THE ASIAN AGE

NATION 4

Shivraj, Imarti Devi call upon Sonia to sack Nath, NCW seeks explanation



SPORT 8

K.L. Rahul lauds Shami, says he was very clear on bowling six yorkers in Super Over

DELHI AGE 16

Aamir suffers rib injury. takes painkillers & decided to go ahead with shooting

Vol. 27 No. 245 | 16 pages | ₹5.00



RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17



A naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is successfully test-fired from an indigenously built stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea.

55,722 cases take **India count to 75L;** 40m hit worldwide

New Delhi: The total number of Covid-19 cases in India on Monday reached 75.52 lakh with 55,722 fresh cases and 579 deaths in a day. The total number of deaths in India is 1,14, 610. Though a sharp decline in fresh cases is being noted for the last few days, the health authorities are keeping their fingers crossed in view of the upcoming festive season. The US, so far, has recorded 83.88 lakh cases. Globally, the total number of cases crossed 40 million on Monday.
Full report on Page 3

Ballia accused sent

to 14-day custody

Ballia: A court in Ballia sent Dhirendra Pratap Singh, a local BJP leader who allegedly killed a man following a quarrel over the allotment of ration shops last week, to 14-day judicial custody on Monday. He was presented before the court io am amid tign security. — PTI Full report on Page 4

Cop shot dead by

militants in J&K

Srinagar: A police official was shot dead by suspected militants in J&K's southern Anantnag district late Monday evening following which the security forces launched a massive operation in the area to capture the assailants dead or alive. Full report on Page 4



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



RH: 27% Rain: Nil

Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Shuddha Chavithi till 11.23 am Star: Jyeshta till 2.14 am Varjyam: 9.06 am to 10.35 am Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.19 am; 10.46 pm to 11.36 pm Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.46 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.26 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 10.09 AM MOONSET TODAY 8.49 PM**

CAA set to be **implemented** after Covid-19 ends: Nadda

AGE CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, OCT. 19

cess in the Assembly polls in Bihar and West Bengal, BJP president

Jagat Prakash Nadda said on Monday that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be implemented soon after Covid pandemic ends in India, blaming the ongoing pandemic for the delay in the CAA's implemen-

Referring to the "Gorkhaland" separate statehood demand, Mr Nadda also made it clear the BJP was "deter-mined and committed" to fulfil its promise. He was speaking at the Samajik Samuha meeting in Siliguri of North Bengal, a stronghold of the BJP, during a daylong tour.

On the CAA, he said: "As far as the CAA is concerned, you will get its benefits. It is sure. Rules are being made now. Due to the coronavirus, a little delay has occurred. As corona is going away, the rules are also being drafted. We will fulfil it."

About the Gorkhaland demand, Mr Nadda added: "As far as the Gorkha community is concerned, I am thankful to them. You have always stood by us. It is our responsibility now. We have kept their two demands in our election manifesto. One of them is the political and permanent solution. Another is about recognition of 11 Gorkha tribes. Both are in our election manifesto and we will fulfil them. We are determined and committed for it."

The BJP president's cant as the Centre had called a meeting on "Gorkhaland" inviting the Mamata Banerjee government, the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha and Gorkhaland Territorial Administration in New Delhi on October 7. But the meeting could not be held as scheduled as the state government refused to attend and stayed



Punjab CM Capt. Amarinder Singh and others pay homage to the farmers who lost their lives during the agitation over new farm laws on the first day of a special session of the Assembly in Chandigarh on Monday. The Punjab government did not table legislation to counter the Centre's farm laws on the session's first day. Report on Page 4

Tejashwi woos Chirag for polls; Nitish, BJP worry

NAYEAR AZAD PATNA, OCT. 19

The RJD, which is keen to expand its voter base in Bihar, is now trying to woo Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan ahead of the Assembly polls due to begin from October 28. This is worrying both the BJP and chief minister Nitish Kumar, for if the RJD and LJP join forces it would make things much worse for his JD(Ü).
On Monday RJD leader
Yadav

Tejashwi Yadav expressed sympathy for Chirag Paswan, who recently pulled out of the



NDA in Bihar due to differences with Mr Kumar. though he remains a BJP ally at the national level.

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

The NDA in Bihar is calling the LJP a "vote katwa" party for fielding candidates against the JD(U) and others. Chirag Paswan, who recently lost his father Ram Vilas Paswan, is upset at being ignored by Mr Kumar. He told reporters earlier this week that when his father's body was flown to Patna, the CM had coldshouldered him at the airport. "Even when I went and touched his feet he didn't respond", the LJP chief said.

Chirag Paswan recently created a stir in Bihar politics by giving tickets to several sitting BJP MLAs after their seats went to

Army to hand him back to PLA at Moldo **China soldier strays** across LAC, caught

PAWAN BALI NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

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

The Chinese soldier has been identified as Corporal Wang Ya Long. "The PLA soldier has been provided medical assistance, including oxygen, food and warm clothes, to protect him from the vagaries of ex-treme altitude and harsh climatic conditions," said the Indian Army in a statement. It said request has also been received from the PLA about the whereabouts of the missing soldier.

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

Both the Indian and Chinese armies have deployed over 50,000 troops each

Turn to Page 4



Army Chief Gen. M.M. Naravane inspects IAF's Rafale jet at Ambala Air Force Base on Monday.

India asks Australia to join 'Quad' naval drills

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

In a snub to China, India has invited Australia to its trilateral naval exer-"Malabar" November with the US and Japan. India, the US, Japan

and Australia are part of the "Quad" alliance, which Beijing considers as an anti-China group-ing. Now, all the Quad countries will be participating in a naval war

game this year.
While Australia wanted to be part of the

Malabar exercise for some time now, India was hesitant to invite it to avoid any angry reaction from China.

However, China's aggression at the LAC in eastern Ladakh since May this year, seemed to have finally made India to come out of its reluctance and invite Australia .

This move will not go down well with China which wants to dominate the seas as seen by its aggression is South China Sea.

More on Page 3

Faroog grilled

HC orders 'no entry' at all Durga Pujas in Bengal

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, OCT. 19

In a landmark ruling, the Calcutta high court on Monday declared all Durga Puja mandaps in West Bengal "no entry zones" for visitors after treating the pandals as "containment zones" to stop crowding, which is feared to trigger the superspread of the Covid-19 pandemic in the state during the festive season.

A division bench of Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee passed the order which will cover around 34,000 pujas, most of which are patronised by ruling

Trinamul Congress leaders, in the state. The high court's order came on Tritiya, which chief minister Mamata Banerjee had recently announced as the date for puja organisers to allow the revellers to visit the mandaps, three days ahead of the scheduled time.

The division bench laid down a set of guidelines after hearing a public interest litigation case on the state government's permission to organise Durga Puja amid Covid-19 pandemic. One of them is that all the puja mandaps' entrance will be barricaded with a "No Entry Zone" notice for puja revellers.

No stalls, melas at **Delhi's Durga Puia**

New Delhi: The Delhi government has issued a formal order allowing Durga Puja pandal setup in the city but with some guidelines. No rallies, food stalls or processions will be allowed inside or outside any pandal or venue until October 31.

The division bench suggested that the revellers could watch the pujas "virtually". Besides, only 15 members among organisers in case of a small

puja will be allowed to be present at the mandap, while the number will be 25 in a big puja mandap. But their names will be displayed at the puja mandap's entrance and it can-

not be changed. Also, a distance of five meters and 10 meters respectively will have to be maintained around the small and big puja mandaps. The distance will have to be measured from where the puja mandap's boundary ends, said the petitioner's advocate. CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP Ranjan Bikash

Bhattacharyya. Expressing concern over photographs in the media

crowds without any protection at various markets, the division bench said though the Mamata Baneriee government's guidelines for the puja celebrations reflect its goodwill, these are not being applied in reality. It noted that Ganesh Utsay was not allowed in Mumbai due to the Covid-19 pan-

of the puja shoppers'

The bench wondered how the Kolkata Police, with a strength of around 30.000 personnel, would be able to look after crowd management at pujas in the city alone, while ensuring law and

order and tackling crime.

7 hours by ED; **J&K Opp. calls** it a 'vendetta' YUSUF JAMEEL

SRINAGAR, OCT. 19

chief minister and National Conference president

Farooq Abdullah was on Monday questioned by the Enforcement Directorate over an alleged multi-crore scam in the Jammu and Kashmir Association (J&KCA).

The ED's summoning Dr Abdullah to its Srinagar office prompted the NC and other Opposition parties to link the move with their forming an alliance last week to fight for the restoration of the erst-while state's special sta-

The NC accused the BJP government at the Centre of using official agencies to bully its president "after failing to fight him politically' People's Democratic Party leader and former

CM Mehbooba Mufti political vender: She tweeted: "ED's sudden summon to Farooq Sahab displays the extent of GOIs nervousness about mainstream parties in J&K fighting as one unit. Also reeks of political vendetta & won't in the least blunt our collective resolve to fight for our rights."

Dr Abdullah's son and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah also reacted sharply to the ED's summoning his father. He added: "To set the record straight, no raids are being conducted at Dr

Sahib's residence.

Dr Abdullah was "interrogated" for seven hours over his alleged role in the misappropriation of ₹113.66 crores received by the J&KCA from the BCCI between

More on Page 4

Assam, Mizo CMs talk; Centre tries to defuse flareup

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, OCT. 19

The situation on the Assam-Mizoram interstate border continued to be tense as Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla reviewed the situation on Monday and tried to pacify both states amid charges of transgression of state borders. Security sources said the situation was now under control in Assam's Kolasib district and Mizoram's Cachar district.

Earlier, Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal briefed the PMO and the home ministry and spoke Mizoram Zoramthanga over the phone on joint efforts to settle border issues amicably. Mr Zoramthanga assured Mr Sonowal of efforts to maintain peace

at the inter-state border. The violence erupted Saturday after people living on both sides clashed over a Covid-19 testing centre set up by Mizoram in territory claimed by Assam to test Mizoram-

bound truckers and oth young men from the Mizoram side of the border came to Lailapur and attacked truck drivers and villagers and burnt more than 15 small shops and houses, to which locals on the Assam side retaliated. The police said five-six people, including Nizamuddin Lahskar, was injured. Mizo sources claimed eight youth from their

state were also injured. Sources said both sides, at a video conference with the Union home secretary Monday, agreed to allow the movement of vehicles stranded at the border in Vairengte since Saturday.

Saying the territorial dispute between the two states were yet to be resolved, sources said the Assam government claims its territory on the basis of the Survey of India map, but the Mizoram government does not accept this, and stakes claim on areas under the traditional "jhum cultivation" as its territory.

being made in all sectors to **ensure** growth

Mysuru, Oct. 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this decade India's.

"In the last 6-7 months you might have seen the speed and the ambit of reforms is increasing.Whether it is agriculture, space, defence, aviation or labour. In every sector necessary changes are being made for gro-" Mr Modi said.

Addressing the centenary convocation of the University of Mysore through video conference, he said it is being being done for the sake of crores of youth in this country and to make this decade India's. — PTI

Modi: Changes

Monday said necessary changes are being made in every sector to ensure growth and to make

He also said that efforts are being made at all levels to make the country a global hub for higher education and its youth competitive.

Bangkok stir to seek PM's exit intensifies



As the pro-democracy protests escalate across Thailand, activists wave mobile phones with lights on at a demonstration at Kaset intersection in Bangkok on Monday.

Thais try to censor protest coverage

ability to organise comes

Bangkok, Oct. 19: Thai authorities worked on Monday to stem a growing tide of protests calling for the Prime Minister to resign by threatening to censor news coverage, raiding a publishing house and attempting to block the Telegram messaging app used by demonstrators.

The efforts by Prime Minister Prayuth Chanocha's government to the student-led drain protests of support and the

as demonstrations have grown in the capital and spread around the country, despite an emergency decree, which bans public gatherings of more than four people in Bangkok, outlaws news said to affect national security and gives authorities broad power to detain people. Thousands of mostly

young protesters massed in northern Bangkok on Monday evening, as they have in various locations

fell, they held their cellphones up, lighting the crowd. The protesters charge that Prayuth, an army commander who led a 2014 coup, was returned to power unfairly in last year's general election

in the capital over the

past six days to push their

demands, including a con-

troversial call for reform

of the monarchy. As night

April 2002 and December 2011. because laws had been changed to favor a promilitary party.

tion in the city and presently the government

is focusing on the "Red Light On, Gaadi off" cam-paign. The odd-even scheme is a road rationing

plan under which odd and even numbered vehicles

Responding to a question

at a press conference, Mr Rai said if all other ways

fail then the Delhi government will think about

implementing the odd-even scheme. "We have

implemented the odd-even

scheme several times in

Delhi and it will be our last

weapon. Odd-even is also a

way to reduce vehicular

pollution so right now we

are completely focussing

on this ("Red Light On, Gaadi off") campaign and if all other programmes

don"t work then the gov-

ernment will think about

implementing the odd-even scheme," he said.

Chief minister Arvind

Kejriwal on October 15

launched the "Red Light

On, Gaadi off" (red light

ply on alternate days.



IN BRIEF

Man arrested for

harassing woman

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested a 28-year-old man from Tapi in Gujarat for allegedly harassing a woman by sending her obscene messages on WhatsApp. The

accused has been identified as Lad Ashish, a resident of Tapi where he works as a

sales executive in a car firm. According to DCP (South district) Atul Kumar Thakur, the matter came to light on July 3 after a complaint was received at the Hauz Khas police station from a woman who alleged that a man was sending her sexually explicit messages on WhatsApp.

"Based on her complaint, a case was registered under Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 354A (sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Following this, a probe was initiated," said the DCP. "The accused was arrested and the mobile phone used to send vulgar messages was recovered from his possession," said the DCP, adding that the accused was brought to Delhi and further investigation is underway.

Woman found dead,

hubby & kid missing

Noida: A 26-year-old woman was found dead under mysterious conditions at her home in a village here while her husband and child were missing, police said on Monday. The body of Sapna Yadav, who lived in Yakubpur, was found lying on the floor of the house with slight marks of strangulation on her neck, the police said. "There were no other injury marks on her body, which was spotted by her neigh-bours who alerted the local Phase 2 police in the morning," an officer said. Her husband Rajneesh Yadav and their son were not found at the house and are yet to be traced, the officer said. According to their neighbours, there was no fight between the couple the previous night, the police said, suspecting foul play in the case. The body has been sent for post mortem after which the cause of the death would be ascertained, the police said. — PTI

'What Women Want'

campaign launched

New Delhi; The Delhi Mahila Congress, on Monday launched an online campaign, Meri Ikshayen-What Women Want,' for a safe and secure city for women from all walks of life, "Under the campaign, young girls and women aged not less than 12 years can express their views about a Delhi they want for themselves," said the president of Delhi Mahila Congress, Amrita Dhawan. Ms Dhawan explained that the participants will require to shoot two-minute videos expressing their views creatively in the form of text, poems, dance, and such suggesting what kind of Delhi they want for themselves. The best three videos that are most liked and shared on Twitter and Facebook will be given prizes. The campaign aims at making Delhi a safe and secure city for all women. Senior party leader and former Delhi minister Kiran Walia said that the idea of the campaign came from the way the state power was exposed in the gruesome Hathras gangrape case and the way its victim and her family faced harassment by

Man, 2 others held for faking robbery

the system.

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man has been arrested along with his two friends for allegedly faking a robbery and misappropriating ₹3.5 lakh of his employer to meet his financial requirements. police said on Monday. The accused Ajay had been working with a private company in Vikaspuri for the last four-five years, they said. He had asked his employer to give him some money during the Covid-triggered lockdown. However, the company had refused, saying they themselves did not have enough money due to the lockdown and instead gave him ₹1,500, police said. Thereafter, Ajay along with his friends, Arun (33) and Raman (25), decided to fake a robbery. All of them. residents of Tilak Nagar, have been arrested, police said, claiming that they have also

Odd-even last weapon to fight pollution: Rai

Says govt is focusing on 'Red Light On, Gaadi off' campaign

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

Kejri seeks monthly meetings Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai on Monday with Haryana, UP, Punjab CMs said implementing the odd-even road rationing scheme would be the "last

which some factories are

doing in Karnal, he said,

adding crop residue can be "converted into an oppor-

tunity" within a year, pro-

vided there are strict time-

lines to move away from

stubble burning. He said he

agreed with Mr Javadekar

five years and in all other

by genset, which is now

used only incase of emer-

weapon" to fight air pollu- New Delhi, Oct. 19: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal requested Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday to hold monthly meetings with the CMs of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and UP to curb air pollution, saying there is a lack of political will at the level of the states to address the problem of

stubble burning. In a virtual press briefing, he said the affected states have been unable to find a burning and prevent air pollution. "I believe pollution due to stubble burning can be controlled in a short span of time. But a lack of political will is visible in doing that.

Mr Kejriwal said the crop

to tackle pollution in the city and urged people to their vehicles while waiting at traffic signals. Mr Rai, responding to

places it has been seen that pollution is increasing. There are reasons for this result. Our government has provided 24 hour electricity which has reduced pollution caused another question, claimed

that pollution is not limited or converted into biogas, to one state, adding that all the state should come coal and even cardboard. together. The paddy straw can be converted into compressed He, however, added that biogas or cooking coal

THE CM said although scientists

and engineers have come out with

solutions to reduce the incidents of

stubble burning, such as the biode-

composer developed by the Pusa

Institute in Delhi, there is a lack of

political will to adopt these methods

Javadekar had said it will take at least four years to control pollution, but he believed if all the state governments and political parties "work honestly by keeping aside their political differences then we can check air pollution in much less than four years. — PTI

'Secondly, we increased afforestation in Delhi we did double then what we were assigned by the Centre. Thirdly, Delhi is the first place to shift towards electric vehicles. These are all long term solutions," he said.

Delhi's air quality 'poor', may worsen tomorrow

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Pollution levels in Delhi dipped slightly on Monday but the air quality stayed in the "poor" category, with government agencies saying the AQI was likely to slip to "very poor" in the next few days due to a change in wind direction and a reduction in speed.

The city recorded a 24hour average air quality index (AQI) of 244. It was 254 on Sunday, 287 on Saturday, 239 on Friday and 315 on Thursday, the worst since February 12 (AQI 320). An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satis-factory", 101 and 200 "moderate",201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe"

The Ministry of Earth Sciences" air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the AQI was likely to slip to "very poor" category by Wednesday due to a change in wind direction and a reduction in the wind

Expecting further deterioration in air quality in the ▶ THE AQI AQI was likely to slip to 'very poor' category by Wednesday due to a change in wind direction and a reduction in the wind speed

EPCA ASKED the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to be ready to close thermal power plants that do not meet the standards laid down in 2015.

coming days, the Supreme Court-mandated **Environment** Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) on Monday asked the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to be ready to close thermal power plants that do not meet the standards laid down in 2015. In two separate letters, EPCA chief Bhure Lal asked the two states to review preparedness for closing thermal power plants and to inform the authority of this as well as steps that will be taken to ensure compliance with necessary shut-down during the peak

winter period. According

to SAFAR, the share of farm fires in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution stood at 10 per cent on Monday with 1,090 stubble fire around Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring regions.

It said a change in surface wind direction is expected by early Wednesday which is "likeexpected ly to bring calm surface wind conditions, leading to low ventilation and deteri-oration of AQI".

Very poor AQI is predicted for Wednesday and Thursday, Ministry of Earth Sciences" air quality monitor said.

'Though transport-level ind direction is wind favourable, an increase in the wind speed and local surface winds led to a decrease in stubble contribution in Delhi"s PM2.5," Safar said.

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution was 17 per cent on Sunday, 19 per cent on Saturday, 18 per cent on Friday, around one per cent on Wednesday and around 3 per cent on Tuesday, Monday

Noida schools reopen after seven months

on, engine off) campaign been reducing in the last

39% turnout in govt, 11% in pvt schools

Noida, Oct. 19: Students > THERE ARE 153 from Class 9 to 12 returned to classes as schools reopened in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Nagar Monday after a seven-

month hiatus due to Covid outbreak. There are 153 schools in the district — 53 of them government and government-aided while remaining self-financed that reopened in adherence to Covid norms like social dis-

sanitisation of hands, district education offi-Neeraj Kumar Government and aided schools had an average attendance of 39 per cent on the first day, while it was 11 per cent in private schools. The teachers' attendance

tancing, face covers and

Pandey said. "The atmosphere was positive and students looked happy," he said, adding that the low turnout, especially in private schools, was due to initial challenges of confidence building between schools and parents.

was 100 per cent," Mr

The education officer expected the attendance to go up to 70 per cent in all schools in a week"s time and around 100 per cent after Dussehra ĥol-"The governdecision to reopen the schools is a courageous step. There is no alternative to classroom teachings. Online classes are fine, but not absolute substitution for schools and classes," Pandey said. On issues faced during the first day, he said

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Online darshan, home

delivery of prasad and

Covid test for priests and

cooks are some of the

unique measures that

Durga Puja organisers in

Delhi have come up with

to safely host the festival

in the shadow of the pan-

demic. Some organisers

said they will rope in two

priests to avoid any last-

minute scrambling if the

main priest gets infected

while others plan to main-

tain a record of visitors

Most Durga Puja com-

mittees in Delhi have

for easy contact-tracing.

NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

schools in the district 53 of them govern-

ment and governmentaided while remaining self-financed — that reopened in adherence to Covid norms like social distancing, face covers and sanitisation of hands

cameras installed in four or five schools were not working properly and these institutions have been asked to get the problem rectified soon. "All schools are equipped with cameras and can be monitored real time. The same way we monitor classes dur-

examinations. Today, we visited some schools to assess the situation and for many we reviewed the situation by real-time monitoring through cameras," he added Another issue, he said,

was miscommunication between schools and students because of which all students of Class 9, 10, 11 and 12 reached their school in the morning while the instruction was to have 50 per cent students in the morning shift and the remaining in the afternoon shift.

"We wanted Classes 9 and 10 to be present in the morning and 11 and 12 in the afternoon shift. At some places, all students reached the schools in the morning. But this appears to be a miscommunication error which will be worked out over the next couple of days, Pandey said.

Durga Puja to go online,

home delivery of prasad

of people and limit physi-

The Chittaranjan Park

Kali Mandir Society,

which organises one of the

biggest Durga puia festival

in Delhi, has decided not to

allow entry of general

public to the temple prem-

ises this year due to Covid.

service provider and a

local cable operator so that

devotees can have a dar-

shan of Durga idol from

their houses. The temple

society also has plans to

facilitate online darshan

on its Facebook page and

YouTube channel

It has tied up with a DTH

cal darshan to their mem-

31 fatalities take Delhi's Covid death toll to 6,040

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT, 19

national capital recorded 31 more fatalities on Monday, taking the Covid death toll to 6,040, while 2,154 fresh cases took the infection tally to over 3.33 lakh,

authorities said. The relatively low number of fresh cases came out of the 36,445 tests conducted the previous day. Thirty-one more fatali-

ties have been recorded, taking the death toll to 6,040, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department. On September 29 and October 10, 48 fatalities were reported in the city, the highest number of deaths recorded in a day since July 16, when Delhi

saw 58 tatalitles The tally of active cases on Monday dropped slightly to 22,570 from 23,292 the previous day. The total number of

cases has climbed to 3,33,171, the bulletin said. The number of containment zones in Delhi increased slightly to 2,782 from 2,770 on Sunday.

The positivity rate on Monday stood at 5.91 per cent while the recovery rate crossed 91 per cent, the bulletin said, adding that the case fatality rate stood at 1.81 per cent.

According to the bulletin, out of the total of 15,704 beds in Covid hospitals, 10,640 were vacant. It said 904 beds in Covid care centres are occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat Mission and bubble flights. Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing in the past few days, with the count on several times crossing the 60,000-

organise the festival in a

simple manner this year.

Only a few members of

our management commit-

cook to prepare prasad

and he has to show nega-

tive Covid report. As devo-

tees will not be allowed, we

will deliver prasad at their

doorsteps within a 2-km

radius for which an

agency has been engaged,"

society joint secretary Prodip Ganguly said.

Ganguly said there will

be live telecast of aarti

and devotees can can offer

'We have hired certified

tee will be in attendance.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming Festival Season, Railways have decide to run the following Festival Special trains as per details given below:-

096	09611/09612 Ajmer-Amritsar-Ajmer 24								
Ex	Express Special Train (Bi-Weekly) Trips								
Train No	Train No. 09611 STATIONS Train No. 09612								
ARR.	DEP.	♦	SIATIONS	ARR.	DEP.				
	17:55		AJMER	10:00					
14:45			AMRITSAR		14:30				
Dania a4 -	0004	4 5	A: 00 10 000	04-0044	0000				

Days of run: 09611 Ex. Ajmer from 22.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every Thursday, Saturday and 09612 Ex. Amritsar from 22.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every Tuesday, Thursday.

Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Kishangarh, Jaipur, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Getor Jagatpura, Dausa, Bandikui Jn., Baswa, Rajgarh, Alwar Jn. Khairthal, Rewari, Bhiwani, Hisar, Sirsa, Kalanwali, Bhatinda, Gangsar Jaitu, Kot Kapura, Faridkot, Firozpur Cantt., Talwandi, Moga, Jagraon, Ludhiana Jn., Phagwara Jn., Jalandhar City and Beas Stations

011 E	12 Trips						
Train No	o. 01115	П	Train No. 0111				
ARR.	DEP.	\	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.		
	16:15		PUNE		04:05		
01:05			GORAKHPUR			15:30	

Days of run: 01115 Ex. Pune from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020 on every Thursday and 01116 Ex. Gorakhpur from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every Saturday. Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating

Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur Jn. Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Mau Jn. and Deoria Sadar Stations

							4 ps	
Train No	o. 84406	Train No. 8440)5		
ARR.	DEP.	♦	STATIONS		ARR.	DEP		
	18:35		ANAND VIHAR (T)		15:25			
15:00		BHAGALPUR 18:45						
Days of	Days of run : 84406 Ex. Anand Vihar (T) from 23.10.2020 to							

30.11.20 on every Friday, Monday and 84405 Ex. Bhagalpur from 24.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every Saturday, Tuesday. Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating

(Reserved); Stoppages: Kanpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna, Mokameh Jn., Kiul, Jamalpur and Sultanganj Stations.

84410/84409 New Delhi-Darbhanga-New Delhi 22 Suvidha Superfast Spl. Exp. Train (Bi-Weekly) Trips							
	o. 84410	10 I A Train No. 3		_			
ARR.	DEP.	♦	↓ STATIONS ↑		ARR.	RR. DEP.	
	19:25		NEW DELHI		17:30	-	
16:00	16:00 DARBHANGA 20:55						
Days of r	Days of run : 84410 Ex. New Delhi from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020						

on every Monday, Thursday and 84409 Ex. Darbhanga from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020 on every Tuesday, Friday. Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating

(Reserved); Stoppages: Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow Barabanki, Gorakhpur, Sewan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpu and Samastipur Stations

05045/05046 Gorakhpur-Okha-Gorakhpur							12				
	Mail Express (Weekly)						Trips				
Train No	o. 05045		↓ STATIONS ↑		CTATIONS		CTATIONS		A	Train No	05046
ARR.	DEP.	♦				ARR.	DEP.				
	04:45		GO	RAKHPUR		19:25					
03:55			OKHA				21:00				
Davs of	run :	05045	Ex.	Gorakhpu	r fro	m 22.10	.2020 to				

26.11.2020 on every Thursday and 05046 Ex. Okha from 25.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 on every Sunday.

Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Basti, Gonda, Barabanki, Badshahnagar, Aishbag, Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundla Jn., Raja Ki Mandi, Agara Cantt., Dhaulpur, Morena, Gwalior, Jhansi, Bina, Mugaoli, Ashok Nagar, Guna, Ruthiyai, Biyavra Rajgarh, Maksi, Ujjain, Nagda Ratlam, Godhra, Chhayapuri, Anand Jn., Ahemdabad Jn., Viramgar Jn., Surendernagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Dwarka Stations.

Helpline No. 182 "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

The Sr Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, N

ontracts, for the period of 3 (Three) Years, to be clo

SN Name of work with its location / Railway Stat

Helpline No. 139

Please join us on

02883/02884 Durg-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Durg Superfast Express Special Train (Tri-Weekly) Trips							
Train No	. 02883	Т	STATIONS †	Train No	02884		
ARR.	DEP.	♦	SIAIIUNS	ARR.	DEP.		
	12:00		DURG	15:10			
09:05	09:05 HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN 17:25						
Days of run : 02883 Ex. Durg from 22.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on							

every Mon, Thu & Sat and 02884 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin from 23.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 on every Tue, Fri & Sun.

Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Raipur Jn., Bhatapara, Bilaspur Jn., Pendra Road Anuppur Jn., Shahdol, Umaria, Katni Murwara, Saugor and Jhansi Stations.

╢	Lokmanyatilak (T) Superfast Spl. Exp. Train (Bi-Weekly) Trip							
	Train No	o. 02165	1 STATIONS	CTATIONS A		02166		
	ARR.	DEP.	♦ STATIUNS		ARR.	DEP.		
		05:23	LOKMANYATILAK (T)		21:30			
	11:25		GORAKHPUR			15:45		
١	Davs of	run : 021	65 Ex. Lokmanvatilak	(T) f	rom 22.1	0.2020 to		

30.11.2020 on every Thursday, Monday and 02166 Ex. Gorakhpur from 23.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every **Friday, Tuesday.** Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating

(Reserved); Stoppages: Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nasik Road Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Jabalpur Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Jn., Janghai Jn., Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Mau Jn. & Deoria Sadar Stations

02530/02529 Lucknow JnPatliputra-Lucknow Jn. Superfast Special Train (5 Days a Week)								
Train No	o. 02530	CTATIONS A	Train No. 0252					
ARR.	DEP.	↓ STATIONS ↑	ARR.	DEP.				
	05:00	LUCKNOW JN.	02:35					
14:50		PATLIPUTRA						
D	D4 00500/00500 F /F							

Days of run: 02530/02529 Ex. Lucknow Jn./Ex. Patliputra from 20.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 on every Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat, Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Executive Chaircar, Chaircar & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Badshahnagar, Gonda, Basti Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Ekma, Chhapra & Dighwara Stns.

04656/04655 Firozpur-Patna-Firozpur						12	
Express Special Train (Weekly)							
Train No	o. 04656		STATIONS Train No. 0				
ARR.	DEP.	♦	SIAIIUNS		ARR.	DEP.	
	19:00		FIROZPUR		23:55		
21:25			PATNA			23:25	

Days of run: 04656 Ex. Firozpur from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020 on every Friday and 04655 Ex. Patna from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every Saturday Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating

(Reserved); Stoppages: Kot Kapura, Bhatinda, Rampura Phul, Barnala Dhuri, Patiala, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.

04084/04083 Delhi-Katihar-Delhi Express Special Train (Weekly)							
Train No	o. 04084	1 STATIONS †	Train No	. 04083			
ARR.	DEP.	♦ SIATIUNS	ARR.	DEP.			
	23:00	DELHI	22:50				
22:00		KATIHAR 23:50					
Days of run : 04084 Ex. Delhi from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020 on							

every Friday and 04083 Ex. Katihar from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 or every Saturday Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating

(Reserved); Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Via Shahpur Patoree, Barauni, Begu Sarai Khagaria, Naugachia & Katihar Stations

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regardi COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured

Always buy your tickets from Railway Counters or authorised rail travel agents only.

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in



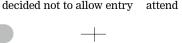
NORTHERN RAILWAY

(E-Tender Notic	:e)			
Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Del	hi invites online	e-tender through v	ebsite http	s://ireps.gov.in, for the parkin
osed on 11.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs, at the fo	llowing stations/le	ocations:		
tion	Advertise	Cost of Tender	Earnest	Website particulars when
	Value/Reserve	document &	Money	complete details of tende
	Price of one	18% GST	Deposit	document can be seen
	year in (Rs)	(in Rs)	(in Rs)	

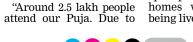
1 Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Bahadurgarh Railway Station (BGZ), "B" Category 8,17,272/ 3,540/-49,100/ https://ireps.gov.in/ with measuring an area of 711 sq mtrs tender no: Parking93-2020 https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking94-2020 Parking contract of Car at Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station (DEE), "A" Category 25.30.656/ 5.900/-1.51.900 with measuring an area of 1500 sq mtrs Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the Advertise value/Reserve Price/license fee SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

robbed cash.

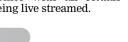
recovered ₹1,39,000 of the











SHORT TAKES

T'gana: Scribe's son abducted for ransom

Hyderabad: A newpaper journalist's nineyear-old son has been kidnapped in Mahabubabad district of Telangana for a ransom of ₹45 lakh, police said on Monday. The boy was abducted on Sunday at around 7 pm while he was playing outside his house in Mahabubabad town. The abductors, who came on a bike, were apparently known to the boy, a senior police official said. Later, the kidnappers contacted the boy's mother over phone through the internet

'New edu policy will arrest brain drain'

and demanded the sum to

formed and CCTV footage

release him. Ten teams were

was being examined to trace

the boy and the kidnappers, the official told PTI over

phone. - PTI

Indore: Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" on Monday said the new national educational policy will help arrest brain drain and give a boost to research in higher education institutes. He was addressing through video conference the 8th convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology Indore. "Between 7.5 lakh to 8 lakh Indian students are studying abroad and this drains out ₹1.5 lakh crore from here to foreign countries. We are going to strengthen parameters under our 'stay in India campaign for which research will be put on the fast-track under the new education policy," he said. He said those who had studied in India were leading some of the big corporations in the world. - PT

Cattle theft: 5 cops held in Jharkhand

Ramgarh (Jharkhand): Five policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector, were arrested in Jharkhand's Saraikela-Kharsanwa district for their alleged involvement in cattle theft, a senior officer said on Sunday. They were apprehended in the Adityapur police station area on Saturday, while illegally shifting five bovines from a seized truck with 32 cattle to a private vehicle, he said. The five police personnel were suspended, North Chhotanagpur division's Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) AV Homkar told PTI. They were escorting the truck carrying cattle to an animal shelter at Chakulia in Ghatshila subdivision of East Singhbhum district, he said. The five have been posted at Rajrappa police station in Ramgarh district, he said.

'Finish communist

ideology in Tripura' Agartala: Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb has called upon BJP activists to "finish off" communist ideology in the state by 2023. Election to the 60-member assembly is due in 2023. He said uprooting the "seeds of communists" from the remotest corners of Tripura and spreading the "message of nationalism" and ideas of Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be the priority of all BJP activists and supporters in the state. "You must ensure that all communist ideas and thinking cease to exist in Tripura by 2023. This is your assigned task and I call upon you to perform it," Deb had said at a party meeting in Ambassa in Dhalai district on Sunday. Deb asserted there have been major positive changes towards development in Tripura since the BJP-IPFT government came to power in the state and called upon party activists to highlight them on social media. "We have done a lot for the state over the past 2.5 years but this is not being reflected because

₹1cr drugs seized from Goa home

of the negative attitude of Opposition." — PTI

Panaji: Three persons of a family were arrested on Monday and drugs worth Rs 1 crore were allegedly seized from their home in Pernem in North Goa, police said. The raid took place in Keri area after a tip-off, said Inspector Jivba Dalvi of Pernem police station. "We have confiscated cannabis plants, ganja, charas worth Rs 1 crore and arrested Rama Kerkar (22), Rashmi Kerkar (44) and Shivaji Kerkar (34) under NDPS Act," he added. — PTI

India invites Oz to take part in Quad naval drill

PAWAN BALI

In a snub to China, India has invited Australia to its trilateral naval exercise "Malabar" in November with USA and

India, US, Japan and Australia are part of the "Quad" alliance, which Beijing considers as an anti-China grouping. Now all the Quad countries will be participating in a naval war game this While Australia wanted

to be part of the Malabar exercise for some time now, India was hesitant to invite it to avoid any angry reaction from China. However, China's aggression at the line of actual control in Eastern Ladakh since May this year, seemed to have finally made India to come out of its reluctance and invite Australia to the Naval exercise.

This move will not go down well with China which wants to dominate the seas as seen by its aggression is South China sea and is investing heavily in its navy.

Indian Navy has already conducted bilateral exercises with each US, Japan and Australian Navies

In 2020 Malabar exercise will be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian

NDIA, US, Japan and Australia are part of the "Ouad" alliance, which Beijing considers as an anti-China grouping. Now all the Ouad countries will be participating in a naval war game this year

"As India seeks to cooperation increase with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia. Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy," said defence ministry in a

statement.
It said that the participants of exercise Malabar 2020 are engaging to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain. "They collectively support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order," it added.

The Malabar series of naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Japan joined the Naval exercise in 2015. This annual exercise has been conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018 and off the coast the Japan in 2019.

This year, the exercise has been planned on a 'non-contact - at sea' for-

Israeli embassy in India to have 'Water Attache'

New Delhi, Oct. 19: Israel Embassy here will have a separate "Water Attache" from January 2021 to help share their country's best practices and technologies advancements India's water management and agriculture sectors, Israeli ambassador to India Ron Malka has said.

In another significant development, Israel will soon nominate an honorary Consul in the North-East with the aim to increase its presence and collaboration in that region, Malka said.

ANUPAMA SUBRAMAN-

In a sudden turn of

events, Sri Lankan spin

Muralitharan requested

actor Vijay Sethupathi to opt out of his biopic titled 800 and the star

responded by acknowl-

edging the former crick-

eter's request with a tweet, "Vanakkam,

Nandri," which could be

a hint that he was opting

Vijay Sethupathi was

not available for comment but his official pub-

licist confirmed that the

star is no longer associat-

ed with the biopic 800

Muralitharan's collec-

tion of 800 Test wickets.

The Tamil film star had

been under tremendous

pressure to withdraw

from the biopic. As soon

as it became official that

Vijay Sethupathi would

be playing on screen the

out of the film.

CHENNAI, OCT. 19

Israel was less present in the Northeast and now it is going to increase that presence as it feels it can bring a lot of added value to that region in various development sectors, Malka said.

The Israeli envoy also said that in January his country for the first time is going to nominate a "Water Attache" who will join the "Agriculture Attache" who has been here for many years and together they will go to the centres of excellence for agriculture established as part of Indo-Israel collaboration. -PTI

Actor exits Muralitharan's

biopic 800 after backlash

Sri Lankan Tamil Muralitharan when a

first look poster was

released, the actor has

been facing protests from

political parties, fans and

netizens with several

including his mentor

requesting him to avoid

acting in the Sri Lankan's biopic.

Hashtags 'Shame on Vijay Sethupathi',

'Boycott 800' were trend-

ing on the internet

objecting to him portray-

ing the cricketer who

was seen as supporting the Sri Lankan govern-

ment in its three-decade

civil war against Eelam

Tamils. The protests did

not die down despite a

film

Seenu

Vijay

after

personalities.

Ramasamy,

Changes being made in all sectors for growth: Modi

Mysuru, Oct. 19: (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that necessary changes are being made in every sector to ensure growth and to make this decade

India's. He also said that efforts are being made at all levels to make the country a global hub for higher education and its youth competitive.
"In the last 6-7 months

you might have seen the speed and the ambit of reforms increasing. Whether it is

agriculture, space, defence, aviation or labour. In every sector necessary changes are being made for growth, Modi said.

Addressing the cente-nary convocation of the University of Mysore through video conference, he said it is being being done for the sake of crores of youth in this country and to make this decade India's.

"This decade can be India's only when we make our foundations strong. This decade has



convocation of University of Mysore via video conferencing in New Delhi on Monday.

brought an immense opportunity for young India," he added.

Modi said the all-round reforms that are taking place in the country now have never happened in the past, and even if decisions were made in the past they were restricted to any one sector, leaving aside others.

Noting that multiple reforms in multiple sectors have taken place in the last six years, he said if national education policy is ensuring the future of education sector, agriculture related reforms are empowering while that of labour, giving thrust to growth, security of both labourers and industries.

"While the direct benefit transfer has brought in reforms to public distribution system, with Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) home buyers have got protec-

If GST was brought in to save the country from the web of taxes, faceless

assessment was brought in for the sake of tax payers," he said, also noting Insolvency Bankruptcy Code and FDI reforms.

Governor Karnataka and Chancellor of Universities in the State, Vajubhai Vala and Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan were among others present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister pointed out that consistent efforts have been made in the last 5-6 years, so that the country's education system helps students move ahead amid the needs of the 21st century, especially in the higher education sector where focus has been on infrastructure development to structural reforms.

"Efforts are being made at all levels from qualitative to quantitative, to make India a global hub for higher education and to make our youth competitive," he said, citing the increase in the number of IITs, IIITs, IIMs and AIIMS

Corona cases rise to 75.52L, states start festive curbs

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

The total number of novel coronavirus cases in India on Monday reached 75.52 lakh with 55, 722 fresh cases and 579 deaths in a day. The total number of deaths in India is 1,14,610. Though a sharp decline in fresh cases is being noted for the last few days, the health authorities are keeping their fingers crossed in view of the upcoming festive season. Several state governments have banned entry of devotees and mass gatherings at Durga Puja pandals while in many places, special crowd control measures are being put up to prevent close contact of people.

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Monday asked state governments to stay vigilant in the coming days. Reiterating his statement that the coming winter and the long festive season pose a significant risk that could threaten the gains made against Covid-19, he said, "We should all be vigilant for the next three months. Prime Minister's message of wearing a mask/face cover, maintaining a physical distance and frequent handwashing should reach the last citizen. Steps should be taken to monitor their non-compliance. Following Covid appropriate behaviour is sim-

India is 8.35 lakh cases behind the United States of America, which has so far had world's highest number of Covid-19 cases. The USA so far has recorded 83.88 lakh cases and 224,732 deaths. Globally, the total number of cases crossed 40 million on Monday.

"India has crossed another milestone in its fight against Covid-19. The national cumulative Positivity Rate has fallen under 8%. This trend has been sustained without a break for four days. cumulative Positivity Rate is 7.94% now and is on a continuous decline," health ministry officials said.

UP homeguards official sacked over corruption

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday ordered the dismissal of a district commandant of homeguards department on charges of corruption, a state government official said.

"Working on the zero tolerance policy on corruption, the chief minister has ordered the dismissal of district com-mandant of homeguards Mukesh department Kumar on charges of corruption during his post-ing in Bulandshahr," the spokesperson said.

He was suspended and an inquiry was going on against him, he said. Last year, three videos had surfaced on social media purportedly showing him while accepting and pocketing money from homeguard jawans for allotting

VIJAY SETHUPATHI was not

available for comment but his

that the star is no longer associ-

Muralitharan's collection of 800

three-page statement from Muralitharan

explaining his stand as

well as a press release

from the filmmakers Dar

Motion Pictures who

said 800 was only a sports

had seemed firm initially

about his decision to do

the biopic, may have had

to change his mind. Muralitharan, in his statement, said "I don't

like a celebrated actor

like Vijay Sethupathi and

his career getting affect-

ed. I came to know that

Vijay Sethupathi is get-

ting a lot of pressure to

quit the film. I don't want

him to face any hurdles.

So, I am asking him to

Vijay Sethupathi, who

biography movie.

ated with the biopic 800 after

official publicist confirmed

Test wickets

SC asks SDMA to take call on celebration at gurdwara THE TOP court was

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Maharashtra's Management Disaster Authority (SDMA) to take a call by Tuesday on whether to permit Nanded gurudwara to hold its annual procession of the Guru Granth Sahib at 5 am, with limited gathering, in the town. A bench of Justice L.

Nageswara Rao, Justice Hemant Gupta and Justice Ajay Rastog in a special hearing on a plea by the Gurdwara Sachkhand management board seeking to be permitted to hold the customary annual procession on the death anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh the tenth Guru of the Sikhs, who breathed his last in the Gurdwara there. Starting today, the top

moved by the Nanded Sikh Gurudwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur **Abchalnagar Sahib** Board that manages historic Nanded Gurudwara.

court is on a week-long Dussehra holiday.

The top court was moved by the Nanded Sikh Gurudwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Board that manages Gurudwara.

The court asked the gurdmanagement to wara approach the secretary, State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) with the request to hold an annual procession and if not satisfied with its response, then approach the Bombay High

The court directed the SDMA to hear the Gurdwara management's plea on Tuesday and take the decision depending on the prevailing Covid sce-Maharashtra govern-

ment informed the court

that the gurdwara management board had sought the permission to conduct the Dussehra, Takht Isnan, Deepmala and Gurta Gaddi events as per the three centuries-old custom

being observed by the gur-

In an affidavit, it said that allowing the Nanded gurudwara to hold the Dussehra procession as per custom will not be a "practically feasible" option amid Covid and the state has taken a conscious decision of not allowing religious functions to check the spread of the virus.

Phone/Fax No: 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr) 0191-2459029/24592-55(Jmu)

Tender Extension Notice Due to administrative reasons, last date and online opening dates of NIT No. 48 of 2020 dated 07.10.2020 floated by Police Hqrs J&K to procure "RSP Toot Kit" is extended as follows:-1. Last Date for online tender submission 10.11.2020

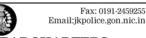
2. Online opening of technical bids = 12.11.2020

However, other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain un-changed Detailed tender documents with terms and conditions are available on J&K State e-procurement Portal <u>www.jktenders.gov.in.</u>

> (Rayees Mohammad Bhat)-IPS, AIG of Police (Provision/Tpt) For Director General of Police, J&K Srinagar.

DIPK-7567/20 DTD 19.10.2020

☎Tel: 0191-2459029



J & K POLICE HEADQUARTERS Amendment Notice Pursuant to the queries raised by the prospective bidders, necessary amendments with regard to the quantity of tendered items and tender value are hereby issued under e-tender No. 43 of 2020 dated 17.09.2020 floated by

this Hqrs for procurement of stationery articles for information of intend-ing bidders. The amendment can be accessed by the intending bidders on J&K Govt. e-Tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in However, other contents of the tender shall remain unchanged.

> (Rayees MohamniAd Bhat)-IPS (AIG (Provision/Transport) For Director General of Police, PHQ, J&K, Srinagar

DIPK-7530/20 DTD 19.10.2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY 1st Corrigendum

The following amendment to tender Notice No. 53-G/C/K.gate, DLI, scheduled to be

opened on 05.11.2020, are being made:-

On page 17 item No. 3 of Technical compliance is deleted On page 18 item 2 of undertaking Period of 90 days may be read as period of 45 days

iii. On page 18 item No. 7.3 is deleted

No. 53-G/C/K.gate, DLI Dated: 19.10.2020 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

BSF, Odisha police seize huge cache of explosives

AGE CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 19

A joint team of Border Security Force (BSF) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) of Odisha police on Sunday night unearthed a Maoist dump and seized huge cache of explosives from the Koraput-Malkangiri bordering area under

Machkund police limits last night.

Based on the intelligence report about movement of around 20 armed cadres of banned (Maoist), a joint

operation was launched

by the BSF Ankadeli and Koraput DVF. However, the ultras

managed to flee the spot, said Koraput superintendent of police (SP) Mukesh Bhamoo. During the search, the

team recovered an explosive dump. Soon after, a Bomb

Detection and Disposal (BDD) team was called in and the area was cordoned off. Later, a huge cache of explosives and incriminating items dumped by the Maoists with an intention to target security forces were seized, the SP added.

Name of work:- Hiring of truck capacity not less than 09 MT for transportation of

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) 1. TENDER NOTIFICATION

Railway material from any originating station to any destination station for Two years (twenty four months) at MEMU Car Shed, Saharanpur Tender Notice No.:- 10/2020-21 1.1. General:

UMB division of Northern Railway invites Open tender through E-tendering system

from eligible agencies who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in tender documen for "Hiring of truck capacity not less than 09 MT for transportation of Railway material from any originating station to any destination station for Two years (twenty four months) at MEMU Car Shed, Saharanpur". 1.2 The key details are as follows: 30-EL-MEMU-T-10-20-21

ransportation of Railway material from any originating station to any destination station for Two years (twenty four months) at MEMU Car Shed. Saharanpur
Rs. 28,71,200/-
Rs. 57,400/-
02(Two) Years from the date of issue of the letter of acceptance
45 days.
Sr.DEE/MEMU/SRE.
11.11.2020 at 10:30 Hrs./thereafter.
Free of cost

The required earnest money will only be accepted through on line payme mode available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc up to tender closing date and time. Exemption from submission of Earnes Money for tenderer shall be as per Railway Board Guidelines. Manual payments through demand draft, banker cheque, deposit receipt. FDR

etc are not allowed. Offers which are not complying above will be con-

Tender must provide validity of the offer for 45 (forty five) days from the date of

opening of tender. Public procure order 2017 issued by Rly. board vide L. No. 2015/RS(G)/779/5

Dt. 16.03.2018 shall be followed. The tender can be seen or upload on web portal as under

Website Portal: https://www.ireps.gov.in 2277/2020 Serving Customers with a Smile

opt out of this project.

R. o.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTA DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM.	PROVIDING ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHT ON FARRUKH NAGAR JATAULI ROAD VIA MAHSANA ROAD AT FARUKH NAGAR IN DISTRICT GURUGRAM. + 2 OTHER WORKS	17.10.2020 02.11.2020	69.44 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_129751_2 + 2 OTHER	Pwd-eeed-gurgaon@hry.nic 0124-2320874
2	PWD B&R, AMBALA	CONST. OF ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE / V.V PATES WARE HOUSE FOR 4000 UNITS IN MINI SECTT COMPLEX AT JAGADHRI IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTT. (PDG EI). + 4 OTHER WORKS	21.10.2020 04.11.2020	168.27 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2630877 pwd-eeed-ambala@hry.ni
3	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, ROHTAK	RE-CONSTRUCTION V.R. BRIDGE AT RD 5200 OF JLN FEEDER.	CLOSING DATE 27.10.2020	2.01 CRORE	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812111077 xenfdrrtk@gmail.com
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PROVIDING E.I. IN HANDI CHOUPAL ISRANA, C.C. BINJHOL, BAZIGAR CHOPAL ASSAN KALAN, 5 NO. SHOP EAST UGRAKHARI, 5 NO. SHOP WEST UGRAKHARI, S.C. C.C. RAJAPUR DISTT. PANIPAT. + 2 OTHER WORKS	16.10.2020 26.10.2020	10.69 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	98020-58718 / 0171-2980 prexeengelec.amb@hry.ni
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PDG E.I. IN VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTER V. BAPOLI, JAMA NA, UJHA (BAPOLI), BUANA LAKHU, DIDWARI, ISRANA, NAULTHA DUNGRAN, PUTHAR (ISRANA), GANJBAR & RAJAPUR (PANIPAT). PANIPAT + 1 OTHER WORK	16.10.2020 05.11.2020	14.32 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	98020-58718 / 0171-2980 prexeengelec.amb@hry.ni
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ SIRSA	CONST. OF ANGANWARI CENTRE AT VILLAGE MITHANPURA BLOCK ELLENABAD DISTRICT. SIRSA	17.10.2020 23.10.2020	8.83 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-247479
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PDG E.I. IN COMMUNITY CENTRE & TOILET AT VILLAGE GONDAR DISTT. KARNAL (KDB SCHEME) + 1 OTHER WORK	16.10.2020 26.10.2020	3.40 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	98020-58718 / 0171-2980 prexeengelec.amb@hry.ni
8	HEALTH DEPARTMENT CIVIL SURGEON FATEHABAD	E TENDER MEDICINE / MEDICINE, SURGICAL ITEMS, LAB ITEMS, DENTAL ITEMS ETC	09.10.2020 02.11.2020	EMD 2 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Dr. Sangeeta Mehta & Dr S Sokhi (Dy Civil Surgeo Fatehabad)

SHORT TAKES

6-year-old accused

of 'sexual assault'

Aligarh: The police here are looking into a case in which a six-year-old boy allegedly sexually assaulted a girl of the same age. The incident took place in the Kurwasi police station area last Monday. The police said according to the five-and-ahalf-year-old girl's family, she had gone to their neigh-bour's house to retrieve her ball when the boy dragged her into a room and sexually assaulted her. The family said the girl did not tell them about the incident as she was terrified, according to the police. On Sunday, she was taken ill and told her mother about it, police said, adding that the girl complained of pain in her private parts. SP (city) Abhishek Kumar said that a case has been registered and the girl was rushed to a hospital for a medical examination and a medical board is presently studying her report. — PTI

HC junks Kerala plea

against airport lease

Kochi: The Kerala high court

dismissed petitions filed by Kerala government and others challenging the Centre's decision to lease Thiruvananthapuram international airport to Adani Enterprises. A division bench of Justices K. Vinod Chandran and C.S. Dias delivered the verdict, dismissing arguments raised by the state government and others opposing the decision to lease out the airport to Adani Enterprises Limited. The Kerala government, on August 21, had moved the high court seeking a stay on further proceedings in the leasing Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani Enterprises. The state had filed the application in the court, after an all-party-meeting in Kerala demanded withdrawal of the Union Cabinet's decision to

KCR announces ₹10,000 flood relief

lease the airport to Adani

Enterprises. — PTI

Hyderabad: Telangana chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao announced ₹10,000 as immediate relief to each flood-affected household in the city, besides an assistance of ₹1 lakh each to totally damaged houses and ₹50,000 to partially damaged houses. Observing that essential commodities like rice and pulses have been lost due to the flooding, Mr Rao said the financial assistance of ₹10.000 would be distributed from Tuesday itself. He asked the chief secretary to monitor the distribution programme. — PTI

China soldier...

■ Continued from Page 1

along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, including in Demchok sector. The military standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh has now entered the sixth month, where for the first time in 45 vears guns have been used and shots have been fired.

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

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

the Indian Meanwhile, Army's top commanders will discuss the threats emerging from China and Pakistan at the commanders' conference due to be held next week, from October 26 to 29. The conference will also discuss proposals to cut down expenditure on ceremonies like colour presentations, regimental reunions and raising days, among oth-

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

Item jibe: Shivraj, Imarti ask Sonia to sack Nath

NCW seeks explanation, MP CM, Scindia hold 'maun vrat' in protest

CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, OCT. 19

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday called upon Congress president Sonia Gandhi to strip former chief minis strip former chief minis-ter Kamal Nath of all party posts for showing disrespect to state minister Imarti Devi by calling

In a letter to the Congress president, he said the Congress should condemn Mr Nath for his sexist remarks on the minister, who is also a dalit, and sack him from all

party posts.
"If you fail to take any action against Mr Nath, then it will be deemed that you also support it," the letter said.

Ms Devi also exhorted the Congress chief to take action against Mr Nath for making such uncharitable remarks on her, saying he did not know how to respect a dalit woman and had lost his mind after losing the chief minister's

Campaigning on Sunday



Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a silent protest in Bhopal on Monday against Congress state president Kamal Nath over his derogatory remarks on state Minister Imarti Devi.

for byelection at Dabra town, from where Imarti Devi, a former Congress minister, is contesting on BJP ticket, Nath said his party's candidate was a simple person unlike his opponent who is an "item". He, however, clarified that the word "item" is not offensive and anybody, including him, can be referred to as an item.

Speaking to reporters at Dabra, Ms Devi said, "He (Nath) does not know how to speak decently. He belongs to Bengal and is not from Madhya Pradesh. What does he know about (dalit) woman? Mr Nath went mad after resigning as chief minister and he can say anything.'

The exit of Imarti Devi and 21 other Congress MLAs in March brought down Nath's government. "In Madhya Pradesh, mothers and daughters

are considered as Goddess Lakshmi and Nath is abusing them. I want Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to remove him from the party," she further said.
"As a woman, Ms Gandhi should show zero tolerance towards those in the party who show disrespect

to women," she said.

Meanwhile, a video purportedly showing Devibreaking down while talking about Mr Nath's remarks to a news channel went viral of social media. Meanwhile, senior BJP leaders, including Mr Chouhan, V.D. Sharma and Jyotiraditya Scindia led "maun brat" (silence) demonstration at different places in the state in protest against the sexist ibe by Mr Nath to target the minister.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Women on Monday sought an explanation from Mr Nath for his "item" jibe against the minister.

The commission strong ly condemns this irre-sponsible and disparaging comment made by the leader. The words used in the video are highly defamatory and shows disrespect to the dignity of a woman,"it said.

Imarti Devi endures sexist jibes, controversies to rise in politics

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, OCT. 19

Hailing from a poor dalit family in a remote Madhya Pradesh village, Imarti Devi has endured several sexist jibes and controversies in her fairytale journey from being a farmhand to a member in the Shivraj Cabinet.

The 46-year-old leader who became the subject of sarcasm Congress veteran septuagenarian Kamal Nath trig-gering an outrage has however taken such "unsavoury" incidents on her stride in her 23-yearold-long political career.

"I have been subjected to ridicule many times only because I hail from a poor dalit family. That is the harsh reality I have to reconcile to. But, I have to move on," a teary-eyed Devi told reporters on Monday while reacting to the "item" jibe by Mr

■ Opp. accuses Centre of 'political vendetta'

ED questions Farooq for



Imarti Devi

A native of Charbara village in Dabra under Gwalior district, Ms Devi hailed from an extremely poor family of which worked as farmhands to earn their livelihood. She along with her husband Puran worked as agricultural labourers in the area in their early days.

The three-time MLA began her political career in Congress in the 1990s and her rise in politics was due to her patronage by the scion of erstwhile Gwalior royal family Jyotiraditya Scindia. She was elected district panchayat member in 2004.

She has been representing Dabra Assembly con-

elections. She was also a minister in the 15-monthold Kamal Nath govern-ment which collapsed in March this year following the resignation of

Congress MLAs. The minister, incidentally, has often landed in controversy for showing her loyalty to Mr Scindia in an unconventional way. She has sometimes been subjected to ridicule by Mr

Scindia's political rivals. Former Congress Legislature Party leader Ajey Singh, son of former chief minister late Arjun Singh, had once made sexist remarks on her by referring to her as "jalebi", a favourite sweet of people of Madhya Pradesh. She had once declared that she would not hesitate to sweep the floor if asked by Mr Scindia.

Even, she tried to lift Mr Scindia's shoes in a public function. But, Mr Scindia stopped her from doing so.

BJP MP from Bengaluru South Tejasvi Surya with outgoing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha president Poonam Mahajan at party headquarters in New Delhi on Monday

Authorities seal Kashmir Times office in Srinagar

Kashmir that was allotted to it in a government building here, with the newspaper owners claiming that the due process of law was not followed.

The estates department the office of Kashmir Times at Press Enclave here on Monday, officials said. They, however, gave no reasons for the government action.

The English daily is headquartered in Jammu and is published from both the regions of the Union Territory.

The newspaper owners

Ballia firing

accused sent

to custody

for 14-days

Balia, Oct. 19: A court in

Balia sent Dhirendra

Pratap Singh, a local BJP leader who alleged-

ly killed a man following

a quarrel over the allot-

last week, to 14-day judi-

cial custody on Monday.

He was presented before the court around 10 am amid tight securi-

ty.
The court has sent
Dhirendra Pratap Singh

to 14-day judicial cus-tody, said his lawyer

He said no bail plea has

been moved so far.
Dhirendra allegedly shot dead Jai Prakash

Pal Gama (46) on Thursday following a

quarrel over the allot-

ment of ration shops at

Durjanpur village in

Balia's Reoti area. Senior

ent at the meeting when

After evading arrest

for days, Mr Singh was

arrested from Lucknow

on Sunday. A cash

reward of ₹50,000 had

been announced for his

the incident took place.

administration police officials were pres-

Harivansh Singh.

Srinagar, Oct. 19: Author- claimed that no notice of given to them.

Our office in Srinagar was locked without any due process of law. No notice whether of cancellation or eviction was served to us, Kashmir Times owner Anuradha Bhasin told PTI over

Ms Bhasin said they had heard murmurs about the government planning to evict them from the building at the Press Enclave a month back, but there was no formal communication from the estates depart-

We had approached the ities on Monday sealed the cancellation or eviction estates department and office of a prominent was served on them and asked them to please serve daily in Jammu and "nothing in writing" was us the order but they gave "nothing in writing" was us the order, but they gave us notning Then approached the court, but no order has been given even there, she said.

She said the locking up of the Srinagar office of the newspaper was something similar to her recent eviction from a flat in Jammu.

"The government has the right to evict an allottee, but there is a certain criteria and they have to follow the due process, she said. However, the due process has not been followed in my particular case, she added. — *PTI*

■ House session off to a noisy start

Opp. slams govt for not tabling bill against farm laws

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

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

Earlier, finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal said the state government is consulting constitutional experts on the issue and copies of various bills to be tabled during the two-day session will be given to the opposition parties by the evening

Even after the adjournment of the session for the day on Monday afternoon, AAP legislators continued their dharna, demanding copies of the Bill to counter the legisla-

PUNJAB

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

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

The Shiromani Akali Dal said the Bill should have been introduced on Monday. A delegation of the party met Speaker Rana K.P. Singh in the evening and objected to not getting copies of the Bills to be tabled in the Assembly. The SAD leaders termed it a "murder of democracy".

7 hrs in J&K cricket scam YUSUF JAMEEL Former chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah was on Monday questioned by the Enforcement Directorate

Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA). The ED's summoning Mr Abdullah to its NC president Faroog Srinagar office prompted office in Srinagar. the NC and other Opposition parties to link the move with their formcalled by the Srinagar

to fight for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.
The NC accused the BJPled Central government of using official agencies to bully its president "after failing to fight him politi-

ing an alliance last week

(ED) here in connection

with an alleged multi-

crore scam in Jammu and

PDP leader and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti termed it the Modi government's "political vendetta". "ED's sudden summon to Farooq Sahab displays the extent of GOIs nervousness about mainstream parties in J&K fighting as one unit. Also, reeks of political vendetta & won't in the

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

Eighty-two-year-old Farooq Abdullah was

Abdullah leaves the ED

wing of the ED to its office here early Monday where he was "interrogated" for seven hours over his alleged role in the misappropriation of ₹113.66 crore (including bank interest) received by J&KCA from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) between April 2002 and December 2011. It is alleged that instead of utilizing funds on the development of infrastructure, these were swindled by some of its members including former treasurer Ahsan Mirza to live a lavish lifestyle.

On emerging from the ED office, Mr Abdullah told reporters "Let the ED do its job and I will do my own". Reiterating that he had nothing to do with the alleged scam, he said, "I'm quite clear. I will always face them. My fate will be decided by the court when they put the case into the court. I couldn't have lunch today. There was no

Though Mr Abdullah on being asked whether he was summoned by the ED because of the formation of "Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration" retorted by saying, "Don't

Bengaluru, Oct. 19: An

NDPS special judge hear-

ing the celebrity drug

racket case received a

threat letter and a parcel

with a detonator on

Monday, demanding grant

of bail to two film actresses and those booked in the

August 11 violence here, a

senior police official said

bring Gupkar declaration into this." The amalgam in a statement issued here later during the day termed the move as part of "vindictive politics practised by the Central government to kill dissent and disagreement across the country and in the present case to silence the genuine demands for a reversal of unilateral and unconstitutional decisions of August 5, 2019, and restoration of the 4th August 2019 (constitutional position) of August 4,

A statement issued by the alliance here sought to remind the Central government that "such tactics are not to dampen the will of the people of Kashmir and Jammu, Ladakh to have the constitutional status restored. It alleged that the Central government is "unnerved by the unity amongst the people across all the egions and communities to pursue the goals of the Gupkar Declaration and support extended to it by political parties and civil society groups at the national level and is resorting to the game of witch-hunt and suppres-Earlier, when asked if

the ED's questioning him for seven long hours would weaken his resolve for the fight for the restoration of Article 370, Mr Abdullah said that it wasn't his resolve alone. "This is the resolve of the people of J&K. This will continue whether Farooq Abdullah is dead or alive."What is J&K cricket scam?

On July 16, 2018, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had filed a chargesheet against Mr Abdullah and three others in the case.

Spl judge hearing drug case

gets threat letter, detonator

Police officer shot dead by militants in Anantnag

CORRESPON-SRINAGAR, Oct. 19

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

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

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

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

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

Melhura village.
The officials said that the fighting broke out after a joint team of the SOG and the Army's 55 Rashtriya Rifles Rashtriya launched a cordon-andsearch operation in the area. The operation was still underway as reports last came in. The officials said that the identity of the slain militant is being ascertained.

BSP MLA, wife booked for over ₹754cr fraud

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 19

The CBI booked BSP MLA Vinay Shankar Tiwari and ȟis wife Rita in connection with an alleged bank fraud to the tune of ₹754.25 crore, involving a private firm namely, Gangotri Enterprises (Lucknow).

on Monday.
"We have taken up investigation," he told PTI, Sources said the agency sleuths also conducted searches at the premises of Chillupar requesting anonymity. (Gorakhpur) According to top police Tiwari, who is son of sources, a parcel from the former minister and a headquarters town of Tumakuru and strongman from Gorakhpur, Hari the letter addressed to the Special Judge hearing the Shankar Tiwari, and the office of the company, drug case, in which some Gangotri Enterprises. bigwigs of Karnataka, Searches were also conincluding film actresses ducted in Noida at the premises of another company, Royal Empire Marketing Pvt Ltd, and

Ragini Dwivedi and Sanjjanaa Galrani are among the accused, was found outside the court. When the staff opened

it, they found a suspicious

and informed

KARNATAKA DRUG RACKET

police, whose bomb disposal squad confirmed it was a detonator, the sources said. The person who wrote

the letter demanded that bail be granted to the actresses and that the 'innocent' people arrested in the August 11 violence at K.G. Halli and D.J. Halli areas here be immediately released and warned that a blast would be triggered if the demands were not

More than 15 people, including the actresses, a few Nigerians, realtors and rave party organisers have been arrested so far in the drug case.

Three people were killed after police opened fire on August 11 night to quell a mob that went on a rampage in a city locality, irked over a social media post allegedly put out by a Congress legislator's rela-

Scores, including around 50 policemen, including were injured in the vio-lence, apparently triggered by the online post. Pulakeshi Nagar MLA

Akhanda Murthy's home and a police station awere among those targeted by the angry mob.

The house of the MLA, who was not at home at the time, was allegedly set on fire.The rioters also torched many police and private vehicles, badly damaged the house and looted the belongings of MLA Murthy and those of his sister.

So far, 421 people have been arrested, including Social Democratic Party of India leader Muzammil

accused director in Gangotri Enterprises,

Ajit Pandey.



THE ASIAN AGE

20 OCTOBER 2020

Cut back on festivities, Covid-19 threat is real

t's normal for the people to expect scientists to analyse data and provide a conclusive and independent opinion while taking the statements of the politician with a pinch of salt. But it looks like the report of the expert panel, appointed by the department of science and technology, which says India has gone past the peak with respect to the spread of the coronavirus, is comforting but comes with too many ifs and buts. On the other hand, Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has been consistent and unequivocal in all his communications, insisting that the forthcoming festival season is going to be a game changer for the worse and cautioning people against being lackadaisical in their approach to the pandemic.

Dr Vardhan was persuasive enough to cite the example of Kerala and the way the state's containment strategy went completely awry after its annual festival Onam in late August to drive home the point that lapses in the

Dr Vardhan was persuasive enough to cite the example of Kerala and the way the state's containment strategy went completely awry after its annual festival Onam in late August to drive home the point that lapses in the coming season would prove to be too costly

coming season would prove to be too costly. The state, which reported almost zero new Covid-19 cases in the first week of May saw the numbers rise, albeit nominally, after the Union government decided to open interstate and international traffic. But the number grew rapidly after Onam: the state's share in the total caseload shot up from 2.9 per cent until September to 6.4 per cent in the second half of the month to almost 10 per cent now. The state's total active cases of 96,000 contribute almost 10 per cent to the total cases in India at present. It is a fact that large congregations of people who threw caution to the winds undid all Kerala had done in the initial phases to stop the spread of the pandemic. A section of experts also blames the

series of agitations the opposition had launched against the state government during the same period for the sudden spurt of cases.

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

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

Thrills & spills in Super Overs

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

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

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

THE ASIAN AGE

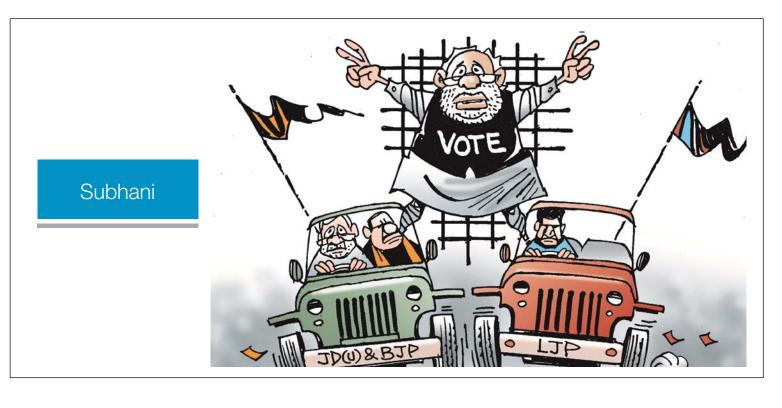
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Delineate & demarcate LAC to end China mess



Akash Deep Anand

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

This area is again active 58 years later as the outstanding matter of settling the borders between the two nations hasn't been resolved. Unlike the India-Pakistan Line of Control (LoC), in J&K and Ladakh, the 1962 war led to the concept of a Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the Sino-Indian frontier. There is no demarcation in both situations. In the LoC's case troops on both sides are generally within range of small and medium arms, in an eyeball to eyeball deployment, except in certain gaps where physical deployment is not possible. Incidentally, these are the gaps used for infiltration from across the border. In the LAC's case, troops have been separated by far greater distances except in a few locations like Nathu La. As long as troops maintain considerable distances, the chance of clashes are minimal unless one side chooses to press a claim line by moving forward going by their assessment or comprehension of the LAC. It is because of such an action of staking their claim over Galwan Valley by the Chinese that the June 15 clash took place, resulting in casual-ties on both sides, an unspecified number of Chinese and 20 of ours, with Col. Santosh Babu, 16 Bihar's CO, and 19 soldiers killed in action.

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

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

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

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

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

which are claimed as part of J&K. Chinese objections to the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erst-

while state of J&K into the UTs of J&K and Ladakh which is claimed by China as one of "five fingers" of Tibet, the others being Nepal, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
Development of Indian

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

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

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

The Chinese exchequer is simultaneously burdened with the expenditure on

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

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

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

Starting in the 1980s. India has taken steps with China to ensure tranquility along the disputed frontier. Did the present government lull itself into the belief that our actions to ramp up border infrastructure would not attract a belligerent response? Did Narendra Modi end up imitating the blunder of Pandit Nehru? Did he assume his personal rap-port with Xi Jinping after his back-to-back summits Wuhan Mamallapuram

cemented such bonds that Mr Xi would simply acquiesce with our actions on an unsettled frontier that would raise the hackles of China's strategic hawks as well as his own detractors?

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

CULTURAL SHIFT

The way the entire country has unitedly fought against Covid-19 over the last few months has dispelled many fears. Today, the recovery rate from the infection in our country is better than that in others. Additionally, the death toll is much lower than in most countries. The impact of the pandemic was different in different parts of India, and varied between urban and rural areas. However, the threat of coronavirus has not subsided. Citizens must continue to distance and use masks. It is time for an exercise of patience and a mass behavioural shift.

M. Khurshid Darbhanga

DAMN LIES

A DAY AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government had fed 80 crore people over the past seven-eight months, India has been ranked 94th out of 107 countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), even lower than neighbours such as Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan. The government's claim that not a single person starved to death during the tant falsehood. The bitter truth is that we are still an underdeveloped nation where people are dying of lack of food, even as lakhs of tonnes of foodgrains are allowed

> Neha Jamal Chandigarh

PUJA MANIA

ALL DURGA PUJA pandals in West Bengal have been declared no-entry zones by Calcutta High Court on Monday. Only organisers can enter the marquees and names of people allowed to enter them have to be displayed outside. The order is highly justified given the fact that there was a massive Covid-19 surge in four states post Onam in August and Ganesh Chaturthi.

Sankar Paul Chakdaha, West Bengal

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.



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

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

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

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

do what he says. That is why they have, in fact, been chosen and placed there. The moment they defy or question,

they will be replaced by someone who will keep their mouth shut but keep their job. There is no devolution of authority and none of accountability. When things begin to go wrong in such a place, the leader cannot be

or even named. It will be assumed that he is right and the solution lies not in correcting his behaviour but in something else. A few weeks ago there was this headline in the online publication The Print: "Modi govt plans media blitz for

'image correction' to boost India rank on global lists". It reported that the government was trying to improve India's ranking on some 30 global indices by "building a massive publicity campaign" which was a "planned perception-overhaul exercise"

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

Many of these are compiled by bodies

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

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

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

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

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

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

haters, this was shocking. It was not expected because India was far ahead of Bangladesh in terms of per capita income in 2014.

those who are referred to as Modi

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

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

Aakar Patel is a senior journalist

IN BRIEF

Japan, Vietnam up defence ties

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

Suspended terms for Golden Dawn

Athens: A prosecutor on Monday recommended that all former lawmakers of Greece's extreme right Golden Dawn party who have been convicted and sentenced to prison for leading or partici-pating in a criminal organisation should be allowed to remain free until their appeal has been heard. Prosecutor Adamantia Economou argued that none of the former lawmakers was a flight risk or at risk of re-offending while they remain out of jail, and said most had a clean criminal record prior to this. A final decision on whether the sentences will be suspended pending appeal is to be made by the panel of judges trying the case following summations by defence lawyers, and is expected either Monday night or Tuesday morning. The lengthy sentencing procedure caps a marathon, politically charged five-year trial that involved 68 defendants.

Last ETA boss sorry for deaths

Paris: The last known chief of ETA, the now-extinct Basque separatist militant group, goes on trial Monday in Paris for terrorism charges that he deems "absurd" because of his role in ending a conflict that claimed hundreds of lives and terrorised Spain for half a century. Josu Urrutikoetxea led ETA during one of its bloodiest periods, when its victims included children bombed to death while sleeping in a Zaragoza police compound, where a monument to their stolen lives now stands. In a rare interview after 17 years on the run, he offered an apology, advised other separatist movements against resorting to violence and painted himself as a changed man. That's a preposterous claim to those who lost loved ones to ETA's violence, which caused around 850 deaths and thousands of injuries and hijacked the Basque and Spanish political debate for decades.

THAI CENSOR ON STUDENT STIR COVERAGE

Bangkok, Oct. 19: Thai authorities worked Monday to stem a growing tide of protests calling for the prime minister to resign by threatening to censor news coverage, raiding a publishing house and attempting to block the Telegram messaging app used by demonstrators. The efforts by PM Prayuth Chan-ocha's government to drain the student-led protests of support and the ability to organise comes as they have grown in the capital and spread around the country, despite an emergency decree, which bans public gatherings of more than four people in Bangkok, outla-ws news said to affect national security and gives authorities broad power to detain people.

The mostly young protesters have gathered en masse across Bangkok the past six days to push their demands, which also include a controversial call for reform of the monarchy. The protesters charge that Prayuth, an army commander who led a 2014 coup, was returned to power unfairly in last year's general election because laws had been changed to favour a pro-military party. The protesters say a constitution written and passed under military rule is undemocratic. But their more recent demand for checks and balances on the monarchy has deeply angered conservative Thais

Confirmed Coronavirus cases across world surpass 40 mn

Experts: Only tip of the iceberg when it comes to impact of pandemic

ber of confirmed Covid-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 40 million, but experts say that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the true impact of the pandemic that has upended life and work around the world. The milestone was hit Monday morning, according to Johns Hopkins University, which collates reports from around the world. The actual worldwide tally of Covid-19 cases is likely to be far higher, as testing has been variable, many people have had no symptoms and some governments have concealed the true number of cases.

To date, more than 1.1 million confirmed virus deaths have been reported, although experts also believe that number is an undercount. The US, India and Brazil are reporting by far the highest numbe-

London, Oct. 19: The num-rs of cases — 8.1 million, 7.5 million and 5.2 million respectively — although the global increase in recent weeks has been driven by a surge in Europe, which has seen over 240,000 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic so far. Last week, the World Health Organisation said Europe had a reported a record weekly high of nearly 700,000 cases and said the region was responsible for about a third of cases globally.

Britain, France, Russia and Spain account for about half of all new cases in the region, and countries like Belgium and the Czech Republic are facing more intense outbreaks now than they did in the spring. WHO said the new measures being taken across Europe are "absol-utely essential" in stopping Covid-19 from overwhelming its hospitals.

Chile church set ablaze



A medical staff member takes a sample from the mouth of a student at a newly-opened Covid-19 testing centre for students at the KULeuven University, in Leuven, on

ements on mask-wearing in Italy and Switzerland, closing schools in Northern Ireland and the Czech Republic, closing restaurants and bars in Belgium, implementing a 9 p.m. curfew in France and having targeted limited lockdowns in parts of the UK. The agency said several

Those include new requir- European cities could soon see their intensive care units overwhelmed and warned that governments and citizens should take all necessary measures to slow the spread of the virus, including bolstering testing and contact tracing, wearing face masks and following social dis-

about 1 in 10 of the world's population — about 780 million people — have been infected with Covid-19, more than 20 times the official number of cases.

That suggests the vast majority of the world's po-pulation is still susceptible to the virus. Some researchers have argued that allowing Covid-19 to spread in populations that are not obviously vulnerable will help build up herd immunity and is a more realistic way to stop the pandemic instead of the restrictive lockdowns that have proved economically devastating. But WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned against the belief that herd immunity might be a viable strategy to pursue, saying this kind of protection needs to be achieved

Trump inciting domestic terror: Michigan Gov.

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

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

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

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

Biden not good for India: Donald Trump Jr New York, Oct. 19: Democratic presidential

candidate Joe Biden is not good for India as he could be soft on China, US President Donald Trum-p's son said at an event to celebrate the "success" of his book that talks about graft allegations against the Bidens.

Forty-two-year-old Donald Trump Jr is leading the re-election campaign of his 74-year-old father. The presidential elections in the US are slated to be held on November 3. "We have to understand the threat of China and no one knows that probably better than Indian-Americans, Trump Jr, told a select group of supporters from the community at the event in Long Island. New York. In his book "Liberal Privilege", he has documented allegations of corruption against 77-year-old Joe Biden's fami-year-old Joe Biden's fami-yea ly, particularly against



Donald Trump

DON, BIDEN GO ON THE OFFENCE **IN STATES**

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

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

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

Trump offered short remarks, saying "I love going to churches" and that it was "a great honour" to attend the service. Γhe president also said that "we have a group on the other side that doesn't agree with us," and he urged people to "get out there on Nov. 3 or sooner'

his son Hunter Biden.

'When you look at our opponents in this race... you think the Chinese gave Hunter Biden \$1.5 billion ... because he was a great businessman, or because they knew the Bidens could be bought and therefore soft on

CEASEFIRE, YET NEW FIGHTING OVER KARABAKH

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

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

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

the country overnight. Meanwhile, the local autnorities in Karabakn said Azerbaijani artillery fire continued overnight, with the Karabakh army taking "proportionate" actions" in response. However Nagorno-Karabakh's

main city Stepanakert was quiet overnight, an AFP correspondent said. The ceasefire was the second agreed after a previous truce thrashed out in Moscow earlier this month never showed any sign of seriously holding. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who has acted as mediator between Armenia and Azerbaijan in negotiating both

SINCE KILLING,

FRANCE SEES 80

HATE SPEECHES

Paris, Oct. 19: France's

interior minister said on

Monday that police oper-

ations are underway

into dozens of people

who allegedly issued

messages of support for

the attacker after the beheading of a history

Gerald Darmanin said

on French radio Europe

1 that at least 80 cases of

hate speech have been

reported since Friday's

attack. Samuel Paty was

beheaded in Conflans-

Sainte-Honorine, northwest of Paris, by a 18-

year-old Moscow-born Chechen refugee, who

was later shot dead by

police. Police officials

said Paty had discussed

caricatures of Islam's Prophet with his class,

French President Em-

manuel Macron held a

defence council on Sun-

day at the Elvsee presi-

dential palace. The government will reinforce

security at schools when

classes resume on Nov. 2.

leading to threats.

teacher near Paris.

ceasefires.

Israel, Bahrain establish relations Jerusalem, Oct. 19: Israel with Israel formally estab-First Emirati flight lished ties, the agreement with Bahrain was less detailed and included a lands near Tel Aviv

and Bahrain on Sunday agreed to establish formal diplomatic relations, making the small Gulf country the fourth Arab state to normalise ties with

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

matic pacts with Israel. While the UAE's deal

mutual pledge to follow suit. Sunday's visit appeared to complete that task, clearing the way for the countries to open embassies and exchange ambassadors in the coming months. "It was indeed an historic visit, to start opening relations between both countries, to have fruitful

cementing a normalisa-tion deal between the two bilateral relations in both fields," said Bahrain's forcountries. eign minister, Abdullatif Etihad Airways Flight al-Zayani, at the signing No. 9607 landed at Israel's ceremony. Ben-Gurion international airport just after 7 am.

The dome of the church of Asuncion falls down burning in flames after being set on fire by demonstrators on the

commemoration of the first anniversary of the social uprising in Chile, in Santiago, on Monday, as the country pre-

The Boeing 787 Dream-liner departed for Abu Dhabi later Monday with commercial passenger flight to Israel by a carrier an Israeli travel and from the United Arab Emirates landed near Tel tourism delegation on board, according to an Etihad statement. Etihad Aviv on Monday, further said it plans regular pas-

senger flights between the countries in the future and was launching a dedicated Hebrew website.

Imran incapable, clueless: Oppn less prime minister will have to go home," Pakistan

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

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

ernment movement under

Peoples Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Sunday at the Bagh-e-Jinnah, which was packed with people including supporters and workers of the alliance's members. History has proved that the biggest dictators could not survive and "what standing does this puppet have?", Zardari targeting Prime

Tel Aviv, Oct. 19: The first

Minister Khan and added that "this is not a new fight but this will be a decisive fight"

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

-PTI

Not surprised Don got Covid: Fauci

Washington, Oct. 19: attending the function. America's top infectious disease expert Dr Anth-interview on *CBS* "60" ony Fauci says he was "absolutely not" surprised when Donald Trump contracted Covid-19 after seeing the president surrounded by several people not wearing face masks and flouting best public health practices against the deadly pandemic. Fauci, Director of the

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases appeared to be referring to the White House Rose Garden event on September 26 where Trump announced Judge Amy Coney Barrett was his pick to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court. At least 12 people have tested positive for Covid-19 after

Minutes" that was aired on Sunday, "I was worried that he was going to get sick when I saw him in a completely precarious situation of crowded — no separation between people, and almost nobody wearing a mask.

When I saw that on TV. I said, 'Oh my goodness. Nothing good can come out of that, that's got to be a problem," he said.

"And then sure enough, it turned out to be a superspreader event." His Americans face another surge in the Covid-19 pandemic ahead of the November 3 US presidential election.

--PTI

GUINNESS | FEAT

Naseej 1, the painting, is made out of seven connected cotton cloths Saudi woman makes largest coffee painting

Dubai, Oct. 19: A Saudi Arabian artist has entered her name in the Guinness Book of World Records by drawing the world's largest coffee painting using expired granules, becoming the first woman from the kingdom to achieve the feat. Ohud Abuuman Almalki's coffee painting illustrates seven renow-ned figures of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

She drew two giant pic-

tures of founding fathers, King Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan of Saudi Arabia and the UAE respectively. Almalki used approximately 4.5 kgs of expired coffee powder. She painted all the fig-

ures in hues of brown mixing the coffee powder with water. "It took me 45 days of continuous work to complete under the watchful eyes of two witnesses, video recording

and drone footage. My aim is to remind the world of the centuries-old entente between the two nations,'

Almalki said. Called "Naseej 1", the painting is spread over 220.968 square metres, 15.84 metres long and 13.95 metres wide. It is made out of seven connected cotton cloths; each measuring 15.84 metres long x 2

metres wide. "Normally, only one kind of coffee is used in such

paintings, but I have used four different shades of brown coffee. I used several rollers and paint brushes of different sizes to finish this project. A drone footage of the painting was shown in "Mokhatat Ar-Riyad" neighbourhood in Jeddah with the artist behind the painting with

her father," she said. Women of Saudi Arabia took part in previous Guinness World Records attempts, but this is the has achieved the feat on In 2015, the largest

human awareness ribbon consisted of 8,264 participants and was achieved by the women of Saudi Arabia. As a student in the Vth year of College of Law at King AbdulAziz University in Jeddah, Almalki features weekly on popular TV channels across the Middle East and North Africa region.

It took me 45 days of continuous work to complete under the watchful eyes of two witnesses, video recording and drone footage. My aim is to remind the world of the centuriesold entente between the two nations.

> **OHUD ABDULLAH** ALMALKI,



quick

INDICATORS 1.12 40,431.60 11,873.00 0.94 Nifty 50 S&P 5003 3,476.78 -0.20 0.02 Dollar (₹) 73.36 0.44 Pound Sterling (₹) 95.29 -0.20 86.08 Gold (10gm)* (₹) 50,682 ▲135 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* 42.91 0.006 IN 10-Yr bond yield 5.940 US 10-Yr T-bill yield* 0.769

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Sykes India opens its third facility in Hyderabad

Sykes India, a leading digital marketing and customer service global outsourcer, has opened its third centre of excellence in Hyderabad. This 33,000 sq. ft. facility is the company's third in Hyderabad and fifth in the country. It employs around 1,000 in Hyderabad and 200 in Bengaluru. It has hired an additional 300 people, which will work from the new facility at NSL SEZ, Uppal in Hyderabad.

Malabar Gold offers 'one India one Gold rate'



Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched 'One India One Gold Rate', an initiative that offers uniform gold rate across all states in the country for 100 per cent BIS hallmarked. While the international gold prices are transparent and uniform custom duty and taxes are applied across the globe, in india, there exists a disparity across states in the rates of gold, though gold is sourced from the designated banks.

Nuvoco Vistas bets on individual home builders

Nuvoco Vistas, a leading building materials company, has launched a water-and-cracksresistant concrete to address the dearth of premium quality concrete in the Individual Home Builders segment. The concrete - Concreto Permadure - improves the durability of the structure by minimising micro cracks and water seepage, said Prashant Jha, chief, ready-mix business at Nuvoco Vistas.

DMart converts 2 stores into fulfilment centres

Avenue Supermarts Ltd, which owns and operates supermarket chain DMart, has closed two of its retail stores in Mumbai and converted them into fulfilment centres to cater to its growing e-commerce business in the city. The company opened six new DMart stores during the July-September quarter this fiscal taking its store count to 220 with total retail business area of 8.2 million square feet.

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FinMin asks eight PSUs to Centre must borrow **buyback Centre's shares**

■ Windfall from state firms to reduce widening fiscal deficit

NIDHI VERMA

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

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

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

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

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

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

kick-start capital spend CHENNAI, OCT. 19 With central PSUs spending only 32 per cent of its

the finance ministry has directed state-run firms to spend 75 per cent of their capital expenditure by the end of December. While reviewing their performance, the ministry

stressed on more coordinated efforts at the levels of secretary of concerned ministries and chairpersons and managing directors of CPSEs to achieve capital expenditure targets.
The government finds

capex target for the fiscal,

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

capital expenditure target f ₹1,15,934 crore for the fiscal 2020-21. Till the first

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

Centre bets on PSUs to

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

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

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

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

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

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

claim on their cash in the form of huge capital expenditure commitment and dividend payments," istry has now written to the top management of over 2,800 corporates by name to make payment of pending dues of MSMEs

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

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

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

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

SANGEETHA G IF YOU can borrow₹1.1 lakh crore, why can't CHENNAI, OCT. 19 it be higher? We should Having agreed to borrow money to fund shortfall in be getting the full ₹2.35 lakh crore this year. We GST collections on behalf are facing an economic of states, the Central govrecession now and not ernment should negotiate with the states on how much should be borrowed,

of ₹2.35 lakh crore (₹2.35 with the states as to what is the requirement.

tomorrow, said Kerala

finance minister Thomas

₹2.3tr for GST: Kerala

trillion) to be provided to the states this year itself.
"Having come the half-Considering the current economic recession, he way through for an amicasaid, the states should be ble settlement on the issue provided the entire shortof who should borrow, the fall of ₹2.35 lakh crore. Centre should take initia-

The Centre in August had estimated that the tive to settle the remaining issue: How much to borrow?" he said in a GST shortfall for FY21 would be around ₹2.35 tweet. Last week, the Centre had agreed to borlakh crore. Of the ₹2.35 lakh crore, Centre has row ₹1.1 lakh crore on agreed to borrow ₹1.1 lakh behalf of the states, ending an impasse with the crore. Out of the remaining ₹1.25 lakh crore, ₹50,000-60,000 crore will come from the current year's compensation cess. The remaining amount Chronicle, Issac said the Centre has to negotiate

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

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

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

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

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

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 19

said Kerala finance minis-

ter Thomas Issac. He

wants the entire shortfall

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

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

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

The IPO comprises the

issue of fresh equity

shares aggregating up to ₹1,000 crore and an offer for sale worth ₹750 crore, according to the DRHP. Kalyan Jewellers promoter T.S. Kalyanaraman

proposes to offload shares

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

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

M&M to step up Thar SUV production

MICHAEL GONSALVES

Mahindra and Mahindra, India's utility vehicle specialist, on Monday said it will increase the production of its all-new Thar substantially after bookings crossed 15,000 units since the launch of the vehicle. Thar SUV off-roader was launched on October 2.

The second generation Mahindra Thar had crossed over 9,000 units bookings in the first four days of being launched.

The highly-sought after vehicle created a huge buzz among off-roading enthusiasts and prospective customers. The company said in a

statement that 57 per cent of buyers of the new Mahindra Thar are firsttime owners and a large portion of the bookings is for the automatic vari-

"We are delighted with this overwhelming response received for the allnew Thar, having crossed 15,000 bookings as on date," Veejay Nakra, CEO, Automotive Division at M&M, said.

What is particularly interesting is that there is an acceptance of the allnew Thar amongst a larger base of lifestyle seekers, he pointed out.

Mahindra also Thar has garnered more than 65,000 enquiries and eight lakh visitors on the

Protests against Nokia's job cuts



A man throws a wooden pallet into a fire as Nokia's employees gather in front of their factory to protest against job cuts in Lannion, western France, on Monday. The Finnish telecom group Nokia announced in June 2020 a plan to cut around 1.200 jobs from its opera-

Maruti rolls out Swift's limited edition

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 19

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, on Monday launched Swift Limited Edition, ahead of the festive season to boost sales in Asia's third biggest economy.

It is priced between ₹5.19 lakh and ₹8.02 lakh at Delhi showroom, which is ₹24,990 more than regular

While it comes a few cosmetic tweaks here and there, the Maruti Suzuki Swift limited edition offers a bit bolder and



more dynamic look. limited-edition hatchback follows an allblack dominant theme to make it look a bit sporty. The hatchback sports

new visual additions like

gloss black body kit, aerodynamic spoiler, body side moulding, door visor, allblack garnish on grill, tail

lamp and fog lamp. Now in its third genera-

Swift boasts of features like LED projector headlamps with LED DRLs, LED rear combination lamps, LED high mounted stop lamp, 15-inch alloy wheels, seven-inch Smartplay Studio touchscreen infotainment system, multifunction flat-bottom steering wheel, automatic climate control and reverse parking camera.

Maruti Suzuki Swift is powered by a 1.2-litre, VVT petrol engine that generates 83HP and 113Nm. The transmission options include five-speed MT and five-speed AMT.

Bank recap must not be postponed, says Viral Acharya

neglecting bank recapitalisation as it focuses debt moratoriums and interest waivers for borrowers amid the Covid-19 pandemic, a former central bank official said on Monday.

Indian banks are saddled with over \$120 bil-lion in bad debt, and in severely stressed conditions the bad-loan ratio could nearly double by March, according to Reserve Bank of India projections.

Restoring banks' capital is critical for aiding a meaningful recovery, but there has been little focus on the matter, for-mer RBI deputy governor Viral Acharya said.

"This lack of focus is tantamount to kicking the can down the road and jettisoning financial stability for short-term gains," said Acharya, who recently wrote a book titled the "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India".

"This repeated mistake has prevented India from recovering well from adverse shocks," Acharya said. His comments came weeks after India offered to waive the compounded interest

saddled with over \$120 billion in bad debt, and in severely stressed conditions the bad-loan ratio could nearly double by March, according to Reserve Bank of India projections.

component on all loans up to 20 million rupees following a legal challenge to the terms of a six-month moratorium. Designing moratoria

and forgiveness like farm-loan waivers that favour borrowers excessively in the short term has been detrimental to a sound recovery of credit growth in the medium term, Acharya said.

"If the government doesn't wish to recapitalise banks in a timely manner, then it must ensure that the contours of debt moratoria and forgiveness package are not so generous that banks won't be in a position to lend well during the recovery phase, whi-ch is likely around the

corner," Acharya said. "It would be good to learn from the past mistakes and start the work of repairing bank balance sheets." — Reuters

Job losses put thousands on verge of eviction in US

New York/Chicago, Oct. **19:** On September 1, US health officials announced they would suspend evictions across the United States to help stem further spread of the novel coron-

That was three days too late for Latrise Bean. About 72 hours before the declaration by the US Centers for Disease Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Bean, 35, was ordered evicted from her Milwaukee apartment. She'd lived there for three years despite the sagging ceilings, smell of urine in

the hallways and homeless squatters in the basement because it was all she could afford.

Bean, whose hours as a fraud specialist at a software company had been cut due to the pandemic, tried to find a new place. But with the eviction on her record, landlord after landlord rejected her. She is now sharing an air mattress with her five-yearold daughter, in a temporary unit in a neighborhood even worse than the one she left behind. "I feel so unlucky," said Bean. "I have really been

year for many of America's renters. The local, state and federal eviction bans that gave them temporary protection in the spring began to lapse in early summer ensnaring renters like Bean the gap. in September's reprieve by

the CDC, which protected

many, but not all, renters

It has been a nightmare

At that point, an estimated \$32 billion in back rent will come due, with up to 8 million tenants facing eviction filings, according

will expire in January.

JANUARY IS going to be a mess. Nobody can get a new place because they have an eviction case pending against them - and they don't have any money anyway, says Nick Toman, a Milwaukee Legal Aid lawver.

to a tracking tool devel-oped by the global adviso-ry firm Stout Risius and Ross. The nonprofit group advocates for tenants in eviction court to secure lawyers.

In a typical year, 3.6 million people face eviction cases, according to the Princeton University Eviction Lab, a national housing research centre.

Landlords, most of whom are mom-and-pop operators with mortgages to pay, say they, too, are unprecedented financial strain, as many move into the eighth month of nonpayment.

Many owners are "not

generating sufficient revenue," said Bob Pinnegar, CEO of the National Apartment Association. 'This is not a high-profitmargin business." "Only 9 cents of every dollar return to the owner or investor as profit," he

Unless Congress and the Trump administration move past their deadlock over the contours of a new Covid-19 relief package and include financial relief for tenants and landlords, January will bring a surge in displacement and homelessness "unlike anything we have ever seen," said John Pollock, a Public Justice

Center attorney and coor-

dinator of the National

Coalition for a Civil Right

to Counsel.
More than 60,000 evictions have been filed since the pandemic started in the 17 cities tracked by the Princeton Lab.

Health experts say evictions may contribute to a second-wave Covid-19 crisis, as the newly homeless are forced into shelters or tight quarters with friends and relatives, potentially exposing them to infection. The danger is particularly acute in the winter, when colder weather pushes people

— Reuters

indoors.

SHORT TAKES

Indian girls enter

Asian chess last 8 Chennai: The top-seeded Indian

women recorded three wins on Monday to finish on top in the Swiss system preliminaries and qualify for the quarterfinals of Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Championship.

They will face Kyrgyzstan in the last eight after topping the preliminary phase with 16 match points (two match points for a win and 1 for a draw) ahead of the Philippines (13) and Iran

On a good day for the Indians, they beat the Philippines 3-1 in round seven, Kazakhstan 2.5-1.5 in the eighth round before edging out Vietnam 2.5-1.5 in the ninth and final round. In the fixture against the Philippines, Mary Ann Gomes and P.V. Nandhidhaa posted victories while R. Vaishali on the top board and Padmini Rout on the second board, settled for draws. The tournament will conclude with the finals on

Spurs rocked on

Bale's return

October 25. - PTI

London: West Ham ruined Gareth Bale's Tottenham return with a stunning late fightback from three goals down to rescue a thrilling 3-3 draw, while Aston Villa extended their perfect start with a dramatic 1-0 win at Leicester on Sunday. Tottenham were leading 3-0 when Bale came on as a 72nd minute substitute for his first appearance since joining on a season-long loan from Real

Madrid. But he suffered a debut to forget as Tottenham capitulated in astonishing fashion. The Wales star was one of the main Tottenham culprits as he missed a golden opportunity to wrap up the points before West Ham's Manuel Lanzini snatched

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

Alex takes 850th podium for Honda

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

Sociedad go top

with Betis win Madrid: Real Sociedad contin-

ued La Liga's unpredictable start to the season by going top of the table on Sunday after a 3-0 win away at Real Villarreal had temporarily

claimed first place earlier in the day by beating Valencia 2-1 at la Ceramica but Real Sociedad's impressive victory put them ahead on goal difference. They are the sixth different

team to lead La Liga after six rounds of fixtures so far, as Real Madrid gave up their place at the top of the pile after a surprise loss at home to Cadiz on Saturday. - AFP

Live on

IPL: Kings XI Punjab vs Delhi Capitals

FOOTBALL Champions League: Zenit vs Brugge

from 10.25 pm on Sony Six; Dynamo Kyiv vs Juventus from 10.25 pm on Sony Ten 2, Chelsea vs Sevilla from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six, Lazio vs Dortmund from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3; Barcelona vs Ferencváros from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1; Paris Saint German vs Manchester United from 12.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony

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Resurgent Royals High praise for Super Shami

Rajasthan defeat Chennai by 7 wickets to climb to fifth spot

Rajasthan Royals defeated Chennai Super Kings by seven wickets in their Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

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

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

Jos Buttler top scored for Royals with an unbeaten 70. Opting to bat, CSK never got going and lacked the fire power to put up a decent score after being reduced to 56 for four in 10 overs.

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

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

Dhoni's decision to bat first backfired as RR picked up wickets at regular intervals to make life difficult for CSK. CSK lost the in-form Faf du Plessis (10) in the third over, caught by Jos Buttler off



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

- BCCI

SCORECARD

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

FoW: 1-13, 2-26, 3-53, 4-56, 5-107 Bowling: Archer 4-0-20-1, Rajpoot 1-0-8-0, Tyagi 4-0-35-1, Stokes 3-0-27-0, Gopal 4-0-14-1, Tewatia 4-0-18-1.

Raiasthan Royals: Ben Stokes b Chahar 19, Robin Uthappa c Mahendra Singh Dhoni b Josh Hazlewood 4, Sanju Samson c Mahendra Singh Dhoni b Chahar O, Steve Smith not out 26, Jos Buttler not out 70. Extras: (lb-6, w-1) 7. Total (for 3 wkts, in 17.3 over) 126. FoW: 1-26, 2-28, 3-28.

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

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

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

PCB WANTS ICC TO ENSURE INDIA VISAS FOR PAK TEAM

New Deini, Oct. 19: The Pakistan Cricket Board wants the ICC to assure visas for its players and officials when India hosts the T20 World Cup in October next year, by January 2021, ČEŎ Wasim Khan has said.

The PCB CEO also confirmed that there is "no chance" of an Indo-Pak bilateral Indo-Pak bilateral series in "foreseeable future" and neither will it be a part of fresh the Futures Tours Programme that starts in 2023

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

"This is an ICC matter. We have discussed our concerns. There is

'Host Agreement' that states very clearly that host nation (India in this case) will have to provide visas and accommodation for teams that are due to participate in T20 World Cup and Pakistan is one of

them," Khan told said. "We have sought assurances from the ICC that our players will receive visas and ICC is now taking this up with the BCCI because that directive and confirmation will clearly need to come from their govern-

ment," Khan said. He then clarified that it's only fair that there is a time-frame for such a deadline.

"We have asked for a deadline till December-January, which we believe is the right thing.'

into table-leaders Delhi Dubai, Oct. 19: The nail-bit-

ing win over defending champions Mumbai Indians was certainly a morale-lifter but the inconsistent Kings XI Punjab have another tough battle at hand when they take on table leaders Delhi Capitals in an IPL match here on

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

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

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

NUMBERS GAME

High-flying Kings XI run

OVERALL: Matches: 25 Kolkata: 14 Bangalore: 11

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

MEETING IN CURRENT

RCB beat KKR by 82 runs at

FOR THE RECORD

AB de Villiers, who has scored 8,942 at an average of 37.57 in 301 innings of 319 matches, needs 58 runs to become the eighth batsman to score 9,000 runs in Twenty-20

Lockie Ferguson claimed 50 wickets at an average of 26.92 in 52 innings of as many matchesin T20 cricket.

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

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

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

DUBEY JOINS DELHI AS MISHRA'S REPLACEMENT

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

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

Mishra was ruled out of the tournament after sustaining an injury to the ring finger of his bowling

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

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

the same score.

KXIP eventually won the match in the second Super

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

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

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

ly did.
"It is not the first time.



Mohammed Shami

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

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

UNIVERSE BOSS WAS 'ANGRY'

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

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

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

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

Ganguly not in fray for ICC chief's post

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

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

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

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

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

Africa (CSA) gets suspended by the ICC over government interference, then the number of voters will

come down to 15. While Colin Graves, the former England and Wales Cricket Board chairman was the favourite to become the next ICC chief. it was learnt that he didn't file his nomination after it became certain that neither he is an unanimous choice nor does he have the numbers to win an election. There is a buzz that the BCCI will lend support to Barclay against Khwaja, who is known to be close to a former ICC head.

Revival of domestic season a boon for home players



Hemant Kenkre **Silly Point**

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

smothered under

scrum of news dedicated

BCCI gave a glimmer of hope to hundreds of playic-ravaged country.

humongous exercise for

the BCCI and, towards

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

Holding tournaments for 38 teams is going to be a

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

been any official communication on the format of the tournament, it does seem that the BCCI plans to go back to the zonal/knock-out one that was played in the old days. This will make it easier for the BCCI to conduct the Ranji Trophy (and other shorter-format tournaments) with one city per zone looking like the safest

Though there has not

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

this, they are looking at is subject to the health situation closer to January, the proposed month of the start of the domestic schedule. The 2020-21 season has

> and starting it five months behind the usual period (August, in the past) will have its issues with the programme being truncated. Nevertheless, the restart of the Ranji Trophy will provide succour to thousand plus cricketers and support staff across India who have been twiddling their thumbs since the March

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

lockdown.

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

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

in a week, at the latest, to

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

With no domestic cricket

since March this year and the lack of any likely to happen till January, the IPL is the only platform for the selectors to judge the form of those they will pick for the three segments of the tour. This works very well for selecting the team for the T20 segment of the tour and may suffice when the ODI team is picked, as the format is a short one.

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

Considering this is part of the ongoing World Test Championship of the India cap.

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

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

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