rounder didn't set the stage on fire in his first game but his presence inspired the former champions to snap a four-match losing streak with a five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"With Stokesy back, it

Steve Smith



brings a nice balance to us. He just bowled one over as he just got out of a lockdown and is just working back into things," Smith had said.

While Stokes will be an important cog in the RR wheel, the team will also have to fix their top order which has been short of runs in the last five games, leaving too much for the lower-order to get. Skipper Smith and

Sanju Samson have failed to make any significant contribution with the bat since setting the Sharjah ground on fire in their first two matches.

Jos Buttler produced a superb 44-ball 70 against Mumbai Indians but didn't capitalise on the starts in the last two matches.

Delhi, on the other hand, were brought down by Mumbai in their last game and Shreyas Iyer's

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

● Matches: 21

● Rajasthan: 11

● Delhi: 10

MEETING IN 2019

● Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 6 wickets in Jaipur.

● Delhi beat Rajasthan by 5 wickets at Delhi.

MEETING IN CURRENT EDITION

● Delhi beat Rajasthan by 46 runs at Sharjah.

FOR THE RECORD

● Rishabh Pant, who has smashed 99 sixes in 60 innings, needs just one more to become the 21st batsman to complete a century of sixes in IPL.

● Steven Smith will become the 107th player to complete a double century of matches in Twenty-20 cricket.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

men will look to shrug off the odd defeat and get back to the top with a professional display. — *PTI*

GAYLE HINTS AT PLAYING AGAINST RCB

Dubai, Oct. 13: Senior Kings XI Punjab batsman Chris Gayle has hinted that he may get his first IPL game of the season against Royals Challengers Bangalore on Thursday, having recovered from a bout of food poisoning.

"To all the fans out there, the wait is over. The Universe Boss is back. I know you all have been waiting for such a long time, the wait is over unless something dramatic happens to the Universe Boss again, which I hope not," Gayle said in the short video.

KXIP had earlier posted photos of Gayle returning to the nets on Monday.

"He is fine now and it is likely that he will be playing the game against RCB (on Thursday)," a team source said. — *PTI*

DENMARK OPEN | BADMINTON

Lakshya off to winning start

Odense, Oct. 13: Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen made a successful return to competitive badminton, beating Christo Popov in straight games in the opening round of the \$750,000 Denmark Open, which marked the resumption of the international calendar after a coronavirus-forced break of seven months.

The 19-year-old Indian, who claimed five titles including two Super 100 tournaments last year, produced a clinical performance to outwit Popov 21-9 21-15 to reach the second round.

He will take on the winner of the match between Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus and Belgium's Maxime Moreels.

"I moved quite well, that was the key. In the second game he had a lead but I had made a few mistakes. I was able to cut down on them and find my rhythm," Lakshya, who is currently ranked world no.27, was quoted as saying by Badminton World Federation (BWF).

"I'm very happy to be playing again after seven months and it felt very normal on the court."

Lakshya looked in good touch as he moved well on the court and found his



Lakshya Sen

touch from the word go.

The Indian jumped to a 11-8 lead at the break in the opening game and didn't allow his opponent to make a comeback, reeling off three points to move to 14-8. The second game was a more competitive affair as both the players fought tooth and nail, moving neck-and-neck till 12-12.

After that, Lakshya once again broke off and moved to 15-12 and 16-14 before closing the match comfortably.

Denmark Open Super 750 event is the only event happening this year as the BWF was forced to cancel multiple tournaments and postpone the Asia leg and the World Tour Final to next year. — *PTI*

GAMES-BOUND SHOOTERS TO TRAIN AT BIO-SECURE CAMP

New Delhi, Oct. 13: The Karni Singh Range will be divided into four "risk" zones to ensure that Olympic-bound shooters can safely resume training at a two-month long national camp which will be conducted from Thursday in a bio-bubble to ward off the Covid-19 threat. The Sports Authority of India and the National Rifle Association of India will take joint responsibility of conducting the camp in a secure environment.

"In order to maintain a secure bio-bubble whereby the athletes can train safely and to prevent a coronavirus outbreak, the responsibility of maintaining the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be shared by the Sports Authority of India and the NRAI," read a statement from SAI on Tuesday.

The camp had earlier been postponed twice because of the pandemic and is expected to feature 32 shooters (18 men and 14 women), eight coaches, three foreign coaches and two support staff. All 15 Olympic quota winners will be a part of it. The exercise will take place at a total cost of ₹1.43 crore. — *PTI*

IBPA CONCLAVE CALLS FOR DOPING AWARENESS

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, OCT. 13

President of Federation of Sports Medicine Dr. PSM Chandran said the Anti Doping Education Programme (ADEP) has to be aggressive in creating awareness on doping menace.

"There should be wider publicity on social and visual media through sports ambassadors and if awareness is created with these education programmes, then the instances of doping will come down. We need to educate the athletes about the side effects of doping," said Chandran, former director of Sports Authority of India (SAI) and member of Anti Doping Disciplinary Panel.

Chandran spoke at an e-

conclave organised by Integrated Basketball Players' Association (IBPA).

Sports physician Dr. Kannan Pugazhendhi, former athlete Reeth Abraham and vice-chairperson of Anti Doping Disciplinary Panel, Charu Pragya were the other panellists.

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It's time for Rahul to take a leaf out of Kohli's book



Hemant Kenkre Silly Point

Over the weekend, the Indian Premier League (IPL) highlighted the tale of two captains — Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul. For Kohli, winning the IPL is his last frontier as the glittering crown is the only one missing in his cupboard. He showed his intent, as a captain, in his last innings against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Dubai International Stadium.

He was face to face with his predecessor (for India), Mahendra Singh Dhoni,

and was well aware of the importance of the success of this match as he navigated his team, Royal Challenger Bangalore (RCB) to a win. Rahul, on the other hand, is in charge of a team that looks like one that's on a downhill race on the sand dunes of the Arabian desert with just one victory in the seven matches they have played so far, even as he continues to get runs.

RCB and victories are two words that, somehow, don't fit into the general thinking of the fan. From

2008, when the IPL kicked off, till the last season the team has flattered to deceive its fans with no silverware on their shelves. Kohli, the only member of the original side, has been judged, as a captain, more for his role in the (mis)fortunes of RCB than for India for the past eight seasons since he took on the leadership.

It just maybe that the match against CSK on Saturday could be a turning point in Kohli's tryst with IPL as the skipper of RCB. Till his unbeaten innings of 72 against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in RCB's fourth IPL fixture, he had not tasted the joy of scoring a fifty in eight innings — a rarity for someone considered one of the world's best in all formats of the game.

His 90-run knock against CSK came in trying circumstances, having lost compatriot AB de Villiers for a duck and was left with lesser known partners to build a competitive total.

What we saw was vintage Kohli who shrugged off all the rust accumulated with lack of match practice and emerged as the champion that we know.

Watching his 52-ball innings was like going through a master class of correct batting and the only typical Twenty20 (T20) shot he essayed, a falling sweep extracting maximum runs, came on the first ball of the last over — the 47th he faced. It was almost like Kohli, the captain, had spoken with Kohli, the batsman.

At the half-way stage of

IPL, RCB is sitting pretty with eight points from six games (as one writes this) and are showing all indications of being a contender to qualify for the final stages of the league. The two teams that have a lot of soul searching to do as the matches progress, CSK and Kings XI Punjab (KXIP), are probably looking for some succour in the desert. They are left with wooden spoons, at this point in time, languishing at the bottom of the table with four and two points respectively.

Their current plight may be self-inflicted given the players they selected. While CSK's problems are obvious, team KXIP's morale must have delved down further after losing a match they should have cantered home with. Like

in the case of RCB and it's skipper, KXIP now faces the same in reverse with Rahul under fire for lack of changing gears. It must be hurting Rahul to have the Orange Cap (for the highest aggregate scorer in the tournament) in his kitbag but not much points in the team kitty.

While Rahul is being criticised for his strike rate of 127.58 for his 74-runs off 58 balls, the real problem facing the team lies elsewhere.

The main issue is their dependence of top three batsmen, including an informal Mayank Agarwal and Nicholas Pooran and no one in the middle to build further on a good start. The lack of power coming from the blade of Glenn Maxwell is hurting KXIP much more than Rahul's

strike rate.

It is a similar situation with a few other teams in the IPL who are also top heavy and tend to struggle in the middle by not converting the starts into big totals.

While Kohli's RCB was boosted by stability in their bowling attack, thanks to consistent shows by youngsters Navdeep Saini and Washington Sunder, his personal show of leading from the front has made the team look well-balanced and ready for more challenges. For KXIP, the coming week is crucial with matches slotted against RCB and leaders, Mumbai Indians. Rahul could well take a leaf out of Kohli's book. Maybe it's time for Rahul the batsman to have a word with Rahul the captain.