





## IN BRIEF

## DU 2nd cut-off list for admissions released

**New Delhi:** The Delhi University released its second cut-off list on Saturday, with many courses being closed for admissions and some programmes opening at the same cut-off as the first list. At Hindu College and Indraprastha College for Women, BA (Honours) English programme has been closed for admission in the second list for unreserved category. The first cut-off list was released last Saturday with almost 50 per cent of the seats being filled. The varsity has 70,000 undergraduate seats. The admissions under the second list will commence from Monday 10 am onwards. This year, the admission process is completely being held online due to coronavirus pandemic. — PTI

## 'Delhi sports varsity will be world class'

**New Delhi:** Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday visited the proposed site of Delhi Sport University at Mundka village with Mundka AAP MLA Dharampal Lakra. Mr Sisodia said that it is the Delhi government's endeavour to ensure that the level of training and facilities at the sports university will be cutting-edge and so advanced that the best of best sports talents can come to train themselves in Delhi. "The work for the university had been disrupted due to the ongoing pandemic. But now we want to pick up the pace of work as it is our dream to provide world-class opportunities to our children and youth," said Mr Sisodia.

## Man found hanging in rented house

**New Delhi:** A 30-year-old man ended his life by allegedly hanging himself on Saturday inside his rented accommodation in south Delhi's Mehrauli area, police said. The deceased has been identified as Rajesh Singh, a native of Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand, they said. Singh hanged himself from a ceiling fan in his rented room inside a Church Compound. He was alone at the time of the incident, a senior police officer said. "His wife Samoni Singh came from market, saw her husband hanging from the fan and raised an alarm. Singh was taken to a hospital. No foul play is suspected so far and inquest proceeding under section 174 of CrPC has been initiated," Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Atul Kumar Thakur said. — PTI

## ₹1.1 crore medicine smuggling bid foiled

**New Delhi:** Two Afghan nationals have been arrested by the customs for allegedly trying to smuggle out medicines worth over ₹1.1 crore at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here, officials said on Saturday. The accused were intercepted on Thursday when they were proceeding to board a flight to Kabul. As many as eight bags with medicines, valued at ₹1.13 crore, were seized from them. These medicines were for general purpose use. — PTI

## ED files chargesheet against AAP former councillor Tahir Hussain

**New Delhi, Oct. 17:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday filed a charge sheet in a Delhi court against former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain in a money laundering case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat took cognisance of the offences under section 3 (money laundering) read with section 70 (offences by companies) punishable under section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, against Hussain and co-accused Amit Gupta.

The ED was probing the allegation that Hussain and his linked persons laundered about ₹1.10 crore funds by using purported shell or dummy companies to fuel the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the riots. The court has summoned Hussain and Gupta on October 19.

Communal violence had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after clashes

■ Air quality in 'poor' category, likely to improve

## Stubble contribution in pollution rises to 18%

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 17

The national capital's air quality was recorded in the 'poor' category on Saturday morning but is likely to improve slightly due to favourable wind speed, according to government agencies.

The air pollution level in Delhi had hit an eight-month high on Thursday but reduced slightly on Friday with favourable wind speed helping in dispersion of pollutants, even as the contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's PM2.5 concentration rose to 18 per cent. The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 263 at 10 am. The 24-hour average AQI was 239 on Friday and 315 on Thursday, the worst since February 12 (AQI 320).

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. A senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the maximum wind speed was 10 kilometers per hour on Friday. It is likely to be 12 kmph on Saturday. Calm winds and cold temperatures are unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants.

The wind direction is expected to be north-north westerly on Saturday, which is likely to increase the impact of stubble burning on Delhi's air quality. However, the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said the ventilation

## SDMC slaps 116 challans worth ₹3 lakh on violators

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 17

As national capital's air quality continued in the 'poor' category, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has decided to adopt a strategy of zero tolerance on air pollution. The South Corporation has issued 116 challans of an amount of ₹3 lakhs in its jurisdiction.

As per the instructions

index a product of mixing depth and average wind speed is likely to be 9,500 metre square per second on Saturday favourable for dispersion of pollutants. Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/second, with average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants. According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), the contribution of farm fires to Delhi's PM2.5 concentration rose from around 6 per cent on Thursday to 18 per cent on Friday.

It was only around one per cent on Wednesday and around 3 per cent on Tuesday, Monday and Sunday. Air quality is expected to improve further to the lower end of the poor category by Sunday, SAFAR said.

of the SDMC commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, patrolling teams in sufficient numbers have been constituted to take instant action against violators including erring government and related institutions. The teams have been told to roam round the clock on rotation basis. All zonal deputy commissioners are ensuring that there is no leniency during this festive season.

## Emphasis laid on responsible e-waste system

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 17

Under the aegis of the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY), Clean to Green celebrated the 3rd International E-waste Day on October 14 to spread awareness about responsible e-waste disposal.

Clean to Green, in line with Digital India and Swachh Bharat Missions, reiterated its commitment to reduce adverse environmental impacts caused due to irresponsible and inappropriate e-waste disposal, and advance responsible disposal and recycling of e-waste to mitigate environmental and health hazards.



A decommissioned Boeing aircraft, scheduled to be turned into a restaurant in December, at Great India Place in Noida on Saturday.

— G.N. JHA

## 2 arrested for killing man over mobile phone theft

**New Delhi, Oct. 17:** A 20-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by two persons who suspected him of stealing their mobile phone, the police said on Saturday.

The police has arrested the accused, identified as Ajit alias Bhujang (23), a resident of Gautam Buddh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, and Rajkumar alias Balak (24), a resident of Rajokri village.

Both the accused are rag pickers, it said. The police

said the deceased and the accused knew each other.

On Wednesday, the police received information that a body was lying opposite a hotel near IGI Airport in a forest area. Avneendra Kumar, who had alerted the police, identified the deceased as Deepak, a resident of Mahipalpur. Mr Kumar

alleged that Deepak, who was his brother-in-law, was beaten by a person named Bhujang and his associates with sticks and

rods, the officer said.

"During investigation, it was revealed that the deceased was last seen with Bhujang and his associates named Balak and Nepal in the forest area. He was being beaten with sticks and rods by them," DCP (IGI Airport) Rajeev Ranjan said.

On Friday, the police nabbed the two accused. They confessed to have killed Deepak by beating him mercilessly.

— PTI

## 10-year-jail for ISIS operative for recruiting, planning terror attacks

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 17

A Delhi court has sentenced ISIS operative Nafees Khan to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in connection with a case related to recruiting youths for the banned outfit and for allegedly planning terror attack in the country.

Special Judge Parveen Singh had, on Friday, also slapped a fine of ₹103,000 on Nafees Khan and sentenced 14 other accused persons to jail for varying terms.

The Patiala House court sentenced accused persons Mudabbir Mushtaq Sheikh, Abu Anas, and Mufti Abdus Sami to seven years in prison and asked the three to pay fines of ₹65,000, ₹48,000, and Rs 50,000 respectively.

Other accused, identified as Azhar Khan and Amzad Khan, were also jailed for six years and fined ₹58,000 and ₹78,000 respectively. Accused Mohd Shariff Moinudeen,

Asif Ali, Mohd Hussain, Syed Mujahid, Najmul Huda, Mohd Obedullah, Md Aleem, Md Afzal, and Sohail Ahmad were sentenced to five years jail terms with a fine of ₹38,000 each.

According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), this case was a first of its kind in which an extensive terrorist conspiracy involving online radicalisation was hatched on cyberspace in the aftermath of the declaration of Islamic Caliphate by Abu-Baqar-Al-Baghdadi in 2014 and Yusuf Al Hindi alias Shafi Armar, based in Syria, who slowly radicalised a number of accused and eventually motivated them towards violent jihad as propagated by ISIS.

Earlier, a Delhi court had convicted the ISIS members, who had earlier pleaded guilty in connection with a case related to recruiting youths in the banned outfit and for allegedly planning terror attack in the country.

## Navratri festival begins amid coronavirus pandemic



Artists perform Ramlila on the first day of Navratri festival in New Delhi on Saturday.

— PTI

## Senior citizens to get services of psychologists, docs at doorstep

**New Delhi, Oct. 17:** Senior citizens in New Delhi district can now avail of services of psychologists, doctors, legal experts and administrative support at their doorstep during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, with the administration setting up a dedicated centre for the purpose.

The move is aimed at providing holistic support to around 60,000 senior citizens living in the New Delhi district, nodal officer doctor Nitin Shakya said.

Shakya said that 'Hasgulla' helpline - 1800111323 — has been set up through which medical assistance, psychological counselling, technology training and facilities of games like chess and carrom can be facilitated for senior citizens. "Sometimes, senior citizens have psychological issues as they usually stay inside their houses due to Covid-19. The district administration has dedicated teams of psy-

**'HASGULLA' HELPLINE  
1800111323**

► The move is aimed at providing holistic support to around 60,000 senior citizens living in the New Delhi district, nodal officer Dr Nitin Shakya said.

chologists, doctors and legal experts to address the issues of senior citizens," he said. Under the initiative, there is also a plan to set up around 500 'Hasgulla clubs' in coordination with residents' welfare associations and other organisations in the New Delhi district.

At these clubs, senior citizens will get all basic facilities to be provided by the administration. "First 'Hasgulla' club will come up in Naraina area. We are also creating WhatsApp groups in coordination with RWAs to reach out to more senior citizens," Shakya

also said.

Delhi recorded 35 COVID-19 fatalities on Saturday, taking the death toll due to the disease in the national capital to 5,981, while 3,259 fresh cases pushed the tally to over 3.27 lakh, authorities said. The fresh cases came out of the 55,715 tests conducted the previous day. On October 10 and September 29, 48 COVID-19 fatalities were reported in the city, the highest number of deaths recorded in a day since July 16, when the national capital saw 58 people succumbing to the disease.

Thirty-five more fatalities were recorded on Saturday, taking the death toll to 5,981, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

The tally of active cases slightly rose to 22,884 on Saturday from 22,814 the previous day. The number of cases has climbed to 3,27,818, the bulletin said.

— PTI

## Doctors implant pacemaker to baby within 12 hrs of birth

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 17

Doctors at a city hospital performed life-saving surgery on a 35-week pre-term baby born with a complete congenital heart block to implant a permanent pacemaker within 12 hours of birth. According to doctors, at the time of birth, baby Bhavishya's heart was beating 40 times a minute as compared to 140-160 times a minute of a healthy newborn.

Principal consultant paediatric cardiology of Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Dr Sushil Azad explained said:

"Operating upon a pre-term baby suffering from a complete congenital heart block involves a lot of risk related to maintaining complete care of other vital organs."

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders through <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> for the following items. For detail information please log on to website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>			
Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening date
83201029A	Rate contract for inj. Cetusimab 500 mg	100	13.11.2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			2264/20

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Office of the Executive Engineer (CS)	
Block-B2, Near 212 Bus Stand, Nand Nagari, Delhi -110093 Email ID: <a href="mailto:eeccentralstore35@gmail.com">eeccentralstore35@gmail.com</a>	
CORRIGENDUM	
With respect to NIT No. EE(Central Store)/TC/2020-21/18 dated 25.09.2020, due on 19.10.2020 for the work of "Selection of Consultant to work as "PROJECT CONSULTANT" under the scope of Consultancy and Monitoring of PPP Project for Door-to-Door Collection & Transportation of MSW in East Delhi Municipal Corporation Area", the date of opening of technical bid has been extended from 19.10.2020 to 06.11.2020. Details can be seen on <a href="http://mcdetenders.com">http://mcdetenders.com</a> , <a href="https://mcdonline.nic.in/">https://mcdonline.nic.in/</a>	
R.O. No. 57/DPI/East/2020-21 Executive Engineer, Central Store, EDMC	
EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. : 155303	

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH**

**E-Tender Notice No. PI(EPY)20-21/04**

**Phone No. 0172-2756469**

Tender applications are invited for purchase of various items against tender No. 1-6 from the Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/agents. The bidders can place their bids as per terms & conditions contained on <https://eprocure.gov.in> or [eprocure@pgimer.ac.in](mailto:eprocure@pgimer.ac.in).

Sr. No	Equipment/Item Name	Quantity	EMD	Bid submission date	Bid Opening Date	Deptt. Name
<b>Non Pre Bid Cases</b>						
1	Reagents for Tandem Mass Spectrometer for rate contract for five years	As per technical specifications	362313/-	09/11/2020	10/11/2020	Pediatrics
2	Laparotomy Set	03 No's	1,20,000/-	09/11/2020	10/11/2020	Surgical Gastroenterology
<b>Pre Bid Cases</b>						
3	Combine RF, Argon Plasma and Water Jet Surgical Station	01 No	2,80,000/-	09/11/2020	10/11/2020	Paed Surgery
4	Table Fixed Retractors	02 No's	2,00,000/-	09/11/2020	10/11/2020	Surgical Gastroenterology
5	Clinical Simulator for In Vitro Testing	01 No	200,600/-	09/11/2020	10/11/2020	Anesthesia (R.G.C)
6	Bioreactor	01 No	33,940/-	09/11/2020	10/11/2020	Translational and Regenerative Medicine (R.G.C)

Tender List can also be downloaded from website [www.pgimer.edu.in](http://www.pgimer.edu.in) and can be applied on [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in). Cost of Tender fee is Rs.200/- (non refundable) which can deposited in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) must be in the form of FDR /TDR valid for a period of one year from any scheduled bank in the name of the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. EMD in any other form will not be accepted. Tender fee and EMD should be submitted at the Procurement Branch (Import) manually by 2.30 PM on or before the date of opening of bid mentioned against respective item. The tenders shall be opened on the next date at 03:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenders. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with Tender fee and valid Earnest Money shall be summarily rejected straightaway. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof. **"PRE-BID CONFERENCE" WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM SR. No. 03 to 06 shall be held on 23-10-2020 from 11:00 A.M. ONWARDS IN THE PI(EP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH** For more details contact: 0172-2756469 at Procurement Branch (Import).

**NOTE 1.** The terms and Conditions of the original Notice Inviting Tender (NTI) available on PGIMER Website will apply to all cases. However on switching over to e-tendering on e-Procurement, the bids will be received in electronic form on e-Procurement website and no bid will be received in Physical form.

**NOTE 2.** If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day.

**Additional Terms and Conditions.**

1. All the bidders are required to furnish a Certificate as per newly introduced rule 144(Xi) of GFR-2017.
2. As per rule 150 of GFR-2017 all bidders are required to provide their GeM registration ID. Without this Id Supply Order will not be issued even after being I-L1.

**PROFESSOR IN-CHARGE (EP)**

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PROFESSOR IN-CHARGE (EP)



## SHORT TAKES

## UP CM launches 'Mission Shakti'

**Balrampur:** Facing flak over a string of rape incidents in Uttar Pradesh, chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday launched 'Mission Shakti' campaign focusing on ensuring the safety and dignity of women and girls, with a stern warning that perpetrators of crimes against females will be dealt with an iron hand. The chief minister said the campaign, whose start coincided with the commencement of the Navratri festival dedicated to Goddess Durga, is a tribute to the woman who died after being allegedly raped by two men in Balrampur and asserted that his government has "zero tolerance" towards crime against women and girls. "Those who cast an evil eye on the dignity and self-respect of women will find no place in the state. Perpetrators of such crimes are a blot on the society and the government will deal with them with an iron hand," UP CM said. — PTI

## 2 arrested for setting activist on fire in Goa

**Panaji:** Two men were arrested from Maharashtra for allegedly setting a local activist on fire at a village near Panaji in Goa, police said on Saturday. With the help of Maharashtra police, Mapusa residents Shrikant Badigar and Prashant Laxman Dabholkar were nabbed from Talere village in Sindhurgh taluka of the neighbouring state on Friday night, a Goa police spokesperson said. The accused had allegedly set local activist Vilas Methar on fire at Torda village on Wednesday night, following which he died during treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital the next day. The motive for the crime is yet to be ascertained, the official said. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant congratulated the police. — PTI

## Union home secy's tenure extended

**New Delhi:** The tenure of home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been extended till August 22, 2021, according to a personnel ministry order issued on Saturday. He would have superannuated next month. Mr Bhalla, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was in August 2019 appointed as the home Secretary. The appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension in service of Bhalla as home secretary beyond the date of his superannuation i.e. November 30, 2020 up to August 22, 2021, it said. — PTI

## MAHA: GADKARI FOR WATER GRID TO STOP FLOODS

**New Delhi:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari has requested the Maharashtra government to take initiative for preparation of detailed project report for formation of State Water Grid to overcome the recurring flood crisis in the state, an official statement said on Saturday. This would help the government ensure the availability of the water in drought prone areas and save the resources to manage the flood crisis, it said. In a letter dated October 14 to Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, his cabinet colleagues and MP Sharad Pawar, the road transport and highways minister sought early decision of the state government on this issue, followed by actions thereon. "Mr Gadkari has drawn the attention of the chief minister in this letter towards the serious issue of heavy loss of lives and property that occurs in the state of Maharashtra every year due to floods." "He has added that the floods create and trigger serious problems in different parts of the state and there is an urgent need to chalk out a plan to manage this natural disaster that becomes grave because of other man made factors," a statement from the minister's office said. The Union minister suggested to the Maharashtra to take up the ambitious project of formation of the State Water Grid on the lines of the National Power Grid and Highway Grid. The idea is to divert the flood water from one river basin to the other river basin in the drought prone area of the state.

## Nomination papers of Amit Jogi, wife rejected

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY  
BHOPAL, OCT. 17

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday rejected the nominations of Amit Jogi and wife Richa for Marwahi (ST) Assembly constituency in Chhattisgarh, which is going to bypolls on November 3, over caste issue. The Jogi couple filed nominations as candidates of Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC), founded by late Ajit Jogi.

The reserved constituency held by late Ajit Jogi, the first chief minister of Chhattisgarh, and his family members since 2001 is set to go out of the hands of the Jogi clan in the upcoming bypolls following the development. Mr Jogi's nomination was rejected on the ground that his caste certificate has been scrapped by the state vigilance committee.

Similarly, his wife's candidature was rejected in view of suspension of her caste certificate by the local district vigilance committee earlier this week. Congress candidate for the seat K.K. Dhruv challenged the Jogi couple's nomination before the local returning officer citing cancellation of their caste certificates, leading to rejection of their nominations.

In his Twitter post, Mr Jogi said his caste certificate was scrapped by the state vigilance committee on Friday night. He sought time to go through the case from the local returning officer. However, his nomination was rejected.

"We see a conspiracy by the Chhattisgarh government. JCC will move the court seeking stay on by-elections to Marwahi (ST) Assembly seat following rejection of nominations of the Jogi couple," party spokesman Bhagwan Nyak told this newspaper.

Incidentally, the high-power committee constituted by the Chhattisgarh government, following a directive by the Supreme Court to probe into the controversy over caste of late Ajit Jogi, had scrapped his caste certificate on August 23, 2019, declaring that he was not a tribal.



Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar being garlanded by party supporters during an election meeting in Rohtas district on Saturday. — PTI

## BJP dares Cong to mention 370 restoration in manifesto

**New Delhi, Oct. 17:** A day after the Congress pitched for restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP Saturday dared it to say so in its manifesto for the Bihar assembly polls and accused it of speaking the language of "separatists".

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Prakash Javadekar accused the Congress of practising the politics of "dividing society" for collecting votes ahead of the Bihar polls, which begin from October 28, and asserted that people have supported the government's move on Jammu and Kashmir.

"People have seen how much progress has happened in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Still, the Congress is singing the tune of whatever few separatists are there. The Congress has become a narrow party and that is why it is taking stand against the sentiments of people in the country," he told reporters. Whatever be the issue, the Congress praises Pakistan and China, he alleged while taking a swipe at Rahul Gandhi.

The entire country has hailed the government's move to revoke Article 370, he said.

Congress leader P.

## BJP leader shot dead in Firozabad ahead of Assembly bypoll, 3 detained

**Firozabad, Oct. 17:** A local BJP leader was shot dead by bike-borne assailants in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the November 3 assembly by-poll in the area, following which three people were detained, police said on Saturday.

D.K. Gupta, 46, was shot at in the Nagla Beech area Friday evening when he was returning home after closing his shop. He was rushed to a hospital where he died, they said.

The police said three people have been detained for questioning based on a complaint filed by Gupta's family.

Chidambaram had said on Friday that his party resolutely stands for restoration of the status and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and that the "arbitrary and unconstitutional" decisions of the Modi government of August 5, 2019 must be rescinded.

The government had last year nullified Article 370, which had given special rights to the region, and divided the state into two

union territories. BJP president J.P. Nadda had attacked the Congress for its stand and tweeted Friday night, "Since Congress has no good governance agenda to talk about, they are back to their 'Divide India' dirty tricks before Bihar elections. Shri Rahul Gandhi praises Pakistan and Shri Chidambaram says Congress wants Article 370 to return! Shameful!" — PTI

The area falls under the Tundla assembly constituency, where a by-election is scheduled for November 3.

Among those detained is a person named Viresh

Tomar with whom Gupta had some rivalry, they said, adding the duo even had an exchange of words on Facebook recently.

Senior superintendent of police (SSP) Sachindra Patel said, "All the angles are being thoroughly examined. Police teams were formed and Viresh Tomar and two others were detained for questioning yesterday night itself," he added. — PTI

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## Woman dies in Karnataka, honour killing suspected

**Bengaluru, Oct. 17:** In a suspected case of honour killing in Ramanagara district, a 19-year-old woman was killed allegedly by her father and two other relatives, including a minor, who were opposed to her reported love affair with a man belonging to another community, police said on Saturday.

Police said the incident is said to have taken place on October 8, and the accused in the case are the girl's father Krishnappa of Bettedahalli in Magadi taluk, her cousin brother Chetan and a minor distant relative.

While the two adults were arrested on Friday, the minor is under detention, officials said. — PTI

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## Cong promises help to Covid-19 victims' kin

## In poll manifesto, Nath sends subtle message, 'I'm the boss'

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
BHOPAL, OCT. 17

Amid growing whisperings in the party on his widening gulf with veteran leader Digvijay Singh, former chief minister Kamal Nath on Saturday sent a subtle message to his rival camps in Congress in Madhya Pradesh that he was the boss in the party in the state.

The Congress election manifesto released for the crucial by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, scheduled to be held on November 3, by Mr Nath did not carry Mr Singh photograph, raising many eyebrows in the party here.

The poll manifesto featured members of the Nehru-Gandhi family prominently.

Mr Nath, who holds the dual posts of Pradesh Congress Committee president and Congress



Former chief minister and MP Congress chief Kamal Nath and party leader Digvijay Singh at the release of the manifesto for bypolls in Bhopal on Saturday. — PTI

Legislature Party leader, is the sole party leader in MP who featured in the poll manifesto.

"Mr Nath has sought to send a message to the party cadres that he is the boss in Congress in MP by not carrying Mr Singh's photograph in the poll manifesto. The 'significant omission' has left Mr Singh's camp worried and annoyed", a senior Congress leader told this

newspaper requesting not to be quoted.

Incidentally, Mr Nath is seen steering the party campaign for the upcoming assembly by-elections 'single-handedly'.

He was virtually the lone senior leader of the party in the state who has been holding rallies and addressing public meetings to canvas for the party candidates in the by-elections.

## Fresh spell of heavy rains in parts of Hyderabad

**Hyderabad, Oct. 17:** Close on the heels of a downpour that devastated parts of the city earlier this week, several areas in the metropolis received heavy showers on Saturday evening, triggering traffic snarls and water-logging.

According to official data, Singapur Township in Medchal Malkajgiri district received 157.3 mm of rainfall, followed by 153 mm of rain at Bandlaguda near Uppal in the city. Several other areas in the city also witnessed heavy rain.

The Disaster Response Force (DRF) personnel of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) were continuously working on the field clearing water stagnations and inundations and all possible measures were being initiated in view of the rainfall, Vishwajit Kampati, Director, Vigilance and Disaster Management of GHMC, said in a tweet.

The state government said on October 15 that 50 people had lost their lives due to heavy rains and flash floods and the state government had put the losses, as per preliminary estimates, at over ₹5,000 crore.

The state government has been carrying out relief measures in the rain-affected areas, even as some localities, close to water bodies, remained in water. — PTI

## 18 Mumbai DCPs shifted, including TRP case probe team member

**Mumbai, Oct. 17:** Eighteen deputy commissioners of Mumbai police were transferred within the metropolis, including an official who is part of the team probing the fake TRP racket involving television news channels.

The orders were issued on Friday, an official said. DCP (detection) Nandkumar Thakur, part of the probe into the TRP case, has been transferred as DCP (traffic), though an official clarified the shift was on a request from the former, made much before the scam came to light, due to personal reasons.

Thakur has been replaced in the Crime Branch by Prakash Jadhav, while Shashikumar Meena has been transferred as DCP Zone I, Datta Nalawade as DCP Anti-Narcotics Cell, Vijay Patil as DCP Zone IV, Krishnakant Upadhyay to Zone VI and M C V Mahesh Reddy to Zone X. — PTI

## Bullet coding is being done not only for upcoming bypolls, but to keep 'gun culture' in check: SP

## Bhind cops stamp bullets with QR code to curb gun violence

**Bhopal, Oct. 17:** Ahead of the Assembly bypolls in Madhya Pradesh, police in Bhind district have launched an initiative, under which bullets are being stamped with quick response (QR) codes to easily trace the shooter and to keep the use of guns in check, an official said.

Out of the 28 state assembly seats where bypolls would be held on November 3, Bhind district has two constituencies- among the 16 in the Gwalior-Chambal region.

The winding ravines of Chambal were once a den of trigger-happy dacoits like Malkhan Singh and

Paan Singh Tomar, who unleashed a reign of terror in the region. Slain "Bandit Queen" Phoolan Devi had found refuge in these ravines before she became a Member of Parliament (MP).

Even now, people in the region rejoice in flaunting guns to demonstrate their power.

Talking to PTI, district superintendent of police Manoj Kumar Singh said, "Bhind has witnessed around 150 murders in the last five years with most of them being committed using illegal weapons."

During the last assembly elections, the district had

► **OUT OF THE 28** state assembly seats where bypolls would be held on November 3, Bhind district has two constituencies- among the 16 in the Gwalior-Chambal region. Even now, people in the region rejoice in flaunting guns to demonstrate their power

witnessed violence and rigging attempts which were thwarted, police sources said.

"Therefore, ahead of the by-elections, police have asked more than 22,000 firearms licensees in the district to come forth and

get the casings of bullets printed with QR codes," he said.

"The initiative has started this week and stamping a QR code costs just one paisa for a round. It contains details of the gun licensee, whom police can trace almost instantly," he added.

Replying to a query, Mr Singh said the bullet coding exercise is being done not only in view of the upcoming bypolls when the arms are surrendered with the police, but to keep the "gun culture" in check for good.

"In the run-up to the election or during it, if some-

one fires a bullet stamped with QR code even from a country-made weapon, we can reach the shooter as the empty bullet case will provide all the details," he said.

When asked whether this exercise would create any impact in Bhind, where hardened criminals acquire country weapons and bullets from different places, Singh said that his aim was to reduce gun culture prevailing in the region.

"Even if I am able to save one life, I will be happy," the police officer said, adding that he had been working on quick

response coding for the past two years.

Singh said there was a trend to register false cases in Bhind.

"If someone sustains a bullet injury, in his complaint he names innocent people, with whom he wants to settle old scores. But through QR coding, we can easily get to know the weapon from which the bullet was fired as well as its owner," he said.

"Coding won't leave a room for an injured person to implicate innocent people who do not have any connection with attack on him," he added. — PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## Woman kills kids, hangs self in UP

**Jalaun:** A woman allegedly hanged herself to death after killing her 15-year-old mentally-challenged son and daughter here, police said on Saturday. On Friday evening around 7.00 pm, the 39-year-old woman's body was found hanging in her house in Ait town, aPRO said. "The bodies of her 20-year-old daughter and minor son were found lying on the bed and the floor of the room," he said. Konch circle officer Rahul Pandey said the woman's husband is a truck driver and had gone out at the time of the incident. Pandey said prima facie it seems that the woman first killed her children and then committed suicide later. "The bodies of the deceased have been sent for post-mortem and a forensic team is gathering evidence," he said. Police said the woman's husband told them that his wife took the extreme step due to financial hardship and illness of children. — PTI

## Pathankot attack case officer dies

**New Delhi:** Retired IPS officer Sanjiv Kumar Singh, who led the probe into the 2016 terrorist attack on the Pathankot Air Force base while serving in the NIA, has died. He was 61. Singh, a 1987-batch IPS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, died at a hospital in Gurgaon on Friday. His former colleague in the agency and Assam's additional director-general of Police (Law and Order) G P Singh tweeted about his passing away. "A sad day. We lost Sri Sanjeev Kumar Singh IPS 1987 batch to Dengue today. My mentor at @NIA, India he would always remain in thoughts. Rest in peace Sir," G.P. Singh wrote. The NIA also condoled his death. He had retired from service in February. He last served with the BSF as an ADG (eastern command) based in Kolkata. — PTI

## Villagers rescue rare pangolin

**Bhubaneswar:** Residents of Daripokhari village under Oupada block in Odisha's Balasore district rescued a pangolin roaming near a canal and handed it over to the forest officials. According to reports, some village youth spotted the pangolin on Friday night and raised an alarm. Later, one Pradeep Kumar Rout rescued the endangered animal and handed it over to Dantur Forest Beat House. As per the divisional forest officer's direction, forest ranger Babita Soren reached the spot and initiated health checkup of the animal. It is suspected that the pangolin has escaped from Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary.

## GANGSTER HELD FOR EXTORTION IN ODISHA

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 17

A day after Odisha's Bhubaneswar-Cuttack commissionerate police warned strict action against people collecting "protection money" forcibly, the cops on Saturday arrested gangster Sandeep Acharya alias Raja on charges of extortion. The anti-extortion wing of the commissionerate police arrested the gangster and questioned him regarding his involvement in an extortion case. "Raja was extorting ₹20,000 from a person every month in connection with construction of a house. We are currently questioning him," informed commissioner of police Sudhanshu Sarangi. "Extortion is a serious issue. Strict action will be taken against people indulged in such crime," he added. Earlier on November 13, 2019, the Malgondown police had arrested gangster Raja Acharya in connection with an attempt to murder case in registered in 2004. The cops had arrested him for violating a condition laid down by Odisha high court during his release from jail in the attempt to murder case. The gangster who was in 2011 convicted in the sensational murder of child marathon Budhia Singh's coach Biranchi Das was released in 2018 after serving more than seven years in jail.



# Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan ranked higher than India 14% of India's population undernourished: Report

**New Delhi, Oct. 17:** India ranked 94 among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and was in the 'serious' hunger category with experts blaming poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring, siloed approach in tackling malnutrition and poor performance by large states behind the low ranking. Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries.

Neighbouring Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too were in the 'serious' category but ranked higher than India in this year's hunger index. While Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan were in the 78th and 88th position respectively.

Nepal in 73rd and Sri Lanka in 64th position were in 'moderate' hunger category, the report showed.

Seventeen nations, including China, Belarus,

Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores of less than five, the website of the Global Hunger Index, that tracks hunger and malnutrition, said on Friday.

According to the report released on Friday, 14 per cent of India's population was undernourished.

It also showed the country recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent.

Wasting is children who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition. Stunting is children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.

Data from 1991 through 2014 for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan showed that stunting was concentrated among children from households fac-

■ **LAST YEAR,** India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries

■ **17 NATIONS,** including China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores of less than 5

■ **14% OF India's** population was undernourished

■ **THE COUNTRY** recorded a 37.4% stunting rate among children under 5 and a wasting rate of 17.3%. The under-5 mortality rate stood at 3.7%.

ing multiple forms of deprivation, including poor dietary diversity, low levels of maternal education, and household poverty.

During this period, India experienced a decline in under-five mortality, driven largely by a decrease in deaths from birth asphyxia or trauma, neonatal infections, pneumonia, and diarrhoea, the report stated.

"However, child mortality, caused by prematurity and low birth weight, increased particularly in poorer states and rural areas. Prevention of prematurity and low birth-weight is identified as a key factor with the potential to reduce under-five mortality in India, through actions such as better antenatal care, education, and nutrition as well as reductions in anaemia and oral tobacco use," it said.

Experts think that poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring and siloed approaches to tackling malnutrition often result in poor nutrition indices.

Purnima Menon, a senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi, said the performance of large states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh need to be improved to see an overall change of India's ranking. — PTI

## PMO: No major mutation in Covid, won't affect vaccines

With 62,212 cases, 837 deaths, India's tally surges past 74L

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 17

As the work continues to develop an effective vaccine for Covid the government on Saturday said two pan-India studies on the genome of the virus in India suggest it is genetically stable and has shown no major mutation.

There had been concerns in some quarters that any major mutation detected in the Covid could hinder the development of an effective vaccine. However, some recent global studies have said the vaccines currently being developed for Covid should not be affected by recent mutations.

Mutation typically refers to the property of a virus to undergo changes when it multiplies and the virus may develop some new strains after it replicates. In cases, the new strains tend to be less effective and therefore die out soon, while more powerful strains may lead to faster spread of the virus.

## Kerala terminates 432 medical staff for unauthorised absence

**Thiruvananthapuram, Oct. 17:** The Kerala government has terminated from service 432 medical personnel, including 385 doctors, who were on unauthorised leave for years, health minister K.K. Shailaja said on Saturday. Despite being given several opportunities, these employees had not shown any inclination to join duty following which it was decided to

dismiss them, the minister said in a press release. Directions had been issued to the health department to identify such staff who have kept away from work for years and take strict disciplinary action against them. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this is the time that the services of the doctors and other health staff were needed most. — PTI

India's Covid caseload went past 74 lakh, while the number of people who have recovered from the disease crossed 65 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 87.78 per cent. According to the Union health ministry, the coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,12,998 with the virus claiming 837 lives in a day, while the infection tally mounted to 74,32,680 with 62,212 new cases being

reported. After a review meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Covid pandemic situation, and vaccine delivery, distribution and administration preparedness, the Prime Minister's office said in a statement that three vaccines are in advanced stages of development in India, out of which two are in Phase II and one is in Phase-III.

## Court orders FIR against Kangana, sister over tweets

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, OCT. 17

A magistrate court in Mumbai on Saturday directed Mumbai police to investigate the complaint filed by a film director against actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel for allegedly posting objectionable tweets to disturb communal harmony.

Mumbai based Director Sahil Ashrafali Sayyed has lodged a complaint alleging the actor has been defaming Bollywood since the last two months by calling it a hub of nepotism, favouritism, etc, through her tweets and television interviews.

According to the complaint of Mr.Sayyad, the actress has tweeted objectionable messages due to which not only his religious sentiments, but also it feelings of many other artists in the industry. He further stated that Ms Ranaut wanted to divide the artists and Bollywood on communal lines. "Her sister, too, has made objectionable comments on social media to spread communal tension between two religious groups," the complaint said.

The complaint urged the court that she should be booked under various IPC sections like 153A (promoting enmity), 295A (malicious acts intended to outrage the religious



Kangana Ranaut



Rangoli Chandel

■ **MUMBAI BASED** Director Sahil Ashrafali Sayyed has lodged a complaint alleging the actor has been defaming Bollywood since the last two months by calling it a hub of nepotism, favouritism, etc, through her tweets and television interviews.

feelings), 124A (sedition). The magistrate then directed the police to initiate necessary action and investigation against the actor and her sister under relevant provisions of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The court order comes at a time Kangana is engaged in a battle with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, which razed a portion of her Mumbai office alleging that it was illegally constructed. Following actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death on June 14, Kangana started garnering attention on social media as she raised questions over nepotism in Bollywood.

## Rape case filed against Mithun son in Mumbai

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, OCT. 17

The Maharashtra police station in Mumbai on Saturday registered

a rape case against son of actor Mithun Chakraborty after a 38-year-old woman complaint against him. The case also names Chakraborty's former wife for threatening the complainant when she tried to confront the accused. The case was first filed in Delhi and after the court's order there, a fresh case was filed by the complainant in Mumbai.

The accused named in the case are Chakraborty's son Mahaakshay and the actor's former wife Yogita Bali. The officials said that she was also made a co-accused in the case as she threatened the complainant when she tried to get in touch with Mahaakshay to confront him on his promise of marriage. The complainant told the police that the duo was in a relationship from 2015 to 2018. "The complaint will be probed and the statement of those needed will be recorded and further action will be taken accordingly," said a police officer.



Devotees take holy dips in Ganga river during Kalash Sthapna on the first day of Navratri festival in Hajipur on Saturday. — PTI

## 9 dead, 32 injured as jeep collides with bus in Pilibhit

**Pilibhit (UP), Oct. 17:** At least 9 people lost their lives and around 32 were injured in a collision between a jeep and an Uttar Pradesh roadways bus in Pilibhit on Saturday police said.

Due to the impact of the collision, the bus fell in a nearby ditch, they said, adding that the driver of the bus is among the dead. The accident occurred in Puranpur Police Station area of the district, a senior police official said.

Superintendent of police, Pilibhit, Jaiprakash Yadav said, "In an early morning accident involving a jeep and a roadways bus, nine persons were killed, while around 32 persons were injured."

He added that the deceased include passengers of the bus as well as the jeep.

"Seven of the passengers died on the spot and the injured are undergoing treatment at the district hospital in Pilibhit," he said.

The deceased have been identified as Shakeel (28), the driver of the bus, Gayadeen (45), Kalavati (40), Mohan Bahadur (45),



Police personnel inspect the site of accident after a bus and a Bolero jeep collided in Puranpur area of Pilibhit district early Saturday. — PTI

■ **YOGI ADITYANATH** directed officials to provide ₹5 lakh as financial assistance to the family of each of the deceased. He also directed officials to ensure that the injured get proper treatment.

Deepa Vishvas (50) and Shyam (12). The identity of three others is yet to be ascertained, he said.

"The ill-fated bus was coming from Lucknow to Pilibhit, and most of the passengers are from Pilibhit and nearby areas," he said.

Police officials said that the accident site is approximately 40 kilometres away from the district headquarters.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has condoled the loss of lives in the accident.

In a statement issued here by the state government, Adityanath directed officials to provide ₹5 lakh as financial assistance to the family of each of the deceased. He also directed officials to ensure that the injured get proper treatment. — PTI

## 613 complaints against state govts, 4 against Union ministers, MPs

## Lokpal gets 1,427 plaints in 2019-20

**New Delhi, Oct. 17:** A total of 1,427 complaints were received by anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal during 2019-20, of which 613 were related to state government officials and four against Union ministers and Members of Parliament, according to official data.

It said 245 complaints were against Central government officials, 200 against those in public sector undertakings, statutory bodies, judicial institutions and autonomous bodies at state level, official data showed.

Of the total complaints, 1,347 were disposed of. There were 1,152 complaints beyond the Lokpal's jurisdiction, it said.

A total of 78 complainants were advised to file complaints on prescribed form,

245 COMPLAINTS were against Central government officials, 200 against those in public sector undertakings, statutory bodies, judicial institutions and autonomous bodies at central level and 135 were against private persons and organisations

45 were sent for status/inquiry report and directions to concerned authority were issued for appropriate action in 32 complaints, data showed.

Giving details of the pendency, Lokpal data said 29 cases were pending with the Central Vigilance

## U'khand schools set to reopen from Nov. 1, parents worried

**Dehradun, Oct. 17:** With schools set to reopen in Uttarakhand for classes X and XII on November 1 after a gap of more than seven months, most parents are feeling insecure as Covid cases are still rising in the state.

School managements have said that they are prepared to resume classes while ensuring strict adherence to Covid protocol including limiting attendance in the classes to 50% day for the sake of social distancing.

However, they are not ready to take the blame if a

student gets infected despite the precautionary measures.

"While we will make sure that the SOPs are followed, I must say that the schools should not be held responsible if a student catches the virus," Chairman Doon International School D.S. Mann said.

The reopening of schools has put parents in a spot as they do not want to expose their wards to the risk but are left with no choice as the option of studying online will no longer be available for the children of the two classes. — PTI

wish to visit the school from September 21. The students of classes 9 to 12 were permitted to visit the school on a voluntary basis. With the ministry of home affairs permitting the reopening of schools from October 15 and removing the restriction

of classes allowed, the states are now free to reopen the schools.

However, under the Unlock 5.0 guidelines, the attendance is not to be mandatory. Also, students would require the consent of the parent to attend the school.

## India-China ties 'deeply disturbed': Jaishankar

**New Delhi, Oct. 17:** External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday said peace S. Jaishankar and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is "deeply disturbed" and this is obviously impacting the overall relationship between India and China.

Jaishankar made these comments against the backdrop of the over five-month-long border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh where each side has deployed over 50,000 troops.

The Sino-India boundary question a very "complicated" and difficult issue, he said at a webinar on his book "The India Way", giving a historical perspective to development of the relationship between the two neighbouring countries in the last three decades.

The external affairs minister said the relationship between India and China, which was "very difficult", was normalised since late 1980s through a plethora of initiatives like trade, travel, tourism, and societal activities on the premise of peace and tranquillity along the border.

"It is not our position that we should solve the boundary question. We understand that it is a very complicated and difficult issue. There have been many negotiations at different levels. That is a very high bar for a relationship," Jaishankar said.

"I am talking about a much more basic bar which is that there must be peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the border areas and that has been the case since the late 1980s," he added. — PTI



## THE ASIAN AGE

18 OCTOBER 2020



Krishna Shastri  
Devulapalli

Off the beaten track

## #RealMenDon'tHuddle

Not long ago, when party-going was still a possibility, my wife walked into a human formation that's existed since the beginning of time: a huddle of men. Basically an informal, yet imperious, circle made up exclusively of males, talking and doing all things hairy-chested, and, well, manly. She had been observing the 'patriarch' of the bunch, trying to persuade a fellow huddler (trying his best to leave) to stay for a just a couple more drinks while his wife fidgeted a few paces away.

"He says he's had enough, why don't you let him go?" my wife said. "Why don't you stay out of this," responded the pushing-sixty-former-bad-boy-arthritic-headman. "This is man stuff."

"Really?" responded my wife. That's all she said. Softly. Not a word more. Something in her tone made the guy stop. The couple left quietly soon after. But not before turning and throwing grateful backward glances at my wife. (I know stories where a woman questions a man — especially one who is part of a group — rarely end this way.)

It came to me in my thirties, late learner that I am, that I had never been part of all-male huddles. In school and college, and later, at family gatherings, get-togethers with old friends, the piece I formed never seemed to fit neatly with a satisfying little click into any of the negative spaces left unfilled in masculine huddles. Whatever condiment I brought seemed to clash with the ingredients needed for a perfect male huddle.

In popular culture, the male huddle has been among the most paeonized of phenomena. They even have a term for it: bromance, a genre in films even more popular than the dreaded rom-com. The ad scene is so full of commercials that depict 'boys' getting together and 'outwitting' a woman or women, that the brands are not even worth mentioning. I could be wrong, but if you check the stats, the chances of all-male groups accounting for the largest traffic on WhatsApp is a near certainty.

Whatever the social class, men going off to Bangkok, Goa — or a holy site



**Every horror perpetrated on every woman is born out of what we have come to accept as the male huddle. Including rape. Especially rape. And every rape is a gang rape. Even the ones perpetrated by a solitary male.**

atop an all-male hill — having obtained 'hall-passes' from wives and girlfriends, has become not just a rite of passage, but something the women cropped out of this picture have been taught to rationalise as 'boys will be boys, even when they are grown men, especially when they are grown men, that's how it is. And we get some time off, lol'.

But the truth is, it is anything but time off, for Nirbhaya, for Manisha, for the millions of women of all ages in cities, villages, pubs, boardrooms, fields, abandoned factories, open maidans, and even places of worship. A male 'allowed' to take time off from being a person to be a 'man' and do boys-will-be-boys things — by a mother, sister, wife or girlfriend — isn't doing any other woman a favour.

Every horror perpetrated on every woman is born out of what we have come to accept as the male huddle. Including rape. Especially rape. And every rape is a gang rape. Even the ones perpetrated by a solitary male.

For, it is in these exclusive penis-only clubs (that take birth sometimes even in primary school), operating at village squares and executive washrooms in skyscrapers with equal impunity, that violence against women, starting from the verbal, moving on to the psychological, and graduating to the physical — basically *man stuff* — is taught. Fine-tuned. Encouraged. And finally applauded and defended. Collectively.

History has proved irrefutably that a male huddle's main purpose isn't really as much about fostering intimacy between men as igniting and nurturing the very opposite towards women.

I'm not sure what the solution to a male huddle is but it isn't a feminine version of it. All that women getting into huddles, and forming exclusive sisterhoods, seem to achieve is keeping men out temporarily (which, in and of itself, isn't at all a bad thing.)

The answer lies with the men, really. (At least, the beginning of an answer.) As it ought to. It is, after all, up to the perpetrator to find the remedy. Naive as it sounds, men who care, men who want see a change — and there are many, thankfully — should actively shun all-male gatherings, both the transient, like 'organically' formed huddles at a get-together, and the organised, like boys' nights out, clubs, fraternities, or, for that matter, political parties that promote hypermasculinity.

Stand alone, men. Give a clear signal to women that you refuse to be part of the problem any longer. Make it normal for women to look you in the eye — with something other than fear, anger or revulsion.

It's time we sent out a strong message. Real men don't huddle.

*Krishna Shastri Devulapalli is a humour writer, novelist, columnist and screenwriter*

Subhani



## Muslims in BJP have an express duty: Stem hate



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

The thought came to me that although limited in numbers, the BJP does

have some prominent Muslim faces. There is Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, a minister in the central government. Shah Nawaz Hussain, who has had a long stint with the party, was formerly a Cabinet minister. Among other faces, there is Shazia Ilmi, and Zafarul Islam, recently sent to the Rajya Sabha. The party actually has a minority morcha, with Abdul Ansari as its president. The learned and erudite Arif Mohammad Khan, now governor of Kerala, has also leaned in support of the saffron party ever since he left the Congress in the 1980s over Rajiv Gandhi overruling the Supreme Court judgment through an ordinance in the Shah Bano case.

I wonder how these Muslim supporters have reacted to the open vilification of their community by the headline supporters of their own party. At the beginning of the Covid crisis, there was a massive campaign against members of the Tablighi Jamaat, who had congregated in Delhi for an international conference. It was made out that they were part of an international conspiracy to spread Covid in India; many of their members were arrested; and many more were ostracised even though they were Covid negative. Some supporters of the BJP actually made a public appeal for people not to buy vegetables or other necessities from Muslims. Presumably, according to their thinking, all

Muslims were working for an anti-national agenda as part of a coordinated plan to spread the virus. Finally, the Mumbai high court had to warn the government against making Tablighi members scapegoats. There was also a diplomatic fallout, as dozens of governments abroad expressed concern at the continued arrest of their citizens who had come to attend the conference.

Recently, a despicable hate campaign was carried out on social media by Hindu right wing bigots against the Tanishq advertisement. The advertisement showed a remarkably endearing clip of a Hindu woman being given love and respect by her Muslim husband's family. However, an entire troll army wanted the ad to be withdrawn. For them it was an example of 'love jihad'. The campaign was so vicious that the Tata group, that owns Tanishq, withdrew the ad. It was an act of pathetic capitulation in the face of the irrationality of illiterate hatred.

Did the luminaries in the BJP from the Muslim community speak out against this malicious

**Or, is it that intra-party dissent is no longer welcome in the BJP? Perhaps, the perception is that those who opposed the Tanishq ad have powerful backers within the leadership of the BJP.**

**Did the luminaries in the BJP from the Muslim community speak out against this malicious denigration of their faith, and the express values enshrined in our Constitution? If they did, I did not hear it.**

denigration of their faith, and the express values enshrined in our Constitution? If they did, I did not hear it. Should their silence then be construed as support for this unspeakable defamation? Are all cases where a Hindu woman willingly and happily marries a Muslim man a case of 'love jihad'? Were Muslim BJP spokespersons and leaders afraid that if they break their silence they would be going against the headline viewpoint of their own party supporters? And, if this indeed is the case, how can they in good faith continue to remain mum? The abolition of triple talaq was a good thing, but can a party that claims to have the welfare of the Muslims in mind simultaneously countenance so much hatred against them?

Or, is it that intra-party dissent is no longer welcome in the BJP? Perhaps, the perception is that those who opposed the Tanishq ad have powerful backers within the leadership of the BJP. Shivam Vij, a commentator and columnist, revealed in a tweet that the person who 'exposed' the brand manager of Tanishq jewellery to massive trolling, hatred and threats, is followed by our Prime Minister. Did the Muslim leaders in the BJP then opt for political expediency over principle? This does not speak very well about inner-party democracy within the ruling party. Madan

Mohan Malviya, who served four times as the president of the Indian National Congress, and on whom a BJP government conferred the Bharat Ratna posthumously, publicly opposed the politics of appeasement and the participation of the Congress in the Khilafat movement. He resigned from the party in protest against the Communal Award made by British PM Ramsay MacDonald in 1932. Those were the days when leaders acted on principle. Those were also the days when the Congress Party respected dissent, and did not attack those who only recently sought legitimate reform within the party.

The basic truth is that hatred, bigotry and violence or threat to violence of all hues is a dangerous canker eating away at the vitals of our Republic. Cherished values enshrined in our civilisational legacy and our Constitution are being swept away by an avalanche of bigotry that must be opposed by the vast masses of citizens, for it is truly anti-national. Perennial social instability and insecurity weakens governance, privileges false priorities, and tarnishes the image of our nation in the international community. Lord Ram, in the Ramayana says: *Janani Janmabhoomischa Swargadapi Gariyasi* (Mother and Motherland are superior to Heaven). The well-being of the motherland, where people of all faiths enjoy equal rights, matters far more than the abhorrent hatred that some people are using to divide us. Has the time come for some Madan Mohan Malviyas to rise within the BJP? And, for the handful of Muslims in the party to truthfully and publicly oppose what is wrong?

*The writer, an author and former diplomat, is in politics*

## LETTERS MIND GAMES

The United States has raised China's hackles by hosting the head of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile (TGiE) for the first time at the State Department in Washington DC.

Lobsang Sangay, the 'Sikyong' or the President of the TGiE, was hosted by Robert A Destro, who was appointed as the US Special Coordinator for issues related to Tibet by the Trump administration. With the rift between the two countries widening, more mind games are in the offing.

N.J. Ravi Chander  
Bengaluru

## MIDAS TOUCH

In Bhanu Athaiya's demise, the world of cinema has lost one of the most talented and versatile costume designers of all time. The Midas touch of Bhanu Athaiya can be seen in almost all Hindi movies starting from the 1950s to the beginning years of the new millennium. She was an icon who showcased the rich and colourful splendour of Indian style on the global stage. The designer who brought the first Oscar award to India through Gandhi had a long list of filmmakers making her a part of their movies. Guru Dutt, Raj Kapoor, Yash Chopra, B.R. Chopra, Subash Ghai, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Ashutosh Gowariker and Raj Khosla. Bhanu Athaiya is definitely a legend.

M. Pradyu  
Kannur

## HARD WINTER

**MORE COUNTRIES** are now being placed under Tier 2 and 3 Covid-19 restrictions, with the UK also joining the long list. So far, Western countries have resisted pressure for a circuit-breaker lockdown, but paid a heavy price for the same. Local lockdowns could persist for several months, leading to a daunting and difficult winter. As soon as the virus spread across the globe, inaccurate and even dangerous messages proliferated wildly over the social media, leaving people confused, misled and ill-advised. To make matters worse, there is no certainty that a vaccine will be found by the end of the year. Beware.

C.K. Subramaniam  
Navi Mumbai

## ALL IN THE MIND

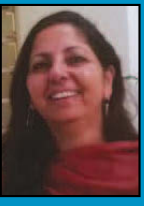
**ACCORDING TO A STUDY** published in the medical journal, *Lancet*, scientists have found that highly preventable risk factors such as high blood pressure, tobacco use and air pollution have left populations vulnerable to acute health problems such as Covid-19. The study says that in India cardiovascular diseases which used to be at number five are now at number one. Mental stress is one of the main factors responsible for cardiovascular diseases. It is a matter of concern that in spite of having the rich heritage of stress-buster yogic exercises and meditation, this has happened. People need to realise that and amend their lifestyles.

M.C. Joshi  
Lucknow

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

Anita Katyal

Political  
Gup-Shup



## In patriarchal Bihar, women finally come into their own

When he was in the Congress, Jyotiraditya Scindia figured among the top three leaders in Madhya Pradesh, keeping company with veterans Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh. But his ratings have clearly slipped in his new home, the Bharatiya Janata Party. The saffron party's list of star campaigners for the upcoming by-elections in Madhya Pradesh released last week put Scindia at number ten, behind BJP leaders like Uma Bharti and Dharmendra Pradhan. The Congress state leaders, who are still smarting over Scindia's move to the enemy camp, lost no time in initiating a whisper campaign against him, referring to him as "Dus Numbri". That apart, the BJP's list is also being seen as a sign of things to come. BJP insiders maintain that Scindia has already done his bit for their party by ensuring the installation of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government with the defection of 22 Congress legislators to their party. They feel Scindia has little more to contribute to their party and so cannot afford to depend on him to

win the coming bypolls. This is evident from the fact that the BJP has drafted four central ministers and a host of Scindia backers to handle the party's poll campaign.

After lying low for some time, Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been grabbing headlines thanks to his letter to chief minister Uddhav Thackeray in which he pointed to the delay in opening of religious places and wondered if the Shiv Sena chief had turned "secular", a term he hated. Koshyari's missive served two purposes. It provided timely impetus to the BJP's state-wide agitation to demand the opening of temples in Maharashtra. More importantly, the governor's letter is being seen as a message to the BJP leadership that it should not overlook his claims in case Uttarakhnd chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat is replaced in the near future. With several party leaders throwing their hat in the ring for the chief minister's kursi in the hill-state, this was Koshyari's way of conveying to the leadership that he is ready to move

from the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai to "serve the people of Uttarakhand."

Taking a cue from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has reduced the stature of his ministers by centralising all powers with him. A case in point is the recent strike called by the power department employees in the state to protest against privatisation of the Purvanchal Vidut Vitaran Nigam Limited. State power minister Srikant Sharma and senior officials held lengthy discussions with the striking employees and, at one stage, it appeared the minister had succeeded in persuading them to call off their stir. It was then said that due to a last-minute hitch, the unions decided to continue the strike. But reports from Lucknow maintain the announcement was deliberately delayed in order to give credit to the chief minister for resolving the issue. Consequently, an "angry" chief minister called a high-level meeting of all senior officials where he is said to have stressed that the strike must end soon as it was

inconveniencing the people. An appeal was issued by Yogi and sure enough the stir was called off. Needless to say, newspapers dutifully reported that the unions withdrew their strike following Yogi's intervention.

Congress members in Rajasthan are furious with chief minister Ashok Gehlot for appointing Manju Sharma, wife of the well-known poet and former Aam Aadmi Party leader Kumar Vishwas, as member of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission. Manju Sharma, a Hindi lecturer, hails from Ajmer and belongs to the Mali community, the same as Gehlot. Party leaders are upset because Kumar Vishwas had launched an all-out offensive against the Congress during the 2011 anti-corruption movement. Further, he had contested against Rahul Gandhi from Amethi in the 2014 Lok Sabha election when he had specifically targeted the Nehru-Gandhi scion. Congress insiders and party members are now wondering if it is mandatory to attack the leadership in order to get a position in the government or the party.

While most political dynasts prefer to join a political outfit or inherit a party, Pushpam Priya Choudhary, daughter of a former Janata Dal (United) leader, has decided to strike out on her own. Armed with a masters degree from the London School of Economics and the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University, Pushpam returned to her home state and floated her own party called Plurals. Declaring herself as a chief ministerial candidate, Pushpam wants to change and transform Bihar over the next decade "with lightning speed" as Bihar is way behind other states. Women have clearly come into their own in Bihar's patriarchal society as several politicians have opted to promote their daughters. The list includes Sharad Yadav's daughter Subhashini Yadav, Shalini Mishra, daughter of CPI leader Kamla Mishra Madhukar, Shreyasi Singh, daughter of the late Digvijay Singh and state minister Kapil Dev Kamat's daughter-in-law Meena.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist



## IN BRIEF

**Poisonous gas kills 6 in Pak**

**Karachi:** Six workers died after inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning an underground tank in a factory in Pakistan's Sindh province, an official said. The incident happened in provincial capital Karachi's Industrial Site Area on Friday. An official of the Chipa welfare trust, which took out the workers from the underground tank, said all the victims were declared dead on arrival at hospital.

"One of them had gone down to clean the underground tank which contained toxic chemicals. After he inhaled some gas, his condition deteriorated and five others who went down to rescue him also fell ill," he said. Industrial incidents in Pakistan's biggest city and financial hub happen regularly as many factories and industries are found to largely ignore safety regulations.

**Turkey holds suspected spy**

**Ankara:** Turkish intelligence has arrested a man suspected of spying on Arab dissidents in Turkey on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, a senior Turkish government official said Friday. The suspect, who has not been identified, allegedly infiltrated expatriate Arab dissident and journalist groups in Turkey, the official told *The Associated Press*. He travelled to Turkey using the passport of an Arab country other than that of the UAE. The man allegedly confessed to spying on Arab nationals and "provided a trove of documents" proving his affiliation with the UAE's intelligence service. The official provided the information on condition of anonymity in line with Turkish government protocol. The arrest comes amid troubled relations between Ankara and Abu Dhabi. In August, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to suspend diplomatic relations with the Gulf state after it announced it was establishing ties with Israel.

**Kansas: Cop shot, 1 injured**

**Lyons:** A police officer and another man were injured by gunfire in Kansas, authorities said. The Lyons police officer was shot after responding to a 911 call Friday afternoon from a man who said he had been threatened with a gun, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation reported. The officer went to a Lyons residence and was shot by a man who lived there, 40-year-old Adam Hrabik, the bureau said. Two bystanders who saw the shooting drove the officer to a hospital in their vehicle. Additional officers then found a 56-year-old Lyons man outside who had also been shot. The officer was later transferred from a local hospital to a Wichita hospital in critical condition. The 56-year-old man was in serious condition at a Wichita hospital. An hours-long standoff ensued after Hrabik retreated into the residence, according to investigators.

**MONKS OPPOSE LANKA'S 20A AMENDMENT**

**Colombo, Oct. 17:** Three politically influential Buddhist monks have joined the voices opposing the Sri Lankan government's proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution that aims to bolster the powers of the president, demanding that 20A must be amended to retain the checks and balances of the presidency.

The three monks, who are allies of the ruling Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), in a letter to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Friday said that the proposed change to the constitution would weaken the position of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa as well as powers of the Cabinet ministers.

They said that the 20A must be amended so as to retain the checks and balances of the presidency. The move comes days after two Buddhist sects — Amarapura and Ramanna — in a joint statement, said that the proposed 20A would destroy the independence of the judiciary, the public service, the system of elections while undermining the independence of Parliament and members of Parliament individually. The sects asserted that what is needed now is not 20A to reverse the 2015 adopted 19A, but action to formulate a new Constitution.

# Teacher beheaded in France terror hit

## Police gun down the suspected attacker as Macron denounces 'Islamist attack'

**Paris, Oct. 17:** For the second time in three weeks, terror struck France, this time with the gruesome beheading of a history teacher in a street in a Paris suburb. The suspected attacker was shot and killed by police.

French President Emmanuel Macron denounced what he called an "Islamist terrorist attack" and urged the nation to stand united against extremism. The teacher had discussed caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad with his class, authorities said.

The French anti-terrorism prosecutor opened an investigation for murder with a suspected terrorist motive. Four people, one a minor, were detained hours later, the office of anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said with-

out elaborating. Police typically fan out to find family and friends of potential suspects in terror cases.

Macron visited the school where the teacher worked in the town of Conflans-Saint-Honorine and met with staff after the slaying. An *Associated Press* reporter saw three ambulances at the scene, and heavily armed police surrounding the area and police vans lining leafy nearby streets.

"One of our compatriots was murdered today because he taught ... the freedom of expression, the freedom to believe or not believe," Macron said.

He said the attack shouldn't divide France because that's what the extremists want. "We must stand all together as citizens," he said.

The incident came as Macron's government works on a bill to address Islamist radicals who authorities claim are creating a parallel society outside the values of the French Republic. France has the largest Muslim population in Western Europe with up to 5 million members, and Islam is the country's No. 2 religion.

A police official said the suspect, armed with a knife and an airsoft gun — was shot dead about 600 metres from where the male teacher was killed after he failed to respond to orders to put down his arms. The teacher had received threats after opening a discussion "for a debate" about the caricatures about 10 days ago, the police official told *The Associated Press*. — AP

# Obama to campaign for Biden

**Macon, Oct. 17:** Former US president Barack Obama will campaign for Democratic party presidential candidate Joe Biden in Pennsylvania next week, the Biden campaign has said. President Donald Trump, however, told his supporters here that Obama was an "ineffective" campaigner and this was good news for him as in 2016 "they did a lousy job and that's why I'm your president". Biden, 77, was the vice president during Obama's two terms.

While Obama has endorsed Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris by making online campaigns for them, this would be the first time that the

59-year-old former president would be campaigning in person. Four years after he left the presidency, Obama because of his oratory skills, still remains the biggest crowd puller for the opposition Democratic party.

"On Wednesday, October 21, (former) president Obama will travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to campaign on behalf of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," the Biden campaign said in a statement on Friday afternoon.

No other details were immediately available. Biden, as per the latest opinion polls, leads against Republican incumbent President Donald Trump by

over nine points on an average. However, there are signs that the polls are tightening, especially after Trump resumed his rallies after recovering from Covid-19. He has been attracting thousands of supporters to his election rallies in the battleground states. President Trump said, "Well he campaigned harder than Hillary last time, so why do we care? The other thing he refused to endorse Joe. He knows what's going on up here with Joe. Obama refused to endorse him and even after Joe had won he didn't want to and then finally like a long time later he finally came out and endorsed him."

## More protest in Bangkok



Pro-democracy protesters walk during an anti-government rally at the Lat Phrao intersection in Bangkok on Saturday, as they continue to defy an emergency decree banning gatherings. Activists staged a fourth straight day of high-profile protests, thwarting efforts by the authorities to stop them, including a shutdown of the city's mass transit systems. Unlike protests a day earlier, which saw police using water cannons to keep the protesters at bay, Saturday's demonstrations were peaceful. — AFP

# Election landslide: NZ's Jacinda wins 2nd term

**Auckland, Oct. 17:** New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won a second term in office on Saturday in an election landslide of historic proportions. With most votes counted, Ardern's liberal Labour Party was winning 49% of the vote compared to 27% for its main challenger, the conservative National Party.

Labour was on target to win an outright majority of the seats in Parliament, something that hasn't happened since New Zealand implemented a proportional voting system 24 years

ago. Typically, parties must form alliances to govern, but this time Ardern and Labour can go it alone. In a victory speech in front of hundreds of cheering supporters in Auckland, Ardern said her party had gotten more support from New Zealanders than at any time in at least 50 years.

"This has not been an ordinary election, and it's not an ordinary time," she said. "It's been full of uncertainty and anxiety, and we set out to be an antidote to that." Ardern promised not to take her

new supporters for granted and to govern for all New Zealanders. "We are living in an increasingly polarised world, a place where, more and more, people have lost the ability to see one another's point of view," she said.

"I think in this election, New Zealanders have shown that this is not who we are." A record number of voters cast early ballots in the two weeks leading up to the election. On the campaign trail, Ardern was greeted like a rock star by people.

— AP

# New Covid-19 curbs in Europe

**Berlin, Oct. 17:** Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Germans to come together like they did in the spring to slow the spread of the Coronavirus as the country posted another daily record of new cases Saturday. "Difficult months are ahead of us," she said in her weekly video podcast. "How winter will be, how our Christmas will be, that will all be decided in these coming days and weeks, and it will be decided by our behaviour." Meanwhile, new restrictions went into effect in several other European nations in an effort to staunch the resurgence of the pandemic.

In Paris and eight other French cities, restaurants, bars, movie theatres and other establishments were being forced to close no later than 9 p.m. to try to reduce contact among people. The country was deploying 12,000 extra police officers to enforce the new rules.

In Britain, a three-tier regional approach to battle the pandemic introduced by PM Boris Johnson this week went into effect, with each level bringing in progressively tighter restrictions. On Saturday, tier-2 cities like London and York were subject to a ban on socialising with people indoors, while the county of Lancashire joined Liverpool in tier 3

## IRAN DEATH TOLL PASSES 30,000

**Tehran, Oct. 17:** Iran announced Saturday that its death toll from the Coronavirus has passed the milestone of 30,000, in what has been the Mideast region's worst outbreak. The announcement by Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari saw Iran put its total death toll from the outbreak at 30,123, with 253 new deaths being added to the official count. Iran has been struggling with the Coronavirus since announcing its first cases in February, with more than 526,000 confirmed cases to date. — AP

with the tightest curbs.

In Northern Ireland a "circuit breaker" lockdown lasting four weeks came into force Friday. All pubs and restaurants must close except for takeaway services. A further 136 people died in the UK, bringing the total official toll to 43,429.

In Czech Republic, the number of new infections surpassed 10,000 for the first time. Italy's northern Lombardy region has limited bar service and alcohol sales, banned contact sports and closed bingo parlours. — AP

## FITNESS | FREAK

**London, Oct. 17:** A 70-year-old man, born in Punjab and based in Ireland for over 40 years, has applied for a Guinness World Record after completing what he calls his Earth Walk — covering over 40,075 kilometres or the equivalent of the circumference of the Earth in under 1,500 days — without stepping out of his home city of Limerick.

Vinod Bajaj began his journey in August 2016 with a humble goal of losing some weight and getting fitter. As he shed the kilo-

## Vinod Bajaj covers equivalent of Earth circumference in his home city

# Punjab-born man eyes Guinness walk feat

grams, his enthusiasm for walking only multiplied and led him to chart out varying routes, including through indoor malls to overcome weather constraints. "During the first three months of my walking seven days a week, I lost 8 kg by having a deficit of 700 calories per day. Over the next six months, I lost a further 12 kg. The loss of weight was almost entirely due to walking and I did not have to change much of my eating habits," said Bajaj.

"Typically, I started wal-

king early in the morning and completed mostly in two intervals, the first one was always for a longer duration. There were many times I did the entire walk in a single attempt. Starting early allowed me to finish up by early afternoon, which gave me plenty of time to do things such as shopping, bank work, house and garden work," he said.

The retired engineer and business consultant grew up in Chennai and moved to Scotland in 1975 for a Master's in Management

from Glasgow before work took him to the Republic of Ireland 43 years ago, where he has been living with his family at Castletroy, a suburb of Limerick, for 36 years. It was the local Irish and world news that kept him company during his long walks, which fell within a 10 km radius of Castletroy. He also downloaded the Pacer activity tracker app on his smartphone to keep a complete track of his steps and its records flagged his major milestones along the way.

"By the end of the first

## Calif. fires rage on



The Cameron Peak Fire, one of two Rocky Mountain wildfires, that have been pushed by strong winds has become the largest in Colorado's history. — AP

# Canada to stand up for China HR

**Ottawa, Oct. 17:** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday his government will not stop standing up for human rights in China.

On Thursday, the Chinese ambassador to Canada warned Ottawa against granting asylum to Hong Kong residents fleeing the situation. Cong Peiwu said if Canada cares about 300,000 Canadian citizens in Hong Kong — and Canadian companies doing business there — it should support efforts to fight what he called fight violent crime.

"We will stand up loudly and clearly for human rights," Trudeau said. "Whether it's talking about the situation faced by the Uighurs, whether it's

talking about the very concerning situation in Hong Kong, whether it's calling out China for its coercive diplomacy."

Trudeau said Canada stands with allies around the world and the United States, to Australia, to Great Britain, to European nations to many nations around the world who share these concerns. Canada's opposition Conservative leader said the Chinese ambassador should apologise or be expelled from Canada. "The Chinese ambassador has decided to engage in belligerent rhetoric unbecoming of his office," Conservative leader Erin O'Toole said in a written statement. — AP



Nawaz Sharif

## MILITARY, ISI SET UP 'PUPPET GOVT': NAWAZ

**Lahore, Oct. 17:** Pakistan's former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has accused the military and the intelligence agency of being behind his ouster as premier and installing their "puppet government" by bringing Imran Khan into power. Sharif was addressing the first power show of the alliance of 11 opposition parties — Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — in Gujranwala, some 80 km from Lahore, late on Friday night via video link from London.

On September 20, the opposition parties announced the formation of the PDM and launch of a three-phased anti-government movement to oust the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. Targeting the military leadership, Sharif told the gathering: "(Army chief) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa ended my government. He rigged 2018 elections and imposed incapable Imran Khan on the nation. Gen. Bajwa is a direct culprit and he will have to give an answer to this."

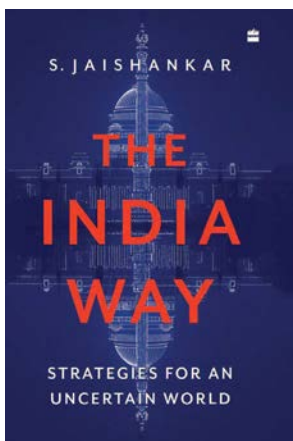
— PTI



INDIAN TOP 10  
BESTSELLERS

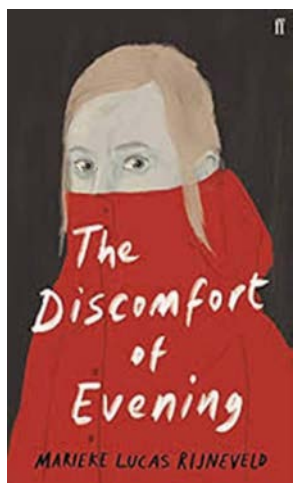
## NON-FICTION

- 1 **THE INDIA WAY**  
S. Jaishankar,  
HarperCollins, ₹699
- 2 **JINNAH HIS SUCCESSES, FAILURES AND ROLE IN HISTORY**  
Ishtiaq Ahmed,  
Penguin, ₹999
- 3 **REMNANTS OF A SEPARATION**  
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Westland, ₹799
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## FICTION

- 1 **THE DISCOMFORT OF EVENING**  
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Brandon Taylor,  
Daunt Books, ₹650
- 3 **SHUGGIE BAIN**  
Douglas Stuart,  
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- 4 **THE SHADOW KING**  
Maaza Mengiste,  
Canongate, ₹799
- 5 **GIRL IN WHITE COTTON**  
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Harper, ₹599
- 6 **THIS MOURNABLE BODY**  
Tsitsi Dangarembga,  
Faber & Faber,  
₹750
- 7 **THE NEW WILDERNESS**  
Diane Cook,  
One World, ₹399
- 8 **HURRICANE SEASON**  
Fernanda Melchor,  
Fitzcarraldo  
Editions, ₹499
- 9 **MOONFLOWER MURDERS**  
Anthony Horowitz,  
Century, ₹699
- 10 **WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING**  
Delia Owens,  
Hachette, ₹499



Bahrisons, New Delhi

## Towards an Indian realism



Sreeram Chaulia

review

Rarely does an incumbent foreign minister have the time or inclination to write a book on foreign policy. But when a seasoned practitioner of diplomacy with a scholastic mind like Dr S. Jaishankar is in the saddle, a long work drawing upon deep reflection is not out of turn.

*The India Way* is both an act of self-expression by a keen observer and lover of international relations, and a vehicle to communicate to the world how India is adapting to historic changes. The running theme in the book is that we exist in a drastically altered international landscape, wherein liberal globalisation and multilateral cooperation of the post-Cold War era are out and nationalistic contestation and geopolitical conflict are back.

Unlike in earlier eras, when India paid a heavy price by remaining insular and apathetic to big transitions in the international system, Jaishankar assures readers that it has its eyes on the ball this time. His book can be summed up as a call for India to exploit the growing fissures among the great powers and shed past inhibitions to self-confidently play the *realpolitik* game.

Since China's rapid rise and muscular assertions of dominance are the defining features of the present order, Jaishankar devotes considerable space to how India must size up the dragon and manage its challenge. He states upfront that "creating a stable balance in Asia is India's foremost priority" and makes a passionate plea for Indians to regain their "intuitive feel" for forging and maintaining balances of power

by harking back to Chanakya's maxims and the cold-blooded manoeuvrings in the Mahabharata. 'Bharat', as opposed to the modern construct of India, had the gene for power politics and Jaishankar seeks to reincarnate that part of our civilisational heritage in the current "era of greater nationalism" and sharpening international divisions.

Lamenting the history of India as a 'soft state' when confronted by violations of its sovereignty and terrorist violence, Jaishankar argues that what the country lacked in earlier periods was "a national elite with a strong and validated sense of its bottom lines" to reply categorically to foreign threats. He contrasts the "lack of response to 26/11" (the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks) with the post-Uri surgical strikes of 2016 and the Balakot airstrikes of 2019 to contend that the willpower to perform the "dharma of the state" is now firmer.

One of the motifs of the book is 'strategic clarity' and the need for India to be alert to the opportunities presented by schisms in the prevailing contentious international climate. During the Cold War, the flexibility with which China swapped alignment with the Soviet Union to the United States and took risks to advance its geopolitical interests gave it an edge over India, which was rigid and wedded to "consistency". Jaishankar, who was India's Ambassador to China from 2009 to 2013, insists India must take a leaf out of its crafty neighbour and master the art of "strategic deception" and cunning which China skillfully deploys to its advantage.

At the operational level, what

exactly is the "great pragmatism" Jaishankar advocates as the talisman for India to emerge as a leading power? Since Washington under the Donald Trump administration has diminished alliances and disrupted coalitions, India's chief diplomat is not sanguine about doing a China-like somersault, when Chairman Mao Zedong met President Richard Nixon in 1972 to corner the Soviet Union.

Instead of allying India formally with the US to counter-balance China, Jaishankar doubles down on the mantra of 'multi-alignment' and "loose working arrangements with convergent powers", including the US but apparently not over-reliant on it. For Europe and North America, which share India's democratic values, he posits India as a "safe partner" to reduce their dependence on authoritarian China as the go-to outsourcing destination.

What Jaishankar does not dwell upon is whether soft and loose coalitions on military and economic fronts will be sufficient to force China to back off from its expansionist path or at least mellow it down. Robust debate is required on the present Indian strategy to push the dragon back into its permissible confines. Is it optimal, or are more radical moves such as reopening the question of India's recognition of Tibet



THE INDIA WAY

By S. JAISHANKAR  
HarperCollins  
₹699

## ALL BOULDERS AND DUST, UNTIL MT KAILASH'S FIRST SIGHT

Rajinder Arora

excerpt

When the object of veneration is the same how does it matter what faith one comes from? Our lot were Hindus, our interpreter and guide a Buddhist, the driver who had brought us was of Bon faith but the mountain deity was the same.

Next morning, once again, 16 of us were bundled into an army truck with our baggage to the boot. Our onward journey resumed for a point called Trachen or Darchen. The departure was delayed by two hours, as the truck driver had not showed up in time. The driver, his assistant and our guide and interpreter, Dorze, occupied the three seats up front.

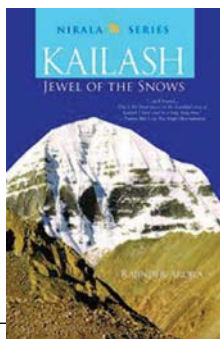
Crossing the bridge over River Karnali (Map Chu), we drove through a barren valley with sparse vegeta-

tion. There was no road, no markers and absolutely nothing anywhere around. Just the tyre-marks formed during the rain a few days before were the only guide. As the truck zipped across the barrenness, dust trailed us and came crashing at the truck. Sitting on the floor, our bums and backs were jolted every minute. The dust suffocated us. Mufflers and handkerchiefs came out to cover mouths and noses.

Though the sun was up, warming the surroundings, the breeze was cold. Except for boulders strewn all around us, there was nothing in that "moonscape". The closest mountain system was still some miles away. On and off, we would see hare

scurrying behind the boulders and bushes, scared at the noise the truck was making.

Since we looked out into the path we left behind, we could not make out what was ahead of us.



KAILASH: JEWEL OF THE SNOWS

By RAJINDER ARORA  
Nirala  
₹895

About one in the afternoon the truck stopped. We got off to relieve ourselves and to loosen our limbs. We had been driving south-south-east. As I got off the truck I spotted the snow-covered Ghurla-Mandhata range to our left in the west, only a part of it visible as it was curving south from our point of view. We were offered hot water from a few flasks carried by Dorze. About an hour later, Dorze opened the small window of the driver's cabin and indicated to us that we can now see Mt Kailash.

The truck stopped. All of us jumped out in quick succession and saw the majestic peak, still miles away. Though tiny, the first sight of Mt Kailash was mesmerising. We had trekked nearly 100 kilometres till now and here it was — our goal and the deity — in front of us. Folding our hands, we stood looking at the beautiful mountain. The abode of Lord Shiva and his consort, Parvati, in its resplendent form hypnotised us. A little later we saw Rakshas Tal, which comes in the view first, and only later, Holy Manasarovar gradually appeared on the horizon to our left, its bluish-green waters shimmering in the sunlight.

Driving along its shores we reached a point called Hor (or Hore) on the banks of Lake Manasarovar by three in the afternoon. This was the starting point for the *parikrama* (circumambulation) of the Holy Lake.

Excerpted from  
Kailash: Jewel of the SnowsTelling the  
India story, one  
dream at a timeSucheta  
Dasgupta

review

A certain solipsism tends to pervade works by modern-day Indian English litterateurs, whether in the themes chosen by them or in the style of their exposition, which recently led one of them to dryly compare them to the musings of diarists who survived, trite or profound. Refreshingly, for story lovers, this novel takes a giant step away from all that.

*A Burning* is an intimate and clear-eyed rendering of the lives and dreams of three people — a readymade garments showroom salesgirl who wants to be independent and affluent like a 'city girl', a traditional transgender with an acting dream and a simple-minded physical education teacher who is stern and loving to his wards in the old style but is also motivated by a gung-ho patriotism that germinates in him an incremental desire for acquiring the charisma of leadership. The story is set in Kolkata, with a few, unobtrusive "fabled city" references. In a moment of do-gooder sentimentalism, the girl reacts to a video on Facebook, and she is promptly arrested and jailed for complicity in a train burning. It is almost coincidental that the girl is Muslim.

It is a simple enough storyline, hence so much for spoilers. The writing keeps you holding on to the edges of your seat. Right up to the very end of it.

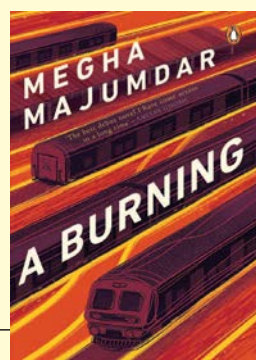
As the life of the *bhadrolok*, the genteel, in West Bengal grows smaller and staler, *A Burning* takes a hard individualist look at the lives of

the modern marginalised, shunning broad collective assumptions, thus humanising them. Characterisation is the writer's forte. In telling the characters' stories, the writer candidly describes their weaknesses, without judgment or evaluation, which lends a strange tenderness in the reader's mind when they witness their individual denouements. A reader of Bengali literature is reminded of the Bengali tragic realist literary tradition (Samaresh Basu et al.) that the writing, probably organically, reproduces.

The writer writes large parts of the novel in pidgin English. For example, she writes the voice of the hijra in the present continuous tense. Just like the Internet meme, lolcats, has bad grammar; it accurately portrays the hijra's stream of consciousness. What is remarkable is the writer's confidence that it will all work out well.

Is the novel political? That is the question many readers will ask. Do you agree with its politics, if any? The answer intrigues.

Slim at 300 pages, linear, intense and imbued with a spare, almost short story-like beauty, *A Burning* stands out with the lambent perfection of a single lily rather than an awe-inspiringly elaborate, non-linear, surrealist/speculative/magical realist, multi-dimensional, dazzling rose of a story. And it is, in fact, flawless, save for its lack of closer attention to bleeding heart liberals, a group that forms an important part of the dynamic. They are equally culpable in what this study aims to criticise. And they shift shape. The media, for instance, in this story could have been that group, but you cannot be sure, as there isn't a clue. However, you will hardly regret the hours spent between the pages of this burning exposé and exposition of a book.



A BURNING

By MEGHA MAJUMDAR  
Penguin Random  
House  
₹599



SHORT TAKES

Gul retires from all forms of cricket

**Karachi:** Pakistan speedster Umar Gul on Saturday announced he will retire from all forms of cricket after the end of the ongoing National T20 Cup.

The 36-year-old Gul, who played his last match for Pakistan — an ODI — in 2016, featured for Balochistan team in the National T20 Cup, which ends on Sunday.

His side lost against Southern Punjab (Pakistan) in Rawalpindi on Friday to be out of reckoning for the semifinals.

“With a very heavy heart and after a lot of thinking, I have decided to bid farewell to all formats of cricket after this National T20 Cup,” the 36-year-old wrote on his Twitter handle.

“I have always played for Pakistan with all my heart and 100% of hardwork. Cricket is and will always be my love and passion but all good things have to come to an end,” he added.

The Peshawar-born Gul made his international debut in an ODI in 2003. He played his first Test that year itself. His last Test was against South Africa in 2013. From 47 Test matches, Gul took 163 wickets at an average of 34.06. He also claimed 179 wickets from 130 ODIs, besides 85 wickets from 60 T20Is. — *PTI*

Mbappe fires PSG to top with brace

**Paris:** Kylian Mbappe shrugged off any lingering fatigue to score twice in his second game in 48 hours as Paris Saint-Germain defeated 10-man Nimes 4-0 on Friday to take over top spot in Ligue 1.

The France forward struck the opener on 32 minutes at the Stade des Costieres and netted again late on as a weary Nimes folded following the early dismissal of centre-back Loick Landre.

Alessandro Florenzi scored PSG's second on 77 minutes and Pablo Sarabia notched a fourth for the reigning champions as PSG climbed above Rennes on goal difference after a fifth successive win.

“I spoke with Kylian yesterday, he told me that he felt good and that he absolutely wanted to play,” said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel. “He’s the guy who can always make a difference and he did just that.”

Neymar sat out the trip after scoring a hat-trick for Brazil in a World Cup qualifier in Peru that did not finish until the early hours of Wednesday in Europe. — *AFP*

Zverev downs Harris, in semis

**Cologne, Germany:** Top seed Alexander Zverev edged out South African qualifier Lloyd Harris 6-4, 3-6, 6-0 to reach the Cologne ATP semi-finals on Friday.

Zverev, the world No. 7, made the most of Harris struggling with a leg injury in the final set. He is through to his third semi-final of the year where he will face Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

The Spaniard beat Dennis Novak of Austria 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 to reach his second ATP Tour semi-final.

Canada’s Felix Auger-Aliassime defeated Radu Albot 6-3, 6-0 to reach the last-four. The third seed now faces Spanish fourth seed Roberto Bautista Agut who downed Poland’s Hubert Hurkacz 7-6 (7/4), 5-7, 6-0.

Meanwhile, Russia’s Andrey Rublev edged closer to a maiden appearance in the ATP Finals on Saturday when he defeated Denis Shapovalov to reach the Saint Petersburg final.

Rublev, the third seed, came back to defeat the second-seeded Canadian 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 — *AFP*

Live on TV

CRICKET
<b>IPL:</b> Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 3.30 pm; Mumbai Indians vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD
FOOTBALL
<b>English Premier League:</b> Sheffield United vs Fulham from 4.30 pm; Crystal Palace vs Brighton & Hove Albion from 6.30 pm; Tottenham Hotspur vs West Ham United from 9 pm; Leicester City vs Aston Villa from 11.45 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD
<b>Italian League:</b> Bologna vs Sassuolo from 4 pm; Torino vs Cagliari from 6.30 pm; Udinese vs Parma from 9.30 pm; Roma vs Benevento from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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AB delivers again

De Villiers fashions RCB’s seven-wicket win over RR

**Dubai, Oct. 17:** AB de Villiers’ swashbuckling 22-ball 55 fashioned an incredible seven-wicket victory for Royal Challengers Bangalore over Rajasthan Royals in an Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

Chasing 178, De Villiers smashed six sixes to help RCB win the game after all seemed lost for them following the dismissal of Virat Kohli with the team struggling at 102 for three in the 14th over.

The seasoned South African launched into Jaydev Unadkat for three successive sixes in the 19th over to swing the match in his team’s favour. He finished the game in style, hitting Jofra Archer for a maximum with two balls still to go.

RCB lost Aaron Finch (14) after Australia’s limited overs captain had hit two sixes.

Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal stitched a 79-run partnership for the second wicket but consumed too many deliveries in doing so, failing to keep pace with the required run rate.

Kohli brought the team’s hundred by lofting Rahul Tewatia for a big six over long-on, but Padikkal, while trying to break the shackles after struggling his way to 35 off 37 balls, got out when his pull shot failed to clear Ben Stokes in the deep.

And then came the big wicket of Kohli, thanks to a brilliant piece of fielding by Tewatia, who pulled off a catch inches from the line at deep midwicket on the rebound after the batsman whipped it off his pads.

The ball travelled at a great speed but Tewatia, coming off a wicket in his previous ball, balanced

SCORECARD

**Rajasthan Royals:** Robin Uthappa c Finch b Chahal 41, Ben Stokes c de Villiers b Chris Morris 15, Sanju Samson c Chris Morris b Chahal 9, Steven Smith c Shahbaz Ahmed b Chris Morris 57, Jos Buttler c Navdeep Saini b Chris Morris 24, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 19, Jofra Archer lbw b Chris Morris 2. **Extras:** (b-1, w-7, nb-2) 10. **Total:** (for 6 wks, in 20 overs) 177.

**FoW:** 50-1, 69-2, 69-3, 127-4 (Jos Buttler, 15.3), 173-5, 177-6. **Bowler:** Washington Sundar 3-0-25-0, Chris Morris 4-0-26-4, Isuru Udana 3-0-43-0, Navdeep Saini 4-0-30-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-34-2, Shahbaz Ahmed 2-0-18-0.

**Royal Challengers Bangalore:** Devdutt Padikkal c Stokes b Rahul Tewatia 35, Aaron Finch c Uthappa b Shreyas Gopal 14, Virat Kohli c Rahul Tewatia b Kartik Tyagi 43, AB de Villiers (not out) 55, Gurkeerat Singh (not out) 19. **Extras:** (lb-1, w-11, nb-1) 13. **Total:** (for 3 wks, in 19.4 overs) 179. **FoW:** 23-1, 102-2, 102-3. **Bowler:** Jofra Archer 3.4-0-38-0, Shreyas Gopal 4-0-32-1, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-32-1, Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-46-0, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-30-1.

himself after nearly falling over the line to complete a fine catch.

Kohli made 43 off 32 balls with the help of two sixes and a four. The required run rate rose rapidly as RCB struggled to find the big overs, but de Villiers had other ideas.

Earlier, skipper Steve Smith’s counterattacking 36-ball 57 guided Rajasthan to 177 for six.

Smith struck six fours and one maximum before Chris Morris bowled a brilliant final over, conceding only four runs while taking two wickets to check RR from going past 180.

— *PTI*

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	9	7	2	0	14	+0.921
Mumbai Indians	8	6	2	0	12	+1.353
Royal Challengers Bangalore	9	6	3	0	12	-0.096
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	4	4	0	8	-0.684
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	0	6	+0.009
Chennai Super Kings	9	3	6	0	6	-0.386
Rajasthan Royals	9	3	6	0	6	-0.778
Kings XI Punjab	8	2	6	0	4	-0.295

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

Mumbai challenge awaits Punjab

**Dubai, Oct. 17:** They have been in rampaging form with five straight wins but Mumbai Indians can ill afford to be complacent against a Chris Gayle-inspired Kings XI Punjab side in their IPL game here on Sunday.

A win for Mumbai Indians will virtually seal them a spot in the play-offs while a loss for KXIP could send them out of contention.

Mumbai Indians have steamrolled opposition teams with an explosive batting line-up complemented by a lethal bowling attack and the latest side to bear their brunt were the Kolkata Knight Riders, who suffered an eight-wicket defeat on Friday.

Table-toppers MI boast of top batsmen such as captain Rohit Sharma (251 runs) and his open-

NUMBERS GAME

**HEAD TO HEAD**  
**OVERALL:** ● Matches: 25 ● Mumbai: 14 ● Punjab: 11  
**MEETING IN 2019**

- Kings XI Punjab beat Mumbai Indians by 8 wickets in Mohali.
- Mumbai Indians beat Kings XI Punjab by 3 wickets in Mumbai.

**MEETING IN 2020**

**FOR THE RECORD**

- Rohit Sharma, who has scored 3,979 runs at an average of 31.83 and a strike rate of 130.58 in 147 innings, needs just 21 runs to become the first batsman to reach 4,000 runs for Mumbai Indians.
- Chris Gayle’s 53 against RCB was his first half-century at no.3. He has played 405 T20 matches. He has scored 104 fifty-plus scores as an opener.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

ing partner Quinton de Kock (269) and both are in good touch, while the middle-order is manned by the likes of Suryakumar Yadav (243 runs) and Ishan Kishan (186 runs).

In the bowling front, pacers Jasprit Bumrah

and Trent Boult have formed the most successful pair this IPL with 12 wickets apiece from eight matches so far. Spinner Rahul Chahar chipped in against KKR with two wickets for 18 runs.

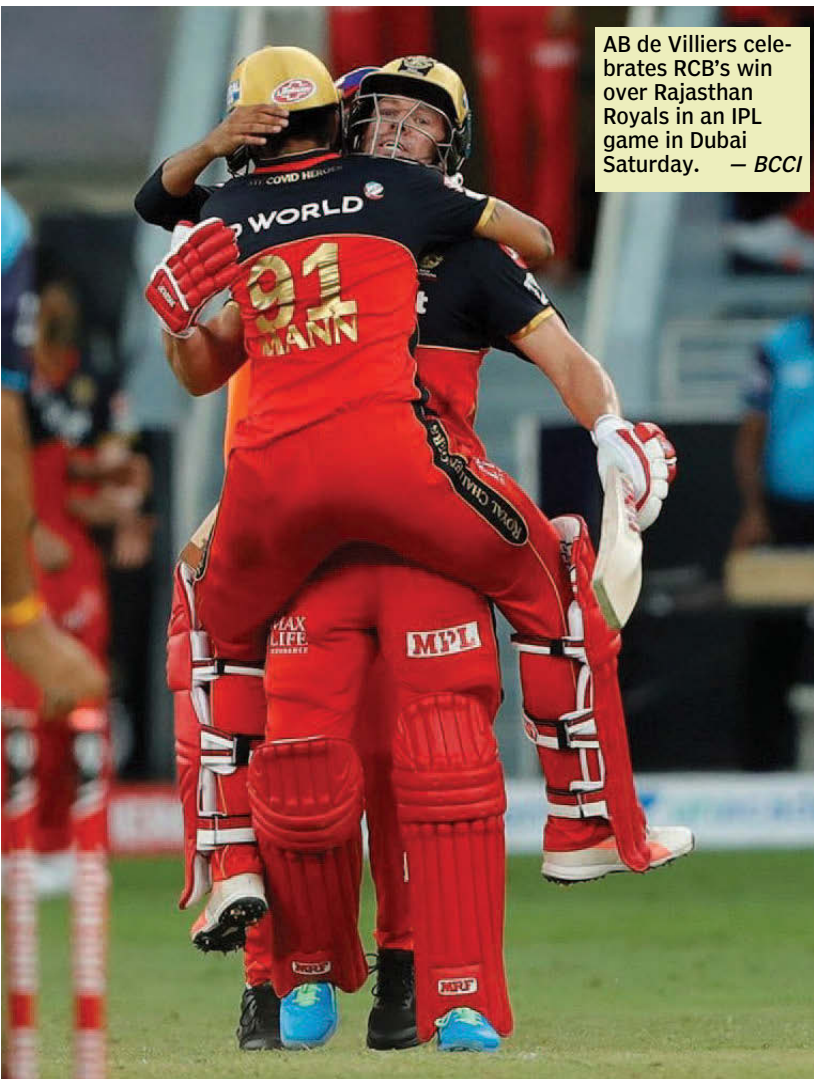
On the other hand, KXIP are languishing at

the bottom of the table despite having the top-two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K.L. Rahul (387 runs at a strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner, Mayank Agarwal (337 runs). KXIP’s problem has been that their batting and bowling have not fired in unison on most occasions even though their confidence has been boosted by the return of Gayle.

The self-proclaimed ‘Universe Boss’ made his first appearance this IPL with a bang, hitting a 45-ball 53, a knock that was laced with five sixes and a four in KXIP’s win over Royal Challengers Bangalore.

A captivating duel may be in store between Gayle on one side and Bumrah and Boult on the other.

— *PTI*



AB de Villiers celebrates RCB’s win over Rajasthan Royals in an IPL game in Dubai Saturday. — *BCCI*

TON-UP DHAWAN DOES IT FOR DELHI

**Sharjah, Oct. 17:** Shikhar Dhawan hit his maiden IPL hundred as Delhi Capitals defeated Chennai Super Kings by five wickets here on Saturday.

Dhawan’s 58-ball 101 not out was studied with 14 fours and a six. Delhi chased down the target of 180 with a ball to spare.

Earlier, Faf du Plessis hit his fourth half-century of the season before Ambati Rayudu produced another useful cameo as a collective batting effort propelled Chennai Super Kings to 179 for four against Delhi Capitals.

Du Plessis (58) added 87 runs with Shane Watson (36) after early

SCORECARD

**Chennai Super Kings:** Sam Curran c Nortje b Deshpande 0, F du Plessis c Dhawan b Rabada 58, S. Watson b Nortje 36, A. Rayudu (not out) 45, M.S. Dhoni c Carey b Nortje 3, R. Jadeja (not out) 53. **Extras:** (nb-1wd-3) 4. **Total:** (for 4 wickets, in 20 overs) 179.

**FoW:** 1-0, 2-87, 3-109, 4-129.

**Bowling:** T. Deshpande 4-0-39-1, K. Rabada 4-1-33-1, A. Patel 4-0-23-0, A. Nortje 4-0-44-2, R. Ashwin 3-0-30-0, M. Stoinis 1-0-10-0.

**Delhi Capitals:** P. Shaw c & b Chahar 0, S. Dhawan (not out) 101, A. Rahane c Curran b Chahar 8, S. Iyer (c) c du Plessis b Bravo 23, M. Stoinis c Rayudu b Thakur 24, A. Carey c du Plessis b Curran 4, A. Patel (not out) 21. **Extras:** (lb-1, w-3) 4. **Total:** (for 5 wickets, in 19.5 overs) 185.

**FoW:** 1-0, 2-26, 3-94, 4-137, 5-159.

**Bowling:** D. Chahar 4-1-18-2, S. Curran 4-0-35-1, S. Thakur 4-0-39-1, R. Jadeja 1.5-0-35-0, K. Sharma 3-0-34-0, D.J. Bravo 3-0-23-1.

fall of Sam Curran (0), setting it up nicely for the CSK.

Rayudu hit 45 off 25 balls while Ravindra Jadeja hit four sixes in his fiery 33-run knock as CSK collected runs in

the last three overs. One of Jadeja’s sixes landed on the road outside the stadium.

They added 50 runs in 3.3 overs during their unbeaten fifth wicket partnership.

— *PTI*

Murali’s biopic lands in soup

**Chennai, Oct. 17:** A Tamil film star is at the centre of a political storm after agreeing to play the lead in a biopic of Sri Lanka’s legendary cricket spinner and national hero Muttiah Muralitharan.

Vijay Sethupathi is under pressure not to accept the role in “800” — named after the world record number of Test wickets Muralitharan took, in addition to 534 one-day-international scalps.

Tamil politicians in India accuse Muralitharan, who retired from Test cricket in 2010, of betraying fellow Tamils in his country during a civil war that ended in 2009.

MDMK party, which opposes the Sinhalese-led government in Sri Lanka, demanded that Sethupathi not take the role, saying Muralitharan sided with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who as president defeated the separatist Tamil Tiger insurgency.

The United Nations and international rights groups have accused Sri Lankan forces of killing at least 40,000 minority Tamils in the final campaign against the Tigers.

The government has denied that it killed civilians.

The enmity dates back to 2013, when Muralitharan told then British prime minister David Cameron that he may have been “misled” by Tamil women who complained to him about disappearances during the war.

In a statement sent from the UAE, where he is working as bowling coach with Indian Premier League side Sunrisers Hyderabad, Muralitharan said his remarks about Sri Lanka’s ethnic war had been “misunderstood”.

“I know the pain of war and the loss it causes. I have never supported the killings of innocent people and will never support that,” Muralitharan said.

“I am perceived wrongly just because I was part of Sri Lankan cricket team. If I had (been) born in India, I would have tried to be part of the Indian cricket team. Is it my mistake that I was born a Sri Lankan Tamil?”

The Indian producer of “800,” DAR Motion Pictures, has said the movie is a sports biography with no political intention. — *AFP*



Everton’s Dominic Calvert-Lewin (top) vies for the ball with Joel Matip of Liverpool in their English Premier League match at Goodison Park Stadium in Liverpool on Saturday. The match ended 2-2. — *AP*

Late VAR call denies Reds win

**Liverpool, Oct. 17:** Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson had a stoppage-time winner ruled out for offside as Everton twice came from behind to salvage their unbeaten start to the Premier League season on Saturday in a pulsating Merseyside derby that ended 2-2.

Everton have still not won a derby for 10 years, but manager Carlo Ancelotti will be the happier of the two managers to escape with a point after Henderson’s strike did not stand for the most marginal of offside calls against Sadio Mane in the build-up following a VAR review.

A share of the spoils means Everton remain three points clear of their city rivals at the top of the table.

Liverpool were smashed 7-2 by Aston Villa in their last game before the international break, but started

THE RESULT	
<b>Everton</b> (Keane 19, Calvert-Lewin 81)	2
<b>Liverpool</b> (Mane 3, Salah 72)	2

like a side keen to make amends.

Mane missed the Villa Park mauling after testing positive for coronavirus and the Senegalese showed why he was badly missed with a smart finish from Andy Robertson’s cut-back to open the scoring.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin’s nine goals have been a major part of Everton’s flying start to the season, but the newly-capped England international missed a huge chance to put the home side in front as he failed to connect with Lucas Digne’s low cross five minutes into the second-half. — *AFP*

Morgan has onerous duties as new KKR captain



Ayaz Memon Over The Top

**E**oin Morgan’s first match as captain in the Indian Premier League turned out to be a disaster, Mumbai Indians beating KKR comprehensively by 8 wickets, with more than three overs remaining.

One can’t put Morgan under the microscope for his captaincy just yet. News of Dinesh Karthik stepping down from the job came on the day of the match against Mumbai, which meant Morgan may

have hardly had time to prepare for the onerous task.

I’ll come to the challenges that lie ahead for Morgan, who enjoys excellent credentials as a captain in white ball cricket. But let’s understand what compelled Karthik to quit midway through the season. Was it his own decision, as he has claimed, or was he under pressure from the team management?

Rumour mills have been

in overdrive. Some sources say the KKR management’s impatience with Karthik was growing, fueled by dissonance within the squad. Other sources say Karthik was distraught at his batting form, which he felt was letting the team down.

Such situations are never black or white, rather loaded with shades of grey. It could be that the KKR management had benchmarked expectations from the captain that were not met; it could also well be that Karthik was terribly upset with himself.

Strife over personal form, team performances and management expectations can also create a dynamic all its own — with no malice from any

quarter — which led to Karthik making way for Morgan. It needs to be highlighted that this is not the first time there has been a change in captaincy mid-season in the IPL. In 2019, Rajasthan Royals replaced Ajinkya Rahane with Steve Smith. In 2013, Mumbai Indians had Rohit Sharma take over from Ricky Ponting.

Whatever the reasons for changing captains, there is no guarantee it will produce the desired results.

Rajasthan, for instance, is struggling under Smith this season. But Mumbai Indians went on to flourish under Rohit Sharma, winning the title four times!

Change in captaincy is also not necessarily only because the team has suf-

fered setbacks, or the captain’s personal form has collapsed. Sunil Gavaskar and Rahul Dravid opted out after significant triumphs.

In 1985, Gavaskar relinquished the captaincy after he led India to a memorable victory in the World Championship of Cricket in Australia. In 2007, Dravid gave up the India captaincy after winning the Test series 1-0 in England.

This victory had come after 26 long years. A year earlier, Dravid had the team to a Test series win in the West Indies, the first time in 35 years in the Caribbean. These achievements were outstanding, yet he chose to give up the leadership position.

Giving up the captaincy is never easy considering the power and prestige that comes with it. If a player is giving it up on his own, there must be sufficient reasons — personal or external — for doing so. It is never a whimsical decision.

Interestingly, as is also evident from cricket history, high quality players tend to resettle to their profiles as ordinary members of the team, even if some part of themselves may always carry the thought whether they had done the right thing by giving up the captaincy.

While a new captain being appointed for a fresh assignment is commonplace, mid-stream change in captaincy is unusual,

and carries with it stresses and pressures for the new man, as well as other team members.

Imagine the hardship quotient in Morgan’s task now. Strategies may have to be reshaped, fresh ideations with coaches and selectors, new drills. Most importantly, a new rapport has to be struck with the same players who till the other day were answerable to someone else.

Over a longish period of time, this can be done with a fair degree of comfort. In the hurly-burly of the IPL, where teams and players barely have time to breathe, so to speak, this can be excruciatingly challenging.

Morgan’s job is unenviable.