

# THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 2020



## SPORT | 8

**Kapil Dev suffers heart attack, undergoes angioplasty; likely to be discharged in a few days**

www.asianage.com

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



## BUSINESS | 7

**Maharashtra invites Elon Musk's Tesla to set up electric car plant**

## DELHI AGE | 10

**Prabhas turns 41, social media flooded with b'day wishes for *Baahubali* star**



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## WINDOWS



Japanese actor Kaori Ito performs during a rehearsal of the play *Le Tambour de Soie* in Avignon, France, on Thursday. — AFP

## Working on return of 33 Indians stuck in Somalia: Centre

**New Delhi:** India is working towards the return of 33 Indian nationals stuck in the African nation of Somalia and is also working to provide relief to them external affairs minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday. According to news agency reports, the 33 Indians who were working with a company as labourers in Somalia have been virtually held hostage by their employers for the past eight months. Out of the 33 Indians, 25 hail from Uttar Pradesh.

## Dussehra a low-key affair in Delhi this yr

**New Delhi:** Citing lack of time for preparations and pending permissions amid Covid-19 pandemic, major Ramliia committees in the national capital have shelved burning of Ravan effigies, while others plan to employ light and sound effects to recreate "Ravana Dahan" this Dussehra.

## Rly to ferry luggage from train to home

**New Delhi:** Passengers travelling from Delhi, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon will be the first to avail the soon-to-begin "Bags on Wheels" service of the Railways through which their luggage will be transported to their homes from the railway station upon their arrival in trains and vice versa. — PTI

## COUNTERPOINT



Hope it's not a promise like achhe din!

## WEATHER

Max: 33°C  
Min: 17°C  
RH: 30%  
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Sunny

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Nija- Ashwayuja Suddha Ashtami till 6.59 am  
**Star:** Shravanam till 2.38 am  
**Varjyam:** 5.41 am to 7.22 am  
**Durmuhurtam:** 6.15 am to 7.47 am  
**Rahukalam:** 9 am to 10.30 am  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.42 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.27 AM**  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW 2.35 PM**  
**MOONSET TODAY 12.41 AM**

## BIHAR POLLS PM pays tribute to Ram Vilas Paswan, reminds people of 'lawlessness' under RJD

# Modi kicks off campaign, rakes up Art 370

**NAYEAR AZAD**  
PATNA, OCT. 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched his campaign for Bihar Assembly elections with three back-to-back rallies in Sasaram, Gaya and Bhagalpur where he castigated the Opposition over its stand on repeal of Article 370 and reminded people of the 15-year reign of "crime" and "loot" under the Rashtriya Janata Dal. In Sasaram, Mr Modi began his speech by paying tribute to veteran Dalit leader and LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan and socialist leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who passed away recently due to prolonged illness. Blaming the Opposition parties for "creating hurdles" in the progress of Bihar, Mr Modi said that "people have decided to stop all those who have a history of making Bihar a BIMARU state."

"They were so angry over being defeated by the NDA that they tried every possible way to sabotage the development of Bihar. I as Gujarat CM and Nitish Kumar from Bihar used to attend Central meetings regularly and I used to see him requesting them not to stop the development of Bihar. They wasted 10 years of Nitish Kumar as CM," Mr Modi said.

The RJD-led grand alliance has emerged as the main challenger to the JD(U)-BJP alliance in the state where polling is scheduled to begin in three phases from October 28.

Mr Modi, who is to address 12 public meetings across the state ahead of Bihar polls, sought votes for another term of the NDA government in Bihar, saying that he has been working with Mr Nitish Kumar only for the last three-four years and the state has progressed during this period. He also spoke of the poor law and order scenario during 15 years of RJD rule.

"The era of the lantern is over... people are now using electricity everywhere in the state. I don't have to remind you about the condition of Bihar before NDA, led by Nitish Kumar, came to power in Bihar. Earlier life would come to a standstill after sunset, but today roads and electricity are there. People live without fear in the present time," he said.

"The people who were once in power have greed in their eyes for Bihar which is now developing. People of the state must not forget the condition of Bihar when they were in power and how they pushed the state towards backwardness," the Prime Minister said.

**I bow my head at the feet of brave soldiers who were martyred in Galwan to save the honour of our motherland and the tricolour. In Pulwama also Bihar jawans were martyred.**

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

■ Turn to Page 4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) addresses a gathering during an election rally in Sasaram on Friday. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav (right) campaign at Hisua in Nawada district. — PTI



# Tejashwi: Laluji to be out on bail Nov. 9, Nitish's farewell next day

**Hisua (Bihar), Oct. 23:** RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav asserted on Friday that his father and party supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav will come out of jail on November 9 after securing bail in a fodder scam case, and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar will have his farewell the next day.

Votes for the state Assembly polls will be counted on November 10. Lalu Prasad is in judicial custody following his conviction in fodder scam cases. He was recently granted bail by the Jharkhand high court in the case related to Chaibasa treasury but his bail plea in another case of fraudulent withdrawals

## Modi 'insulted' soldiers, said no one intruded into Ladakh: Rahul

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
PATNA, OCT. 23

Former Congress president and the Opposition's party's star campaigner Rahul Gandhi on Friday launched his campaign for Bihar Assembly elections by addressing rallies in Hisua and Kahalgaon. In his speeches he attacked the NDA government at the Centre

and PM Narendra Modi over the Galwan valley. "The Chinese Army martyred 20 of our soldiers and took over 1,200 kilometres of our land. When China came inside our territory, our PM, insulting our heroes, said that no one came into our land. He is trying to mislead the people of Bihar," he said.

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from Dumka treasury is being heard. "Laluji is getting

released on November 9. He has got one bail and will secure another on

## RBI fears India entering recession in H1 of FY21

**FALAKNAAZ SYED**  
MUMBAI, OCT. 23

For the first time in its history, India has entered a technical recession in the first half of the year, said Reserve Bank of India deputy governor Michael Patra, quoting the projections of the Central bank for real GDP growth for 2020-21. According to minutes of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that were released by the RBI on Friday, the RBI deputy governor said: "The projections of real GDP growth for 2020-21 that are set out for the first time in the MPC's resolution provide a sense of the wounds on the soul of the economy inflicted by Covid-19."

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# Posters target Bengalis in M'laya

State govt appeals for peace ■ Cops warns those 'inciting communal disharmony'

**MANOJ ANAND**  
GUWAHATI, OCT. 23

After a racial campaign by an influential students' body targeting Bengalis ahead of Durga Puja, the state government on Friday appealed to all to maintain peace and harmony in Meghalaya.

The Khasi Students Union (KSU) had put up posters in Shillong accusing all Bengalis in the state of being "Bangladeshis". The state police has removed the posters and warned of action against those trying to "incite communal disharmony". Police specifically warned the KSU to refrain from such activities or face legal action.

Former Meghalaya governor Thagata Roy, also a BJP leader in Kolkata, tweeted, "I say this taking full responsibility as ex-

**I say this taking full responsibility as ex-gov of Meghalaya: Khasi Students Union needs to be banned just like Hynniewtre National Liberation Council. It is an anti-national terror organisation, threatening Indian citizens, some of whom are residents of Meghalaya since British times. Like my family on both sides.**

— Thagata Roy, Meghalaya ex-gov



governor of Meghalaya: KSU needs to be banned just like HNLC. It is an anti-national terrorist organisation, threatening Indian citizens, some of whom are residents of Meghalaya since British times. Like my family on both sides." The Hynniewtre National Liberation Council is a banned militant outfit in Meghalaya.

Meghalaya home minister Lakhmen Rymbui

said, "Anything we do, we should not vitiate the atmosphere... I request everybody not to give communal colour to any incident."

Sources in the student body indicated that the poster campaign has its roots in the Ichamati incident earlier this year when a KSU member was killed in clashes with non-Bengalis who were largely Bengalis. Violence broke out when KSU had organ-

ised a rally against the Citizenship Amendment Act and in favour of Inner Line Permit (ILP) in Meghalaya at Ichamati, a town close to the border with Bangladesh. One of the posters put up by KSU also mentioned the Ichamati incident and death of the KSU member.

Donald Thabab, general secretary of KSU, told reporters in Shillong that this was a protest against a "fake narrative".

"Recently we have had too many groups interfering in an ongoing investigation of the murder of a youth. This was our time to speak up and that is why we have decided to protest. They tried to give it a racial, communal colour. They made baseless allegations that the Christian majority is persecuting the Hindu Bengalis in areas like Ichamati," he said.

## ■ 'Look at India, it's filthy', says US Prez in final debate ahead of Nov. 3 election

# Trump, Biden spar over Covid, climate, racism

**Washington, Oct. 23:** US President Donald Trump and his challenger Joe Biden clashed over Covid-19, immigration, racism and climate change during their final debate, ahead of the November 3 presidential election, presenting Americans with sharply divergent views of where they would lead them over the next four years.

The two leaders attacked each other's positions on controlling the raging coronavirus pandemic and curbing the country's world-leading death toll of over 223,000.



US President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden participate in the final presidential debate in Nashville on Thursday. ■ Report: Page 6 — AFP

The prime-time debate in Nashville, Tennessee, was a less acrimonious and more substantive

affair than their previous showdown on September 29, which devolved into insults and name-calling.

The coronavirus dominated the opening minutes of the Trump-Biden face-off with President

**Look at China, how filthy it is. Look at Russia. Look at India, it's filthy. The air is filthy. We have the best emission numbers that we've had in 35 yrs under this administration**

— Donald Trump, US President

Trump terming the contagion a worldwide problem.

On climate change, Mr Trump accused China, India and Russia of not taking care of their filthy air as he justified America's withdrawal from the landmark Paris climate agreement.

"Look at China, how filthy it is. Look at Russia. Look at India, it's filthy. The air is filthy. We have the best emission numbers that we've had in 35 years under this administration. We are working so well with the industry," he said. — PTI

## SPECIAL REPORT

# Amid pressure from forces, militants shift out of south Kashmir

**YUSUF JAMEEL**  
PULWAMA, OCT. 23

Security forces combating three-decade-old insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir have over the past several months mounted pressure on militant outfits in south Kashmir, forcing the latter to shift their bases to central and north Kashmir. South Kashmir — consisting of the four districts of Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag — has been the hotbed of insurgency, especially since militant commander Burhan Wani and his two associates were killed by the Indian Army in July 2016.

The killing of 22-year-old Internet savvy poster boy of frontline indigenous militant outfit Hizbul-Mujahideen not only triggered widespread unrest in Kashmir Valley and parts of Chenab valley of Jammu region dur-

■ **SOUTH KASHMIR** has been the hotbed of insurgency, especially since militant commander Burhan Wani and his two associates were killed by the Indian Army in July 2016

ing which more than eighty people were killed, most of them in security forces' actions, it also inspired hundreds of Kashmir's youth to join militants' ranks. With it, the armed separatist campaign gained a new life, and south Kashmir became a stronghold of new-age militancy.

Also in the three years since Burhan's killing, most radicalised cadres within the Hizb and Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen ended up creating the Ansar-ul-Gazwat-ul-Hind (AGH), an Al Qaeda affiliate, the Islamic State

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## Pakistan will stay in global terror 'grey' list till Feb. '21

**New Delhi, Oct. 23:** Pakistan will remain in FATF's "grey" list till February 2021 as it has failed to fulfil six key obligations of the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog that include failure to take action against two of India's most wanted terrorists Maulana Masood Azhar and Hafiz Saeed, officials said on Friday. The virtual ple-

nary of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), held in the last three days, concluded that Pakistan will continue in its "grey" list. The decision has been taken after a thorough review of Pakistan's performance in fulfilling the global commitments and standards on the fight against money laundering and terror financing.

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## IN BRIEF

## DCPCR to launch International Journal of Child Rights

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on Friday said it is launching an International Journal of Child Rights, to encourage quality research, documentation and discourse in the field of child rights. The DCPCR, the statutory body for monitoring the implementation of rights of the children as well as to promote the cause of their rights, said it is launching the journal with an aim to provide a platform to people enabling child rights in various capacities, including interdisciplinary researchers, practitioners, and readers.

"The intent is to find answers to the challenges being faced while enabling child rights globally and with this journal, the commission aspires to build a stronger understanding of development, education, health and well-being of children," the child rights body said in a statement. It said the journal would invite fundamental or applied research papers, articles, research reviews, best practices in the domain, stories of change from the ground, documentations of field experiences, critiques of various state or privately run initiatives, interviews, policy analysis and book reviews. — PTI

## Dussehra: Covid-19 plays dampener

**New Delhi:** Citing lack of time for preparations and pending permissions amid COVID-19 pandemic, major Ramleela committees in the city have shelved burning of Ravana effigies, while others plan to employ light and sound effects to recreate 'Ravana Dahan' this Dussehra. The Ramleela Ground at Red Fort, the hub of Dussehra festivities attracting commoners as well as dignitaries, including the prime ministers and presidents every year, will be deserted this time. "We had applied for booking the venue at Ramleela Maidan about three months back, but the permission has not yet been granted by the Archaeological Survey of India. It is impossible to celebrate Dussehra with burning of Ravana effigy on October 25 this year as there was no time for preparation due to Covid-19," Ravi Jain of Shri Dharmik Ramleela Committee said. Some organisers, however, are trying their best to celebrate the day by cutting down on the scale of festivities as per the standard operating procedures for holding big gatherings amid the pandemic. In east Delhi, the Dussehra festival held at CBD ground near Karkardooma attracts thousands, but this year the size of the crowd cannot be more than 200 as per the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) directions, organisers of the Shri Balaji Ramleela Committee said. — PTI

## Over 82% seats filled under DU 2nd cut-off

**New Delhi:** More than 82 per cent seats in Delhi University have been filled after conclusion of admissions under the second cut off list, officials said on Friday. The university is expected to announce third cut off list on Saturday. "While 35,500 seats were filled under first cut off list, 22,147 seats have been filled under second cut off list. There are total 70,000 seats in undergraduate courses in the varsity," a senior official said. The Delhi University released its second cut-off list on last Saturday with admissions to many courses being closed and some programmes seeing a minor decline in the score required for admission. Lady Shri Ram College for Women had pegged 100 per cent score for three courses - BA (Honours) Psychology, BA (Honours) Political Science and BA (Honours) Economics. Seats were available under the three courses with aspirants requiring 99 per cent for BA (Honours) Economics and 99.75 per cent for both BA (Honours) Psychology and BA (Honours) Political Science. Similarly, BA (Honours) Journalism, which was available at a cut-off of 99.50 per cent at LSR, is available at 99.25 per cent in the second list. The first cut-off list was released on October 10. Almost 50 per cent of the seats have been filled under the first list. — PTI

10 AQI monitoring stations enter 'severe' zone  
Delhi air quality worsens

**New Delhi, Oct. 23:** Delhi's air quality deteriorated on Friday morning with several areas in the national capital recording "severe" levels of pollution, according to authorities.

The air quality index (AQI) on Friday was recorded at 374 as compared to 302 on the previous day.

The AQI for Delhi, however, is in the "very poor" category, the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) said.

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".

Ten monitoring stations in Delhi entered the "severe" zone, according to the AQI monitoring mobile application SAMEER, developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

These include Alipur with AQI of 447, Shadipur



A view of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium under heavy smog conditions in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

with 441, Mundka with AQI of 419, Wazirpur with 432, Anand Vihar with 405, Bawana with 413, Vivek Vihar with 422, Rohini-401, Jahangirpuri with AQI of 418 and Patparganj with 405.

According to SAFAR, extremely calm surface wind conditions prevail over the Delhi region and

are forecast to continue for two days.

"This will lead to low ventilation conditions for an extended period and accumulation of pollutants near the surface. Further deterioration of AQI is expected for the two days," it said.

"It is forecasted that the air quality will be in the

higher end of "very poor" on 24th and 25th October and may touch the "severe" category," SAFAR said.

It said a significant increase in stubble fire count was observed around Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring regions which stood at 1,213 on Thursday.

"However, as the boundary layer wind direction is not fully favourable for pollutant transport towards the Delhi region, the SAFAR model estimate of stubble burning share in PM 2.5 is 17 per cent for today," it said.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the air quality will deteriorate further with pollutants PM 10 (presence of particles with diameter less than 10 micrometres) and PM 2.5 increasing.

PM 2.5 are tiny particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter and can enter deep into the lungs and even the bloodstream.

— PTI

## Portal launched for seamless disbursement

## Delhi govt to give subsidy to over 100 e-vehicle models

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 23

The Delhi government has approved more than 100 models of vehicles, including 45 makes of e-rickshaw and 12 of four-wheelers, for subsidy under the new electric vehicles policy, transport minister Kailash Gahlot said on Friday.

"Vehicles priced up to ₹15 lakh will be eligible for the purchase incentive (subsidy), besides exemption of road tax and registration fee. Electric vehicles having a price over ₹15 lakh will not get subsidy but will be eligible for road tax and registration fee exemptions," he told a press conference.

The minister launched a website, evdelhi.gov.in, having details of approved models, dealers, subsidy disbursal

process as well as the network of 70 charging stations across the city. The 100 approved models of electric vehicles include 45 of e-rickshaws, 14 of two-wheelers and 12 of four-wheelers.

He also said 36 manufacturers have been registered with a network of 98 dealers across the city. Gahlot said that the whole process of subsidy payment will be online. Anyone purchasing an electric vehicle will require sales invoice of the vehicle, his aadhaar number and a cancelled cheque to claim the subsidy.

The dealer will process the subsidy claim on his end through the website. The claims will be verified by the motor licensing officers concerned and forwarded to banks for subsidy payment.

The minister said the

subsidy will be applicable from August 7, 2020 when the policy was notified. Road tax and registration fee exemptions will be applicable from October 10 and October 15, when the respective notifications were issued, he said.

At each stage of processing of subsidy claim, from the dealer to the bank, the buyers will receive updates through SMS, he said.

Under its EV policy, the Delhi government will give incentive of up to Rs 30,000 for two-wheelers, autos, e-rickshaws and goods carriers while a subsidy of Rs 1.5 lakh will be provided for purchase of electric cars, officials said.

The subsidy amount will be credited in the account of the buyer of e-vehicle within three days, they said.

## 5 Hindu Rao docs on hunger strike over pending salaries

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 23

Five resident doctors of the North Corporation-run Hindu Rao Hospital here began an indefinite hunger strike on Friday over non-payment of salary for the past three months. The doctors, who sat in front of the hospital's main gate, said they have no other option as verbal assurances won't feed them.

Members of the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of the Hindu Rao Hospital (HRH) have been protesting for the past several days and demanding the release of their salary for

## 4,086 Covid cases in city, highest one-day spike in 34 days

**New Delhi:** The national capital on Friday recorded 4,086 fresh cases of Covid-19, the highest single-day spike here in 34 days, while the death toll from the disease mounted to 6,189. The previous highest single-day spike in Covid-19 cases was recorded on September 19, when it stood at 4,071.

the last three months. "Five resident doctors of HRH have gone on a hunger strike starting

today evening as our demands are not being heard," a senior official of the RDA said. Neel Chakra Sahu, one of the five doctors sitting on hunger strike, said, "Verbal assurances won't feed us, we need concrete actions. We have no other option but to do this."

Doctors of NDMC-run Kasturba Hospital and Rajen Babu Tuberculosis Hospital have also been protesting over non-payment of salary. Sporting black armbands and shouting slogans, several resident doctors of the three hospitals held a joint protest at Jantar Mantar here on Thursday.

## Amazon Prime customer's account hacked, FIR filed

**Noida, Oct. 23:** An FIR was filed over an alleged fraud and hacking of an Amazon customer's account on the e-commerce giant's website, officials said on Friday.

The FIR was lodged at the Sector 20 police station on Thursday after the complainant, a Noida resident, alleged that her Amazon Prime account got hacked and the problem remains unresolved despite assurance from Amazon boss Jeff Bezos, an official statement said.

Noida Police officials said the FIR names as accused "Amazon employees" and a Madhya Pradesh-based man, Omkar, who was found using the complainant's Amazon Prime account.

"The matter has been handed over to the Cyber Cell and an investigation

has been launched into the complaint," a local official told PTI. When contacted, an Amazon India spokesperson said, "We have just been made aware of the matter and are in the process of retrieving the details from the concerned police station to help resolve the customer issue."

Surabhi Aggarwal stated in the FIR that she had purchased a membership of Amazon Prime, a paid subscription to premium services, including video streaming, by the tech giant, in February this year against a payment of ₹999 which is valid for one year. Aggarwal stated that she started facing issues with her subscription after around six months and was not even able to log into her account. — PTI

## Cop abducted by bus driver, aides; released in Firozabad

**New Delhi, Oct. 23:** A Delhi Police constable was allegedly abducted by the driver and attendants of a private bus from Kashmere Gate area here and released more than 250 km away in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad, officials said on Friday. The bus was later traced to Bhind in Madhya Pradesh, police said,

adding that they have detained the bus owner and his son.

According to the police, the incident took place on Wednesday night when constable Sachin, posted at Kashmere Gate police station, was on patrolling duty. During patrolling, he stopped a bus after he heard women's cries for help coming from the vehicle.

Once the bus stopped, two attendants started arguing with him. Sensing that something suspicious was going on inside the bus, the constable boarded the vehicle to check but the attendants

► The incident took place on Wednesday night when constable Sachin, posted at Kashmere Gate police station, was on patrolling duty. He stopped a bus after he heard women's cries

► The attendants and co-driver also snatched Sachin's service pistol and two mobile phones. When he resisted, they manhandled him. Passengers on board who objected were also threatened.

and the co-driver overpowered him and made him sit on the floor. The bus then sped away, police said.

The attendants and co-driver also snatched Sachin's service pistol and two mobile phones. When he resisted, they manhandled him. Seeing this, a few passengers on board objected but they were also threatened, a senior police officer said.

The accused then released the constable at Makkhanpur area near Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh. With the help of local people, the constable managed to reach

Makkhanpur police station and informed his seniors about the incident, the officer said.

During investigation, police found that the bus was operated by a man named Munna alias Rajeev Chaurasia and his son Ankit. The bus was then traced to Machhand village in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, he added.

A raid was conducted at Munna's residence and he along with his son were detained, the officer said, adding that they are also looking out for attendants who were in the bus, police said.

— PTI

## MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

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

09803/09804 Kota-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Kota Express Special (Weekly)					
TRAIN NO. 09803		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 09804	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	14:30	Kota		23:50	—
14:55	—	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra		—	21:55

**Days of Run :** 09803 from Kota on every Saturday from 24.10.2020 till further advice and 09804 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on every Sunday from 25.10.2020 till further advice.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

**Stoppages:** Indargarh, Sawai Madhopur, Ganganagar City, Hindaun City, Bayana Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Mathura Jn., Faridabad, New Delhi, Bahadurgarh, Rohtak Jn., Jind Jn., Narwana Jn., Tohana, Jakhal Jn., Sangrur, Dhuri Jn., Malerkotla, Ludhiana, Phagwara Jn., Jalandhar Cantt., Mukerian, Pathankot Cantt., Kathua, Jammu Tawi, Udhampur stations.

09805/09806 Kota-Udhampur-Kota Express Special (Weekly)					
TRAIN NO. 09805		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 09806	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	14:30	Kota		11:10	—
12:15	—	Udhampur		—	14:20

**Days of Run :** 09805 from Kota on every Wednesday from 28.10.2020 till further advice and 09806 from Udhampur on every Thursday from 29.10.2020 till further advice.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

**Stoppages:** Indargarh, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Hindaun City, Bayana Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Mathura Jn., Faridabad, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Kathua & Jammu Tawi stations.

02183/02184 Bhopal-Partapgarh Jn.-Bhopal Express Special (Tri-Weekly)					
TRAIN NO. 02183		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 02184	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	19:15	Bhopal		08:50	—
09:00	—	Partapgarh		—	19:10

**Days of Run :** 02183 from Bhopal on every Tuesday, Friday & Sunday from 25.10.2020 till further advice and 02184 from Partapgarh on every Monday, Wednesday & Saturday from 26.10.2020 till further advice.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

**Stoppages:** Vidisha, Bina Jn., Lalitpur, Jhansi Jn., Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly Jn., Jais & Amethi stations.

01449/01450 Jabalpur-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Jabalpur Express Special (Weekly)					
TRAIN NO. 01449		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 01450	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	07:10	Jabalpur		07:15	—
14:55	—	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra		—	21:55

**Days of Run :** 01449 from Jabalpur on every Tuesday from 27.10.2020 till further advice and 01450 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on every Wednesday from 28.10.2020 till further advice.

**Accommodation :** First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

**Stoppages:** Katni Murwara, Damoh, Saugor, Khurai, Malkheri, Jhansi Jn., Gwalior, Morena, Agra Cantt., Mathura Jn., Faridabad, Tuglakabad, Okhla, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Delhi Kishanganj, Shakurbasti, Bahadurgarh, Rohtak Jn., Jind Jn., Narwana Jn., Jakhal Jn., Sangrur, Dhuri Jn., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Kathua, Jammu Tawi & Udhampur stations.

04321/04322 Bareilly-Bhuj - Bareilly Festival Special Express					
TRAIN NO. 04321		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04322	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	06:35	Bareilly		20:35	—
09:30	—	Bhuj		—	17:05

**Days of Run :** 04321 from Bareilly on every Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday from 25.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 and 04322 from Bhuj on every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 28.10.2020 to 02.12.2020.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

**Stoppages:** Milak, Rampur, Moradabad, Amroha, Gajraula Jn., Hapur, Pilkhuwa, Ghaziabad, Delhi Jn., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt., Palam, Gurgaon, Garhi Harsaru, Pataudi Road, Rewari Jn., Khairtal, Alwar, Malakhera, Rajgarh, Bandikui Jn., Dausa, Getor Jagatpura, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Jaipur, Phulera Jn., Naraina, Kishanganj, Ajmer Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn., Falna, Abu Road, Palanpur Jn., Disa, Bhildi, Diyodar, Radhanpur, Santalpur, Samakhiali, Bhachau, Gandhidham, Adipur & Anjar stations.

04311/04312 Bareilly-Bhuj - Bareilly Festival Special Express					
TRAIN NO. 04311		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04312	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	06:35	Bareilly		20:35	—
12:05	—	Bhuj		—	14:05

**Days of Run :** 04311 from Bareilly on every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 27.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 and 04312 from Bhuj on every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 26.10.2020 to 30.11.2020.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

**Stoppages:** Milak, Rampur, Moradabad, Amroha, Gajraula Jn., Hapur, Pilkhuwa, Ghaziabad, Delhi Jn., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt., Palam, Gurgaon, Garhi Harsaru, Pataudi Road, Rewari Jn., Khairtal, Alwar, Malakhera, Rajgarh, Bandikui Jn., Dausa, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Jaipur, Phulera Jn., Naraina, Kishanganj, Ajmer Jn., Beawar, Sojat Road, Marwar Jn., Falna, Abu Road, Palanpur Jn., Mahesana Jn., Ambli Road, Viramgam Jn., Dhrangdhra, Halvad, Samakhiali, Bhachau, Gandhidham, Adipur & Anjar stations.

## REROUTING OF CLONE EXPRESS

09065/09066 Surat-Chhapra-Surat Clone Superfast Special will be re-routed as under:-

TRAIN NO. 09065		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 09066	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	08:30	Surat		13:45	—
Pass	12:40	Paldhi		Pass	09:00
13:10	13:15	Bhusaval Jn.		07:35	07:40
Pass	15:30	Khandwa		Pass	06:10
17:40	17:50	Itarsi Jn.		03:45	03:55
21:20	21:30	Jabalpur Jn.		00:05	00:15
Pass	01:30	Manikpur		Pass	19:55
03:05	03:10	Prayagraj Chheoki		17:40	17:45
Pass	06:00	Jeonathpur		Pass	15:45
06:50	07:00	Varanasi		14:50	15:00
08:40	08:50	Jaunpur Jn.		13:30	13:40
14:30	—	Chhapra		—	08:30

**NOTE:** Earlier Halt provided at Shahganj will be withdrawn and additional halt at Jaunpur Jn. will be provided with effect from (09065) Ex-Surat from 02.11.2020 and (09066) Ex-Chhapra from 04.11.2020.

## REVISION IN TIMINGS OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Revised Timings between Manikpur and Khandwa of 09090 Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad Special Train (Daily) w.e.f. 04.11.2020

STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 09090	
	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
Gorakhpur	—	10:00
Manikpur	Pass	20:05
Satna	21:15	21:25
Katni	22:55	23:00
Jabalpur	00:25	00:30
Itarsi	04:05	04:15
Khandwa	06:20	06:25
Bhusaval	08:40	08:45
Paldhi	Pass	10:15
Surat	14:35	14:40
Vadodara	16:30	16:35
Geratpur	Pass	18:10
Ahmedabad	18:35	—

Revised Timings of 04029 Muzaffarpur-Delhi Superfast Special at Hajipur Station with effect from 29.10.2020

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## SHORT TAKES

## Alok Verma takes oath as HPSC chairman

**Chandigarh:** Indian Forest Service officer Alok Verma on Friday took oath as the new chairman of the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC). Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya administered the oath of office to Verma at a ceremony held at Raj Bhawan here, an official statement said. Chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Speaker Gian Chand Gupta and education minister Kanwar Pal were among others who were present at the event. The 1989 batch IFS officer, a resident of Bihar, took premature retirement to join the coveted post. HPSC is responsible for the recruitment of 'Group A' officers in state departments. The 56-year-old officer, who was Khattar's aide-de-camp (Tour) during his first term as chief minister, will have a six-year term as HPSC chairman. He succeeded R.K. Pachnanda. — PTI

## Fake IDs found in AIMIM chief's office

**Thane:** Police have recovered fake Aadhaar and ration cards from the private office of Bhiwandi unit chief of AIMIM Khalid Guddu and his brother, who are currently in judicial custody in extortion and other cases, an official said on Friday. Police had last month arrested Guddu, his brother Bablu and their aides for the offences registered against them under various IPC sections, including 364A (kidnapping for ransom) and 384 (extortion), besides the Arms Act, the official said. "During the investigation against them, the police recovered 38 blank ration cards with rubber stamps marked on them, and 30 Aadhaar cards from their private office in Bhiwandi," DCP Zone-II Rajkumar Shinde said. — PTI

## Manipur bypoll: BJP wins seat unopposed

**Imphal:** Bharatiya Janata party candidate Ginsuanhau was on Friday elected unopposed in the by-election at the Singhat Assembly constituency in Manipur's Churachandpur district, officials said. He was declared unopposed after Independent nominee Chinlunthang withdrew his candidature on Thursday, they said. Ginsuanhau won the seat during the state election in 2017 as a Congress candidate. He had resigned from the assembly in August along with four other Congress MLAs, following the Bharatiya Janata party-led coalition government of N Biren Singh won the trust vote. Ginsuanhau later joined the Bharatiya Janata party and was named the party's candidate for the seat. — PTI

## M. SVASANKAR'S ARREST PUT ON HOLD TILL OCT. 28

**Kochi:** The Kerala High Court on Friday restrained the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Customs, probing the two separate cases in connection with the gold smuggling case, from arresting M. Sivasankar, suspended IAS officer and former principal secretary to the chief minister, till October 28. The Court gave the directive while considering together the anticipatory bail pleas filed by Sivasankar apprehending arrest by Customs probing the gold smuggling and ED investigating the money trail in the case. The court adjourned the case for October 28 for orders after completing the arguments in both the pleas. Earlier, the court had restrained the ED and customs from arresting Sivasankar till today. Strongly opposing the anticipatory bail plea, the ED on Friday submitted that the custodial interrogation of the officer was required as he was not cooperating with the investigation. The agency said the role of Sivasankar in the gold smuggling case was still being probed and granting him anticipatory bail will adversely affect the investigation. Earlier, in a written statement the ED has submitted that Sivasankar appears to be connected with the serious economic offence allegedly committed by prime accused Swapna Suresh. In its submission, the ED has alleged that the officer was "very close" to Suresh, a former UAE consulate employee, and would be sending WhatsApp messages to her throughout the day.

## Dilip Ghosh dissolves BJYM district units, rift out in open

**Kolkata, Oct. 23:** The rift in the BJP's West Bengal unit was out in the open on Friday after the party's state president Dilip Ghosh dissolved all the district committees of the Yuva Morcha, which is led by Saumitra Khan. Ghosh announced that for "some reasons" all the district committees and post of district presidents of the BJP Yuva Morcha are dissolved. "Till further announcements, their responsibilities will be taken care of by the respective district presidents of the BJP," he said in a statement. The development came just two days after Khan announced new district presidents of the Yuva Morcha. Khan, an MP, told reporters that he is not aware of the development. According to sources, Khan, who joined the BJP from TMC, is considered to be close to the party's national vice-president Mukul Roy. "Dilip Ghosh was not happy that he was not consulted before appointing Yuva Morcha district presidents. So he decided to use his powers as the state unit chief to dissolve the BJYM district units," a senior state BJP leader said. A few months ago, Ghosh expressed reservations over the new state committee of the BJP Yuva Morcha. — PTI

## Rahul starts campaign for Bihar polls, hits out at PM

NAYEAR AZAD  
PATNA, OCT. 23

Former Congress president and party's star campaigner Rahul Gandhi on Friday started his campaign for Bihar Assembly elections by addressing rallies in Hisua and Kahalgau.

While addressing the masses in Hisua he attacked the NDA government at the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Galawan valley issue and said that the Chinese army martyred 20 of our soldiers and took over 1200 kilometres of our land. When China came inside our territory then why our Prime Minister, insulting the heroes, said that no one came into our land. He is trying to mislead the people of Bihar by his statements which he should not do and speak about his plans to throw Chinese out of our territory".



Congress party supporters during party leader Rahul Gandhi's election in Nawada district on Friday. — PTI

Mr Gandhi's statement came in reaction to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech during his political rally in Sasaram, where he said, "Brave soldiers from Bihar were martyred in Galawan to save the honour of our motherland and the tricolour".

While addressing his political rally Rahul Gandhi also raised the issue of the migrant crisis and blamed the Centre for not extending any support to people, who were being pushed out of other states during the lockdown.

Addressing his first rally in poll-bound Bihar, Mr Gandhi said that "people of Bihar were promised two crore jobs during the previous Assembly polls but no one got them".

He also lashed out at the Centre for passing three farm laws. He said that "three farm laws are not god for farmers. First they put an end to Mandis and MSP in Bihar and now they are trying to do it in other parts of the country. This is an attack on the farmers".

## New Parl building by Oct. 2021



The current design envisages a new triangular Parliament building next to the existing complex.

**New Delhi, Oct. 23:** Construction of a new Parliament building will begin in December this year and is likely to be completed by October 2022, while necessary measures have been put in place to ensure that Parliament sessions can be held uninterrupted during this period in the existing buildings, Lok Sabha Secretariat said on Friday.

Officials also said that sufficient steps have been taken to control air and noise pollution during the construction work for the

new parliament building, which will have separate offices for all MPs and those will be equipped

with the latest digital interfaces as a step towards creating "paperless offices".

## NDA will form government in Bihar: Anurag

**Hamirpur, Oct. 23:** Union minister Anurag Thakur on Friday claimed that the NDA would form a government in Bihar and the "so-called alliance" of opposition parties would be defeated badly.

Talking to reporters, he said PM Modi carried out unprecedented development in Bihar, so the people of Bihar were all set to vote for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) this time too.

The BJP is committed to give free Covid vaccine and the people of Bihar would be the first to get the vaccine, the Union minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs said.

Talking about a statement of Himachal Pradesh Congress party chief Kuldip Rathore regarding the so-called rift in the state BJP, Thakur asked him to first see his own party that was on the brink of disintegration. — PTI

## Centre borrows, transfers ₹6,000cr to 16 states, 2 UTs

**New Delhi, Oct. 23:** The Centre has borrowed and transferred ₹6,000 crore as the first tranche of GST compensation shortfall to 16 states and two union territories, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, Assam, Delhi and J&K, the finance ministry said on Friday.

Last week, the Centre gave in to the demands of opposition-ruled states to borrow and fund the GST compensation shortfall.

The finance ministry said that the Centre would borrow from the market to pay the GST compensation shortfall of ₹1.1 lakh crore to states, and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to state governments.

The ministry said the government of India has evolved a special borrowing window to address the shortfall in the Goods and Services Tax collection during the year 2020-2021.

Twenty-one states and two union territories opted for this special window involving back-to-back borrowing coordinated by the Ministry of Finance.

Out of these, five states did not have any shortfall on account of Goods and Services Tax compensation.

"Today, the central government borrowed and transferred ₹6,000 crore as first tranche to 16 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh,

THE FINANCE ministry said that the Centre would borrow from the market to pay the GST compensation shortfall of ₹1.1 lakh crore to states, and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to state governments

Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and two union territories: UT of Delhi and UT of Jammu and Kashmir," it said in a statement.

The borrowing is at an interest rate of 5.19 per cent and tenor of borrowing is expected to be broadly in the range of 3 to 5 years, the ministry said it intends to release ₹6,000 crore to the states every week.

This arrangement, the ministry said, will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre and will appear as capital receipts for state governments.

The Centre had in August proposed two options to states: borrow ₹97,000 crore (on account of GST implementation) from a special window facilitated by the Reserve Bank of India or the complete shortfall of ₹2.35 lakh crore (including ₹1.38 lakh crore due to Covid) from the market.

The options have since been revised to ₹1.10 lakh crore and ₹1.8 lakh crore, respectively. — PTI

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is notified for the information of passengers that the timings of the 02306/02305 New Delhi - Howrah - New Delhi Rajdhani Special Train (Via Patna) will be revised as under:-

02306/02305 New Delhi - Howrah - New Delhi Rajdhani Special Trains				Weekly	
Train No.	02306	STATIONS	Train No. 02305	Arr.	Dep.
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	16.55	New Delhi	10.20	--	
21.40	21.45	Kanpur Central	04.55	05.00	
23.45	23.47	Prayagraj Jn	02.53	02.55	
01.55	02.05	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	00.55	01.05	
04.30	04.40	Patna Jn.	20.55	21.05	
08.20	08.24	Jashidih Jn.	17.40	17.44	
08.49	08.51	Madhupur Jn.	17.12	17.15	
11.05	11.07	Bardhaman	15.08	15.10	
12.25	--	Howrah	--	14.05	

**Days of Run:** 02306 Ex New Delhi on Friday from (25.12.2020) and 02305 Ex Howrah on Sunday from (20.12.2020)

**Accommodation:** 1<sup>st</sup> AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC

**NOTE :** Passengers are also informed that with the revision of timings of above train no. 02306/02305 Rajdhani Express frequency of 02301/02302 Howrah - New Delhi - Howrah AC Express (Via Dhanbad) will also be reduced from seven days a week to six days a week. The 02301 AC Express will remain cancelled on every Sunday from Howrah end and 02302 AC Express will remain canceled on every Friday from New Delhi end on the dates as specified below:-

Train No & Name	Days of Cancellation	Date of Cancellation from originating Station
02301 Howrah-New Delhi (via Dhanbad)	From Howrah Sunday	20, 27.12.2020, 03, 10, 17, 24, 31.01.2021 & 07.02.2021
02302 New Delhi - Howrah (via Dhanbad)	From New Delhi Friday	25.12.2020, 01, 08, 15, 22, 29.01.2021 & 05, 12.02.2021

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

## Beware of Touts

Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/ Authorised Railway Travel Agents only

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

**Note :** For any kind of Information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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Serving Customers with a Smile

## Odisha bypolls: Parties' campaign in full swing

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO  
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 23

Barely a week to go for the Tirtol and Balasore assembly bypolls, political parties in Odisha have geared up their campaign activities. Though the results of the bypolls will have little impact on the stability of the state government as the ruling BJD enjoys more than a two-third majority in the 147-member Assembly, losses and victories are most likely to come as future determiners for the major players in the fray.

The BJD, BJP and Congress are caught in bitter triangular fights

in the two assembly segments.

For the BJP which has been projecting itself as the alternative to the BJD, it is almost a do-or-die battle in Balasore where its new face Swarup Kumar Das is pitted against BJP's Manas Kumar Dutta, son of the deceased sitting MLA Madan Mohan Dutta.

In Tirtol also, the BJD is fighting hard against the BJP's Rajkishore Behera to retain the seat. Like BJP in Balasore, the BJD here has fielded Bijaya Shankar Das, son of deceased MLA Bishnu Charan Das ostensibly to gain from the sympathy factor.

The win for BJP from

both the places will be a big morale booster for the party ahead of the urban elections to be held early next year and hike its political stake in the state vis-a-vis the BJD.

For the Congress which ruled the state for over five decades, the by-elections have come as opportunities to salvage its lost pride. In 2019 polls, the party slipped into the third position, making way for the BJP to grab the second position, next to the BJD.

At both the places, the Congress has fielded news faces - Mamata Kundu in Balasore Sadar and Himanshu Bhusan Mallick in Tirtol.

## Minor tribal girl in MP missing since 1 year, father moves court

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY  
BHOPAL, OCT. 23

In a heartrending incident, a tribal in a Madhya Pradesh village has been running from pillar to post for the last one year to know the fate of his 15-year-old daughter, who was allegedly abducted from his house in broad daylight on September 24, 2019.

Tantoolal Rawat Adivasi (43), resident of Sua Khedi village, has been moving from one place to another to locate his missing daughter in the last one year.

But, it turned out to be an endless search for him so far since he has yet to get an inkling about his daughter. Tantoolal has filed habeas corpus before the Gwalior bench of MP high court seeking its intervention to know the fate of his daughter.

The court on Friday ordered the state government to either to produce the missing girl before it or submit a report on action taken by the police so far in the case by December 4 this year, Pawan Raghuvamsi, counsellor of the petitioner told this newspaper.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE WORK OF ROAD SAFETY FURNITURE & THERMO PLASTIC PAINT ON LINK ROAD UPPER BHODD TO BHUJ RAJPURA WITH LINK ROAD TURON IN PANCHKULA DISTRICT. + 1 OTHER WORK	24.10.2020 09.11.2020	41.48 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2920477 pwd-eeep-panchkula@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	VARIOUS ROAD UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAGADHRI PROV. DIVISION PWD B&R IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (BY PROVIDING CC M-40) (NABARD RIDF- XXV) CHHACHHRAULI KOT BASAWA SINGH TO DARPUR (ID 703) (KM 13.00 TO 14.00 CHHACHHRAULI KOT BASAWA SINGH DARPUR ROAD TO DAULATPUR (ID 703) (KM 0.00 TO 2.00) JAGADHRI CHHACHHRAULI ROAD TO CHANETTI (ID 662) 0.00 TO 1.00 + 2 OTHER WORKS	29.10.2020 12.11.2020	501.03 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	pwd-eeep- yamunanagar@hry.nic.in 01732-237834
3	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	RE-INVENTURE-GRADATION OF MADHO BAS TO ALAHAR UPTO BLOCK BOUNDARY (MRL-02) IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (PMGSY-III)	27.10.2020 10.11.2020	104.28 LACS	<a href="http://www.pmgstyendershry.nic.in">www.pmgstyendershry.nic.in</a>	pwd-eeep-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in 01732-237834
4	IRRIGATION AND W.R. DEPTT, HISAR	REMODELING OF WATERCOURSE OUTLET RD 37600-R, ADAMPUR DISTY. + 4 OTHER WORKS	22.10.2020 04.11.2020	114.85 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01662-230030 xenwarsd@gmail.com
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ, REWARI.	CONST. OF G.V.D & G.V.H AT VARIOUS BLOCK DISTT. REWARI	27.10.2020 05.11.2020	301.54 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01274-222260 9416421261 prexeeng.rwr@hry.nic.in
6	PANCHAYATI RAJ, REWARI.	CONST. OF 5 NOS VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTERS AT VARIOUS VILLAGE BLOCK-REWARI, KHOL, BAWAL, DAHINA, NAHAR	26.10.2020 04.11.2020	123.85 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01274-222260 9416421261 prexeeng.rwr@hry.nic.in
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KATHAL	REPAIR OF G.VH AT VILLAGE DHONS BLOCK KATHAL	22.10.2020 12.11.2020	2.70 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01746-234748 94161-91639 prexeeng.ktl@hry.nic.in
8	IRRIGATION AND W.R. DEPTT REWARI	REHABILITATION OF 4 NO. 60 CS (P-3, 4, 5 & P-7) & 1 NO. 35 CS (P-2) PUMPS AT PUMP HOUSE RECHARGE CHANNEL + 7 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 11.11.2020	EMD 3.01 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenmech@yahoo.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etendehry.nic.in](http://www.etendehry.nic.in)

RO No. PRDH-AdvT. No:- 11/2021/10485760000/83374



SHORT TAKES

Cook kills trans woman joint owner

**Coimbatore:** A cook in a restaurant run by a trans woman (59) was arrested on Friday for allegedly killing his employer and dumping the body in a drum here, police said. The cook Rajesh (23) alleged sexually harassed the trans woman Sangeetha (59) who warned him of going to the police if he continued to indulge in such harassment, they said. This made the cook angry and he killed the trans woman by slitting the throat and dumping the body, the police said. The body of Sangeetha with injuries was found in the drum on Wednesday following complaints of a foul smell, they said. Investigations led to the arrest of Rajesh on Thursday. He had also stolen ₹20,000 from Sangeetha's house after the crime, the police said. Sangeetha had opened "Trans Kitchen" in the city a month ago. — *PTI*

K'taka tech colleges to reopen Nov. 17

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government on Friday decided to reopen engineering, diploma and degree colleges that were shut since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic, from November 17, with students free to opt for online or offline classes or a mix of both. "In a meeting that took place under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, it was decided to start degree colleges from November 17. Engineering, diploma and degree colleges will all start," deputy chief minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan said. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, he said students would have the option to either attend classes physically or online or go for blended learning by using both options. Those who wished to attend classes by coming to colleges should have their parents' consent, he said. — *PTI*

Militants shift out of S. Valley

■ **Continued from Page 1** Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK) and the Islamic State's Hind Province (ISHP), another ISIS affiliate. However, in their stepped up operations, the Indian Army and other security forces have inflicted heavy casualties on militants during the past four years. Officials say that nearly 1,000 militants, including more than three dozen commanders, were killed in counterinsurgency operations, 187 of them so far this year even though the security forces also suffered a heavy toll — more than 40 in the past one year alone. Hundreds of civilians too perished during this period. Most of the killings took place in south Kashmir. Despite these killings, major militant outfits found new recruits from among the local youth in large numbers. At the same time, sustained pressure from the security forces and tightening of borders led to logistical issues within established militant groups such as the Hizb and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT), officials said. They added that the shortage of weapons in these outfits and increasing incidents of weapon snatching from security forces over the past couple of years is testimony to that. Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju, the commander of the Army's Srinagar-based 15 corps (also known as Chinar corps), recently said that even though infiltration from across the Line of Control (LoC) has been restricted to a fewer incidents due to the increased vigil, recruitment of local youth into militants' ranks went up slightly in September-October. According to the security forces officials, that militants are shifting their bases out of south Kashmir is borne out by the fact that as many as eight encounters took place in Srinagar city alone this year, in which 18 militants, including an important Hizb commander Junaid Ashraf Khan, were killed. However, J&K's police chief Dilbag Singh claimed, "Whenever any terrorist outfit tries to establish its foothold in Srinagar, we successfully corner the militants with the help of our intelligence and other sources." Officials privately also say that they will soon be shifting their focus to central and north Kashmir to take on militants more effectively. However, CRPF director general for North India Zulfiqar Hassan told this correspondent that security forces cannot afford to lower their guard in south Kashmir as militants keep changing their locations.



Women from the farming community raise slogans as they take part in the ongoing farmers agitation against the central governments newly-introduced farm bills in Amritsar on Friday. Farmers from across Punjab are protesting against the three farm farm and the new Electricity Bill 2020, stating that these are against the interests of the farmers. — *PTI*

Khadse: Sr BJP leaders advised me to join NCP

SONU SHRIVASTAVA  
MUMBAI, OCT. 23

Claiming that several senior leaders are unhappy in the BJP and want to quit the party, former Maharashtra minister Eknath Khadse on Friday said that he joined the Sharad Pawar-led party as advised by some senior BJP leaders from Delhi. Mr Khadse, who has been sulking in the BJP ever since he had stepped down from the Maharashtra cabinet in 2016 after corruption charges, joined the NCP along with his daughter and number of supporters in presence of NCP president Sharad Pawar.

The 68-year-old leader, who was BJP's OBC face in the state along with late Gopinath Munde, said his supporters as well as his senior from Delhi wanted him to join the NCP. While joining the NCP, he said that injustice was meted to him in the BJP and that he was fleeced, insulted and defamed and a false charge like molestation, too, was levelled against him. "When I discussed the situation with seniors in Delhi, they said Natha Bhau (Khadse) you don't have a future here (in the BJP). I asked what I should do? They asked me



Eknath Khadse

to change the party. I asked which one should I join? Then they suggested the NCP," Mr Khadse said. He also claimed that several leaders in the BJP are fed up and think they should jump the ship but cannot do so as they are apprehensive the ED will be after them. "I am not afraid of anyone. If they send ED after me, I will play a CD," he said. In his induction ceremony at the NCP office, Mr Khadse showed his influence in the Jalgaon unit of the BJP as his supporters including Jalgaon district general secretary and members of zila parishad and panchayat samiti turned out in large numbers. Targeting the BJP state leadership, Mr Khadse said that after serving 40 years in the BJP, he did not want to leave the party but he was forced to do so as he had been defamed and harassed in the last four years.

Jaishankar: India invested deeply in success of UN

**New Delhi, Oct. 23:** As a founding member of the United Nations, India invested deeply in success of the world body and will continue to work with vigour to bring its goals and objectives closer to aspirations of the member states, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday. Mr Jaishankar was speaking at an event after releasing a commemorative postage stamp on the 75th anniversary of the UN. The stamp was brought out by the department of posts (DOP). "As a founding member of the United Nations, India is invested with its heart and soul, right from the crafting of the principles of the UN Charter to being in the forefront of keeping its peace," he said. India has been a major contributor of troops to the UN's peacekeeping missions across the world. Mr Jaishankar described the 75th anniversary of the UN as a significant milestone for the organisation, saying the global body has served as a platform for the nations of the world to come together under one roof and "dream and work" together towards a better future for humankind. — *PTI*

Needs to do more on checking terror funding: Watchdog  
FATF dashes Pak hopes of getting out of grey list

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 23

In a major boost to India's position on the menace of terrorism, global anti-terror-financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has reportedly decided to retain Pakistan in the FATF grey list at least till February next year for its failure to take action on six important action items out of a total of 27. According to media reports from Islamabad, FATF president Marcus Pleyer announced the decision to keep Pakistan in the grey list at a press briefing held after the FATF's virtual three-day (October 21-23) plenary session that concluded on Friday. The FATF's "grey list" comprises nations like Pakistan who have failed to fulfil their obligations to combat terror-financing. Pakistan was put in the FATF grey list in June 2018.

Pakistan failed to fulfil six of the 27 mandates so far as a result of which the country continues to be in the grey list of the FATF. "Pakistan failed to fulfil six of the 27 mandates given to check terror funding," Mr Pleyer said. The FATF chief said Islamabad must impose a sanction and prosecute those involved in terror financing. "Pakistan needs to do more on checking terror funding, it can't

▶ **PAKISTAN FAILED** to fulfil six of the 27 mandates so far as a result of which the country continues to be in the FATF grey list. Pakistan was put in the grey list in June 2018. site to exit the grey list, according to these media reports. It may be recalled that India too had said on Thursday that Pakistan has failed to take action on "six important action items" stipulated by the FATF and had hinted clearly that Islamabad did not deserve to escape the grey list. India had also accused Pakistan of "continuing to provide safe havens to terrorist entities and individuals" and not taking any action "against several terrorist entities and individuals, including those proscribed by the UNSC such as MasoodAzhar, Dawood Ibrahim, Zakir-ur-RahmanLakhvi".

Won't raise any other flag till J&K's flag is restored: Mehbooba Mufti

'Country will be governed by Constitution, not BJP's manifesto'

YUSUF JAMEEL  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 23



Mehbooba Mufti

Former chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said that she would not raise any other flag other than that of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir till its special status is restored. "I won't hold any other flag until our state flag is returned," she said as a table flag of erstwhile J&K stood displayed at her maiden press conference here after her release from a 14-month-long detention. Asked about her statement that there would be no one left in J&K to raise the Indian national flag if Article 370 was abrogated that she gave days before the erstwhile state was stripped of its special status and split up into two Union Territories on August 5 last year, Ms Mufti reiterated, "I'm not going to raise any other flag till the flag of the Jammu and Kashmir state is returned." She said that

hoist side representing the three geographic regions of the state — Jammu, the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh. The flag was adopted by J&K National Conference, the oldest political party of the state, on July 11, 1939. It was made the official flag of the state on June 7, 1952 through a resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir. As per the Delhi Agreement of 1952 between then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and J&K Prime Minister Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, the tricolour had the same status in Jammu and Kashmir as in the rest of India. Article 144 of the J&K Constitution had made it mandatory to hoist the state flag alongside the national flag. However, three weeks after the abrogating of the special status, the state flag was removed from Srinagar's civil Secretariat and other government buildings by the authorities. It stands defunct since.

Defiant Mufti pledges to fight for 370 restoration

YUSUF JAMEEL  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 23

Renewing her pledge to fight for the restoration of J&K special status till her last breath, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, said that the Centre had no right or power to abrogate Article 370. She regretted posing her faith in Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and even allying with the BJP. She also said that the bigger issue before her, the PDP and the people of J&K was to seek the resolution of Kashmir issue. "Our fight is not confined for the restoration of Article 370, but for the resolution of Kashmir issue as well. Kashmir is an issue and nobody can turn a eye blind to it," she said while addressing the media. Sixty-one-year-old, Mufti who looked in a defiant mood, said, "Those who think we will forget Article 370 are living in fool's paradise. People have given a lot of sacrifices and we won't allow those sacrifices to go waste." Asked about the PDP's joining hands with the BJP to cobble up a government in J&K way back in 2015, she said that she regretted posing faith in Mr Modi who belonged to a party of which Atal Behari Vajpayee was also a part. She also asserted that it was not the PDP's alliance with the BJP that led to the abrogation of Article 370. "It was the Parliament that was misused. Parliament had no right to do this," she said. The former chief minister accused the BJP government of trying to replace the Constitution of the country with the party manifesto. She said, "These leaders of BJP have ruined the Constitution of India. This country will work on the constitution and not BJP manifesto."

LAC row...

■ **Continued from Page 1** friends and partners and reflects our belief that the US and India are stronger, more secure, and more prosperous when we work together. The 2+2 talks will focus on global cooperation, on pandemic response, and challenges in the Indo-Pacific: economic space and energy collaboration, people-to-people ties, and defence and security cooperation." As reported earlier, US secretary of state Michael R. Pompeo and secretary of defence Mark T. Esper will be visiting New Delhi on October 26 and 27 and will hold talks with their Indian counterparts, S. Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh. India and the US could ink the BECA defence pact for "greater geospatial information-sharing" during the Indo-US 2+2 talks. According to reports, the BECA pact will enable India to use US geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery to improve the accuracy of its missiles and drones, a development that could prove crucial amid the situation in Ladakh where there is heavy deployment of both Indian and Chinese troops. The BECA is the third proposed defence pact between the two countries after the signing of the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement in 2016 and the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement in 2018. Commenting on his visit to Indonesia, another US official said, "You've seen Indonesia has pushed back on Chinese ships fishing in its Exclusive Economic Zone illegally. And so there are things that we have done, again, that empower these countries to push back."

Maha announces ₹10K cr relief for rain-hit farmers

SONU SHRIVASTAVA  
MUMBAI, OCT. 23

In a bid to provide relief to farmers, who have suffered damages owing to heavy rains and floods, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday announced a ₹10,000 crore package. The announcement was made following a review meeting held by the chief minister at his official residence Varsha bungalow to discuss damage due to excessive rains in the state. However, the BJP termed the relief package as a sham and said that some of the provisions made in the state's annual budget have been shown as the package. Speaking to reporters, the chief minister said that his government has decided to provide financial aid bigger than the prescribed norms of NDRF (National Disaster



Uddhav

Relief Fund). "We will provide ₹10,000 per hectare for dryland as well as irrigated land with upper limit of landholding of two hectares," he added. The horticulture crop would be given ₹25,000 per hectare compensation with maximum landholding of two hectares. However, compensation against the loss of life of the livestock and house damage would be provided as per the NDRF norms. Out of a total ₹10,000 crore packages, ₹5,500 crore have been allocated for agriculture damages. While ₹2,665 crores would be given for

▶ **HORTICULTURE CROP** would be given ₹25,000 per hectare compensation with maximum landholding of two hectares. Compensation against the loss of life of the livestock and house damage would be provided as per the NDRF norms.

roads and bridges, ₹300 crores for the urban development department, ₹239 crores for department of power, ₹102 crores for water resources department and ₹1,000 crores for sanitation department as well as rural roads. A senior official said that the disbursement of financial aid will be done in next 15 days based on Panchanama report. The money would be directly credited to the bank accounts of the farmers. Maharashtra has witnessed the heavy rains, which caused a great calamity leading to huge losses.

Teen held for cutting b'day cake with sword

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, OCT. 23

The Nagpur police on Friday attested a teenager for celebrating his birthday and cutting the cake with a sword after the video of this party went viral. The crime branch has seized the sword and arrested the 19-year-old accused. The officials said that the pictures of the birthday party went viral in which the accused was visible cutting the cake with a sword in presence of his friends. The police later identified the teenager as Nikhil Patel and tracked him down with the help of the posts on social media. "One of his friends uploaded the picture on social media and it was later circulated by many others following which it went viral," said a

police officer. The Pardi police station later registered a case against him and began a probe in the incident. A team of crime branch later raided Patel's house and found the sword there. He was arrested soon after. The police are questioning him on the source of the sword and are also verifying if it was used in any crime in the past. The officials are yet unclear on why he was in possession of the weapon. The crime branch will also grill his friends who were also present at the party and check their antecedents. The police registered a case of arms act and the Maharashtra police act against Patel and others. The police produced him in a local court that remanded him to official custody for further investigation in the case.

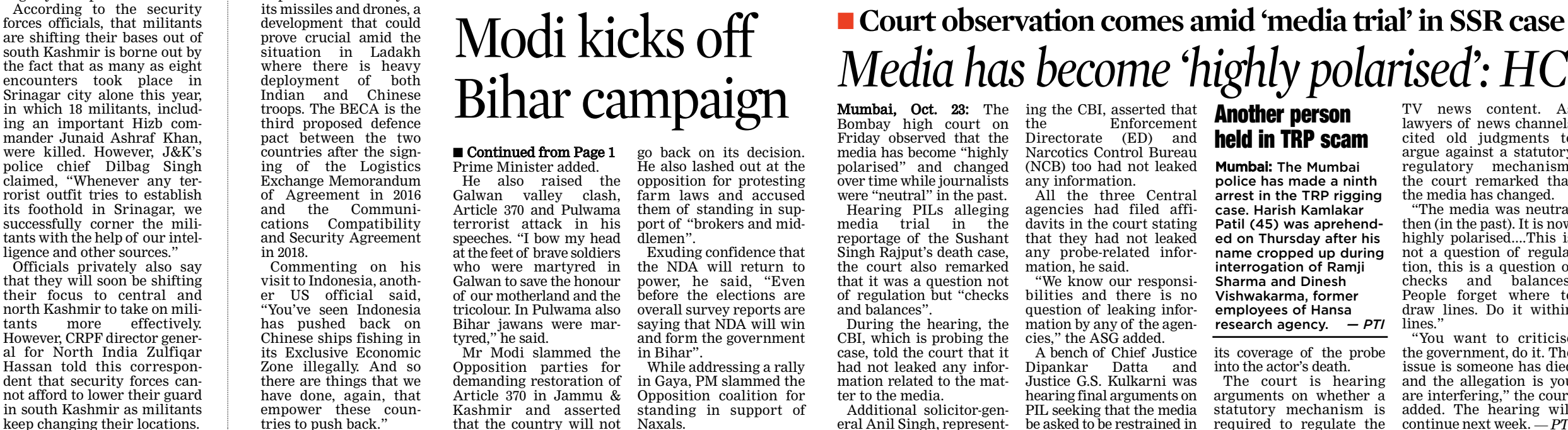
Court observation comes amid 'media trial' in SSR case  
Media has become 'highly polarised': HC

**Mumbai, Oct. 23:** The Bombay high court on Friday observed that the media has become "highly polarised" and changed over time while journalists were "neutral" in the past. Hearing PILs alleging media trial in the reportage of the Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, the court also remarked that it was a question not of regulation but "checks and balances". During the hearing, the CBI, which is probing the case, told the court that it had not leaked any information related to the matter to the media. Additional solicitor-general Anil Singh, represent-

ing the CBI, asserted that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) too had not leaked any information. All the three Central agencies had filed affidavits in the court stating that they had not leaked any probe-related information, he said. "We know our responsibilities and there is no question of leaking information by any of the agencies," the ASG added. A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing final arguments on PIL seeking that the media be asked to be restrained in

▶ **Another person held in TRP scam** Mumbai: The Mumbai police has made a ninth arrest in the TRP rigging case. Harish Kamalakar Patil (45) was apprehended on Thursday after his name cropped up during interrogation of Ramji Sharma and Dinesh Vishwakarma, former employees of Hansa research agency. — *PTI*

TV news content. As lawyers of news channels cited old judgments to argue against a statutory regulatory mechanism, the court remarked that the media has changed. "The media was neutral then (in the past). It is now highly polarised...This is not a question of regulation, this is a question of checks and balances. People forget where to draw lines. Do it within lines." "You want to criticise the government, do it. The issue is someone has died and the allegation is you are interfering," the court added. The hearing will continue next week. — *PTI*





## THE ASIAN AGE

24 OCTOBER 2020

### Polls before policy? BJP vaccine carrot unethical

The announcement of Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the Assembly election campaign trail in Bihar on Thursday that the BJP would offer free anti-Covid vaccines to everyone in Bihar is apt to be seen as a con by the people of the state. This is because it is widely understood that the timelines for the arrival of a safe, effective, efficacious vaccine are fuzzy and confusing.

Top labs and top scientists in the world have made contradictory observations on this matter, although some governments, including our own, have chosen the seemingly reassuring way and hinted that we should have the cure in the bag early next year. Here too the basis is purely political, with not a shred of science attaching to it.

The government strategy is clearly to spread a 'feel-good' sentiment. The underlying message is that the government is in control, and that we are

**If cynical opportunism is what the BJP is playing at in order to defend its electoral position in Bihar, then Bihar can ask about the promise of a 'special package' that has been spoken of ad nauseam by chief minister Nitish Kumar for more than a decade**

is only for the state going to the polls, then it is clearly a bribe — a case of the use of political power to influence an election in which the ruling coalition's prospects look less promising than previously. More, there is also the question of all states having equal status in the eyes of the Centre.

If cynical opportunism is what the BJP is playing at in order to defend its electoral position in Bihar, then Bihar can ask about the promise of a "special package" that has been spoken of *ad nauseam* by chief minister Nitish Kumar for more than a decade.

On the coronavirus front, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pointed the right way recently when he said that in the distribution of the vaccine the country will have to take the right lessons from the planning of logistics in the process of holding national elections or coping with natural calamities. This would need a national-level conceptualisation and distribution effort. Those at the frontlines of risk, such as health workers, will have to be prioritised, followed by those placed high under a hierarchical gradation of vulnerability, for example elderly people with co-morbidities. The BJP's announcement in Bihar mocks such planning and places narrow politics above the nation.

### Pope and family values

Christians live their lives in the perpetual fear of their sins catching up with them as they fight the world, the flesh and the devil but Jesus Christ would not have intended it that way when he built his church on the rock called Peter, the first Pope. The Lord was unequivocal when he said "my yoke is light and my burden is easy", promising to make a break with a believer's life till then, tied to the tough knots of rules, rituals and sets of beliefs. The Church had different ideas about itself. Over the course of history, it built on itself immense structures and then the paraphernalia to protect them. The yoke ceased to be light and the burden grew to be daunting.

Pope Francis, the bag-carrying Franciscan in Jesuit robe who wrote encyclical *fratelli tutti* to drive home the point that all are brothers, now says LGBT persons have the same rights every other who belongs to the species has. *Francesco*, the newly-released documentary on the Pope has him say this: "Homosexuals have a right to be a part of the family. They're children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out, or be made miserable because of it."

The conservatives say the Pope has only reminded the families of LGBT persons not to throw them out and that it is not an imprimatur for them to start families of their own; the liberals see some fresh thought entering the dogmatic Holy See. The debate could heat up in the coming days, and well, Jesus had seen it happening. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." We would say amen to that and then wait for the yoke to lighten and the burden to ease at the end of it all.

#### THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY  
Editor in Chief

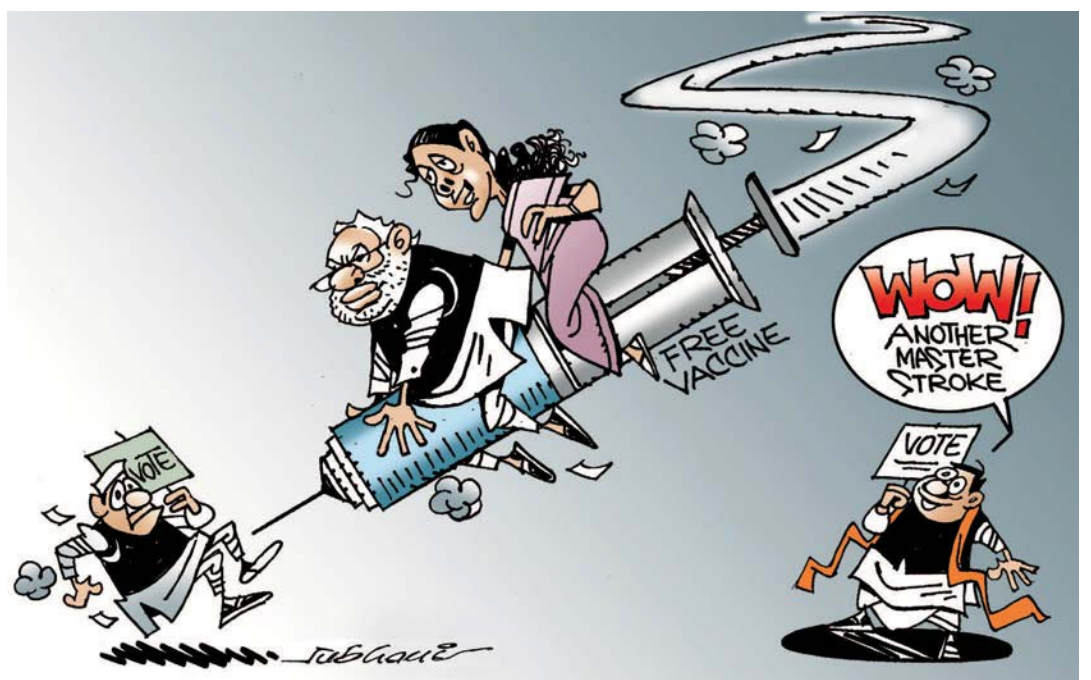
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Subhani



## The 'perils' of euphoria: Govt messaging flawed



Shashidhar Nanjundaiah

Why are you people not listening?" That might as well have been the central problem for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's seventh coronavirus-related address to the nation on October 20, when he exhorted us to adhere to the Covid-19 safety norms and not falsely assume that the coronavirus has gone. The answer to that presumed question, however, lies in his government's political messaging in its health communications.

The problem is by no means exclusive to India. The United States and India now have the most numbers of Covid-19 cases, and arguably, mixed messages have exacerbated the crisis. The 2020 Ig Nobel Prizes for Medical Education —the global satirical "awards" for the worst inventions and ideas—was "awarded" to, among others, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump for "teaching the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can".

In the US, Mr Trump outdid himself in September by offering a confusing array of rhetoric related to the coronavirus, swaying back and forth between conflicting messages. As a result, that nation is divided between mask-wearers and non-wearers, largely differentiated on political lines of whose voice they trust. Just in one week in September, he announced that he had "downplayed" the pandemic in order to make people "feel safer". Exactly three days later, he claimed he actually played it up.

Prime Minister Modi's own rhetoric has been far more measured than Mr Trump's. By that I mean he and his ministers have

gone about their Covid narratives with more planning and conviction. The concept of mixed messaging is valid — we need to hear the problem along with the solution.

Mr Modi's first address to the nation after the pandemic broke out was mixed — an appeal to people to be cautious as well as an appeal to their faith. "This loud sound is for thanksgiving, and also for the beginning of the victory march in a long fight," Mr Modi said in a tweet that followed his speech. As though in a Pavlovian response, his followers took out marches in the streets, disobeying the lockdown norms and affirming their faith in a leader's words. Is downplaying statistics the answer? This was a critical, almost rhetorical, question that I was asked at a recent webinar.

In times of crisis, governments and media platforms put in their best efforts to make available information and insights that are immediate and usable. These include critical health information to insights that build a psychological fortification and acceptance. The media's dependence on official sources is more pronounced than usual in a crisis. In that communicative framework, how has our government has disseminated public messages during this crisis, and to what effect?

When the pandemic broke out, the health ministry started issuing daily press briefings. These briefings were largely informative, albeit compulsively political as this government is known to be. Then, with no warning in May, the ministry took a break from the daily briefings and only restarted them much later. The horror of the migrant exodus had unfolded. When the briefings did restart, there was forceful nation-

alism with convenient comparisons, positive spin de-emphasising the rising cases and deaths, and a defensive tone. In the interim, according to some reports, the government set up a committee to examine how to state with conviction that it did not botch up its policy on the migrant crisis.

"The industrialists and innovators turned the Covid situation into an opportunity, and successfully established a home-grown ventilator industry," health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in August, adopting a storyteller's tone and demeanour. "The biggest news this week is that we have conducted two crore tests... The number of recovered cases is more than double the active cases."

These are briefings of what the government hopes will be seen as achievements rather than problems. That fact that the pandemic is far from gone and is still worsening is downplayed. Euphoria is an obvious impact of the spin among believers. We see it all around us — educated, urbane people walking in groups with no masks on. In the environment of conflicting messages, it seems we assume the most convenient possibility — sometimes with unexpected results. A few days ago, I took an autorickshaw for a short ride to a store. The driver did not have a mask on. When I questioned him, his response was startling: "Corona is gone so I've stopped wearing it." When I prodded further, he explained: "There is only *sarkari* corona left

**The media, too, must realise the damage overdependence on official sources brings, even in a crisis, and must temper the official narratives with scientific reason and simpler news that people can use**

now. The government is playing games, making money and enabling big people to make money."

As the World Health Organisation (WHO), points out, we are also in the middle of an infodemic: "An overabundance of information — some accurate and some not — that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it." But should the blame be passed on as usual to the social media, where millions of people are talking about it and passing their own judgments, and to our mainstream media, where the bombarding of ever-developing stories and eclectic insights lead to public confusion, and leave the elephant in the room unaddressed?

Already, news platforms must grapple with evolving information and insights. Additionally, television news channels both relay and bust silly myths about the virus. On the other hand, they are carriers of information and political narrative. If the news-you-can-use becomes so mind-boggling, politically charged narratives only exacerbate public confusion. These official narratives often come in a nationalistic package, with a liberal dose of political braggadocio.

So, the narratives put out by government communicators — from the Prime Minister to health ministry officials — have often been too clever by half. There is a dire need for them to rethink the strategy that is dividing the nation between the panic-stricken and euphoric and stop taking undue advantage of the media's pronounced dependence on official sources during a health crisis. The media, too, must realise the damage overdependence on official sources brings, even in a crisis, and must temper the official narratives with scientific reason and simpler news that people can use.

*The writer is a communications expert and has led reputed institutes of media and communications*

#### LETTERS

#### THE VACCINE BOGEY

At a time when the entire country is facing the cruel onslaught of the coronavirus, it is in bad taste on the part of finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to raise the new bogey (*jumla*) of free vaccines to the people of Bihar conditional to the BJP's victory. It triggers automatic recall of the ₹15 lakh to every citizen promise made by the party during the 2014 general election. Only this time, the fictitious beneficiaries of this claim will be limited to Bihar. It is time the Election Commission is empowered to take note of such outrageously fake promises and asked to publish a report card based on them.

Tharcus S. Fernando  
Chennai

#### TALK TO FARMERS

**YOU CANNOT** expect farmers to understand complex laws and regulations. It is natural for people to be apprehensive as soon when the existing procedure of operation is changed without any consultations. The Centre's new laws just show how lack of communication can cause trust deficit among people. Farmers have been dependent on government subsidies and protectionist policies for decades. A sudden transition to a free market model, however good or advantageous that might be, will lead to concerns. Therefore, the Centre must reach out to farmers.

Neha Jamal  
Chandigarh

#### HUNG ASSEMBLY

**THIS REFERS TO** your editorial on Bihar polls. Your observation that Tejashwi Yadav is gaining ground in Bihar is a valid one. The chief minister's campaign is no doubt lacklustre. Twenty seven per cent of Bihar's population is less than 28 years old and these people have not seen Lalu rule. The promise of 10 lakh jobs by RJD is exciting voters. In this scenario, the contest is wide open. Perhaps, it will result in a hung Assembly.

D.B. Madan  
New Delhi

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

Farrukh Dhondy  
Cabbages & Kings



*"I am the last to finish a meal Because I eat so slowly O Bachchoo, must you be condemned Because of this as lowly!"*

— From **Row Row K. Gumbihara** by Bachchoo

I've written in several genres for the small and large screen but, gentle reader, never a courtroom drama. And that's strange because as a viewer I find them fascinating, mesmerising even, if well written with the suspense maintained till the last word, as in Billy Wilder's adaptation of Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*.

My taste for courtroom drama was perhaps formed when reading my grandfather's discarded paperbacks of the Perry Mason books by Erle Stanley Gardner. I still feel compelled, though I restrain myself, from dismissing a friend's, foe's or dining-table-guest's argument, with "that's incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial!" Those were Perry Mason's nails in the coffin of evidence, but I suppose I am more inclined to say

"aiy don't be silly yaar!" when confronted with some absurdity.

Having seen two very compelling courtroom dramas on television this week, made me wonder why I hadn't ever attempted the genre. I've always thought writing should reflect one's own experience, observation, insight and memory, even through the invention, as in Shakespeare or Dickens, of dramatic characters.

The first of the TV shows I admired was a recreation of the British 'Mangrove Nine' trial of 1970, in which four out of nine of the accused were friends and 'comrades' of mine and two others were people I knew. The trial arose from the West London Police's reaction to and attack on a demonstration of 160 black people protesting against the unjustified, repeated and destructive raids on a West Indian restaurant called The Mangrove.

The restaurant was owned by the late Frank Critchlow and was subjected to regular, vicious and destructive raids by the West London police under the pretext of closing down a drug den. The Caribbean community of Notting Hill and North Kensington used the

restaurant as a meeting place. I went there occasionally. No drugs were ever found and no prosecutions brought, though the police smashed up the restaurant, wrestled its clientele and arrested its owner, workers and customers without any evidence with which to charge them.

In reaction to the raids the 'political' elements and individuals in the community called a demonstration to expose these raids as racist attacks on the innocent. The British establishment, and the West London police force as its arm, had not faced such a militant protest before. The demonstrators, in the argot of the time were shouting slogans of Black power, notably "the Pigs, the Pigs, we gotta get rid of the Pigs". This was, in that era, a porcine metaphor for the police force (later known to the black young as "de Babylon").

The confrontation ended in a mild fracas, with flaying police batons, women being held on the ground by three burly policemen and some demonstrators aiming kicks at blue-uniformed crotches and shins.

Nine people ended up in court accused of riot and affray and other lesser charges. These charges were

absurd. It's possible that the British prosecutors were throwing the book, or even a shelf of the library, at the accused in order to *encourager les autrues*.

The film of the trial, seen today as a historical milestone in the settlement of the new communities of Britain, is as fair a representation of the events and the court proceedings as dramatic reproduction can make it. Yes, I spotted twenty discrepancies or petty falsehoods in the retelling, with some characters with the wrong names and wrong accents, but the overall impression captured the events before and in the courtroom.

The second trial on screen was that of the Chicago 7, individual leaders of the hippie generation who opposed the draft law which would send thousands of young men and women to fight and possibly die in the American war in Vietnam. I remember following reports of the trial in which the accused had led protests against the Democratic Party convention in Chicago.

In both trials, the defendant's fate was in the hands of a jury. Jurors are not allowed to speak at or during a

trial, so the drama is confined to the interaction between the lawyers, the judge, the witnesses and defendants, with occasional contributions from the press and the spectators.

This re-enactment of the Chicago 7 trial, with Bobby Seale, the only black defendant, bound and gagged in public when he vociferously protested against a judgement of the bench, was also an essential and telling record of US history.

And now, gentle reader, I am inspired to mull over which trial I can dramatise and attempt to have produced for the screen. To tell the truth, I have only been indicted personally in one trial I which I defended myself and was acquitted of the charge of assaulting policemen in a London demonstration. Ten-minute drama if that. Then there were two trials in India in which I was peripherally involved: the failed attempt to get my film *Bandit Queen* banned and the dismissal of the case against my other film *Mangal Pandey, the Rising*. Both dramatic — the first with the future minister of the BJP, the late Arun Jaitley, appearing to represent, believe it or not, freedom of speech and truth.





## IN BRIEF

**Greta urges EU farm bill veto**

**Brussels:** Environmental activists on Friday piled pressure on the European Parliament to vote down the EU's massive farm subsidy bill, saying it fell short of commitments to fight climate change. Leading climate change activist Greta Thunberg told *MEPs* that "this is your chance to turn empty words into action." "The eyes of future generations are upon you," she added. Thunberg has also taken shots at the media for putting under-served attention on a minor aspect of the package — a proposed ban on using the term "veggie burger" for non-meat products. The proposal, pushed by cattle and dairy farmers, was rejected as an amendment by *MEPs* on Friday although a ban on using "yoghurt style" and "cheese substitute" tags on plant-based goods survived.

**US drone strike kills 17 jihadists**

**Beirut:** The US army said on Thursday it carried out a drone strike against Al-Qaeda leaders in northwestern Syria near the Turkish border, killing 17 jihadists, according to a war monitor. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said five civilians were also among those killed. "US Forces conducted a strike against a group of Al-Qaeda in Syria (AQ-S) senior leaders meeting near Idlib, Syria," said Major Beth Riordan, the spokeswoman for United States Central Command (CENTCOM). "The removal of these AQ-S leaders will disrupt the terrorist organisation's ability to further plot and carry out global attacks threatening US citizens, our partners and innocent civilians," Riordan said in a statement. She did not specify the number of deaths from the strike.

**15 detained after abortion rally ban**

**Warsaw:** Poland's police said Friday they detained 15 people during protests in Warsaw against a court ruling that toughened the nation's strict abortion law and banned abortion of fetuses with congenital defects. Hundreds of people protested on Thursday night in front of the ruling right-wing party offices and the home of its leader, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, in defiance of a pandemic-related ban on public gatherings. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowd. Warsaw police spokesman Sylwester Marczak said on Friday that 14 people remain in detention and 35 have been fined for having broken the ban. They were protesting the ruling by the government-controlled Constitutional Court Thursday that declared abortion of defective fetuses unconstitutional, thus shutting a major loophole in the 1993 abortion law that was a hard-won compromise.

**AGEING CHIMPS CHOOSE FRIENDS CAREFULLY**

**Washington, Oct. 23:** When it comes to friendships, people are known to become more selective with age. It turns out the same is true of male chimps, who have fewer yet more genuine pals to ape around with as they get older, according to a study published in the journal *Science* on Thursday.

The research, which was led by animal psychologist Alexandra Rosati at the University of Michigan, was said to provide the first evidence that animals exhibit age-related social selectivity, and could help us understand more about why humans behave as they do.

The authors drew on a huge dataset of 78,000 hours of observations performed at the Kibale National Park in Uganda between 1995 and 2016.

They reported on the social interactions among 21 wild male chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes) ranging in age from 15 to 58 years. Males were chosen because they remain in the communities in which they are born, whereas the majority of females disperse to new groups when they become sexually mature.

Aside from being our closest animal relatives, chimpanzees are an ideal species to compare to humans because they live long lives — sometimes until their 60s — and have a wide-degree of choice in whom they befriend.

Male friends groom one another, hunt and share meat together, collectively patrol the boundaries of their territories, and form alliances to attain and keep high rank in their groups, which in turn leads to more individual reproductive success.

# Trump, Biden clash on Covid, racism, climate

**Over 47 million Americans have already cast their votes**

**Washington, Oct. 23:** US President Donald Trump and his challenger Joe Biden clashed over Covid-19, immigration, racism and climate change during their final debate, ahead of the November 3 presidential election, presenting Americans with sharply divergent views of where they would lead them over the next four years.

The two leaders traded barbs during the debate that lasted just over 90 minutes, attacking each other's positions on controlling the raging Coronavirus pandemic and curbing the country's world-leading death toll of over 2,23,000.

The prime-time debate in Nashville, Tennessee, was a less acrimonious and more substantive affair than their previous showdown on September 29, which devolved into insults and name-calling. This prompted the debate organisers to put in place muted microphones during the candidates' opening statements on each topic to minimise disruption.

The debate, deftly moderated by NBC's Kristen Welker, saw plenty of personal attacks between 74-year-old Trump, a Republican, and his 77-year-old Democratic rival, Biden, whose mutual dislike was quite evident. Millions of Americans have already made up their minds about the election, with more than 47 million people having cast early ballots by mail or in person due to Covid-19 fears.

The figure exceeds the early vote total in 2016. There are about 230 million eligible voters in total. The Coronavirus dominated the opening minutes of the Trump-Biden face-off with President Trump terming the contagion a "world-wide problem". "This has been a worldwide problem, but I've been congratulated by many countries on what we've been able to do," he said. Trump once again blamed China for the virus and said Beijing failed to prevent the disease from becoming a pandemic. — *PTI*

## India, China 'filthy', says Don, rejecting climate talk

**Nashville, Oct. 23:** US President Donald Trump on Thursday described the air in India and China as "filthy" as he denounced Democratic rival Joe Biden's plans to tackle climate change.

At their second and final presidential debate, Trump renewed his criticism that action on climate change was unfair to the United States.

"Look at China, how filthy it is. Look at Russia, look at India — it's filthy. The air is filthy," Trump said at the debate in Nashville. Trump charged that Biden's climate plan was an "economic disaster" for oil states such as Texas and Oklahoma.

Biden said that climate change is "an existential threat to humanity. We have a moral obligation to deal with it." "We're going to pass the point of no return within the next eight to 10 years," he said.

The planet has already warmed by around one degree Celsius (34 degrees Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial levels, enough to boost the intensity of deadly heat waves, droughts and tropical storms.

Trump has pulled the United States out of the Paris climate accord, which aims to cap global warming "well below" two degrees Celsius.

Trump's remarks come days before Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark Esper visit New Delhi for talks on building the growing US-India partnership.

At the first presidential debate, Trump also spoke critically of India, questioning its coronavirus data amid criticism of his handling of the pandemic.

China's foreign ministry on Friday said Beijing hoped the US would "stop dragging China into its election campaigns." — *AFP*



US President Donald Trump, Democratic Presidential candidate former US vice-president Joe Biden participate in the final presidential debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. — *AFP*

## TRUMP SAYS HE WILL VOTE IN PERSON

**Washington, Oct. 23:** President Donald Trump is taking his own advice and plans to vote in person in the presidential election on Saturday in Florida.

Trump is heading to his home state on Friday for campaign rallies at The Villages and in Pensacola. He's scheduled to spend the night at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach and says he'll vote on Saturday before he flies

north for more campaign rallies.

Trump revealed his plans on Thursday after the presidential debate with Democrat Joe Biden. Earlier this year, as Trump pressed unfounded claims about fraud surrounding mail-in and absentee ballots, Trump said people should be required to show up in person at the polls to vote. Trump also has voted by absentee ballot in the past. — *AP*

## CEOs OF FB, TWITTER ORDERED TO TESTIFY BY GOP SENATORS

**Washington, Oct. 23:** The GOP push against Facebook and Twitter accelerated on Thursday after Republican senators threatened the CEOs of the social media companies with subpoenas to force them to address accusations of censorship in the closing weeks of the presidential campaign.

With Democrats boycotting the hearing, the Republican-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee voted to authorise the legal orders if Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Twitter's Jack Dorsey did not agree to testify voluntarily.

The committee wants to hear from them about "the

suppression and/or censorship of two news articles from the New York Post," according to the subpoena document. Senators also want information from the executives about their companies' policies for moderating content "that may interfere" with federal elections.

Representatives of Facebook and Twitter declined comment. The urgency ratcheted higher Thursday as US officials said Russian hackers have targeted the networks of dozens of state and local governments in recent days, stealing data from at least two servers. — *AP*

# US gives approval to use remdesivir against Covid

**Washington, Oct. 23:** US regulators on Thursday approved the first drug to treat Covid-19: remdesivir, an antiviral medicine given through an IV for patients needing hospitalisation. The drug, which California-based Gilead Sciences Inc. is calling Veklury, cut the time to recovery by five days — from 15 days to 10 on average — in a large study led by the US National Institutes of Health.

It had been authorised for use on an emergency basis since spring, and now becomes the first drug to win full Food and Drug Administration approval for treating Covid-19. President Donald Trump received it when he was sickened earlier this month.

Veklury is approved for people at least 12 years old and weighing at least 40 kilograms who need hospitalization for their coronavirus infection. For patients younger than 12, the FDA will still allow the drug's use in certain cases under its previous emergency authorization. The drug works by inhibiting a substance the virus uses to make copies of itself. Certain tests are required before starting patients on it.

And the label warns against using it with the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, because that can curb its effectiveness. "We now have enough knowledge and a growing set of tools to help fight Covid-19," Gilead's chief medical officer, Dr Merdad Parsey, said in a statement.

The drug is either approved or has temporary authorisation in about 50 countries, he noted. Its price has been controversial, given that no studies have found it improves survival. Last week, a large study led by the World Health Organ-

# Pope cautioned on Covid after he met infected Bishop

**Canberra, Oct. 23:** Pope Francis has been warned of potential exposure to Covid-19 after a Vatican diplomat was infected, Australian media reported on Friday.

Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, the Holy See's ambassador to Australia, had a face-to-face meeting with Francis at the Vatican on Oct. 6, less than two weeks before testing positive to Covid-19 in Australia, *Nine News* reported.

Australian authorities say a diplomat who flew into Sydney on Oct. 9 had tested positive to the Coronavirus. They won't reveal the diplomat's identity. The diplomat tested positive 10 days after he started quarantining at home in the national capital Canberra, the Australian Capital Territory Health Department said in a statement.

The department said the risk of infection was "low" for the two people who drove the diplomat 300 kilometers (185 miles) from Sydney to Canberra. Australia's Health Department said in a statement on Friday "all relevant international state parties have been notified." The Vatican did not immediately respond to a request for comment. — *AP*

isation found the drug did not help hospitalized Covid-19 patients, but that study did not include a placebo group and was less rigorous than previous ones that found a benefit. Gilead charges \$2,340 for

## UN CHIEF URGES G20 TO UNITE, FIGHT PANDEMIC

**United Nations, Oct. 23:** The UN chief says it's "very frustrating" that leaders of the 20 major industrialised nations didn't come together in March and establish a coordinated response to grapple with the Coronavirus in all countries as he proposed. The result, he says, is every country is taking its own sometimes contradictory actions, and the virus is moving "from east to west, north to south," with second waves of infections now affecting many countries.

Ahead of the Group of 20 summit next month, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in an interview that he hopes the international community now understands "they need to be much more coordinated in fighting the virus." Guterres says the United Nations also will be "strongly advocating" during the G-20 summit for a guarantee that when a vaccine is available, "it becomes indeed available and affordable for everyone, everywhere." — *AP*

# Libya rivals sign 'permanent' truce

**Geneva, Oct. 23:** Libya's two warring factions signed a "permanent" ceasefire agreement on Friday after five days of talks at the United Nations, which hailed the deal as a historic moment following years of turmoil and bloodshed.

"Today is a good day for the Libyan people," said Stephanie Williams, the UN's acting envoy to the troubled North African country, where a UN-recognised government in Tripoli has been battling a rival administration based in the east and dominated by military commander Khalifa Haftar. "The two Libyan delegations... signed a complete, country-wide and permanent ceasefire agreement with immediate effect," she told journalists afterwards.

Williams said the parties agreed that "all military units and armed groups on the front lines shall return to their camps", while "all mercenaries and foreign fighters" must leave within three months.

Analysts have warned that further measures are needed to prevent spoilers undermining the deal in a country wracked by conflict for nearly a decade, since the overthrow and killing of dictator

● **STEPHANIE WILLIAMS**, the UN's acting envoy said the parties agreed that "all military units and armed groups on the front lines shall return to their camps", while "all mercenaries and foreign fighters" must leave within three months.

Moamer Kadhafi in a NATO-backed uprising in 2011.

Since then, it has been dominated by armed groups, riven by local conflicts and divided between the two bitterly-opposed administrations.

Tripoli is held by the internationally recognised Government of National Accord, while a parliament based in the eastern city of Tobruk is backed by Haftar's forces.

But hopes for a solution rose after the two sides separately announced in August that they would cease hostilities.

Ahmed Abu Shahma, who headed the GNA delegation in Geneva, urged Libyans to come together and rebuild a united, stable country.

"We have had enough suffering, enough divisions, enough bloodshed," he said at the signing ceremony. — *AFP*

## World's largest fountain opens in Dubai



Dubai launches the Palm Fountain in a bid to break a Guinness World Record as the world's largest fountain, at Palm Jumeira. Spread over 14,366 square feet of seawater, the fountain's super shooter stands tall at 105 metres and comes alive with over 3,000 LED lights. — *AFP*

## SINKING | RISK 1.3 million barrels of crude may spill into water, no water ingress found on vessel by expert team

**Caracas, Oct. 23:** Trinidad and Tobago said on Thursday that a damaged oil tanker off the island's coast was "stable" after opposition politicians in neighboring Venezuela warned of a potential "environmental catastrophe."

The damaged tanker, which is in the waters separating Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago and is owned by Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA, threatens to spill 1.3 million barrels of crude into the water.

"The ship is straight and stable without any visible

risk of sinking," Energy Minister Franklin Khan said during a video conference in Puerto Espana.

The Nabarima tanker, anchored for several months in the Gulf of Paria, is used to store oil, but video footage shared on October 16 by the Fishermen and Friends of the Sea NGO showed it tilting.

A team of three "experts" boarded the ship on Tuesday, the day after receiving the green light from Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government, Khan said. The findings showed that

"there was no water ingress on the vessel visible to the team. Which means the ingress reported in early September no longer exists," the minister said.

According to Khan, the team reported that maintenance tasks were being carried out on the ship, such as repairing and replacing pumps and electric motors if necessary, which the experts described as "quite satisfactory." Eudis Girot, a Venezuelan oil sector union leader, said the 855-foot (264-meter) ship has had maintenance problems since 2014. But he said

those problems "have been ignored" by PDVSA.

Girot said several PDVSA employees reported on October 12 that the tanker was listing by eight percent while the engine room is flooded and water pumps have broken down.

"If the oil is not transferred, and even if the Nabarima can be stabilized, we risk a permanent environmental catastrophe," Venezuelan opposition legislator Robert Alcala said. The Nabarima is owned by Petrosucre, a company majority owned by PDVSA, with Italian

multinational oil and gas firm Eni holding a 26 percent share.

According to Luis Stefanelli, another opposition legislator, PDVSA has sent two ships to try to unload the Nabarima.

PDVSA on Tuesday started transferring the crude oil stored on the Nabarima with the vessel Icarus, according to the Trinidadian government. However, Khan recommended using a larger vessel, since the Icarus can barely hold a quarter of the tanker's 1.3 million barrel-load. — *AFP*



A video image released by the Fishermen and Friends of the Sea NGO shows the tilted Nabarima oil tanker.



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,685.50	0.31
Nifty 50	11,930.40	0.28
S&P 500*	3,448.13	-0.16
Dollar (₹)	73.60	-0.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.44	0.13
Euro (₹)	87.15	0.01
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,685.81	0.16
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.89	-0.57
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.844	-0.071
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.858	0.010

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

IDBI Bank posts ₹324 cr profit, NPA ratio drops

IDBI Bank on Friday reported a net profit of ₹324 crore for the second quarter of the current fiscal year against a loss of ₹3,459 crore for the same period of the previous fiscal. Compared sequentially, the bank registered a 125 per cent jump against the first quarter net profit of ₹144 crore. Total income of the bank fell by 7.5 per cent to ₹5,761.06 crore during Q2FY21 compared to ₹6,231.02 crore in Q2FY20.

TechM Q2 profit declines by 5% to ₹1,065 cr



Tech Mahindra on Friday posted around five per cent fall in consolidated profit at ₹1,064.6 crore for September quarter of the current fiscal year. The company had a profit of ₹1,123.9 crore in the same quarter a year ago, it said in a statement. Income increased by 2.1 per cent to ₹9,489.3 crore during the period under review from ₹9,286.2 crore in the same period of 2019-20, the company said.

Crompton Greaves shares up 15% after Q2 results

Shares of Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals surged nearly 15 per cent on Friday after the company reported a 27.77 per cent increase in consolidated net profit for the Q2FY21. The company on Thursday reported a 27.77 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹141.68 crore for Q2FY21. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 110.88 crore for the July-September period a year ago.

Biocon Q2 profit declines 23% at ₹195 cr in Q2

Biocon on Friday reported a 23.01 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit to ₹195.4 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, mainly on account of higher expenses. It had posted a net profit of ₹253.8 crore for Q2FY21, Biocon said. Its consolidated total income stood at ₹1,760.3 crore for the quarter under consideration. It was ₹1,605.7 crore for the same period a year ago, it added.

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RBI fears India entering recession in H1 of FY21

Central banker awaits NSO data on economic growth in Nov

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, OCT. 23

Wealth increases in India despite Covid

New York, Oct. 23: The pandemic that's led to more than one million deaths globally has also led to a decline in individual wealth, yet household wealth largely held up and even increased in China and India.

That's one of the main findings in Credit Suisse Group AG's 2020 Global Wealth Report released Thursday. Thanks to government and central-bank actions to mitigate the Covid-19 fallout, wealth rebounded from an initial slump in the first quarter of the year, adding \$1 trillion by June after ending 2019 at \$399.2 trillion.

"Given the damage inflicted by Covid-19 on the global economy, it seems remarkable that household wealth has emerged relatively unscathed," said economist Anthony Shorrocks, one of the report's authors, adding as a caveat that the findings are based on provi-

cent below its pre-Covid level by the end of 2020-21 and it may take years to regain this lost output."

"There is also an anecdotal sense that the economy's potential output has fallen, and the post-Covid growth trajectory will look very different from

what has been recorded so far. Changes in social behaviour and norms of commercial and workplace engagements may accentuate this structural change," Patra added.

To address Covid-induced economic problems, the Monetary Policy

Committee (MPC) may continue with an accommodative stance for an extended period of time.

The MPC members were keen to support economic recovery rather than control inflation even though it would drift from the original mandate of keeping retail inflation on an average between two and six per cent.

The MPC on October 9 had unanimously voted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at four per cent for the second consecutive time and maintain an accommodative stance "at least during the current financial year and into the next financial year".

According to minutes, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said there are downside uncertainties that could put sand in the wheels of the nascent recovery being witnessed.

"Primary among them is the risk of a second wave of Covid-19... Despite sequential improvement in Q3 and Q4, the full year GDP is expected to contract by 9.5 per cent with a strong rebound next year," Das added.

Aditi Nayar, principal economist at ICRA said, "While the MPC members clearly desire to support the economic recovery, inflation may not oblige by falling fast enough to allow for speedy or substantial rate cuts. In our view, the incoming price data suggests the chances of a February 2021 rate cut have dimmed."

Maharashtra invites Tesla to set up electric car plant

Mumbai, Oct. 23: Maharashtra is looking for potential investment from the US electric car major Tesla in the state and has held discussions with the company, weeks after Tesla revealed its plans to enter the Indian market.

State tourism minister Aaditya Thackeray said in a tweet on Thursday that industries minister Subhash Desai held a video call, in which he also participated, with the Tesla team, inviting the electric car maker to Maharashtra.

Maharashtra is already home to a host of domestic and foreign automobile manufacturers with Chakan Industrial belt near Pune a major automobile hub in the state.



"This evening I had the opportunity to participate in a video call by industries minister @Subhash.Desai ji with @Tesla team to invite them to Maharashtra. I was present not because of just the investment but my firm belief in electric mobility & sustainability @elonmusk," Thackeray said in a tweet.

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 23

The legal battle between Amazon and Future Group will take much longer to come to a conclusion. A three-member tribunal may be finalised in a couple of days and the arbitration process can take six months to one year to conclude.

Amazon had recently approached the Singapore International Arbitration Centre objecting the ₹24,000 crore asset sale deal by Future Group with

Reliance Industries. According to sources privy to the development, the pre-arbitration process is currently on.

During this, the tribunal for the arbitration process is being finalised. Amazon has come up with an arbitrator from its side and Future Group one from its side. There will be a common arbitrator who will be agreeable for both sides. The members of this tribunal will be finalised in a few days.

Ways to interpret laws pertaining to the case also

India business begins to see uptick, says Unilever

New Delhi, Oct. 23: After a strict lockdown impacting sales, India has returned to the growth path again, Anglo-Dutch FMCG major Unilever has said.

The return of growth of India business, along with Brazil and continued recovery in China helped the company's emerging markets clock a growth of 5.3 per cent in the September 2020 quarter.

"India (business) grew low-single digit, driven by growth in foods and refreshment and hygiene. China grew double-digit led by beauty and personal care categories

India (business) grew low-single digit, driven by growth in foods and refreshment and hygiene. China grew double-digit led by beauty and personal care categories

UNILEVER'S earnings statement

Asia, AMET (Africa, Middle East, Turkey) and RUB (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus) market region of Unilever, which has reported a turnover of 6 billion euros. "Underlying sales grew 4.5 per cent with 3.7 per cent from volume and 0.7 per cent from price, as lockdown restrictions eased across much of the region compared to the first half of the year," it said.

Earlier this Tuesday, its Indian subsidiary Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) had declared the results of the second quarter

(July-September) reporting a better-than-expected rise net profit and revenues, signalling a revival of demand.

HUL's consolidated net profit rose 8.6 per cent to ₹1,974 crore in July-September, while revenue from the sale of products was up 13.7 per cent at ₹11,510 crore, the company had said in a regulatory filing.

The food and refreshment business saw nearly 83 per cent jump, while home care and beauty and personal care was almost near pre-Covid-19 levels.

HUL, maker of popular brand products such as Rin, Dove, Lux and Lifebuoy, said the worst is behind and is "cautiously optimistic" on demand recovery. The Indian economy had seen an unprecedented 23.9 per cent contraction during April-June as the lockdown imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus pumelled demand.

— PTI

Flipkart acquires 8% stake in AB Fashion Retail

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 23



In a bid to build its omnichannel presence in the fashion business, Flipkart has acquired 7.8 per cent stake in Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) for ₹1,500 crore.

The ABFRL board has approved the raising of ₹1,500 crore by way of preferential issue to the Flipkart Group.

The equity capital will be raised at ₹205 per share. With this infusion, Flipkart Group will own 7.8 per cent equity stake in ABFRL on a fully diluted basis. The promoter and promoter group companies of ABFRL will hold about 55.13 per cent upon completion of the issuance.

The investment agreement provides Flipkart preemption rights and right of first refusal which are for a limited period of one to five years from the date of allotment of equity shares or if the equity shareholding of the investor falls below a certain threshold.

Through this partnership, the Flipkart Group will strengthen the range of brands offered on its e-commerce platforms Flipkart and Myntra, and enhance the range of pre-

mium international and Indian brands on offer. ABFRL owns brands like Pantaloons, Allen Solly and Peter England.

Flipkart's technology prowess will enhance ABFRL's omni-channel capabilities, enriching customer experiences while continuing to provide access to premium loyalty programmes and affordability constructs.

ABFRL, which has more than 3000 stores, plans to use this capital to strengthen its balance sheet and accelerate its growth trajectory.

The company plans to increase presence in emerging high-growth categories such as innerwear, athleisure, casualwear and ethnic wear.

ABFRL will also aggressively accelerate execution of its large-scale digital transformation strategy that will build strong omni-channel functionalities.

Amazon-Future legal fight to get prolonged

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 23



are being looked into. Once the tribunal is formed, the arbitration process will start. "The

arbitration process can take even nine months to one year to conclude. It may also be a tedious and long process," he said.

Amazon went to the international arbitration centre, a non-profit entity, as it found that the acquisition of Future Group by Reliance Retail is a violation of a non-compete clause and a right-of-first-refusal pact it had signed with Future.

In a deal struck last year, Amazon had acquired 49 per cent stake in Future Coupons, the promoter

firm of Future Retail for about ₹1,500 crore and had indirectly picked up 3.6 per cent stake in Future Retail.

As part of the deal agreement, Amazon would have a call option to acquire all or part of the promoters' shareholding in Future Retail of 47.02 per cent between the third and tenth year of the transaction and this would be subject to law. In future, Amazon could own 47.02 per cent in Future Retail apart from 3.6 per cent through Future Coupons.

Heavyweight stocks keep Sensex, Nifty rangebound

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 23

Equity market has got tied to a narrow range in the last fortnight after a decisive upward move last month on rerating of IT stocks and recovery in financials post RBI's policy announcement.

The Nifty-50 has hit 12,000 barrier for the time being as the index has not been able to close above this level in the current bull run signalling tough resistance as the economy

is still battling six months shut down.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chairman Ajay Tyagi did refer to a disconnect between market and economy and some heavyweight stocks moving indices which can keep market range bound for some more time even if fresh Covid cases fall sharply as it has happened and economy recovers.

"It was clearly a dull week as we witnessed a lot of choppy trades with no

clear direction. Although we could reclaim 12,000 this week for Nifty-50, the momentum was clearly lacking as the benchmark once again looked a bit tentative around this, said Sameet Chavan, analyst,

technical and derivatives, Angel Broking. After more than 1,000 points correction for the Sensex on Thursday i.e. October 15, the market has inched up and traded around the 11,900-12000

range. Momentum is lacking because the heavyweights, the main drivers of frontline indices have started underperforming.

● IN THE WEEK gone by Axis Bank, Tata Steel and Bharti Airtel gained the most while Reliance Industries, TCS and Mahindra & Mahindra lost the most in the BSE-30 index.

"The upper area of 12,025 has been acting as a key overhead resistance in the last couple of weeks and this hurdle could be

tested again in the coming week. A sustainable upside breakout of this hurdle could have a sharp positive impact on the market ahead," said Nagaraj Shetti, Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. "The short-term trend of Nifty continues to be range bound and the near-term uptrend status remains intact. There is a possibility of a retest of 12000-12050 levels by next week, before showing minor profit booking again from the highs,"

Shetti said.

However, some undercurrent in the economy could take the market higher as green shoots are visible now in the auto sector at least and the pharma sector is also poised to deliver good earnings like the IT sector. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said, "Results of upcoming elections both in India and the United States will have short term impact on the indices."



## SHORT TAKES

## Indian squad make online chess semis

**Chennai:** The top-seeded Indian women's team on Friday stormed into the semifinals of the Asian Nations (Regions) Online Cup 2020 Championship, while their male counterparts eked out a fighting win over Mongolia to secure the last four berth. The Indian women made short work of Kyrgyzstan in the last-eight round, winning the two match-ups easily — 4-0 and 3.5-0.5 — after having topped the preliminary Swiss system phase. The Indian women will face Mongolia in the semifinal on Saturday. The Indian men, on the other hand, were given a tough fight by Mongolia. Both the matches ended with a similar 2.5-1.5 scoreline in favour of India. The Indian men will take on Iran in Saturday's semifinal. Young woman Grandmaster R Vaishali continued her good run, winning both her matches. She beat Alexandra Samaganova. — *PTI*

## Bottas fastest at Friday practice

**Portimao, Portugal:** Valtteri Bottas topped the times ahead of Formula One leader Lewis Hamilton in a one-two finish for Mercedes in Friday's opening practice for the Portuguese Grand Prix. Finn Bottas maintained a habit that has seen him enjoy being 'fastest on Friday', but not always with success on the following days, as he clocked a best lap of one minute and 18.410 seconds at the Algarve International Circuit 15 kilometres inland from the coastal town of Portimao. That lap was enough to lift him three-tenths of a second clear of six-time world champion and Mercedes teammate Hamilton, who this weekend is seeking to overtake Michael Schumacher and claim a record 92nd GP victory. — *AFP*

## Aryna downs Coco in Ostrava thriller

**Prague:** Aryna Sabalenka came back from 2-5 down in the third set to defeat American teenager Coco Gauff and reach the Ostrava WTA quarterfinals on Thursday. The big-hitting Sabalenka, the world number 12, took two hours and 13 minutes to beat 55th-ranked Gauff 1-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/2). The third-seeded Belarusian got off to a slow start against the patient Gauff who had few problems taking the first set. Sabalenka won the second 7-5 after breaking Gauff's serve for the first time, but then she started piling up the errors again to see the 16-year-old go 5-2 up in the decider. A racquet-smashing interlude helped her regain her composure. "After 5-2 in the third set I didn't care at all about the result," said Sabalenka, who had lost another three-set thriller to Gauff at Lexington in August. — *AFP*

## Munoz grabs lead as Tiger teeters

**Los Angeles:** Colombia's Sebastian Munoz endured a roller-coaster round on his way to an eight-under par 64 Thursday to lead the PGA Zozo Championship while defending champion Tiger Woods struggled to a woeful 76. The 27-year-old South American star, had two eagles, eight birdies, five pars, two bogeys and a double bogey on his trip to the top of the leaderboard after the opening round at Sherwood Country Club. "I've become better with managing crazy ups and downs," Munoz said. Four-time major winner Rory McIlroy snapped a club in frustration on his way to a disappointing 73. — *AFP*

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Chennai Super Kings vs Mumbai Indians from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## FOOTBALL

**Spanish League:** El Clasico — Barcelona vs Real Madrid from 7.30 pm on LaLiga page on Facebook

**English Premier League:** Aston Villa vs Leeds United from 12.30 am (Saturday) on Star Sports Select 2, HD

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## THUNDERBOULT

## Mumbai Indians thump CSK by 10 wickets

**Sharjah, Oct. 23:** Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah's devastating pace-bowling spell in tandem before Ishan Kishan's batting heroics helped Mumbai Indians post a comprehensive 10-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in a completely lop-sided IPL match here on Friday.

With the embarrassing loss, CSK are all but out of reckoning for the play-offs with just six points from 11 games, while MI jumped to the top spot with 14 points from 10 matches.

Bowling in tandem, Boult (4/18) and Bumrah (2/25) reduced CSK to 21 for 5 inside the Powerplay period with three and two wickets respectively and CSK never recovered from there, limping to 114 for 9, largely thanks to Sam Curran's 52.

Needing 115 for a win, Kishan (68 not out), opening in place of regular skipper Rohit Sharma who missed out due to a hamstring injury, and Quinton de Kock (46 not out) knocked off the required runs in just 12.2 overs.

The duo toyed with the CSK bowling attack on a dreadful day for the MS Dhoni-led side.

The left-handed Kishan, who has not had a substantial score after his knock of 99 against Royal Challengers Bangalore, was at his attacking best as he smashed six fours and five sixes during his 37-ball innings.

— *PTI*

Trent Boult of Mumbai Indians celebrates the wicket of Ruturaj Gaikwad of Chennai Super Kings during their IPL match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Friday. — *BCCI*

## SCORECARD

**Chennai Super Kings Innings:** Ruturaj Gaikwad lbw b Boult 0, Faf du Plessis c de Kock b Boult 1, Ambati Rayudu c de Kock b Bumrah 2, N Jagadeesan c Yadav b Bumrah 0, Mahendra Singh Dhoni c de Kock b Chahar 16, Ravindra Jadeja c Krunal b Boult 7, Sam Curran b Boult 52, Deepak Chahar st de Kock b Chahar 0, Shardul Thakur c Yadav b Coulter-Nile 11, Imran Tahir not out 13, Extras (B-1, LB-3, W-8) 12. **Total (for 9 wickets in 20 overs) 114.** **FoW:** 1-0, 2-3, 3-3, 4-3, 5-21, 6-30, 7-43,

8-71, 9-114.

**Bowling:** Trent Boult 4-1-18-4, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-25-2, Krunal Pandya 3-0-16-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-22-2, Nathan Coulter-Nile 4-0-25-1, Kieron Pollard 1-0-4-0.

**Mumbai Indians:** Q de Kock not out 46, I. Kishan not out 68, Extras (LB-2) 2. **Total (for no loss in 12.2 overs) 116.** **Bowling:** D. Chahar 4-0-34-0, Hazlewood 2-0-17-0, Imran Tahir 3-0-22-0, S. Thakur 2-2-0-26-0, R. Jadeja 1-0-15-0.

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	10	7	3	0	14	+1.448
Delhi Capitals	10	7	3	0	14	+0.774
Royal Challengers Bangalore	10	7	3	0	14	+0.182
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	5	5	0	10	-0.828
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	4	6	0	8	+0.092
Kings XI Punjab	10	4	6	0	8	-0.177
Rajasthan Royals	11	4	7	0	8	-0.620
Chennai Super Kings	11	3	8	0	6	-0.733

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

## It was do-or-die game for me, says Vijay Shankar

**Dubai, Oct. 23:** All-rounder Vijay Shankar says he treated the match against RR as a 'do-or-die game' as his good show with both bat and ball may have saved his place in SRH's playing XI.

Manish Pandey (83) and Shankar (52) stitched an unbroken 140-run partnership to help SRH chase down RR's 154 for six on Thursday.

"If you ask personally it was a do-or-die game for me. That's how I saw this game. I didn't have the best of time with the bat, so I had to perform in this game and fortunately or unfortunately, we lost early wickets which made the team to send me up the order," Shankar said.

The Tamil Nadu crick-



Vijay Shankar

eter, who also picked up a wicket on Thursday, said the team should have previous couple of close games.

"We just slipped in the last minutes. A win like this will give confidence to each and every member of the team. We can win the remaining

games and keep ourselves alive in the tournament," he said.

After SRH lost two early wickets during their chase, Shankar said their plan was simple — forge a partnership and take the game as deep as possible.

"Manish was actually hitting the ball really well early on. I actually didn't bat (faced) that many balls before this innings. I batted just 18 balls before this innings so it was really important for me to have a feel of it. Archer was bowling quick so it was important for me to stay at the wicket.

"We wanted to take the game deep so I opened up and then we got few boundaries and it made things easier for us," he said. — *PTI*

## Warner all praise for middle order

**Dubai, Oct. 23:** Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner on Thursday said their middle order, under the scanner in the ongoing IPL, proved itself by guiding the team to a victory against Rajasthan Royals.

Manish Pandey (83) and Vijay Shankar (52) scored unbeaten half-centuries after Warner and Jonny Bairstow were dismissed early in the run chase to help SRH register a comfortable eight-wicket win.

"It is just great to show people that we do have a middle order.

"For them to come out and play like this, I am so happy for them. They showed they can build a platform for us to get across the line. Or set a big total. I am chuffed for them," Warner said at the post-match presentation.

Jason Holder, who was brought as a replacement

for the injured Mitchell Marsh, impressed in his first match of the season. The West Indies Test skipper came up with figures of 3/33, while also affecting a run out to destabilise the RR innings.

"Jason adds an extra string to our bow. His height. His experience. And he couldn't bat today, but he is an all-round package," Warner said.

The Sunrisers excelled on all fronts and Warner felt a victory like this was needed going ahead.

"It was a stunning performance. Starts with the toss where you questioned my decision to chase. We were able to bring them back after powerplay. All in all, the kind of game we were asking for," he added.

Jofra Archer dismissed Warner yet again and the Australian said it was frustrating. — *PTI*

## Kapil has heart attack, is stable

**New Delhi, Oct. 23:** India's first World Cup-winning cricket captain Kapil Dev suffered a heart attack and underwent an angioplasty here on Friday but is expected to be discharged in the next couple of days, said the hospital where he is currently admitted.

The 61-year-old, who is based in Delhi's Sundar Nagar area, complained of chest pain on Thursday following which he was taken to Fortis Escorts Heart Institute emergency department in Okhla.

"Kapil Dev suffered a heart attack. He was evaluated and an emergency coronary angioplasty was performed in the middle of night," the hospital said in an updated health bulletin after only mentioning chest pain in its initial statement.

"Currently, he is admitted in ICU and under close supervision of Dr Atul Mathur and his team. Kapil Dev is stable now and he is expected to get discharged in a couple of days."

Indian Cricketers Association (ICA) President Ashok Malhotra, a friend of Kapil, earlier said that the iconic cricketer is doing fine.



Kapil Dev

"He is feeling okay now. I just spoke to his wife (Romi). He was feeling uneasy yesterday. He is undergoing check-ups at a hospital as we speak," Malhotra, also a former Test player, said.

Kapil's former teammate Madan Lal said he has conveyed some of the concern of his well-wishers to the Chandigarh-born legend's family.

"To those who have called to inquire your prayers and wishes are conveyed to the family and received with gratitude. Good health and strength kaps," read a tweet from Kapil's former teammate Madan Lal. — *PTI*

## CRICKETERS REACT

Praying for your speedy recovery. Get well soon paaji.

— **VIRAT KOHLI**  
Team India captain

Take care @therealkapildev! Praying for your quick recovery. Get well soon Paaji.

— **SACHIN TENDULKAR**  
legend

The big hearted #Kapildev our captain, with a never say die attitude, has recovered. For this mighty giant of Indian cricket nothing is impossible.

— **KIRTI AZAD**  
former India player

"Dear paaji. Praying for your speedy recovery! Get well soon please ...after cricket I still need some golfing lessons.

— **YUVRAJ SINGH**  
Ex-Indian cricketer

## Spirited SRH take on hungry KXIP

**Dubai, Oct. 23:** Their campaign back on track with a hat-trick of wins, KXIP will take on another resurgent team — SRH — here on Saturday in a must-win IPL game for the two well-matched sides.

Both KXIP and SRH are on the same pedestal, having garnered eight points apiece after 10 games, but the Hyderabad outfit is a rung ahead in the eight-team standings, on the fifth spot by virtue of a better net run rate.

And both the teams need to win their remaining four games to guarantee their place in the play-offs. It has been a terrific turnaround especially for KXIP after a slow start to the tournament.

After the initial hiccups, KXIP got its campaign back on track with three consecutive wins — over mighty DC, MI and RCB where SRH also look confident post their thumping eight-wicket win over RR on Thursday night after three consecutive defeats.

— *AFP*

## TABLE TOPPERS DELHI LOOK TO TROUBLE KKR

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 23:** Table-toppers DC would expect more from their batsmen after an underwhelming performance in the loss to KXIP when they take on a low-on-confidence KKR in an IPL game here on Saturday.

For Delhi, opener Shikhar Dhawan has been in brilliant form but even his record-setting hundred was not enough to save the side from a defeat against KXIP for lack of contribution from other batters.

Meanwhile, KKR are heading into the contest after an embarrassing batting performance against RCB. Sitting at fourth place in the table with 10 points, they would be desperate to increase their tally to stay alive in the play-offs race. — *PTI*

## An empty feeling at the 1st Clasico

**Barcelona, Oct. 23:** For some it has been decades since they last missed a Clasico at the Camp Nou but this weekend they have no choice but to stay away.

One of the biggest matches in the global football calendar, Barcelona's home clash with Real Madrid is usually played in front of over 90,000 fans but on Saturday will unfold in a kind of void, as not only the stands but even the streets outside will be empty. "It's not just a football match," says Joan Bertran, the president of Pena Anguera, one of Barcelona's most historic supporter associations, who has attended every Clasico at the Camp Nou for the last 48 years.

To rub salt into the wounds, those prevented from entering the Camp Nou this weekend will not even get the second best thing: meeting up to watch the game with friends and fellow supporters.

"We'll go from having 600 people for the Clasico to no people and not a single euro," says Albert Devesa, manager of the Overlla Negra, whose frustration at the timing of the recent measures is clear.

Although a 1400 GMT kick-off, picked to allow fans in Asia to watch, was not ideal, Devesa was confident he would fill his huge tavern, an old industrial building in Barcelona, where many fans come to watch games. — *AFP*



Lucas Moura of Tottenham Hotspur in action during the UEFA Europa League first round match against Linzer ASK at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on Thursday. — *AFP*

## Tottenham lay LASK low; Milan send Celtic packing

**Paris, Oct. 23:** Gareth Bale said it felt good to be "loved and appreciated" after helping Tottenham to a 3-0 win over LASK of Austria in the Europa League on Thursday.

The Welsh international started his first match since his return from Real Madrid and played for an hour before Jose Mourinho gave him a break.

Despite Bale starting, it was on-loan Carlos Vinicius who made an impressive debut in the Group 'J' opener.

Vinicius started in place of the resting Harry Kane and he made goals in either half for Lucas Moura and Son Heung-min, while he would have also netted himself had Andres Andrade

not scored an own goal.

Bale made that goal where Andrade put through his own net.

Leicester made the perfect start in Group 'G' with a comfortable 3-0 win over Zorya Luhansk of Ukraine. James Maddison, Harvey Barnes and Kelechi Iheanacho were on the scoresheet.

In Glasgow, Celtic struggled against Serie 'A' leaders AC Milan who were 2-0 up at half-time thanks to goals from Luca Krunic and Braham Diaz.

Mohamed Elyounoussi reduced the arrears after the break, but Jens Petter Hauge broke clear to secure Milan's Group 'H' 3-1 win in stoppage time.

Milan were so comfort-

able that they could afford to take off Zlatan Ibrahimovic just after the hour.

Earlier Thursday, Arsenal came from behind to down Rapid Vienna 2-1 and Rangers beat Standard Liege 2-0.

After a goalless first half Arsenal went behind when keeper Bernd Leno fluffed a clearance on a night he will want to forget.

David Luiz put them level with a deft glancing header off Nicolas Pepe's free-kick, with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang then tapping home to bag the three Group 'B' points. It was an eventful night for Mikel Arteta's side. Elsewhere, Bayer Leverkusen ran riot 6-2 against Nice. — *AFP*