

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | SATURDAY 31 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 33°C
Min: 21°C
Rainfall: Nill

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 15
Tithi: Pournami
Star: Ashwini
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
Yamagandam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.50 am
Zohar: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.13 pm
Maghrib: 5.43 pm
Isha: 6.55 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.58 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.14 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 5.58 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 7.25 AM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+44,393)	(+497)
81,32,442	1,21,628

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,608)
TN: 7,22,011 11,091

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

4,56,97,577

DEATHS

11,90,665

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 215

worldometers.info

Delhi air quality continues to be 'severe'

New Delhi: Air quality in Delhi continued to be severely polluted with parts of the city recording Air Quality Index (AQI) in the 'severe' category on Friday. As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 408, while Bawana, Patparganj and Wazirpur recorded AQIs of 447, 404 and 411 respectively, all four in the 'severe' category. An AQI between 0-50 is marked good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101-200 is moderate, 201-300 is poor, 301-400 is very poor and 401-500 is considered severe.

To tackle the rising air pollution, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday launched the 'Green Delhi' app, which would enable people to register complaints about violation of anti-pollution norms. "Today we are launching the Green Delhi app to involve every citizen. You can file any kind of complaint regarding pollution via this app, which is available on the Play Store," said Kejriwal.

COUNTER POINT



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

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 30

The burden of lifestyle diseases in India is 61.3 per cent, and it is feared that the new Indian Council of Medical Research guidelines that have increased the average weight of adults by five kgs could add to it.

The ideal body weight is revised and increased by National Institute of Nutrition from 60 to 65 kg for men and from 50 to 55 kg

for women earlier this month. It is an acceptable reference body weight through a lifespan. It was changed after a decade as it was found that body frames and compositions have undergone a change and the ideal weight of 50 kg in women, for example, was not applicable to many.

However, food specialists and nutritionists say that this upward revision in ideal body weight is being taken otherwise by people

who have failed to understand the 'reference values of weight'. This section thinks that it is okay to gain weight, given the upward revision.

Nutritionists clarify that people must consume more of energy-giving foods, proteins and micro-nutrients and not carbohydrates.

Sujatha Stephen, nutritionist at Yashoda Hospitals, said that the estimate average requirement for those in the age-group of

19 to 39 years was revised as there has been a major change in the diet.

"Because of this, we are finding younger women who weigh more than 50 kgs. The earlier bar made many of them starve to stay within the ideal weight and this led to nutritional deficiencies, apart from other problems. The revision is based on assessments of the present population," she said.

But, in weight loss pro-

grammes, nutritionists say that they still rely on the body mass index formula. Nutritionist Sunitha Premalatha, said, "It is the height and the BMI index which is the bar. The waist circumference is also an indication which helps to scientifically take up the weight loss programme."

With additional five kgs, many now fall in the bracket of 'healthy' as defined by the government. Experts say it is only an ideal rec-

ommended weight and must not be misconstrued. With the increasing and early onset of lifestyle diseases, experts say that it is important to control weight as early as possible. There is also a lot of need to have proper physical activity as the time spent in front of screens has increased.

With movement being restricted during Covid-19. Even walking in the neighbourhood has been affected. For this reason, there is

bound to be more weight gain in the younger age groups which will lead to the early onset of non-communicable diseases.

The ICMR has received feedback on the revised guidelines from food companies who say that the extra food requirements will lead to a burden on agriculture.

Food companies have asked the government to reconsider and revise the weight norms.

Another MoU with city-based Ideal Sensors was inked for a 'Gamma Dose Logger' which is a radiation monitor to measure environmental radiation. An MoU was entered into with Bengaluru-based First Source Impex on use of portable air volume samplers. A pact was signed with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Perambalur, for joint research and development in irradiation-related studies in respect of seeds, crops and other allied and related areas.

—PTI



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#GoBack Stalin trends on Twitter



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Mark Zuckerberg warns 'civil unrest' in US

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Royals edge Kings XI Punjab



Governor gets S-G nod, signs 7.5 p.c. quota Bill

■ Bill effective this year, says CM ■ Protests worked: Stalin

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT 30

Governor Banwarilal Purohit gave his accent to the Bill providing 7.5 per cent reservation for students from government schools in all medical and dental college admissions on Friday, a day after the State government went ahead and issued a government order, thus putting at rest a major controversy that was sought to be used for political gain.

The 'Tamil Nadu Admissions to Undergraduate Courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Indian Medicine and Homeopathy on preferential basis to the Students of Government Schools 2020' was approved by the Governor after the Solicitor General of India, Tushar Mehta gave his opinion, saying 'the bill is in consonance with the Constitution of India' on Thursday.

A communique from Raj Bhavan, which informed the people of Tamil Nadu of the Governor's decision, also attached the letter



Governor signed the bill after solicitor-general Tushar Mehta opined that it is "in consonance with the Constitution of India".

from Tushar Mehta and the letter written by the Governor's secretary Anandrao V Patil seeking the legal opinion on September 26.

Speaking about the 7.5 per cent reservation for government school students, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami said it would be implemented from this academic year itself and the Bill was brought in to ensure social justice and equality in medical education.

Answering questions from the media after paying floral tributes to Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar at his memo-

rial in Pasumpon village in Ramanathapuram district on Friday on the occasion of Guru Pooja, marking the birth and death anniversaries of the Muthuramalinga Thevar, Palaniswami said that no demand was made by anybody for the Bill.

DMK President M K Stalin said that the governor gave his nod after 45 days since he had no other alternative. He was also speaking to the media after paying floral tributes at Pasumpon when he said the DMK's protest and the remarks of Madras High Court judges brought about a change in the

Governor's heart.

Calling it a people's victor, PMK founder S Ramadoss, in a statement, said the government should start the admission process immediately. The Governor's announcement had brought down the tension among students, Ramadoss said.

CPM State secretary K Balakrishnan said the united protest of the people of the State led to the Governor giving his accent to the Bill but stressed on the need to seek exemption from NEET for Tamil Nadu, while CPI State secretary Mutharasan said the delay by the Governor was uncalled for. It was meaningless to withhold a Bill passed by the Assembly, Mutharasan said in a statement.

Among the others who welcomed the Governor approving the Bill were DMDK founder Vijayakanth, who was happy that over 300 students would benefit out of the 7.5 per cent reservation, and State BJP president L Murugan.

KERALA BEST RULED STATE, TN SECOND

Bengaluru, Oct. 30: Kerala was adjudged the best governed state in the country while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the large states category, according to the Public Affairs Index-2020 released by the Public Affairs Centre here on Friday.

In its annual report released on Friday, the city-based not-for-profit organisation, headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan, said the states were ranked on governance performance based on a composite index in the context of sustainable development.

Four southern states, Kerala (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large state category in terms of governance, it said.

Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar were at the bottom of the ranking, scoring negative points in the category. They got -1.461, -1.201 and -1.158 points respectively. In the small state category, Goa ranked first with 1.745 points, followed by Meghalaya (0.797) and Himachal Pradesh (0.725). Worst performers who scored negative points are Manipur (-0.363), Delhi (-0.289) and Uttarakhand (-0.277). Chandigarh emerged the best governed Union Territory. **PTI**

In good company



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the newly inaugurated Sardar Patel Zoological Park at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat, Friday. —PTI

US court orders ISRO arm to pay Bengaluru startup \$1.2 b

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

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

The agreement was terminated by Antrix in

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

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

In its lawsuit filed in the court, in September 2018, Devas Multimedia said three separate interna-

different arbitrators have found the termination of the Devas-Antrix agreement to have been wrongful, with one of the tribunals describing it as "conduct 'which shocks, or at least surprises, a sense of juridical propriety,'" and another finding it to be "a clear breach of simple good faith" by India.

Antrix, in November 2018, had sought the dismissal of the lawsuit citing jurisdictional issues.

The court, however, asserted that it had jurisdiction over the issue, but stayed the matter for one year and asked the two to file a joint status report by April 15, 2020. **■ PTI**

New Delhi, Oct. 30: The Centre has asked states to constitute committees for coordination and overseeing Covid-19 vaccination drive while ensuring minimal disruptions in other routine healthcare services, and stressed early tracking of social media to dispel rumours which could impact the community acceptance of coronavirus inoculation.

Stating that vaccine introduction will span over a year with multiple groups being included "sequentially" starting from health care workers, the Health Ministry has sought constitution of committees at state and district levels which will review preparatory activities in terms of cold chain preparedness, operational planning, strategies for state-specific challenges in terms of geographical terrain and hard-to-reach areas, etc.

In a letter to states and union territories, Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan suggested setting up of a state steering committee (SSC) chaired by the chief secretary, a state task force (STF) led by additional chief secretary or principal secretary

Kerala, Delhi report high Covid numbers

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

The rising daily cases in Kerala and Delhi (6,638 and 5,891, respectively on Friday) remain a major concern while overall fresh coronavirus cases continue to decline in India.

On Friday, 48,648 new cases were detected nationwide as the total number of Covid-19 cases in the country moved closer to 90 lakhs. Out of this, 73.73 lakh persons have already recovered while 5.94 lakh remain infected and under treatment. The total number of deaths so far has been 1.21 lakh, with 563 fatalities reported

(health), and a district task force (DTF) to be headed by the district magistrate.

An annexure attached with the letter outlines the terms of references for the committees according to which the SSC will ensure

in the last 24 hours. The Centre is now gearing up for a nationwide vaccine drive, once the vaccine candidates gets approval from the Drug Controller General of India after successful trial results.

As per government data, 57,386 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours, compared to 48,648 new cases. The national recovery rate has now risen to 91.15 per cent, with 80 per cent of newly recovered cases concentrated in 10 states/UTs. Kerala has contributed the maximum, with over 8,000 single-day recoveries, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka, with more than 7,000 recoveries each.

active involvement of all departments concerned and devise innovative strategies for improving community engagement ('Jan Bhagidaari') for improved coverage of Covid-19 vaccine once it is available. **■ PTI**

IGCAR TO SIGN MoU, TRANSFER TECH TO 25 STARTUPS A YEAR

Chennai, Oct. 30: The Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam near here is aiming to sign memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with 25 startups for exchange of technologies, a top official said on Friday.

The tie-ups would be on healthcare, environment-monitoring and chemicals, among others, IGCAR director A.K. Bhaduri said.

"In principle, we are looking for entering into pacts with at least 25 startups per annum. That is the target given to us by NITI Aayog," he told reporters.

An incubation centre of the department of atomic energy was inaugurated on Friday by secretary and Atomic Energy Commission chairman K.N. Vyas through video-conference.

Dr Bhaduri said IGCAR signed memoranda of understanding with various companies in exchange of technologies or products developed at IGCAR through the incubation centre.

An MoU with Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai, was signed for early detection of breast cancer among women using thermal imaging technology. IGCAR has developed the breast thermography technique which is a low cost-non invasive method and the image is interpreted using artificial intelligence and deep learning software for diagnosis.

Another MoU with city-based Ideal Sensors was inked for a 'Gamma Dose Logger' which is a radiation monitor to measure environmental radiation.

An MoU was entered into with Bengaluru-based First Source Impex on use of portable air volume samplers. A pact was signed with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Perambalur, for joint research and development in irradiation-related studies in respect of seeds, crops and other allied and related areas.

—PTI

You can now officially weigh more, but at your own risk

IN BRIEF

Australian envoy meets Prince of Arcot on Prophet's b'day

Chennai: The Australian High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell, called on the Prince of Arcot, Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, at his official ancestral residence, Amir Mahal, on Friday his visit to the city of Chennai. The envoy extended his greetings to the Prince, on the happy occasion of 'Meelad-un-Nabi'. The Prince expressed the hope that the bilateral and cordial relationship between the two great countries will continue to grow from strength to strength in the years to come, in many aspects, according to press release.



Rajini fans gather in front of the actor's house in the city on Friday.

— DC

TN Red Cross in a mess: PIL in HC

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 30

A public interest litigation has been filed in the Madras high court alleging gross mismanagement and financial irregularities in the running of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)-Tamil Nadu branch.

The PIL seeks to direct the chairman and secretary general of IRCS in consultation with the pres-

ident of IRCS-TN branch (Governor of the state) to regulate the affairs of the branch by appointing an administrator.

A division bench comprising Justices M. Sathyanarayanan and R. Hemalatha, before whom the PIL filed by Shankar Naganathan, vice-president of IRCS-TN branch, came up for hearing ordered a notice to IRCS, deputy secretary to Governor and CBI.

#GoBack Stalin trends on Twitter, Raja says it is 'karma'

Chennai, Oct 30: DMK president M. K. Stalin on Friday visited Ramanathapuram district to pay homage to Muthuramalinga Thevar on the occasion of the freedom fighter's guru puja while #GoBackStalin trended on Twitter.

As the hashtag trended for more than nine hours, BJP latched on to the development to mock at the DMK which it had earlier accused of being behind a similar social media trend against prime

minister Narendra Modi in the past.

Senior BJP leader H. Raja said Stalin had to face it even while he was in his home state Tamil Nadu.

"This is karma," Raja said and quoted a couplet from Tirukkural which meant that what was done to others would revisit them.

BJP spokesperson S. G. Suryah said, "DMK gets a taste of its own medicine, #GoBackStalin."

Using the hashtag, sever-

al users hit out at Stalin and some recalled accusations against the DMK regime (2006-11) like "permanent power cuts."

It was also discussed on other social media platforms.

Later, #TNwithMKStalin also started trending with many hailing the DMK chief as the 'hope' for Tamil Nadu people.

In the past, during the visits of Modi and home minister Amit Shah they had faced such trends on

Twitter and balloons embossed with words 'Goback' were also released in several places.

Stalin visited Pasumpon village in Ramanathapuram and paid floral tributes on the occasion of the leader's 113th birth anniversary and Guru Puja observance.

The DMK chief said he was happy for having visited Pasumpon and paid respects to the freedom fighter.

— PTI

The PIL seeks to direct the chairman and secretary general of IRCS in consultation with the president of IRCS-TN branch (Governor of the state) to regulate the affairs of the branch by appointing an administrator

Govt GO on 7.5% quota welcome, says Alagiri

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
TIRUCHY, OCT. 30

Though the state government was inactive in getting the governor's assent for the bill to provide 7.5 percent quota for government school students in medical college admissions, it's move to issue a GO to reserve seats from the current academic year for such students, is welcome, said TN Congress president K S Alagiri.

Speaking to DC here on Friday, Alagiri accused the state government for its submissiveness to the BJP government at the Centre, due to which the state had lost several of its rights. He said though agriculture comes under the state subject, the Centre's high-handedness has formulated the anti-farmers bill, which is supported by the AIADMK government and the Chief Minister. Similarly, the state government could not get its share on GST tax collection, and the same fate has been repeated in NET examination issue also, he added.

Alagiri said the state government is unable to pressurise the governor for his nod on the 7.5 percent reservation bill, but it can at least ask the governor to return the bill and the same may be placed before the state Assembly, and the bill can be passed for the second time and sent to the governor for assent. If the government did this, as per the existing rules and norms, the governor has no other way except to give



his assent to the bill.

To a question, Alagiri said, due to this fresh move of the state government on the 7.5 percent reservation bill, students are now in 'Thrisangu' status. All the failures of the AIADMK government will reflect in next year's assembly elections.

Referring to the Centre's notification appointing Dr Shanmugam Subbaiah, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and head of surgical oncology, as one of the board members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai, Alagiri expressed concern over this saying, Dr Subbaiah was allegedly harassing a woman neighbour in Chennai recently in which the Adampakkam police registered a case against him.

The Union government has neglected all MPs from Tamil Nadu for the post, which is yet another example of the Centre's 'single rule status', damaging the democratic fabric of the system, he added.

Smuggling of 1.25 tonne turmeric to SL foiled

ARULOLI M | DC
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT. 30

The district police here on Friday seized 1.25 metric tonnes of finger turmeric, suspected to have been stocked at a lorry booking office for smuggling.

Due to the import ban on turmeric in Sri Lanka since December 2019, coupled with the high demand for the product which is used for medicinal purpose after the Covid-19 outbreak, turmeric price in Sri Lankan domestic market shot up three folds, said a turmeric agent here, who earlier used to export spices including turmeric and pepper to Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Finger turmeric costing around Rs 600 to 800 in Indian money in Sri Lanka before the imposition of import ban, now is said to cost up to ₹3,000 in Sri Lankan black market, triggering turmeric smuggling activities from Thoothukudi and Ramanathapuram districts, said a police officer, who on a tip-off, led his team to raid a lorry booking office where around 1.25 tons of finger turmeric were found stocked without obtaining permission.

Police picked up P Manickam (30), owner of the lorry booking office and

Police picked up Manickam (30), owner of the lorry booking office and seized the turmeric and handed it over to the district food safety officials. The turmeric is said to have been brought to Thoothukudi from Erode, said police

seized the turmeric and handed it over to the district food safety officials. The turmeric is said to have been brought to Thoothukudi from Erode, said police.

It may be recalled that in a similar incident two weeks back, police along with the food safety officials seized around two tons of turmeric illegally stocked for smuggling, from Thoothukudi coast.

Turmeric smugglers operating from Ramanathapuram district at Thondi and Rameswaram, now are said to have shifted to Thoothukudi district, said a Q Branch police officer, adding that around 10 tons of raw turmeric meant for smuggling across Indian maritime boundary to Sri Lanka has been seized in Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi districts since August.



As part of Thevar Jayanthi celebrations, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy CM O. Panneerselvam garland the statue of Muthuramalinga Thevar at Goripalayam in Madurai on Friday.

— K. Manikandan



A woman placing flowers on the statue of Muthuramalinga Thevar at Goripalayam on Friday.

— DC

Floral tributes paid to Muthuramalinga Thevar

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, OCT. 30

Leaders of various political parties and other organisations garlanded the statue and offered floral tributes of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar here to commemorate his 113th birth anniversary.

Celebrations were observed in different places of the central districts of Tiruchy, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Pudukkottai, Tiruvallur and Nagapattinam districts, on Friday.

Celebrations were observed in different places of the central districts of Tiruchy, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Pudukkottai, Tiruvallur and Nagapattinam districts

In Tiruchy, a group of DMK volunteers led by party's south district in-charge, MLA Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, garlanded the statue of Muthuramalinga Thevar, while a group of PMK volunteers led by district secretary Dilipkumar gar-

landed the statue.

AIADMK ministers Vellamandi Natarajan and cabinet colleague Valarmathi and former AIADMK minister and party's Tiruchy north district secretary M Paranjothi and South district secretary and former LS member P Kumar, volunteers of All India Forward Block party led by state general secretary Venkatesan and representatives of various political parties garlanded the statue of Muthuramalingan thevar.

Portico of new medical college building collapses

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC
NAMAKKAL, OCT. 30

The iron and concrete structure on the roof of the portico in the newly constructed government medical college hospital building here, collapsed in the early hours of Friday. Fortunately, none was injured.

The building is being constructed on an area of 25 acres in the Namakkal collectorate complex at an estimated cost of Rs 336 crore. The project was inaugurated by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on March 5, and the district administration was keen to open the medical college building before the oncoming general election.

Over 500 migrant workers from north India had

been working day and night on the building. Electricity minister P Thangamani and Social welfare minister V Saroja, have been visiting the construction sites every month to monitor its progress.

Early on Friday morning, work of laying a concrete floor (portico) in front of the hospital building was going on, when the steel wires collapsed.

Collector K Megaraj visited and inspected the site. Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise P Thangamani also arrived at the site by 1:30 pm on Friday and inspected the buildings. He advised the staff and workers to see that such incidents do not recur.

Nellai, T'kudi ryots upbeat over Nov. 1 water release

ARULOLI M | DC
TIRUNELVELI, OCT. 30

Farmers here are upbeat over Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami's announcement on water release from reservoirs like Papanasam, Servalaru and Manimutharu in the district for irrigation, from November 1.

Pointing at a statement issued by the chief minister on Thursday, farmer Bahirathan of Ambasamudram in the district said that the release of 14,351.67 million cubic feet for 151 days from November 1 to March 31, would help farmers commence 'pisanam paddy' cultivation which has been delayed in many places in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts, due to the delay in monsoon.

According to the statement issued by the state government, water released in the channels of North Kodaimelagiyam, South Kodaimelagiyam channel, Nathiyunni channel, Kannadian channel, Kodagan channel, Palayam channel and Nellai channel in Tirunelveli

Three major reservoirs, according to PWD sources, have comfortable water storage. As on Thursday, Papanasam dam had 109.85 feet of water against its maximum storage capacity of 143 feet

district, and in the Maruthur east and west channels and Srivaikundam North and south channels in Thoothukudi district, would help farming activities in around 86,107 acres in both districts.

The three major reservoirs, according to PWD sources, have comfortable water storage. As on Thursday, Papanasam dam had 109.85 feet of water against its maximum storage capacity of 143 feet. Inflow to the dam on Thursday was 427.42 cusecs. The Manimutharu dam having an inflow of 119 cusecs on Thursday had 75.50 feet against its full capacity of 118 feet and Servalaru dam 118.86 feet of water against its full capacity of 156 feet.

With the onset of the north east monsoon, inflow into these three dams is expected to increase.

Three arrested under Goondas Act

DC CORRESPONDENT
ARIYALUR, OCT. 30

Collector T Rathna here on Friday ordered the detention of three notorious thieves under the Goondas Act.

Police said they arrested three persons identified as Krishnamoorthy of Erode, Selvam alias Selvaraj of Ramanathapuram and Sivapirakasam of Cuddalore, in connection with a theft in an electrical shop here on October 8.

Enquiries revealed that they were notorious thieves facing several theft cases in different police stations across the state, and still they were continuing thefts.

In order to prevent them from being involved in theft cases, SP Ariyalur, recommended that the three be detained under the Goondas Act.

Based on the recommendation, Collector Rathna ordered their detention under the Goondas Act.

Pension for village priests sought

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, OCT. 30

Pension should be given for grama koil poojaris (priests of village temples) said S Vedandamji, founder, Grama Koil Poojarigal Peravai (association for priests of village temples) at Kumbakonam, on Friday. He told presspersons that when Karunanidhi was established a welfare board for poojaris.

Following that, Jayalalithaa announced a pension of Rs 3,000 for village temple poojaris, but it was not implemented. Pension also should be given to village temple poojaris. Vedandamji also said that annual income of poojaris should be fixed at ₹72,000 per annum.

Migrating fruit bats baffle naturalists in Nilgiris

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
Ooty, OCT. 30

The migration of a colony of fruit bats, popularly known as 'Megabat', to a particular locale in Wellington cantonment area near here, during autumn for the third consecutive year, has sparked the curiosity of naturalists here.

Founder of Wildlife and Nature Conservation Trust here, N Sadiq Ali, said it was astonishing to note that a colony of bats was fly-

ing to the same spot in Wellington for the third consecutive year during autumn.

"Bats are naturally and ecologically adapted to the hot weather in the plains, and generally avoid high altitude environs. The behaviour of this bat colony is surprising, as they chose to ascend to Wellington slopes in the autumn. In the past two years, the bats visited Wellington in early September. This year, they flew to Wellington in the fag-end of October. It looks like

to be a new ecological phenomenon triggered by some sort of impulse to make bats fly to high altitude," he noted.

Maybe this colony would have understood during their earlier visit that availability of fruits is good in Wellington environs during the autumn, and also it is a safe locale. Its migratory behaviour needs to be studied further to ascertain whether it is the same colony visiting the same spot every autumn, and also their course of migration to track its

migratory path, and behaviour in different altitudes and their food habits, Sadiq Ali added.

Meanwhile, V Sivadas, Managing Trustee of Nilgiris Environment and Socio-cultural Trust, said there is a need to keep a tab on the migration of this bat colony to infer whether there was any disturbance to their colony in the plains during autumn season, because of which they were trying to find a safe place for breeding and feeding during this particular time of the year.



IN BRIEF

NATH IS NO MORE 'STAR CAMPAIGNER'

From pg1

However, the commission received further complaints against Mr Nath alleging that he had called Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan an actor and suggested that he move to Bollywood for a career in acting, the order said.

The commission further said Mr Nath also used the words "mafia" and "milawat khoh" for Mr Chouhan.

The commission has confirmed all the charges levelled in the complaints against him, the order said.

The order dealt a jolt to the Congress ahead of crucial by-elections to 28 Assembly constituencies in the state.

"It is a conspiracy against Mr Nath. The election meetings of Mr Nath were drawing huge crowds which scared BJP to lodge series of complaints with the election commission against him," Congress spokesman here Narendra Saluja said.

US COURT ORDERS ISRO ARM TO PAY UP

Turn from page 1

Devas said that after the initial signing of the agreement, the two companies performed in good faith for five years. Among other things, in May 2009, Dr Appanna Bhaskarnaryana, the director of the

Satellite Communications Programme Office of ISRO, spent four to five weeks in the US with Devas personnel meeting with Hughes Networks, Sirius XM SkyTerra, Qualcomm and ICO North America to understand the technologies used by, and operation of, hybrid satellite-terrestrial operators providing telecommunications services.

Devas subsequently conducted experimental trials in India (attended by Antrix officials, including the company's then chairman), Chengdu and Beijing in China, and Stuttgart in Germany, which successfully demonstrated the hybrid satellite-terrestrial systems and end-user terminals that Devas had developed in conjunction with a global network of leading technology players such as Alcatel Lucent, it said.

On February 25, 2011, Antrix issued a termination notice to Devas, which among other things stated that the policy decision was of the central government, acting in its sovereign capacity is the event of force majeure, which was an occurrence on February 23, 2011.

—PTI

STATES TOLD TO BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

From page 1

"Ensure early tracking of social media and other platforms for possible misinformation and rumours around Covid-19 vaccine that could impact the community acceptance for the vaccine," it said.

The SSC will also have to institute a reward/recognition mechanism for achievement of best performing district/block/urban ward, etc.

"The Covid-19 vaccine introduction will span over a year with multiple groups being included sequentially starting from HCWs. Therefore, it is important to create strong advisory and coordination mechanism at state and district level to guide the process of Covid-19 vaccine introduction while ensuring minimal disruption of other routine health care services including immunisation," the letter issued on October 26 stated.

The activities to be conducted by the STF includes providing guidance, including funding and operational guidelines, fixing timelines for districts to plan and implement Covid-19 vaccine introduction whenever a vaccine is made available and identifying vaccinators across government and private sectors so as to minimise disruption of routine immunisation services.

Activities also include planning and mapping of vaccination sessions where HCWs will be vaccinated during the 1st phase and mapping human resources across departments that could be deployed for vaccination sessions for verification of beneficiaries, crowd management and overall coordination at the session site and The STF will also track districts for adherence to timelines for implementation of vaccine introduction.

—PTI

Munger violence: Report by CISF says police fired first

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

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, OCT. 30

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magadh divisional Commissioner Asangba



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

—PTI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sena, Cong attack BJP for its 'silence'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kerala recoveries overshoot new cases; Telangana cases too rise

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT. 30

Kerala continued to report a surge in the number of new coronavirus cases but the state is leading others in recoveries, too.

The state reported 6,638 new cases, taking the tally to 4,12,183 and for the second straight day, recoveries outnumbered fresh cases, with the figure at 7,828. The fatality count rose to 1,457 on Friday as 28 more persons succumbed to the virus. Currently, 90,565 patients are undergoing treatment.

TS numbers too rise: Telangana has been witnessing a slight rise in number of Covid-19 cases over the past four days. On

Thursday, the state recorded 1,531 new cases, up from 1,504 on Wednesday, the state health department said in its daily Covid-19 bulletin.

On Tuesday, the number of fresh cases was 1,481 and on Monday 837.

Thursday's 1,531 cases have taken the total Covid-19 infections to 2,37,187 while the deaths from the disease increased to 1,330 with six more fatalities. However, the overall recovery rate from the disease stands at 91.5 per cent, the department said, adding that so far 2,17,401 persons who contract Covid-19, have recovered.

AP records 2,886 Covid cases: Andhra Pradesh on Friday registered 2,886 new Coronavirus cases,

Farooq stopped from leaving for Friday prayers

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, OCT. 30

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

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

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

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

congregational Friday prayers at Hazratbal.

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

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

LeT involved in killing of BJP workers: Police

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, OCT. 30

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

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

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range),

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

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

Urmila Matondkar likely to join Shiv Sena, become MLC

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, OCT. 30

Urmila Matondkar, who contested Lok Sabha election as Congress candidate, is all set to become the member of the legislative council on Shiv Sena ticket.

According to reports, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray has personally spoken to the actress, who has agreed to be nominated by the Sena.

Since June 2020, the 12 council seats, which are appointed by the governor from his quota, have fallen vacant in the legislative council of Maharashtra. The Maha Vikas Aghadi government, which is an alliance of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, on Thursday

decided to recommend 12 names to governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari for their nomination to the Upper House. All three parties will get four members each.

Under Article 171, the governor can nominate 12 members with special knowledge or practical experience in the field of literature, art, science, cooperative movement and social service to the state Legislative Council.

Matondkar had joined the Congress in the presence of Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi just ahead of general election in 2019 and subsequently she had been given a ticket from North Mumbai seat, but she had lost to BJP's Gopal Shetty by huge margin.

Around five months after she joined the Congress, Matondkar resigned from the party citing "petty in-house politics" in Congress as a reason for quitting the party.

When asked about Matondkar joining the Shiv Sena, its leader Sanjay Raut said, "I have also heard about the speculation that Matondkar will be nominated by the government to the Council. It is the prerogative of the state cabinet, which has authorised CM to take a decision."

Recently, Matondkar was in news for taking on actress Kangana Ranaut over her remarks in which she had likened the law and order situation in Mumbai to PoK.

BORDER | ROW

Locals on Assam side stop the movement of vehicles to Mizoram

Assam-Mizoram highway blockaded again

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, OCT. 30

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

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

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

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

Asserting that tension was prevailing between the two neighbouring

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

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

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

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

"In the investigation, it

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

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

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

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

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

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

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

The phase 2 of the exercise is scheduled to be

conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November.

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

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

3,589 new cases in Karnataka: Karnataka on Friday reported 3,589 fresh infections and 49 deaths, taking the Covid-19 tally to 8,20,398 and fatality to 11,140 respectively. A total of 8,521 people were discharged, taking the aggregate recoveries to 7,49,740. Active cases stood at 59,499, including 935 in the ICUs. Bengaluru Urban district contributed almost 50 per cent of the fresh infections and mortalities with 1,811 cases and 27 deaths. Chikkaballapura topped the list of districts where fresh cases were reported with 143 cases.

(With inputs from Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Bengaluru)

IN BRIEF

Man pays to see leopard close, hurt

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

Oz wildfires adds to climate risk

Canberra: An investigation into Australia's catastrophic wildfire season on Friday recommended greater efforts to forecast the impacts of climate change on specific parts of the country, warning fire behaviour was becoming more extreme. The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements began in February while wildfires were ravaging vast swathes of the nation's southeast in a fire season that is now known as Black Summer. The fires killed at least 33 people including 10 firefighters, destroyed more than 3,000 homes, razed 19 million hectares (47 million acres) and displaced thousands of residents. One firefighter was killed when an extraordinary weather event described by authorities as a “fire tornado” flipped a 10-ton fire truck upside down.

Warsaw braces for mass protest

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

QUAKE IN TURKEY SEA TOPPLES BUILDINGS IN IZMIR

Istanbul, Oct. 30: A strong earthquake in the Aegean Sea has shaken Turkey and Greece. Turkey's interior minister reports that six buildings in western Izmir province were destroyed. Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said on Friday's earthquake was centered in the Aegean at a depth of 16.5 kilometres and registered at a 6.6 magnitude. The European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.9, with an epicenter 13 kilometers north northeast of the Greek island of Samos. The United States Geological Survey put the magnitude at 7.0. Turkish media showed wreckage of a multiple-story building in central Izmir with people climbing it to reach rescuers. Smoke was filmed in several spots in central Izmir. The governor said there was no immediate information on casualties. Turkish media said the earthquake was felt across the regions of Aegean and Marmara, where Istanbul is located. Istanbul's governor said there were no reports of damage. The quake was felt across the eastern Greek islands and even in the Greek capital Athens. Greek media said the residents of Samos and other islands fled their homes, while some rockfalls were reported. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Both countries reported aftershocks

France on high alert as fears of more attacks anticipated

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

France's chief anti-terrorism prosecutor said the man suspected of carrying out the Nice attack was a Tunisian born in 1999 who had arrived in Europe on Sept. 20 in Lampedusa, the Italian island off Tunisia that is a main landing point for migrants from Africa.

A Tunisian security source and a French police source named the suspect as Brahim Aouissauoui.

A judicial source said on Friday that a 47-year-old man had been taken into custody on Thursday evening on suspicion of having been in contact with the perpetrator of the attack.

The Nice attack occurred



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

Macron remains defiant after Islamist knife attack

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

France will not “give up on our values,” Macron said in Nice, after a Tunisian migrant went on a near half-hour rampage with a 30-centimetre (12-inch) knife, targeting people praying in the southern city's Notre-Dame basilica.

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

just under two weeks after Samuel Paty, a school teacher in a Paris suburb, was beheaded by an 18-year-old Chechen who was apparently incensed by the teacher showing a cartoon of the Prophet Mohammad in class.

It was also the second militant attack in Nice in recent years. In July 2016,

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

The assailant, who was shot and wounded by police, was identified as 21-year-old Brahim Aouissauoui, who arrived in Italy last month, then travelled to France, judicial sources said.

Aouissauoui who had a copy of the Koran and three knives with him, shouted “Allahu Akbar” (God is Greatest) when approached by police who shot and seriously wounded him, France's anti-terror prosecutor Jean-

Francois Ricard told a press conference.

Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi told journalists at the scene the attacker “kept repeating ‘Allahu Akbar’ even while under medication” as he was taken to hospital.

The church killings came after the October 16 beheading in a Paris suburb of history teacher Samuel Paty by an extremist after Paty showed pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed in a free speech lesson.

Macron defended the cartoons and the right to mock religion, sparking widespread anger against France in the Islamic world and several campaigns in Muslim-majority countries to boycott French products. — AFP

a militant drove a truck through a seafont crowd celebrating Bastille Day, killing 86 people.

People gathered in front of the Notre-Dame church on Friday morning to lay flowers and light candles. Frederic Lefevre attached heart-shaped balloons to the church gate.

“I knew him very well,

the person who was killed in the church,” said Lefevre, 50, who wore a French national rugby shirt. “I’m from Nice and this is a tragedy once again. We’re a free country. Let’s love freedom - that’s a message to the world. Life should be spiritual. No god should kill,” he said. — Reuters

WORLD LEADERS CONDEMN FRANCE STABBINGS

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

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

“Our hearts are with the people of France. America stands with our oldest Ally in this fight,” Trump tweeted. “These Radical Islamic terrorist attacks must stop immediately. No country, France or otherwise can long put up with it!” One of the first to condemn was Turkey, embroiled in a row with France over the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed that have triggered a wave of attacks against French people.

“We strongly condemn the attack committed today inside the Notre-Dame church in Nice,” a Turkish foreign ministry statement said.

It expressed solidarity with France, and offered condolences to relatives of the three people killed in the attack. — AFP

HK hits out at US over ‘Made in China’ label rule

Hong Kong, Oct. 30: Hong Kong authorities on Friday said they will launch proceedings at the World Trade Organisation to challenge a demand by the United States to label imports from the financial hub as “Made in China”. Donald Trump issued an executive order in June declaring the city no longer sufficiently autonomous from the authoritarian mainland after Beijing launched a crackdown against democracy supporters.

The decision, which came as China imposed a sweeping new security law on the business centre, reflected Washington's belief that Hong Kong is now “just another Chinese city” and does not deserve special trade privileges.

The new rules state that products from the city — which used to be allowed to carry a “Made in Hong Kong” label — now needed to say “Made in China”. On Friday, Hong Kong officials confirmed they would bring the dispute to the WTO's settlement mechanism.

“The US unilateral and irresponsible attempt to weaken Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory is highly inappropriate,” secretary for commerce Edward Yau

CHINA VOWS FOR SELF-RELIANT TECH POWER

Beijing, Oct. 30: China's leaders are vowing to make their country a self-reliant “technology power” as a feud with Washington cuts access to US computer chips and other high-tech components, hampering Beijing's industrial ambitions.

Leaders of the ruling Communist Party made the announcement on Thursday after a meeting to draft a development blueprint for the state-dominated economy over the next five years.

President Xi Jinping's government is trying to limit damage from the Trump administration's curbs on technology sales to China in a fight over security and spying. — AP

told reporters.

“Such a move also confuses the market and undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system,” he added.

Hong Kong, one of the world's great trading ports, is a member of the WTO, even though it is part of China. — AFP

Several nations reimpose lockdown to curb Covid

Paris, Oct. 30: France was under a new virus lockdown on Friday, as the resurgent pandemic hit new heights in the United States with a daily record of more than 90,000 cases, just days before the presidential election.

From midnight, France's 65 million people were largely confined to their homes, needing written statements to leave, in the latest drastic measure to curb a disease that has infected more than 44.5 million people worldwide and killed nearly 1.2

million.

As lockdowns return, oil prices dropped on fears of a slowdown in demand but tech giants Facebook, Amazon and Google parent Alphabet reported strong quarterly earnings, reflecting the economic shifts caused by the global outbreak.

And in the latest bleak warning, the UN's biodiversity panel said future pandemics could be more frequent, deadly and economically damaging.

The United States, where the coronavirus has over-

shadowed President Donald Trump's November 3 re-election bid, announced 91,295 new cases in 24 hours, surging past the 90,000-mark for the first time to a total of almost nine million.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel has ordered a lighter round of shutdowns from Monday, November 2, until the end of the month. Germans will not be confined to their homes but bars, cafes and restaurants must close, as well as theatres, operas and cinemas. — AFP

Trump, Biden head to face-off in midwest US

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Still, Democrats and Republicans alike have repeatedly warned of the unreliability of polls, pointing to Trump's shock defeat of Hillary Clinton in 2016 despite surveys showing her to be the clear favorite.

Trump and Biden are concentrating their efforts on battleground states that will decide the election in the days before the November 3 polls, and on Thursday both were in the crucial state of Florida. Trump, 74, held another raucous rally in Tampa, telling the cheering crowd that Coronavirus lockdowns under Biden would banish normal life.

“They will allow you nothing,” the Republican said. “We’re never going to lock down again.... We’re open for business,” he said, telling supporters that his own recent bout with Covid-19 proved that it can be beaten. — AFP

JUDGE: FORMER CIA OFFICER SPY CASE TOO COMPLEX FOR SPEEDY TRIAL

Honolulu, Oct. 30: A case against a former CIA officer accused of spying for China is too complex for a trial to happen until at least September 2021, a judge has ruled.

Prosecutors asked the judge to declare the case complex against Alexander Yuk Ching Ma, a former CIA officer and contract linguist for the FBI.

He was arrested in August after an undercover operation in which prosecutors say he accepted thousands of dollars in cash in exchange for his

ZUCKERBERG WARNS ‘CIVIL UNREST’ IN U.S.

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

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

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

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

GRAY WOLF STRIPPED OF PROTECTION

Washington, Oct. 30: US President Donald Trump's administration on Thursday removed endangered species protections for the gray wolf, paving the way for the iconic predator to be more widely hunted.

The move was slammed by conservation groups, which said that while wolf numbers have partly recovered since the animal was first listed in 1974, they remain “functionally extinct” in the vast majority of their former range.

“Today's action reflects the Trump administration's continued commitment to species conservation based on the parameters of the law and the best scientific and commercial data available,” said Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. — AFP

NEW | STUDY Journal sequences ancient DNA of 27 dogs from 11,000 years ago

Modern dogs map to Ice Age canines



DNA from modern European dogs has contributed to breeds around the world, traces of other ice age groups remain, including in chihuahuas. — AFP

London, Oct. 30: A global study by an international team of archaeologists has found that there were five different types of dogs more than 11,000 years ago in the period immediately following the Ice Age, a discovery which sheds light on the origin of the many different lineages of humanity's best friend.

The research, published in the journal *Science*, sequenced ancient DNA from 27 dogs, some of which lived up to nearly 11,000 years ago, across Europe and Siberia. The scientists, including those from Francis Crick

Institute in the UK, found that that by this point in history, just after the Ice

Age and before any other animal had been domesticated, there were already

at least five different types of dogs with distinct genetic ancestries.

The findings suggest that the diversity observed between dogs in different parts of the world today originated when humans were still hunters and gatherers. “Some of the variation you see between dogs walking down the street today originated in the Ice Age. By the end of this period, dogs were already widespread across the northern hemisphere,” said Pontus Skoglund, study co-author from Francis Crick Institute.

In the study, the scien-

tists extracted and analysed the genetic material DNA from skeletal material of the dogs. The team showed that over the last 10,000 years, these early dog lineages mixed and moved to give rise to the dogs we know today. Citing an example, they said early European dogs were initially diverse, appearing to originate from two highly distinct populations, one related to Near Eastern dogs and another to Siberian dogs. However, they said this diversity was lost at some point as it is not present in European dogs today. — PTI

DECCAN Chronicle

31 OCTOBER 2020

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

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

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

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

Pak lies on terror exposed

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

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

Had he given himself the mission to undermine the PM who has lately found himself in the line of fire of an effective combine of 11 Opposition parties. Was Mr Chaudhry playing the Army's game if the latter is in the process of washing its hands of Mr Khan whom it had dropped up in office two years ago?

Such questions are apt to arise in Pakistan's domestic debate, but in India we ought to bear in mind that the evilness of that country's policy toward us derives from the stranglehold the Pakistani military has gained in determining policy since the Ayub coup six decades ago. The civilians make up a huge constituency of incompetents and innocents, who are manipulated at will by the Army.

It is not the Pakistani "Muslim" who is the enemy but the Army. In recent years this premise has sometimes been somewhat obscured in our thinking, and as a by-product, the Kashmir policy too lacks clarity. The Centre misidentifies the inimical forces, targeting even those who have stood by our Constitution and flag.

The broader implications of Mr Chaudhry's self-shaming admission ought to be brought before the world. In this context, raising China's all-season support to Pakistan, which has emerged as its buddy pal, is also to be questioned.

Subhani



Battle for Bihar: Super flop or a blockbuster?

Shobhaa De

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

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

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

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

Acting opportunities across OTT platforms are creating their own star system, which is far more organic and genuine than the manipulations of mainstream Bollywood

Personally speaking, I doubt I will be foolish enough to book tickets at a multiplex to watch a big-ticket film — regardless of the star cast. I am a little bratty now and have grown accustomed to calibrating and curating my entertainment hours as per my convenience. I enjoyed *Emily in Paris* over three nights of carefully measured watching... savouring every tiny glimpse of the most gorgeous, most glamorous city on earth. That holds true for another French import *Call my Agent*, shot in Gay Paree (ummmm — pun intended). It features throw-away lines like "Fragility is an actor's strength". Rebecca was a huge let down, as was *A Suitable Boy*. But the Korean *Crashlanding* made up for those wasted hours. I am looking forward to *Scam 1992*, the Harshad Mehta story that has received great reviews and made an overnight star out of Pratik Gandhi. These acting opportunities across OTT platforms are creating their own star system, which is far more organic and genuine than the manipulations of mainstream Bollywood. I wonder how many cine-goers will want to pay a packet to watch those tired, overexposed veterans still clinging on to their ancient superstar images. There are any number of competent, credible "non-star" actors delivering big time in one hit show after another. They have created their own fan following and niche. The best thing about watching your favourite shows from home? No masks! It feels great to just breathe minus discomfort and watch a frisky fashionista — Lily Collins as Emily — taking on the snooty French and winning the war! It's time for "Battle cry Bihar"! And this stellar star cast can take the pants off just about any actor from Bollywood.

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

LETTERS

NEET MOVE

After getting a legal opinion and also considering the urgency of medical admissions, the Tamil Nadu Governor has put an end to the anxiety of students by approving the Bill which allows 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation in medical colleges run by the state government for government school students who have cleared Neet this year. Though late, this is a welcome move and the Governor's decision is laudable.

P. Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

ELECTION MANIFESTO

BJP's election manifesto in Bihar announced free vaccine for people of the state. And within a few hours, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has come out with the same statement. When most of the commitments as per the manifesto by any of the parties have not been dealt with for implementation in the past, if the ruling party keeps its promise it will certainly benefit the state. And the question running in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu is, 'When will the country have the vaccine?'

A.P. Thiruvadi, Chennai

IPL BLUES

Having got accustomed to playing in front of a frenzied audience and drawing strength from them, it is unusual watching cricketers pumping themselves upon the field in the ongoing IPL in UAE, which is something hard to digest. Like all creative artistes, sportsmen thrive on the adrenaline rush that comes from instant appreciation from the audience. The immediate feedback, be it through deep-throated approbation or occasional boos impact their ego one way or the other. With the Covid-19 pandemic optically vanishing by the dawn of 2021, the IPL should be back to its customary best next summer, witnessing the vociferous crowds, the Mexican waves, the banners, and placards with cheeky messages — all make for the feverish pitch of this greatest cricket carnival.

R. Sivakumar, Chennai

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Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



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

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

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

ironic since Covid-19 has invaded all humanity?)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,614.07	-0.34
Nifty 50	11642.40	-0.24
S&P 500*	3,252.50	-1.74
Dollar (₹)	74.10	98.9
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.27	-0.20
Euro (₹)	86.94	-0.14
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,727*445	0.89
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	37.35	-0.30
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.881	0.023
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.859	0.022

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Tencent Games ends access for Indian Pubg users

Tencent Games on Friday said it is terminating all services and access for Pubg Mobile users in India to comply with the government order last month. On September 2, India had banned 118 mobile apps with Chinese links, including popular game Pubg Mobile, citing data privacy concerns and a threat to national security. This took the total count of Chinese-linked mobile apps banned by India to 224.

BPCL puts Bina refinery expansion proposal on hold



BPCL has put on hold its plans to expand its Bina refinery and install a secondary unit at its Mumbai refinery to boost efficiency pending privatisation of the company, N. Vijayagopal said. The Central government wants to sell its 53.29% stake in BPCL to raise funds to rein in a ballooning fiscal deficit. "It is for the new owner to decide whether they want and have the flexibility to add refining capacity," Vijayagopal said.

Vodafone Idea shares jump 5% after Q2 earnings

Shares of Vodafone Idea on Friday gained nearly 5 per cent after the company reported significant narrowing of losses to about ₹7,218 crore for the September quarter. The stock rose 4.42 per cent to close at Rs 8.75 on the BSE. During the day, it gained 6.44 per cent to ₹8.92. On the NSE, it jumped 4.79 per cent to close at ₹8.75. In traded volume terms, 939.19 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and 41.75 crore units on the NSE during the day.

IndusInd Bank profit dips over 53% to ₹647cr

IndusInd Bank on Friday reported over 53 per cent decline in its standalone net profit at ₹647.04 crore in the Q2FY2021. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹1,383.37 crore in the year-ago period. On the standalone basis, total income fell to ₹8,731.05 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year. In the same period a year ago, it stood at ₹8,877.02 crore, IndusInd Bank said.



Jio's robust growth offsets RIL's poor refinery growth

Jio's subscriber base hits 406 m, largest ever outside China

New Delhi, Oct. 30: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday reported a 15 per cent drop in second quarter net profit after the pandemic-hit oil demand dragged down continued good showing in consumer-facing businesses such as telecom. Consolidated net profit attributable to owners at ₹9,567 crore in July-September compared with ₹11,262 crore a year back, Reliance said in a stock exchange filing.

A plunge in fuel demand after the raging pandemic forced people to stay home and stifled the economy dealt a body blow to the firm's traditional cash cow oil refining and petrochemicals, even as consumer-facing businesses, which account for 35 per cent of the oil-to-telecom-to-retail conglomerate's revenues, continued to do well.

Its digital services, which includes the telecom arm Jio, saw stand-



alone net profit swell to ₹2,844 crore in the second quarter of current fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021) from ₹990 crore a year back. This after the four-year-old Jio's subscriber base grew to 406 million, the largest in India.

Net addition of 7.3 million subscribers and per-user revenue rising to Rs 145 helped the telecom business soar.

The gradually 'unlock' that has seen markets and malls reopen helped the company's retail business recover with almost flat revenue and a 14 per cent

lower EBITDA of ₹2,009 crore.

Reliance said 85 per cent of its retail stores were open as of second quarter. It added 232 stores to take the total to 11,931 stores.

Ambani raised an unprecedented ₹2.5 lakh crore since April from sale of stake in the digital and retail units and a rights issue. Of this, over ₹1.76 lakh crore has already flowed into the company, helping it achieve net zero debt status.

Petrochemicals revenue fell 23 per cent to ₹29,665 crore and pre-tax profit dropped 33 per cent at

₹5,964 crore. Refining EBITA almost halved to ₹3,002 crore as revenue slumped 36 per cent.

The firm's twin refineries earned \$5.7 per barrel on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel, as compared to a gross refining margin (GRM) of \$9.4 per barrel last year.

The profit in Q2 was lower sequentially as well as the April-June earning of ₹13,248 crore included one-time gain of ₹7,629 crore from sale of 49 per cent stake in petro retailing business to BP.

Investors such as Facebook, Google and global private equity funds have picked up a cumulative 32.96 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for ₹1.52 lakh crore.

All the deals, except Google, have been completed, bringing ₹1.18 lakh crore into the telecom and technology company.

Another ₹37,710 crore was raised from the sale of an 8.48 per cent stake in its retail unit.

India's forex kitty touches all-time high of ₹560 bn

Mumbai, Oct. 30: The country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by \$5.412 billion to touch an all-time high of \$560.532 billion in the week ended October 23, RBI data showed on Friday.

In the previous week ended October 16, the reserves stood at \$555.12 billion after increasing by \$3.615 billion.

During the reporting week, the surge in the forex kitty was mainly on account of an increase in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves.

FCA rose by \$5.202 billion to \$517.524 billion, the RBI's weekly data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect

● **IN THE** previous week ended October 16, the reserves stood at \$555.12 billion after increasing by \$3.615 billion.

of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves were up by \$175 million in the reporting week to \$36.860 billion, as per the central bank data. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by \$8 million to \$1.487 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF also climbed by \$27 million to \$4.661 billion during the reporting week, the data showed.

— PTI

Gold ETFs log ₹2.4K cr inflow in Sept quarter

New Delhi, Oct. 30: Gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) saw staggering net inflows of over ₹2,400 crore in the three months ended September 30, as investors continued to hedge their exposure to riskier assets due to higher economic uncertainty resulting from Covid-19.

In comparison, investors had infused ₹172 crore in this asset class in July-September 2019, according to the data available with the Association of Mutual Funds in India. The category has been among the better-perform-

ing ones so far this year and received a net inflow of ₹5,957 crore.

As per the data, a net sum of ₹2,426 crore was pumped into gold-linked ETFs till September 30.

Divam Sharma, co-founder, Green Portfolio, said returns generated by gold ETFs over the last one year have increased number of investors buying the asset.

"Gold investment picked up due to higher economic uncertainty resulting from COVID-19 pandemic," said Harsh Jain of Groww.

— PTI

Indian Oil posts 11-fold rise in profit

New Delhi, Oct. 30: India's top oil firm IOC on Friday reported an 11-fold jump in its standalone net profit to ₹6,227.31 crore for the September 2020 quarter, on the back of a boost in refining margins and inventory gain on using low-priced crude oil for making fuels. The net profit stands at ₹6.78 per share.

The company had reported a net profit of ₹563.42 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, Indian Oil Chairman Shrikant Vaidya said.

"The profit was up due to higher inventory and foreign exchange gains and better refinery margins," he said.

The company earned \$8.62 on turning every bar-

rel of crude oil into fuel in the second quarter of the current financial year 2020-21, compared with a gross refining margin of \$1.28 in July-September 2019. IOC gained ₹7,400 crore on using low-priced crude oil it procured during May and June to convert into petroleum products in Q2. This inventory gain compared to an

inventory loss of ₹1,807 crore in Q2 of the 2019-20 fiscal.

Inventory gain is booked when a company buys raw material at a particular price but by the time it is turned into fuel, the rates have gone up. Since retail pump prices are benchmarked at prevailing global rates, an inventory gain is booked.

— PTI

BSE to seek Sebi views on Future deal with RIL



Mumbai, Oct. 30: India's Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will consult the market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and seek clarifications from Future Retail and Reliance Industries about their \$3.4 billion transaction, following Amazon's objection to the deal, an exchange source said.

Amazon on October 25 won an injunction from a Singapore arbitrator to halt Future's deal to sell retail assets to Reliance, arguing the Indian retailer group breached certain contract provisions it entered into last year in a separate deal with the U.S. firm.

Both Indian firms reacted to the decision by saying they want to complete the deal "without any delay". Amazon has now written to capital markets regulator Sebi, as well as the BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), to put the deal on hold in light of the arbitration order, two separate sources said.

A BSE source said it will consult Sebi about its stance on the deal and the exchange later on Friday also plans to seek clarification from Future and Reliance Retail.

The Indian regulator and the stock exchanges did not respond to requests for comment.

Amazon declined comment, while Future and Reliance did not immediately respond.

The dispute centres around Future Group's decision in August to sell its retail, wholesale and

some other businesses to Reliance for \$3.38 billion, including debt.

Amazon argues that a 2019 deal it had with a Future unit had clauses saying the Indian group couldn't sell its retail assets to anyone on a "restricted persons" list including any firms from Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani's group. Amazon has shared a copy of the Singapore arbitrator's interim order with SEBI and the two stock exchanges, hoping they would step in to stall the approval, the second source said.

People familiar with the case have previously told Reuters the Singapore arbitrator's order is not automatically enforceable in India and Amazon may need to get a binding order from an Indian court.

— Reuters

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 30

British premium motorcycle maker Triumph on Friday unveiled globally its upcoming entry-level, sport naked, the Triumph Roadster.

The new adventure tourer bike will be the most inexpensive Triumph on sale and will bring the brand to a wider spectrum of prospective buyers in India.

The Triumph Trident Roadster equipped with a 660cc triple-cylinder motor will produce 81HP and 64Nm of torque.

The new bike, which would be launched in India next year, is expected to be priced around Rs 7.50 lakh.

The new bike comes with a 6-speed gearbox and can also be optioned with an up and down quickshifter.

The Trident 660 bike gets an impressive service interval of 16,000 km.

"What we wanted with the new Trident 660 was to give the riders in this really exciting middleweight roadster world all of the things they want from



their bike, with a genuine set of real advantages that set a new benchmark for choice," Steve Sargent, Chief Product Officer at Triumph Motorcycles.

"From the competitive price, to the triple power and performance, plus the benefits of class-leading handling and technology, we believe the Trident 660 is a real milestone in the category, and introduces the Triumph brand and the advantages of a triple engine to a whole new generation of riders across the world," He boasted.

MEGA LISTING

Ant's dual listing to raise \$34.4bn, dwarfing Saudi Aramco's listing

Ant's IPO sees \$3 trillion in retail demand

Hong Kong, Oct. 30: Retail investors placed bids for a record \$3 trillion (2.3 trillion pounds) of shares in Ant Group Co Ltd's initial public offering (IPO), set to be the world's biggest, as mom-and-pop savers bet on demand for its financial services in China.

Ant's dual listing is set to raise about \$34.4 billion, split fairly evenly between Shanghai's STAR Market and Hong Kong, topping Saudi Aramco's \$29.4 billion listing last December.

Investors, both retail and institutional, are rushing to buy into Ant, which operates China's biggest payments platform and other financial services, despite risks of greater scrutiny at home and abroad.

The Shanghai leg of the IPO drew about 19 trillion yuan (2.2 trillion pounds) of bids from retail investors, or 872 times the number of shares earmarked for them, a company filing to the stock exchange showed on Thursday.

The Hong Kong tranche got HK\$1.3 trillion (128.7 billion pounds) in bids, or 389 times the shares on offer, said people with knowledge of the matter on Friday, declining to be identified as the information is not public yet.

The bookbuilding for the Hong Kong leg of the IPO of Ant, backed by e-commerce behemoth Alibaba ran from Monday to Friday, while books for the Shanghai leg were open for one day on Thursday. The \$3 trillion of retail



investor bids, equivalent to the gross domestic product of the United Kingdom, comes against the backdrop of shaky global markets ahead of next week's U.S. presidential election and a dour global economic outlook.

Investors in the IPO, however, have brushed aside company-specific and broader market con-

cerns on hopes that Ant will continue to benefit from the rapid digitization of financial services in China.

Harrison Chan, a 25-year-old financial professional in Hong Kong, spent 40% of his monthly income on applying for Ant shares, and is now wondering whether he will get any, given the

COVID PANDEMIC HITS INVESTOR PERCEPTION OF INDIA: SURVEY

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, OCT. 30

Among the emerging nations, India seems to be the worst affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as the strength of the economy has deteriorated the most in India in the first half of 2020, finds a study.

The Investors' Macro Ratings Index, which looks at investors' perception of the economy based on parameters like real GDP growth, inflation, fiscal deficit and bank credit, has deteriorated in all the emerging economies, as per a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

However, India was the most affected in the first half and Taiwan was the least affected.

The study examined macro-economic parameters in emerging economies like India, Brazil, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand.

As per International Monetary Funds' projection, India's real GDP growth is expected to contract 10.3 per cent in 2020, which is the highest contraction among the 10 emerging markets. India is also the only economy with a double-digit contraction. On the other hand, China is expected to see 1.9 per cent growth, the highest among all of them. At 4.9 per cent retail inflation in 2020 will be the highest in India.

tion business and also raise the capacity for its active pharma ingredient, or API, business by 50 per cent, Chava said. Funds will also be used to create a research and development facility and a new unit for contract development and manufacturing.

"It's not a flash in the pan but a more structural change for this company," said Sapna Jhavar, an analyst at Dolat Capital Market Ltd.

Laurus Labs is a global supplier of off antiretroviral APIs and intermediates. Oncology is one of its core areas in the segment and it plans to expand its portfolio by focusing on molecules in diabetes, ophthalmology, and cardiovascular therapy. The finished dosage segment is involved in developing and manufacturing oral solid formulations for low and middle income countries, North America and European Union markets. "We have to now move from one orbit to the other, get leadership in products and expand into new geographies," he said.

— Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Mike Tyson back in the boxing ring

Los Angeles: Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr. insisted Thursday they are preparing for a bruising battle when the two fifty-something fighters face each other in an eight-round exhibition bout in Los Angeles.

Former world heavyweight champion Tyson, 54, will be fighting for the first time in 15 years when he meets four-division world champion Jones, 51, at the Staples Center on November 28. While the California State Athletic Commission-sanctioned event has been dismissed as a "circus act" in some quarters, Tyson and Jones bristled at criticism the pay-per-view fight would not be a legitimate contest.

"Not a real fight? It's Mike Tyson versus Roy Jones. I'm coming to fight and I hope he's coming to fight and that's all you need to know," Tyson told a virtual press conference. Jones, whose last fight came in 2018 with a unanimous decision over cruiserweight Scott Sigmon, also rejected the fight's exhibition tag, while describing himself and Tyson as "freaks". — *AFP*

Boxers Kavinder, Sanjeet in finals

New Delhi: Indian boxers Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) advanced to the finals of the Alexis Vastine International Tournament in Nantes, France after clinching contrasting victories.

However, four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63kg) settled for a bronze after going down in his semifinal clash. He lost to local favourite Lounes Hamraoui in a 2-1 decision on Thursday.

Kavinder defeated Frenchman Benik George Melkumian 3-0 to set up a summit clash against another local hope Samuel Kistohurry.

Sanjeet, a gold-medallist from the India Open, got the better of American Sherrod Fulghim in a 2-1 verdict. Sanjeet will also be up against a French opponent, Soheib Bouafia in the final. Amit Panghal (52kg) is also through to the finals after beating American Christopher Herrera in a draw that only featured four boxers. — *PTI*

Taylor ton in vain as Zim go down

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Pakistan overcame Brendan Taylor's century through fast bowler Shaheen Afridi's 5-49 to record a 26-run victory in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe on Friday. The match also marked the beginning of both nations' 2023 World Cup qualification campaigns. Taylor's 112 off 117 balls ended in a losing cause as Zimbabwe was bowled out for 255 in 49.4 overs. — *AP*

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

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

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

FORMULA ONE

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

FOOTBALL

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

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

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

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

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BIG BEN STOKES

Stokes, Sanju help Royals snap Kings' win streak

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

Sent in to bat, Chris Gayle smashed a 63-ball 99, while K. L. Rahul hit 46 off 41 as KXIP posted 185 for 4 against RR.

However, Ben Stokes' 26-ball 50 and Sanju Samson's 25-ball 48 helped the Royals chase down the total in 17.3 overs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

— *PTI*



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

— *BCCI*

SCORECARD

Kings XI Punjab: K. L. Rahul c Rahul Tewatia b Ben Stokes 46, Mandeep Singh c Ben Stokes b Jofra Archer 0, Chris Gayle b Jofra Archer 99, Nicholas Pooran c Rahul Tewatia b Ben Stokes 22, Glenn Maxwell not out 6, Deepak Hooda not out 1. Extras (LB-1, W-8, NB-2) 11. **Total (for 4 wickets in 20 overs) 185.** **FOW:** 1-1, 2-121, 3-162, 4-184.

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

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

Extras (LB-1, W-1) 2. **Total (for 3 wickets in 17.3 overs) 186.** **FOW:** 1-60, 2-111, 3-145.

Bowlers: Arshdeep Singh 3-0-34-0, Mohammed Shami 3-0-36-0, Murugan Ashwin 4-0-43-1, Chris Jordan 3.3-0-44-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-27-0.

IPL POINTS TABLE

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

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

Rituraj one of the most talented players: Dhoni

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

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

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



Rituraj Gaikwad

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— *PTI*

Good start is the key, says Quinton

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

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

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

"Obviously knowing that



Quinton de Kock

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

— *PTI*

SRH lock horns with Virat & Co

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 15
● Hyderabad: 7
● Bangalore: 7
● Tied: 1 (Sunrisers Hyderabad won in super over after match ended in a tie)

MEETING IN 2019

● Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 118 runs at Hyderabad
● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 4 wickets at Bangalore

MEETING IN 2020

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

FOR THE RECORD

● Virat Kohli who smashed 296 sixes in 278 innings of 293 matches, needs four sixes to become fourth Indians and 24th batsman overall to complete a triple century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.
● Manish Pandey who scored 982 runs in 36 innings of 59 matches, needs 18 runs to become fourth batsman to score 1000 runs for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

ure of 16.

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

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

— *PTI*

Mumbai, Delhi to meet in a big bout

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— *PTI*

NUMBERS GAME — MI vs DC

HEAD TO HEAD

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

MEETING IN 2019

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

MEETING IN 2020

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

FOR THE RECORD

● Kieron Pollar who scored 2973 runs in 144 innings of 160 matches, needs 27 runs to become second batsman after Rohit Sharma (3988 runs in matches) to score 3000 runs for Mumbai Indians.
● Rishabh Pant who scored 1989 runs in 63 innings of as many matches, needs 11 runs to become third batsman to score 2000 runs for Delhi Capitals in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

Antwerp silence Tottenham; easy wins for Milan, Arsenal

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

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

Refaelov found the back of the net for Antwerp and took the match away from Tottenham as the surprise win takes them to the top of the early Group 'J' table after their opening 2-1 victory at Ludogorets last week.

Meanwhile, Milan made it two

THE RESULTS

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

wins from two in Group 'H' with a 3-0 success over Sparta, despite Zlatan Ibrahimovic missing a first-half penalty.

Goals from Ibrahim Diaz, Rafael Leao and on-loan Manchester United wing-back

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

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

— *AFP*



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

— *AFP*