

# THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2020



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Nath's jibe 'unfortunate', says Rahul; it's 'personal opinion', ex-CM counters



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Lawsuit challenges Trump administration's new H-1B visa rules

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Baahubali star Prabhas resumes Radhe Shyam shoot in quarantine bubble



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## WINDOWS



Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, visits St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London to mark the launch of a community project on Tuesday. — AFP

## TRP ratings scam: CBI registers FIR on UP gov't's reference

New Delhi: The CBI on Tuesday registered an FIR into the alleged manipulation of television rating points (TRP) on the basis of a reference from the UP government. Sources said the case, which was earlier registered at Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on a complaint of an advertising company promoter, was handed over to the CBI by the UP government. The FIR has been registered by the Central probe agency against unknown persons. Full report on Page 4

## Russia, US likely to extend nuclear pact

Moscow: Russia said on Tuesday it's ready to accept a US proposal to freeze the number of nuclear warheads and extend the two nations' last arms control pact for one year and Washington responded that it's prepared to make a quick deal. US state department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus welcomed the offer. — AP Full report on Page 6

## Sweden bans Huawei, says China top threat

Stockholm: Sweden is banning Chinese tech companies Huawei and ZTE from building new high-speed wireless networks after a top security official called China one of the country's biggest threats. — AP

## COUNTERPOINT



Not Ravana, it's your effigy being burnt by aspirants who have been denied tickets!

## WEATHER

Max: 34°C  
Min: 19°C  
RH: 29%  
Rain: Nil  
Forecast: Sunny

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Shuddha Panchami till 9.10 am  
Star: Moola till 1.16 am  
Varjyam: 11.44 pm to 1.16 am  
Durmuhurtam: 11.37 am to 12.24 noon  
Rahukalam: Noon to 1.30 pm  
SUNSET TODAY 5.45 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.25 AM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 11.15 AM  
MOONSET TODAY 9.44 PM

■ 'Till we find vaccine, we absolutely can't be complacent about Covid'

## PM warns on eve of festivals: Virus still there, be cautious

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

Days after Union health minister Harsh Vardhan admitted that India was in the community spread stage, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday underlined the need to remain vigilant against the coronavirus pandemic. In his eighth address to the nation since the lockdown was imposed on March 24, Mr Modi said that all safety measures must be observed till a vaccine for the contagion was found. In his 10-minute address which came when the festival season has just begun, Mr Modi said: "Till the time we get a vaccine shot, we absolutely cannot be complacent about the pandemic."

India, he said, was working on two or three possible vaccines and "we are trying our best to get a vaccine, as is the rest of the world". The PM then added: "I want to let you know that once we get a



▶ In his 8th address to the nation since the lockdown was imposed on March 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that all safety measures must be observed till a vaccine was found

We must not think that things are normal again. You are putting yourselves, your families, children and elders in your home in grave danger by not taking the proper precautions, — Narendra Modi

vaccine, everyone will get it in a planned, phased and fast manner."

Health ministry data shows that the Covid-19 figures have been tapering off over the last couple of weeks, but a Central

medical panel has warned that a spike can be expected with the festival season and the onset of winter if there is any laxity in the observance of safety measures. It can be as much as "up to 26 lakh cases with-

in a month", the committee said, adding that only 30 per cent of the population had developed immunity so far.

The committee said its fears were borne out by the situation in Kerala, where after the recent Onam festival, a sharp rise in daily Covid figures were observed. The spike started on September 8 - days after the Onam celebrations that stretched from August 22 to September 2.

The PM said that with the onset of the festive season, people appear to have relaxed their vigilance regarding the coronavirus pandemic.

"Recent videos show people are becoming very lax with the precautions we take. Videos show that people are being irresponsible and not taking the steps advised to a very large extent. This cannot happen," he said.

"We must not think that things are normal again. You are putting your-

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## Covid count falls: Under 50K/day after 3 months

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

A sharp drop in daily Covid-19 infections was reported in India after the fresh detections dropped below 50,000 for the first time in three months. On Tuesday, the new cases were 46,790, taking India's overall Covid-19 cases to close to 76 lakh.

The daily fatalities too are coming down and the total death toll reached 1.15 lakh with 587 new deaths registered in the last 24 hours. This is the

second consecutive day when fatalities in a day were below 600.

The active cases of coronavirus infection remained below 8 lakh for the fourth consecutive day. There are 7.48 lakh active cases of Covid-19 infection in the country which comprises 9.85 per cent of the total caseload. So far 67.33 lakh people have recovered from the deadly virus taking the national recovery rate to 88.63 per cent while the case fatality rate has come down to 1.52 per cent.

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## Durga Puja forum urges HC to review entry ban

RAJIB CHOWDHURI  
KOLKATA, OCT. 20:

A day after the Calcutta high court's ban on visitors' entry to all Durga Puja mandaps in West Bengal to curb crowding and spread of Covid-19, Forum for Durgotsob, an umbrella organisation of all Durga Puja organisers in the state, on Tuesday filed a review petition of the order before the same division bench, comprising Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee, which passed it.

"The high court accept-

ed the review petition and scheduled the hearing on Wednesday," said Sreerampore Trinamul Congress MP and advocate Kalyan Banerjee, who will fight against CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya, advocate of the PIL applicant, for Forum for Durgotsob that has complained of difficulty to follow the set of guidelines issued by the high court on Monday and even offered to take the judges on a tour to those pandals.

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Porters carry an idol of Goddess Durga from a clay modelling studio to a community pandal ahead of the Durga Puja festival in Kolkata on Tuesday. — PTI

## Outrage as 'Durga' Kamala 'slays' Trump

Washington, Oct. 20: Hindu groups in the US have sought an apology from the niece of Senator Kamala Harris for tweeting an "offensive" image, which depicted the Democratic vice-presidential nominee as Goddess Durga.

The tweet was then deleted by Meena Harris, 35, who is a lawyer, a children's book author and the founder of the Phenomenal Woman Action Campaign, an organisation that works to bring awareness to intersectional social causes.

In the now deleted tweet, a screenshot of which is being retweeted by some people, Meena Harris says: "I am actually speechless, other than to

## Ahead of final debate, panel adopts rules to mute mics

Washington: Ahead of the final US presidential debate, the non-partisan commission on presidential debates has announced new rules under which it will mute microphones for two minutes of the rival speakers so as to give them uninterrupted

opening remarks.

Incumbent Republican President Donald Trump, 74, and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden, 77, are slated to face their final debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee on October 22. — PTI

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say that the first day of Navaratri was LIT." In the image, Kamala Harris, depicted as Goddess Durga, was seen killing US President Donald Trump, who was

depicted as buffalo demon "Mahishasura". The image also showed Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden as a lion, the "vahana" (vehicle) of the goddess.

"Your tweeting a caricature of the feminine divine, Maa Durga, with faces superimposed, deeply aggrieved many Hindus globally," Suhag A Shukla of the Hindu American Foundation said in a tweet. HAF, which represents the Hindu American community, has issued a guideline for commercial use of images relating to the religion.

Rishi Bhutada of the Hindu American Political Action Committee said the "offensive" picture was not created by Meena Harris herself. It had been circulating on WhatsApp prior to her tweet and the Biden campaign confirmed to him that the image was not created by it. — PTI

## Punjab 'negates' Central farm laws, passes 4 bills

Jail for flouting MSP ■ Not afraid of resigning: CM

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

Congress-ruled Punjab on Tuesday became the first state to reject the three Central farm laws, with the state Assembly passing a resolution to virtually "negate" the effects of the legislation.

This move comes after widespread protests against the laws and a directive from Congress president Sonia Gandhi to all states ruled by the party to pass separate laws negating the effect of the Central farm laws.

The resolution was passed by the Amarinder Singh government at a special Assembly session, that was supported by the Opposition parties, including the Akali Dal, Aam Aadmi Party and Lok Insaaf Party. The two BJP MLAs were absent from the House.

It might be recalled that the Akali Dal, an alliance partner of the BJP, had

quit the NDA over the contentious laws and its representative Harsimrat Kaur Badal had quit the Union Cabinet over it.

The laws passed by the state provide for imprisonment of not less than three years for the sale or purchase of wheat or paddy below the minimum support price (MSP), exemption to farmers from attachment of land up to 2.5 acres and prevention of hoarding and blackmarketing of agricultural produce.

Punjab finance minister Manpreet Badal told the media that initially the government had thought of making the exemption to five acres but then had

limited it to 2.5 acres, thinking of the bankability of farmers.

Moving the resolution and three of the four bills, the chief minister said if the Central laws were not repealed, it would lead to anger among the state's youth, recalling the militancy in the 1980s and 1990s. "I am not afraid of resigning. I am not afraid of my government being dismissed. But I will not let farmers suffer or be ruined," he said.

Mr Singh said if the constitutional authorities do not give their assent, the state has the option of legal recourse. "I have made clear that the bills

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## Pre-poll survey hints NDA set to win in Bihar

Nitish's popularity sliding, but still high, at 31%; Tejashwi next, at 27%

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

As Bihar prepares to vote in the first phase of the three-phased electoral battle on October 28, a pre-poll survey by India Today-Lokniti-CSDS has projected the Nitish Kumar-led NDA securing a clear majority, with 133-143 Assembly seats and a vote share of 38 per cent. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the most popular political figure in the state, where the BJP has already made it clear that JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar, the chief minister, will lead the alliance, with 61 per cent voters saying they were satisfied with the Central government and 52 per cent saying they were satisfied with Mr Kumar's performance.

Mr Modi is due to begin his campaign in the state on October 23, and the NDA is hoping that it could impact the "undecided voters" in its favour. Bihar has 243 Assembly seats and the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) had contested the last Assembly polls in 2015 with the Lalu Prasad

## Yogi begins rallies, rakes up Ram, J&K

Patna: Kickstarting his campaign for the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar, UP CM Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday urged people to vote for Nitish Kumar for the overall development of Bihar. The CM asked people to vote the NDA back to power, drawing upon PM Narendra Modi's mass appeal and the BJP's ability to walk the talk on Ayodhya, Kashmir and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. PAGE 3

Yadav-led RJD and the Congress. In Bihar, where caste plays a crucial role, the Opposition Mahagathbandhan led by RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is projected to win anywhere between 88-98 Assembly seats, with a vote share of 29-32 per cent. The Mahagathbandhan comprises the RJD, Congress, CPI(M), CPI and CPI(M-L). These are the first elections in the state since the late

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## Major antitrust case by US govt against Google

Washington, Oct. 20: The justice department is expected to file a lawsuit on Tuesday alleging that Google has been abusing its online dominance in online search to stifle competition and harm consumers, a person familiar with the matter told the AP.

The lawsuit marks the government's most significant act to protect competition since its groundbreaking case against Microsoft more than 20 years ago. It could be an opening salvo ahead of other major government antitrust actions, given ongoing

investigations of major tech companies, including Apple, Amazon and Facebook, at both the justice department and the Federal Trade Commission. Legislators and consumer advocates have long accused Google, whose corporate parent Alphabet Inc. has a market value just over \$1 trillion, of abusing its dominance in online search and advertising to stifle competition and boost its profits. The case is expected to be filed in federal court in Washington DC. — AP

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## IN BRIEF

**2 men arrested for killing buffalo trader**

**New Delhi:** Two men were arrested for allegedly killing a buffalo trader over monetary dispute in Ghazipur area, the police said on Tuesday. The accused have been identified as Gagan Bindra and Mohammad Anas. The police said that the vehicle used in the commission of the crime has been recovered. The accused owed money to deceased Omkar Sharma, a buffalo trader. The police said it recovered the body of Sharma, a resident of Jind in Haryana, from Ghazipur Dairy Farm on Friday. There were multiple stab injuries on his body. A senior police officer said during investigation they arrested the accused persons on Monday. Interrogation revealed that Bindra bought buffaloes from Sharma and owed around ₹15 to ₹20 lakh to him, the police said. "On the day of the incident, Bindra and Anas took Sharma to Yamuna Khadar area on the pretext of returning the buffaloes which he had purchased from the victim. The accused killed the victim after stabbing him multiple times," the officer said. They later dumped the body in Ghazipur Dairy Farm area, the police added.

**Man shot dead in Azadpur Mandi**

**New Delhi:** Three men were arrested for opening fire at a man for allegedly refusing to give them 'beedi,' the police said on Tuesday. The accused, Vivek, Dinesh, and Vikas, are residents of S.S. Nagar in Wazirpur Industrial Area, it said. According to the police, the incident took place on the intervening night of October 14-15, when 35-year-old Mithilesh was going to a sabzi mandi in Keshavpuram along with his helper Rajkumar and another person after loading potatoes in his truck. On the way, he parked his vehicle near Azadpur Flyover to pass urine. When he boarded his truck, one person asked them for a 'beedi.' When he denied and started his vehicle, the accused called his two accomplices and one of them fired a bullet at Rajkumar, which hit on the left side of his stomach. Thereafter, all three persons fled from the spot. The injured was immediately taken to hospital by the police and a case was registered at Ashok Vihar police station, a senior police officer said. On his instance, his associates Dinesh and Vivek were also arrested from Wazirpur Industrial Area, she said.

**35-yr-old man's body found stuffed in trunk**

**New Delhi:** Two days after the body of a 35-year-old man was found stuffed inside a trunk in Munak canal, his two brothers have been arrested in connection with the killing, police said on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Dileep Jha, a resident of Raja Vihar in outer Delhi. He was allegedly strangled by his brothers over a property dispute, they said. Both the brothers — Vivek Jha and Satish Jha — have been arrested in connection with the killing, police said. The body was found stuffed in a metal trunk on Sunday in Munak canal near Haiderpur water treatment plant in outer Delhi, police said, adding, there were no apparent injury marks on the body. The deceased was identified with the help of the logo of a tailor shop on the trousers that he was wearing. Missing persons reports from Samaypur Badli police station were also crosschecked and one of the missing complaints matched the deceased's description, said Gaurav Sharma, DCP (Outer North).

**4 held for trying to kill businessman**

**New Delhi:** A 40-year-old businessman and his four associates including a juvenile were apprehended for trying to kill his friend who was allegedly blackmailing him over an objectionable video, police said on Tuesday. Pankaj Kapoor gave Rs 3 lakh to Rahul Lathwal (23), Akshay Malik (20) and Rohit Lathwal (22) to kill Deepak Chopra, police said. Chopra had shot a video of Kapoor and his girlfriend in a compromising position and had been threatening to share it on social media if he refused to pay him ₹25 lakh, police said. Kapoor is married and runs a travel agency in Rohini while Chopra is a property dealer.

**■ Pollution 'moderate' to 'poor' in Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Faridabad: Govt****Air quality 'poor' in NCR cities**

**Noida, Oct. 20:** The air quality remained "moderate" to "poor" on Tuesday in Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Buddh Nagar and Ghaziabad in the National Capital Region, according to a government agency.

There was concentration of PM 2.5 and PM 10 pollutants in the air of the four immediate neighbouring districts of Delhi, according to the air quality index (AQI) maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

According to the index, an AQI between zero 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".

In Faridabad, the AQI was recorded at 262 at the station in Sector 11 followed by 244 at Sector 30, 217 at New Industrial

Town and 199 at Sector 16A, according to the CPCB data at 7 pm.

In Gurgaon, an AQI of 246 was recorded at the station in Sector 151 followed by 234 at Vikas Sadan, 169 at NISE Gwal Pahari and 131 at the Teri Gram, it showed.

In Gautam Buddh Nagar's Noida, the AQI of 235 was measured at the station in Sector 125 followed by 234 at Sector 62 and 195 at Sector 116, while the station at Sector 125 showed "insufficient" data for the last 24 hours.

In Greater Noida, an AQI of 239 was recorded in Knowledge Park V while it was 187 in Knowledge Park III, according to the CPCB figures.

Adjoining district Ghaziabad's Loni had an AQI of 267 at 7 pm followed by 209 at Indirapuram and 202 at Sanjay Nagar while no

**Air quality improves in Delhi, likely to turn 'very poor' today**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

Pollution levels in the national capital dipped slightly on Tuesday due to favourable wind speed, but the air quality is likely to turn "very poor" on Wednesday. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, stated the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution stood at

8 per cent on Tuesday and is likely to increase by Wednesday morning.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 223 on Tuesday. It was 244 on Monday, 254 on Sunday and 287 on Saturday. An AQI between zero 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".

official data was available for Vasundhara, it showed.

The worsening of the air quality comes even as the

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been implemented in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) from October 15 to

check air pollution, which spikes around this time of the year. Meanwhile, expecting further deterioration in air quality in the coming days, the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority had on Monday asked the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to be ready to close thermal power plants that do not meet the standards laid down in 2015.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday requested Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to hold monthly meetings with the CMs of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and UP to curb air pollution, saying there is a lack of political will at the level of the states to address the problem of stubble burning. \

—PTI

**Delhi sees rise in home isolation cases, say experts**

**New Delhi, Oct. 20:** The number of Covid patients under home isolation in Delhi has steadily increased by a margin of 1,804 in the last six days, with experts saying that opening of cinema halls, pollution and greater public activity in the festive season could be the possible factors behind it.

On October 18, the number of people under home quarantine stood at 13,742 with 2,770 containment zones in the city. On Monday, the count rose to 14,164 and 2782 respectively, according to official data. The city recorded 31 Covid fatalities on Monday, taking the death toll to 6,040, while 2,154 fresh cases took the infection tally to over 3.33 lakh.

After showing a gradual decline since September 22, except on two days, the number of patients under home quarantine had again risen on October 1, the count being 15,899.

However, from October 2-13 the cases of home isolation gradually dipped, except on two days when it registered a minimal rise. On October 2 the count was 15,852, which came down to 12,176 on October 13, as per official data.

But the count of home isolation cases rose again the next day to 12,360 and it has steadily increased per day since then. On October 19, it stood at 14,164, a rise of 1,804 compared to the number of cases on October 14.

Medical experts feel greater increase in public activities due to the festive season and opening of cinema halls along with deteriorating air quality could be the possible factors behind rise in home isolation cases.

"Theatres have opened and people are going to markets for festival shopping, this means more public activity and thus greater chance of contracting the infection. Besides, pollution is an added factor," Medical Director, LNJP Hospital, Suresh Kumar, told PTI.

**41 more Covid-19 deaths take city's total toll to 6,081**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

The national capital recorded 41 Covid fatalities on Tuesday taking the death toll due to the disease to 6,081, while 3,579 fresh cases took the infection tally to over 3.36 lakh, authorities said.

These fresh cases were detected following 56,593 coronavirus tests conducted the previous day. Forty-one more fatalities have been recorded, taking the death toll to 6,081, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the city government.

The tally of active cases on Tuesday rose to 23,922 from 22,570 the previous day.

The total number of cases has climbed to 3,36,750, the bulletin added.

The number of containment zones in Delhi dropped to 2,716 from 2,782 on Monday.

The positivity rate on Tuesday stood at 6.32 per cent while the recovery rate crossed 91 per cent, the bulletin said, adding, the case fatality rate stood at 1.81 per cent.

tracting the infection. Besides, pollution is an added factor," Medical Director, LNJP Hospital, Suresh Kumar, told PTI.

People with asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and other respiratory ailments are more susceptible to suffer fall in their oxygen concentration level and thus more prone to contract the infection from someone else, symptomatic or asymptomatic, he said.

—PTI

**HC asks Army couple to join new postings within 15 days**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

The Delhi High Court Tuesday asked the Army's Colonel couple who had challenged their postings to two different locations to move to their newly assigned posts within 15 days. A bench of Justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Asha Menon issued the direction while disposing of the plea by Colonel Amit Kumar who had challenged his posting to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from Jodhpur in Rajasthan on the ground that his wife, set to be promoted as Colonel, was being sent to Bathinda in Punjab. Mr Kumar is an officer in Judge Advocate General (JAG) department of the Army.

The bench said the Army has given reasons in its order rejecting Kumar's request/representation for a spouse coordinated posting and

▶ **THE MILITARY** Secretary Branch passed an order on September 30 rejecting the request citing "operational situation along the borders", "organizational interest" and paucity of such senior officers in the JAG department

no ground of mala fide or violation of any rule has been made out for the court to interfere in the matter.

"It is clear from the order (of the Army) that all aspects as required to be considered have been considered," it added.

The bench on September 15 had asked the Army to consider the plea as representation and take a decision on the request of the couple for a joint posting within four weeks.

The high court had also put on hold the postings of

the two officers till the next date of hearing on October 20.

The Military Secretary Branch of the Army, subsequently, passed an order on September 30 rejecting the request citing "operational situation along the borders", "organizational interest" and paucity of such senior officers in the JAG department.

The stand of the Military Secretary Branch was opposed by the two senior officers whose counsel had claimed that the department was trying to "misguide" the court by using terms like "border situation" and "organizational interest" as "smoke-screen". During the hearing on Tuesday, the bench at the outset expressed displeasure over alleged leak of information to the media regarding the two officers' grievances and said "you can either go to the media or come to the court".

**Ghaziabad: 2-yr-old killed after being raped, accused held**

**Ghaziabad (UP), Oct. 20:** A two-and-half-year-old girl was allegedly raped and later killed by her father's acquaintance with her body found in Kavi Nagar here on Tuesday, police said.

She was lured on the pretext of getting her some food by her father's old acquaintance, they said. Her body was found in a deserted area under Kavi Nagar police station limits in the morning.

The victim's father lodged a complaint with the police that he has known the accused for the last 10 years who used to visit his house often as his children used to address him as "uncle", according to Senior Superintendent of Police Kalanidhi Naithani.

The police said that based on the complaint given by the family, they registered an FIR under IPC section 376ab (for rape of woman under twelve years of age) and 302 (murder), besides levying provisions under

▶ **THE VICTIM'S** father lodged a complaint with the police that he has known the accused for the last 10 years who used to visit his house often as his children used to address him as "uncle", according to SSP Kalanidhi Naithani

the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at Kavi Nagar police station. The girl's body was sent for a post-mortem.

Investigators suspect that the rape, murder might be linked to an altercation that the man had with the minor's father around two years ago.

"We have registered an FIR based on complaint given by the family and are awaiting the post mortem reports of the victim. We have arrested the suspect and deployed teams for collection of forensic evidences," said a senior police officer.

—PTI

**Delhi Gymkhana Club's bar licence suspended**

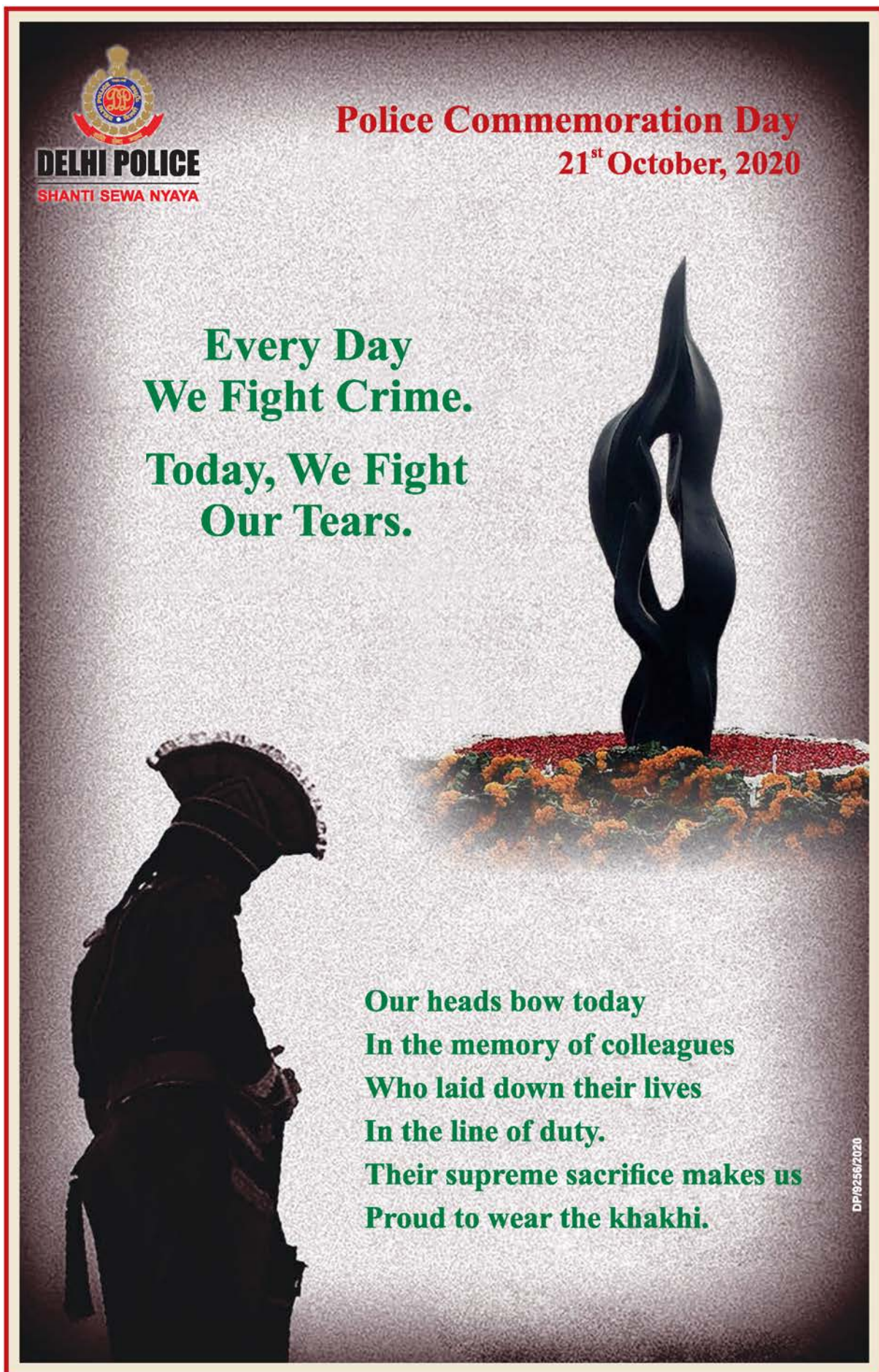
**New Delhi, Oct. 20:** The government has suspended the bar licence of the high-profile Gymkhana Club for "misappropriation of liquor", after its probe found out that the club was allegedly involved in the sale of liquor even during the lockdown period.

According to the order issued by deputy excise commissioner Ranjeet Singh, the license has been suspended with immediate effect and the club officials concerned have been directed to appear before the excise department on

October 27.

The order stated that during the course of inspection on September 17, a bar sub-store was found in the club, for which no approval was taken. It stated that during inspection, a club official informed that some liquor stock was found to be short from the bar sub-store as an ex-official had taken out liquor from it during the lockdown, without bringing it to the knowledge of the manager or the members of the club's managing committee.

—PTI





## SHORT TAKES

## UP firing: BJP sends show-cause to MLA

**Lucknow/Ballia:** The BJP has issued a show-cause notice to its MLA Surendra Singh for making statements in support of Dharendra Pratap Singh, a local party leader arrested for allegedly murdering a man during an event attended by senior district and police officials in Ballia. "Yes, a notice has been issued to Surendra Singh, and he has been asked to refrain from making unnecessary statements. He has been given a week to explain his stand," Uttar Pradesh BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh said. He also said that BJP national president J.P. Nadda had sought information on the matter over the phone. Surendra Singh, the MLA from Bairia, had come out in support of Dharendra Pratap Singh, who allegedly shot dead a 46-year-old man in Ballia district's Durjanpur village following a quarrel over the public allotment of ration shops. — PTI

## Covid-19: BJP WB chief out of hospital

**Kolkata:** West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh who was admitted to a city private hospital after testing positive for Covid-19, was discharged on Tuesday, sources in it said. The 56-year-old BJP leader had tested positive on Friday following he was admitted to the hospital's high dependency unit. Mr Ghosh told reporters that all the test reports have confirmed that he has recovered and he is feeling well now. Mr Ghosh said he had got himself admitted to the hospital on October 16 after he developed high temperature along with persistent cough. "There were no other complications. I am okay now. Let me assure everybody there is no reason to be anxious about my health conditions. Thanking you all and stay safe," Mr Ghosh said. — PTI

## 3 men held in exam paper leak in HP

**Shimla:** Three people were arrested in connection with the alleged leak of the question paper during a bus conductors' recruitment examination held in Himachal Pradesh, police said on Tuesday. A special investigation team (SIT) of the state police arrested two brothers from Batadi village in Shimla's Rohru and a resident of Boharka village in Kangra, director general of Police Sanjay Kundu said. As per state police, the accused from Kangra was a candidate at a centre in Shahpur and leaked the paper to his accomplices through a mobile phone while the test was underway on Sunday. Similarly, one of the two brothers from Rohru was a candidate in Shimla who sent an image of the paper to his brother, it added. — PTI

## ED attaches Iqbal Mirchi's properties

**Mumbai:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached assets worth ₹22.42 crore belonging to deceased underworld gangster Mohammed Iqbal Memon alias Iqbal Mirchi in connection with the ongoing money laundering probe involving his son and wife. The attached properties include a movie theatre, a hotel - both located in Mumbai along with under construction hotel, farm house, two bungalows and land parcel in Panchgani, officials said. The officials said that a provincial order to attach the properties was issued as per the provisions of the sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) with the total attachment in this case touching ₹798 crore.

## UIDAI suspends ADG on graft charges

**New Delhi:** Aadhaar-issuing body UIDAI on Tuesday suspended Pankaj Goyal, an assistant director general posted at its regional office in Delhi, with immediate effect, pending inquiry into charges of corruption. "... a case against... Pankaj Goyal... assistant director general posted at Regional Office, Delhi of the Unique Identification Authority of India in respect of a criminal offence in under investigation/inquiry," as per an order signed by UIDAI CEO Pankaj Kumar. — PTI

## Yogi hits campaign trail in Bihar

They (RJD) are only interested in promoting family of Lalu Prasad Yadav, says Yogi

Nayyar Azad  
Patna, Oct. 20

Kickstarting his campaign for the upcoming assembly elections UP CM Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday urged people to vote for Nitish Kumar for the overall development of Bihar.

He was in Bihar for the first time after the polls were announced. While addressing the rally he said that the BJP led NDA has fulfilled its promises made to the people. "Right from building a grand temple at Ayodhya to wiping out terrorism in Kashmir and beating Pakistan in its turf, we fulfilled our promises. The NDA also didn't discriminate while delivering welfare schemes among the masses," Mr Adityanath said.

He also used the occasion to criticise the Opposition coalition of doing politics of appeasement and indulging in corruption. Taking a dig at the RJD he said, "For them, the development is not the priority. They are only interested in promoting their own family. They didn't even leave the fodder which was meant for cattle". While addressing the



Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav meet Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan, who was performing shradh rituals for his father late Ram Vilas Paswan, in Patna on Tuesday. — PTI

## 'Anti-national' Cong lauding Pak during election: Nadda

**Buxar (Bihar):** Branding the Congress party as "anti-national", BJP president J.P. Nadda said on Tuesday said its leaders were praising Pakistan when an election is under way in India.

Mr Nadda said since the main Opposition party had nothing worth talking about the achievements of its past governments, it was busy extolling Pakistan. So what do they do? Just this — When the

election is on in Bihar, talk about Pakistan.

What has Bihar election got to do with Pakistan? But Congress leaders are praising Pakistan. And who is leading them in this praise? Rahul Gandhi, Nadda told an election rally here.

Rahul Gandhi had on Friday targeted the Centre over IMF's projection that the Indian economy is set to contract by a massive 10.3% this year. — PTI

## It is Rahul ji's personal opinion... I will not apologise, says former CM

## Rahul disapproves of Nath's 'item' jibe at MP mantri

RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY  
BHOPAL, OCT. 20

Ex-AICC president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday snubbed Congress veteran Kamal Nath by terming his item jibe against Imarti Devi, the dalit woman minister in the Shivraj cabinet, as "unfortunate".

Talking to reporters in Wayanad in Kerala, Mr Gandhi said, "Kamal Nath ji is from my party but personally, I don't like the type



Kamal Nath ji is from my party but personally, I don't like the type of language that he used... I don't appreciate it, regardless of who he is. It is unfortunate.

— Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

of language that he used... I don't appreciate it, regardless of who he is. It is unfortunate".

Septuagenarian Mr Nath however sought to dismiss Mr Gandhi's remarks, say-

ing "It is Rahul ji's personal opinion. He (Rahul Gandhi) was briefed in which context it was said. I have already clarified in which context I had said this. There is no need for me to

explain it further".

Asked by reporters here if he was going to apologise for his remarks, he shot back, "Why should I apologise? I have already clarified that I had no intention to show disrespect to anybody. I have also expressed regret (if my remarks offended anyone)".

Earlier, Mr Nath sought to clarify that the word he had used had "multiple interpretations" and the word 'item' is not offensive and can be

referred to anyone, even for me or chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

He however accused Mr Chouhan of politicising the issue to gain mileage ahead of November 3 by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh.

Reacting to the letter written by the chief minister to Congress president Sonia Gandhi seeking action against him for his item jibe, Mr Nath described the charges as 'nothing but lies'.

## MP: BJP candidate uses 'foul language'

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
BHOPAL, OCT. 20

Amid raging row over Congress veteran Kamal Nath's item jibe against a Dalit woman minister in the Shivraj Cabinet, a BJP candidate seeking election from Annupur assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh has allegedly used foul languages against wife of Congress nominee in the constituency, triggering outrage.

Congress on Tuesday moved the Election Commission seeking disqualification of BJP candidate Bishaul Singh, who is also a minister in the Shivraj Cabinet, for making derogatory remarks against the wife of Congress candidate in Annupur

assembly seat Biswanath Singh Kunjam, .

The party produced a video before the election body as evidence of violation of model code of conduct by the BJP candidate by using filthy language against Mr Kunjam's wife.

The minister was heard in the video clip questioning why the Congress candidate allegedly failed to provide property statements of his 'first wife' and also heard calling the latter's "second" wife as "rakhail" (kept).

State home minister Narottam Mishra has issued a statement saying he was apologising on behalf of the BJP candidate for his remarks.

## Sharecroppers left in lurch as Odisha govt delays law

AKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO  
BALASORE (ODISHA), OCT. 20

Santu Singh, a 40-year-old farmer of Sartha gram panchayat under Balasore Sadar assembly in Odisha is not much enthused about the battle for ballot that has just gathered pace now.

He remains busy in his farmland and pays little attention to the assembly bypoll noise made by different political parties. He carries his hard-earned harvests — paddy — with a bamboo sling on his shoulders.

The by-election which is happening due to the death of sitting BJP lawmaker Madan Mohan Dutta in July last, as Santu thinks, is not going to change his fortune as he is a sharecropper and hence not eligible for government's supports like free agri-

inputs, low-interest rate credits and selling opportunity for his produce at government stipulated prices. As he does not possess the record of rights of the land he tills, he simply cannot sell his produce in local mandis or government procurement centres.

"This election is not going to bring any changes in our fortune. The state government promised us to make a piece of law which will give us the recognition of an actual farmer and we would be eligible to benefit from government schemes and programmes. The proposed law still languishes in the cold store," said Santu.

As the sharecroppers in Odisha are not recognised as actual farmers, they cannot sell their produce at local mandis as the stipulated Minimum Support Price (MSP).

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE				
Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders through <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> for the following items. For detail information please log on to website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>				
Tender No.	Item Description	Tender Due Date	Tender invited by	
83205005	Haemodialysis Machine with Sled Facil.	13.11.2020	Dy. CMM/Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2294/20

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE				
Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders through <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> for the following items. For detail information please log on to website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>				
Tender No.	Item Description	Tender Due Date	Tender invited by	
82202422C	Inj. Nimotuzumab (Biomab) 200 mg. or Equivalent.	13.11.2020 at 11.00 hrs.	Dy. CMM/Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi	
82201002D	Tab. Palbociclib 125 mg.	13.11.2020 at 11.00 hrs.	Dy. CMM/Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2296/20

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED				
Head Office: 10-15/1, SRI SAI TOWERS, BANDAR ROAD KANURU, VJAYAWADA-520007				
Lr.No.PDS. 3/119/Tapes/Tenders/2020 Date: 20.10.2020				
TENDER NOTICE FOR "EMANELMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MANUFACTURERS FOR SUPPLY OF PACKAGING TAPE" THROUGH e - PROCUREMENT PORTAL				
APSCSCL desires for empanelment and appointment of manufacturers for supply of packaging tape to be utilized along with thread for stitching of Jute Bags. Applications are invited from the interested suppliers from all over India.				
For details and to download tender document, please visit <a href="http://www.apscscl.in">www.apscscl.in</a> and <a href="https://tender.aapeprocurement.gov.in">https://tender.aapeprocurement.gov.in</a> Last date for receiving applications would be 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020, 5.00 pm.				
Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR				

## ADHOC HIRING OF CIVIL VEHICLES

at Victor Force Awantipora

For Local & Outstation Duty including 14 Corps Zone

For Period From 01 Nov. 2020 To 31 Mar 2021

TENDER NOTICE	
HQ Victor Force intends to hire various types of vehicles i.e Light vehicles, Buses, Trucks upto 9 tons, Tipper, JCB and Water Bowser on Adhoc basis. Sealed quotations are required to be deposited in Tender Box by 1200 hrs on 26 Oct 2020, at HQ CIF (V) Main Gate Awantipora. The format of the quotation and terms & conditions can be obtained from CIF HQ (V) Signal Regiment before 24 Oct 2020. For clarifications contact AQMG, HQ CIF (V). Mobile No.: 8055779685.	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)	
1	Name of work with its location
2	Approx. Cost of work
3	Earnest Money
4	Completion period of Work
5	Cost of tender form
6	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender
7	Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded
Tender Notice No. 32-W-METL-PAINT-MB-20-22 Dated: 20.10.2020	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
The Dy.Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-	
1. Name of work and location	Hiring of Truck Model 207 or similar of minimum 1.0 Metric Ton capacity CNG fuelled for TMMD/TKD for leading of Railway material such as track machine spares, T&P, Oil and other Engg. Material of any length & breadth etc, for a period of 24 months for maintenance of Track Machines in jurisdiction of Dy/CE/TMC Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi
2. Completion period of the work	24 Months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 13.83 Lakhs
4. Cost of Tender Document	Nil
5. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 27,700/-
6. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender bid may be uploaded upto 15.00 hrs on 27.11.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon after 15.00 hrs on 27.11.2020.
7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice and Tender Document is available on Railway web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 13.11.2020 to 27.11.2020. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
Tender Notice No.: 1-W-DyCETMCL-TRK-05-20-21 Dated : 20.10.2020 2289/20	
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NORTHERN RAILWAY			
TENDER NOTICE			
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)			
N.I.T. No.	S.N.	28-2020-21-W-V	
1. Name of work with its location	1	P-way zone misc. p.way works in the section of SSE/P.Way/TKD under ADEN/TKD. <b>Similar nature of work:</b> CTR/TRR/ TRF/TTR including raising of track, deep screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine, TRT/PQRS/ballast, screening /regulating machines & TTR by T-28.	
2. Approx. Cost of work	1	Rs. 89,99,336.43	
3. Earenst Money	1	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated: 31.08.2016)	
	1	Rs. 1,80,000	
4. Completion period of work	1	12 months	
5. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender		Upto 15.00 hrs. on 13.11.2020 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. on 13.11.2020	
6. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.		Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>	
No.: 128-W/280/OET/2020-21-W-V/NIT-28 Dt. 19.10.2020			
Serving Customers with a Smile			
2293/2020			

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all concerned that following addition / modification/ amendments have been made in the Special Trains / Festival Special Trains announced by Railways for the convenience of passengers :-

Revised Timings for clone Train No.09465 Ahmedabad-Darbhanga (Weekly) Special Train with effect from 23.10.2020 between Ahmedabad - Godhra

Station	PRESENT TIMINGS 09465 Ahmedabad-Darbhanga		REVISED TIMINGS 09465 Ahmedabad-Darbhanga	
	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
Ahmedabad Jn.	--	20:40	--	20:40
Geratpur	--	21:00	--	21:00
Chhayapuri	22:01	22:04	22:14	22:17
Godhra	--	22:50	--	23:05

Revised Timings of 09451/09452 Gandhidham - Bhagalpur - Gandhidham (Weekly) Festival Special Train at Ahmedabad with effect from 23.10.2020

Train No. 09451 Gandhidham - Bhagalpur				Train No. 09452 Bhagalpur - Gandhidham			
Present Timings		Revised Timings		Present Timings		Revised Timings	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
--	17.40	--	17.40	Gandhidham	08.00	--	08.00
23.15	23.25	23.05	23.25	Ahmedabad	02.30	02.40	02.20

Change in Train No. of 02817/02818 Visakhapatnam- Hazrat Nizamuddin - Visakhapatnam Superfast Festival Special Train

Train Name	From-To	Train No. as Notified	Revised Train No.	With effect from
Visakhapatnam - H. Nizamuddin S/F Special Festival Express	Visakhapatnam - H. Nizamuddin	02817	02887	20.10.2020
H. Nizamuddin - Visakhapatnam S/F Special Festival Express	H. Nizamuddin - Visakhapatnam	02818	02888	22.10.2020

Change in days of run of 04185/04186 Gwalior - Barauni - Gwalior Special Express (Daily)

Revised dates of run :- Train No. 04185 from Gwalior daily from 23.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 instead of 26.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 and 04186 from Barauni daily from 24.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 instead of 27.10.2020 to 01.12.2020.

## Details of Stoppages Withdrawn

Train No. & Name	Stoppages Withdrawn
05018/05017 Gorakhpur - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Gorakhpur Special Express	Devfali, Igatpuri, Kasara, Nandgaon, Napanagar, Jasra, Dabhaura, Jaitwar, Barud & Surgaon Banjari Stations
05045/05046 Gorakhpur - Okha - Gorakhpur Mail Exp.	Shajapur, Maninagar, Wankaner, Hapa & Khambhalia

## New Stoppage of Festival Special Trains

- Train No. 03019/03020 Howrah -Kathgodam - Howrah Festival Special Train will also stop at Sonpur station as per schedule time of 13019/13020 Howrah - Kathgodam - Howrah Bagh Express. The stoppage will be provided to 03019 from Howrah from 20.10.2020 and 03020 from Kathgodam from 22.10.2020 & onwards.
- Train No. 04012/04011 Anand Vihar Terminal - Jogbani - Anand Vihar Terminal Superfast Special Train will also stop at Barauni station as per schedule time of 12488/12487 Anand Vihar Terminal - Jogbani - Anand Vihar Terminal Seemanchal Express. The stoppage will be provided to 04012 from Anand Vihar Terminal from 20.10.2020 and 04011 from Jogbani from 21.10.2020 & onwards.

2 (two) minute stoppage have provided to the following trains at Maihar Station during Maa Shardeeya Navratra Mela Upto 31.10.2020.

- Train No. 09045/09046 Surat - Chhapra - Surat Special Train
- Train No. 01055/01056 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Gorakhpur - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Special Train
- Train No. 09051/09052 Valsad - Muzaffarpur - Valsad Special Train
- Train No. 09089/09090 Ahmedabad- Gorakhpur - Ahmedabad Special Train
- Train No. 02670/02669 Chhapra - Chennai Central - Chhapra Special Train
- Train No. 02293/02294 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Prayagraj - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Special Train
- Train No. 02791/02792 Secunderabad - Danapur - Secunderabad Special Train

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

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Helpline No. 182

Integrated  
Helpline No. 139



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## SHORT TAKES

## 101 cops died of Covid in AP: DGP

**Amaravati:** Over a 100 police personnel have succumbed to coronavirus in Andhra Pradesh so far, director-general of police D.G. Sawang said here on Tuesday. In all 13,229 personnel had been affected by COVID-19 so far and of them 101 died, he said on the eve of Police Commemoration Day. The DGP said 3,780 personnel with moderate risk and 1,334 with high risk were kept under watch with the help of Unit Medical Officers. All the personnel who have crossed 50 and 55 years of age and suffering from co-morbidities were advised to either work from home or kept on indoor, (police) station duties, he added. As of Tuesday, the state's Covid-19 tally stood at 7,89,553 and the death toll touched 6,481. "Covid-19 posed an unprecedented management challenge to the force this year," the DGP noted. — PTI

## Cops-Ulfa exchange fire in S. Garo Hills

**Tura, Meghalaya:** An encounter took place between police and Ulfa(I) militants in South Garo Hills district on Tuesday, an officer said. The encounter took place at Bolchugre village under Rongara police station at around 9.30 am, the officer said, adding that no police personnel was injured in the encounter. On receiving information about the presence of militants in the village, a police team went to the area. The militants opened fire at police team them which returned the fire, the officer said. The militants fled from the spot and escaped through a ravine, the officer said. — PTI

## Jeep runs over crackers, explodes

**Hamirpur, UP:** Six people were injured on Tuesday and four vehicles damaged when a jeep exploded after running over a bag of firecrackers. "The incident took place in the afternoon when there was an explosion under the running jeep injuring six persons," the police said. The injured persons were rushed to hospital where their condition was said to be stable. The SP said that, prima facie, it appeared that the explosion took place when the jeep's tyre ran over a bag of firecrackers. — PTI

## Punjab 'negates' farm laws

■ **Continued from Page 1** will go to the governor, who may or may not approve them. Similarly, if the bills go to the President, he may or may not approve too. But we have our legal experts to take it forward in the courts," he said. Mr Badal said the governor had been very positive about the state bills when some state Cabinet members, including the CM, had met him.

The laws enacted at the Centre are meant to deregulate the sale of crops and open up new markets for farmers, but they had triggered farmers' protests, particularly in Punjab and Haryana.

The Opposition and farmers' unions claim that the new laws will lead to the dismantling of the MSP system, a suggestion repeatedly denied by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Punjab's counter bills add new clauses and amend provisions in the three Central laws, with the state government arguing that this will "shield" its farmers from their impact.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill 2020 too seeks to amend sections in the Central law to ensure that wheat or paddy is not bought for less than the MSP.

The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill 2020 is meant to check hoarding and black marketing.

## PM warns

■ **Continued from Page 1** selves, your families, children and elders in your home in grave danger by not taking the proper precautions," the PM added.

"Till the time we do not get the vaccine, if behave even a little irresponsibly, we can harm ourselves and all those around us. Wear masks, maintain 'do gaz ki doori' (six-foot distance), wash hands regularly, use sanitisers and do not venture out unless absolutely necessary," he added.

## CBI takes over UP-origin TRP scam

UP police registers FIR and hands it to CBI ■ 6 people have so far been arrested

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

The CBI on Tuesday registered an FIR into the alleged manipulation of Television Rating Points (TRP) on the basis of a reference from the Uttar Pradesh government.

Sources said the case which was earlier registered at Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on a complaint of an advertising company promoter was handed over to the CBI by the Uttar Pradesh government. The FIR has been registered by the Central probe agency

against unknown persons. This move comes at a time when the Mumbai police is also investigating three channels in a similar case.

"Primary allegations relate to manipulation of TRPs in return for payment," sources said.

The agency sleuths are likely to meet UP police officials in Lucknow on Wednesday. "All documents and evidences pertaining to the case gathered by Lucknow Police, will be collected by the CBI officials. If require, the CBI may take assistance of the private tech-

■ **THE MOVE** comes at a time when the Mumbai police is also investigating three channels in a similar case. CBI sleuths are likely to meet UP police officials in Lucknow on Wednesday.

nical experts to examine the evidences," sources said.

Television rating points (TRPs) are calculated in India by Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) using a device called Bar-O-Meter, which is installed in over 45,000 households across

the country. The device collects data about a program or channel watched by members of these households on the basis of which weekly ratings are issued by Barc. The Barc has temporarily suspended news channels ratings for three months amid TRP controversy.

The alleged scam was brought to light by Mumbai police earlier this month which registered a case. Republic TV is one of the four channels being investigated.

Six people have so far been arrested by the police in connection with the

scam, which allegedly involves inducing homes which form the sample set whose TV viewing is monitored to ensure that certain channels get higher ratings. The ratings are a key influencer of advertiser preferences while placing commercials.

The Mumbai crime branch had earlier registered an FIR under various sections of Indian Penal Code for cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy against Republic TV and its senior officials, and also against two other local regional channels.



Damaged belongings of locals lie on a street in Hyderabad Tuesday after low-lying areas were flooded following continuous heavy rainfall. — PTI

## ‘Will examine Punjab farm bills thoroughly’

**Bhopal, Oct. 20:** Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday said the Centre will "thoroughly examine" the bills passed by the Punjab Assembly whenever they are sent to it, and take a decision in farmers' interest.

"I learnt that the Punjab government has passed bills related to the agriculture reform bill already passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

"I am confident that the decisions that we have taken in the interest of farmers cannot be compared with anything. But in democracy, the Assembly (too) has the power to take such decisions," Mr Tomar told PTI.

"Whenever the decision of the Assembly comes to the Union government, it will be thoroughly examined and



Narendra Singh Tomar

we will take a decision in the interest of farmers," the Union minister added.

The Punjab Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution rejecting the Centre's new farm laws and passed four bills it said will counter the contentious legislation enacted by Parliament.

The bills were passed and the resolution adopted unanimously after over five hours of discussion on the second day of a special assembly session called by the Amarinder Singh-led Congress government. — PTI

## BSY will not remain CM for long, says BJP MLA

**Bengaluru, Oct. 20:** Indicating a rebellion, senior BJP legislator Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has said that B.S. Yediyurappa will not remain chief minister for long and the high command has decided that his successor will be from the north Karnataka region.

The former Union minister even accused the chief minister of taking all the development work to his home district of Shivamogga, while taking back the funds allocated to MLAs of other constituencies.

"...₹125 crore that had come (for constituency), but our own chief minister took it back, after that a fight has started between me and him. He is taking things to Shivamogga... he will not be there (as CM) for long, his (time) has come," Mr Yatnal said.

Speaking to reporters at a function in his con-



B.S. Yediyurappa

stituency Vijayapura reportedly on Monday, he claimed that the BJP high command has had enough of Mr Yediyurappa.

"Umesh Katti (another BJP MLA) too had a question whether he (Yediyurappa) was chief minister for Shivamogga or for entire Karnataka...if ₹125 crore was not taken back from me, we had plans to make all roads cement road... it has been taken back, but I won't leave it, I'm fighting for it and I will bring it," he added.

There have been speculations in some quarters in recent times about the possible change in leadership, considering Mr Yediyurappa's age.

However, the state BJP had recently strongly refuted reports about replacing the 77-year old Lingayat strongman.

Stating that the BJP got the chief ministership because of support from people of north Karnataka, Mr Yatnal said, "will anyone vote for them in southern districts like Mandya, Chamaraajanagar or Kolar, it is us people of north Karnataka who send good number of MLAs and about 10-15 may come from other parts."

Claiming that he was upset regarding development of his constituency, Yatnal, while denying ministerial aspirations, in June had stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah were his leaders and Yediyurappa was "only the chief minister." — PTI

## Bengal Puja organisers urge HC to review order

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI**  
KOLKATA, OCT. 20

A day after the Calcutta high court's ban on the visitors' entry to all Durga Puja mandaps in West Bengal to curb crowding and spread of Covid-19, an umbrella organisation of all Durga Puja organisers, Forum for Durgotsob, on Tuesday filed a review petition, asking the high court division bench of Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee to review its order.

The court has accepted the review petition and scheduled the hearing on Wednesday.

On Monday, the court said only organisers will be allowed inside pandals; 25 for bigger Pujas and 15 for the smaller ones. The names of the organisers would have to be put up on a display board daily and could not be changed, the court said. It also asked organisers to put up barricades outside pandals — five meters from the entrance for smaller celebrations and double that for the bigger ones.

Forum for Durgotsob general secretary Shashwata Basu said, "We feel that it is difficult to follow the guidelines on setting up the barricades with five metres for small pandals and 10 metres for big pandals. Many puja mandaps have less space. In some areas the lanes are narrow too."

Since the high court's order, many puja organisers have started facing another major challenge in running the five-day festival as the corporate advertisers halted their sponsorships for promotion of their products in anticipation of less crowd at the mandaps.

## Top CBI officer who oversaw Unnao rape case visits Hathras

**New Delhi, Oct. 20:** A senior officer of the CBI on Tuesday visited Hathras to take stock of the progress made in the case of the alleged rape and murder of a 19-year-old dalit woman on September 14, officials said.

Joint director Sampat Meena, who had supervised the probe in the Unnao rape case involving the then BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar which led to his conviction, visited the Hathras camp office of the agency, they said.

She met the officers there and took note of the progress made in the case. She also visited the crime scene, they said.

The CBI had registered the case on a reference from the Uttar Pradesh government and immediately dispatched a team from its Ghaziabad unit to probe the case, they said.

The team has set up a camp office in Hathras and visited the crime scene, met the family of the victim and interrogated four accused in Aligarh prison.

The CBI officials had also met doctors at the

■ **JOINT DIRECTOR Sampat Meena met the officers there and took note of the progress made in the case. She also visited the crime scene**

Jawaharlal Nehru hospital in Aligarh where the victim treated before being shifted to Delhi, they said.

The victim had succumbed to injuries during her treatment at Safdarjung hospital in Delhi on September 29.

The district administration had allegedly forcibly cremated the body at the dead of the night, denying the family permission to carry it home for proper last rites.

The alleged insensitive attitude of the administration had invited some sharp remarks from the Allahabad High Court.

The issue snowballed into a major embarrassment for the Yogi Adityanath government as several parties including the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Trinamooli Congress, Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal staged protests.

— PTI

## Safeguard NGOs' rights: UN rights chief

Violations of law can't be condoned under pretext of human rights: MEA

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 20

Hours after the UN high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet expressed concerns over the restrictions on foreign funding for the NGOs and the arrest of activists in the country, India hit back, saying "violations of law cannot be condoned under the pretext of human rights and a "more informed view of the matter was expected of a UN body". New Delhi also said "India is a democratic polity based on the rule of law and an independent judiciary" and that the "framing of laws is obviously a sovereign prerogative".

"We have seen some comments by the UN high com-

missioner for Human Rights on an issue relating to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). India is a democratic polity based on the rule of law and an independent judiciary. The framing of laws is obviously a sovereign prerogative. Violations of law, however, cannot be condoned under the pretext of human rights. A more informed view of the matter was expected of a UN body," the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said.

According to a UN website, Ms Bachelet "cited as worrying the use of the FCRA, which a number of UN human rights bodies have also said is vaguely worded and overbroad in its objective". It pointed

out that India's FCRA "prohibits the receipt of foreign funds 'for any activities prejudicial to the public interest'".

With a UN website pointing out that "Amnesty International was compelled to close India offices after its bank accounts were frozen over alleged FCRA violation", Ms Bachelet said, "I am concerned that such actions based on the grounds of vaguely defined 'public interest' leave this law open to abuse, and that it is indeed actually being used to deter or punish NGOs for human rights reporting and advocacy that the authorities perceive as critical in nature". She added even if authorities find "constructive criticism

uncomfortable, it should never be criminalised or outlawed in this way".

Adopted in 2010, and amended last month, the Act has had a "detrimental impact on the right to freedom of association and expression of human rights NGOs", she claimed.

She added that "as a result, it also impacts their ability to serve as effective advocates to protect and promote human rights in India". She also alleged that such "vaguely defined laws are increasingly being used to stifle these voices". Her office also claimed "that the new amendments will create even more administrative and practical hurdles for such advocacy-based NGOs".

## Pre-poll survey hints NDA set to win in Bihar

■ **Continued from Page 1** 1990s that Lalu Yadav, considered as a major crowd-puller and mass leader, is not in the electoral scene as he was convicted by a special CBI court but is currently admitted in RIMS, Ranchi.

While development is the NDA's main poll plank, the Opposition is highlighting anti-incumbency against the Nitish Kumar govern-

ment, including unemployment, Covid-19 mismanagement, ill-preparedness during recent floods and with the migrants who returned during the lockdown.

Though the pre-poll survey shows the NDA alliance — JDU-BJP-HAM-VIP — getting a clear majority, the survey has also shown Mr Kumar's popularity sliding down

by a few notches and anti-incumbency against his government going up by few numbers, but despite these the JD(U) chief's popularity remains the highest, at 31 per cent, though the figure was at 40 per cent in 2015.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav is just four notches below, at 27 per cent. Asked whether or not the JD(U) chief deserves

another chance, 31 per cent said yes, 26 said no and 34 per cent favoured a new leader.

The Chirag Paswan-led LJP, which decided to go solo and not with the NDA, is projected to win two to six seats and a vote share of five to six percent. Another alliance, the Upendra Kushwaha-led Grand Democratic Secular Front (RLSP-BSP-AIMIM-

SJDD-SBSP-JPS), is projected to get a vote share of five to seven per cent.

In 2015, when the ruling JD(U) contested with the Mahagathabandhan, it won by a thumping majority, with 178 seats, with the RJD bagging the highest number of seats, at 80, JD(U) 71 and Congress 27. The NDA had won 58 seats — BJP 53, LJP 2, HAM one and RLSP two.



THE ASIAN AGE

21 OCTOBER 2020

J&K district councils not a good-faith move

When the former state of Jammu and Kashmir was constitutionally reduced in August 2019 to create the two UTs of J&K and Ladakh, these centrally administered areas were given different characteristics: the first was to have a legislative Assembly while the latter was to have no legislature.

It now transpires that, in reality, the case of J&K is going to be little different from that of Ladakh, at least for the foreseeable future. Since June 2018, when J&K was brought under governor's rule, it has not made any laws. It has been ruled with guns for all practical purposes. The aspirations of the populace have been quelled but not the threat of terrorism in spite of direct rule by the Centre.

The recent decision of the Union home ministry to amend the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 to facilitate the setting up of District Development Councils — to which direct elections will be held by the UT's rural voters (ie those outside municipal limits), or roughly 70 per cent of the electorate — is strongly suggestive of the fact that the Centre has no plans for now to conduct long overdue Assembly elections.

The elected DDCs are designed to replace the earlier District Development Boards. This is akin to having municipal-type powers for the rural areas on a supra-block level template to construct roads, and manage utilities like power supply and water. There will be no legislative component. In this arrangement deputy commissioners are apt to be the masters of the manor. In an inversion of democracy, there will be lots of elections for the village folk — at the village, block and now district level — but the boss-man will be a bureaucrat.

If there was an underlying naivete to such a scheme, it will rightly be called idiotic. But there is no innocence or good-faith action here. The very idea is to keep the present political class on ice in the Centre's idea of "New Kashmir". The whole lot who swore by India's Constitution in practising their politics was put behind bars, the same as those who didn't. Now they are out. But they have to be kept away from political action. The BJP-driven Centre is hell-bent on creating a cadre of political leaders out of plough-hands.

This is the shape of the political challenge before J&K's political parties. While the recently released Kashmir valley politicians have resolved to fight through constitutional means for the restoration of J&K's autonomy, they will be short-sighted not to show an active interest in DDC elections, if nothing then to game the system.

Big Brother may seek to demoralise them — as the case of the intensive questioning of the 84-year-old NC leader Farooq Abdullah by the Enforcement Directorate shows. An old allegation of siphoning money from J&K Cricket Board funds has been dug out. The real purpose stands out there in plain sight. More arm-twisting of politicians cannot be ruled out.

Rein in festive cheer

The Calcutta high court's order directing authorities to treat puja mandaps as containment zones and ban entry for the public there is welcome as the country is facing the threat of another wave of Covid-19 after the festival season. It has allowed the organisers, numbering up to a maximum of 25, inside the pandal but added a rider that their names should not be changed every day so that the concession is not misused and more people gained entry. In short, the court has taken care not to disturb the rituals but ensured that they do not end up super spreader events.

Experts have been warning for quite some time about the festivals torpedoing the efforts to contain the pandemic. Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has the other day pointed out that Kerala witnessed a sudden spurt in Covid-19 cases after Onam. However, hardly any concrete steps were initiated at the national level, though some states, such as Maharashtra and Karnataka, had restricted the scope of functioning of places of worship during the festivals. While Maharashtra delayed their opening, the Karnataka government decided to disallow tourists from attending Dasara procession, one of the top offerings of the state's tourism calendar.

Article 25 of Indian Constitution offers the right to "profess, practise and propagate religion" but "subject to public order, morality and health". Now that the judiciary has stepped in and made it clear that 'health' is a concern in these times of the pandemic and the right to practise religion can be restricted, the governments at the Centre and the states must take it forward and ensure that the country get past this festival season without allowing the virus a free run. It is time the Election Commission of India also thought of imposing similar restrictions in places which are going to polls now.

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T. VENKATRAM REDDY  
Editor in Chief

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Maura Moynihan



Disney's China problem: West's elite covering up CCP's misdeeds

The Wuhan virus has caused a million deaths, 36 million infections, 400 million job losses, and a new international poll reveals that nine out of 10 citizens in advanced economies now perceive the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as a "dangerous and malevolent force". But the CCP remains the preferred brand for certain Western elites — 3,500 US companies are suing the government to overturn tariffs on Chinese products, that were once made in the United States with good union jobs. And Hollywood executives, so piously "woke" about identity politics and social justice, are dead silent about the atrocities of China's totalitarian dictatorship.

Disney's \$200 million blockbuster *Mulan* was billed as the "cinematic adventure of the decade" — securing Hollywood's "family friendly studio" access to the Chinese market. Disney hired CCP consultants and cut scenes that did not conform to the CCP's narrative of supremacy, and even watered down the ancient tale of a young girl who poses as a young man to save her aging father from military service into a dull, charmless propaganda exercise. In the credits, Disney

gives "special thanks" to eight units of the Public Security Bureau, the CCP's dreaded Gestapo, whose agents monitor, arrest and torture Tibetans and Uyghurs, Christians, Falun Gong practitioners, human rights lawyers, for such crimes as "counter revolutionary thought".

Two British parliamentarians sent a letter of inquiry to the studio, questioning Disney's decision to film parts of *Mulan* in Xinjiang, where millions of Uyghur men, women and children, are held in concentration camps, subject to forced labour, medical experiments, torture and deprivation that would make a Nazi proud. Disney just issued an officious response, stating: "There are regulations that must be followed by all foreign film production companies wanting to operate in China", and that they followed "standard industry practices". British MP Ian Duncan-Smith posted: "The reply from Disney Studios is very weak and full of platitudes. Disney's corporate policy does not appear to care about the human rights issues affecting the Uyghurs. It seems human rights come second to the corporate policy of not upsetting China."

Disney is famous for burying scandals; every year there are multiple deaths in Disney theme parks, large cash payments are quietly sent to the bereaved relatives, and it is "business as usual". But the *Mulan* controversy has left Disney executives in a tight spot. The CCP Virus has shuttered all movie theatres and theme parks. Disney is facing \$10 billion in lost revenue in 2020, thousands of employees have been laid off, and defending the CCP isn't going down well with the public. When Disney opened its \$5.5 billion theme park in Shanghai in 2016, CEO Bob Iger gushed: "We have great Chinese partners, we have the approval of the government, this is the biggest step anywhere, actually, that we've ever taken anywhere to grow a market." Last month, however, Mr Iger was uncharacteristically tongue tied when asked about the *Mulan* controversy on a talk show. In 2019 Mr Iger refused to comment about the crisis in Hong Kong, saying: "I don't want to hurt our company."

The mainstream media in the United States continues to cover up for the CCP; there is scant reporting on the catastrophic floods in China and the impending supply

chain disruptions and food shortages. Barely a mention of the continuing PLA attacks on India or the erosion of Hong Kong civil society. Today six companies control 90 per cent of American media outlets, and they all have major investments in China. Disney owns ABC News, which praises China for its "superior" handling of the pandemic. India didn't create the global pandemic, India does not lock millions of people into concentration camps, but India gets much tougher coverage in the Western press. As my late father Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former US ambassador to India, once observed: "If a country's papers are filled with good news, you can be sure its jails are filled with good men."

In 2013 the Obama administration passed a ruling that exempts Chinese companies from audits on Wall Street, a privilege extended to no other nationality. Since the CCP Virus crippled the US economy and destroyed the livelihoods of millions of citizens, US capital markets sent billions of US dollars to CCP companies. The US state department just reversed another Obama era policy that prioritised visas for Chinese applications; now CCP

members are barred from obtaining US immigration visas. Citizens from democratic India have great difficulty getting US visas, but Chinese Communists have for years been pushed to the front of the visa queue.

Western elites willingly sent their factories and dollars to China, without asking for — or wanting — political reform. The Kissinger doctrine of "constructive engagement" with China's totalitarian dictatorship has entangled the West in a relationship that is morally repugnant and politically dangerous. Exiled artist Ai Weiwei recently stated: "The West should really have worried about China decades ago. Now it's already a bit too late, because the West has built its strong system in China and to simply cut it off, it will hurt deeply. That's why China is very arrogant."

The *Mulan* scandal exposed the fraudulence in Disney's "corporate social responsibility" pledges. Remember that the next time a Hollywood scion lectures you about morality.

The writer is an author and journalist based in New York City who specialises in Asian affairs

Subhani



Why so many US desis are in favour of Trump



Mohan Guruswamy

A recent opinion poll in the United States suggests that some 28 per cent of Indian origin voters are leaning towards Donald Trump and the rest are for Joe Biden. This is a major shift from 2016, when only 16 per cent of Indian Americans preferred Mr Trump over Hillary Clinton. Clearly, Mr Trump's bonding with Narendra Modi, as witnessed in the "Howdy Modi" rally in Houston last year, where the Indian Prime Minister led the cheering with "ab ke baar Trump sarkar"! That and Mr Trump's bashing of African Americans and Hispanics has clearly made an additional impression on the typical mentality of Indian Americans.

Some years ago Joel Stein wrote a witty and perfectly appropriate column in *Time* magazine "My Own Private India" about a town called Edison in New Jersey. Stein was thoroughly exoriated as racist and anti-Indian by people purporting to represent the Indian community in America. *Time* chipped in with an apology of its own, but apparently not convinced about the extent of anger said: "We sincerely regret that any of our readers were upset by this humour column of Joel Stein's." Very clever indeed, which is why *Time* is what it is.

Edison has another reason to be deemed notorious. It is home to the only ethnic group that played host to Donald Trump in 2016. Over 5,000 people, including the elderly and children, attended the nearly five-hour event organised by the Republican Hindu Coalition, founded and chaired by Indian

American industrialist Shalabh Kumar, chairman and CEO of the AVG Group of Companies. Indians and Indian Americans turned out in large numbers to show their support for Mr Trump, carrying placards that read "Trump Make America Great Again", "Trump for Hindu Americans", "Trump Great For India" and "Trump for Faster Green Cards". Dressed in traditional Indian finery, the audience broke into loud applause and cheer as Mr Trump came on stage against the backdrop of the American flag. Clearly the only thing that endears Mr Trump to this lot is that he has come out vocally against all Muslims, followed up by his oft expressed prejudice against blacks and Hispanics.

Edison is next door to Newark's international airport and hence is the first destination for the just off the wide-bodied jet for would-be Indian immigrants. Thus, for many decades Edison has been a magnet for Indian immigrants, particularly those from the state of Gujarat. Today, about 20 per cent of its estimated population of about 99,000 is identified as Indian American, most of them Gujarati. I have driven through Edison, NJ, on a few occasions and it is not the kind of town I would want to live in. It's at once grungy and noisy, seems to teem with Indians noisily looking for bargains or cheap *desi* food. My friend with whom I used to drive through Edison used to describe it as the second armpit of America. The first one being Hoboken, also in New Jersey.

*Desi* means homegrown and is used in a self-pejorative manner by almost all NRIs when referring to

a fellow Indian. At last count there were over 2.8 million *desis* in the US. The US Census 2000 map shows that Indian Americans (officially called Asian Indians) tend to concentrate themselves in certain areas. Whenever I visit the United States it never ceases to amaze me that my Indian American family and friends seem to only socialise with other *desis*. They do tend to flock together. The US has a fair number of Indian American clusters.

But it is Edison that has the highest concentration. Indian Americans have the highest median incomes in the US and are generally white-collar professionals in most parts of the US. Edison's Indian American community, however, has a fair sprinkling of less well-off people doing jobs which probably fetch them much less than the median Indian American income. It shows easily.

One out of five *desis* is of Gujarati origin, and like Indians from other regions tend to live and socialise within themselves. Gujaratis, referred to within the *desi* community as Gujjus, are more entrepreneurial by nature and tend to be in business. The 600,000 strong Gujarati diaspora in the US consequently has a smaller proportion of professionals. They now own more than half the economy lodging properties in America. Since a large proportion of the Gujaratis in the US have Patel as their surname, these hotels are popularly referred to among the Indian

Indians, in general, are very racist, sectarian and colour conscious... Our everyday discourse is laced with racist and derogatory references to others.

American community as "potels" and quite often are places that rent out rooms by the hour. Edison is a perfect hotspot for the RSS and the Ram *bhakts*, who prefer the superior creature comforts here over Rajkot or Surat. This is Modi country.

Indians, in general, are very racist, sectarian and colour conscious, and our standards of political correctness are not very high. Our everyday discourse is laced with racist and derogatory references to others. The *desi* community in the US is not very different. Mira Nair's 1991 movie *Mississippi Masala* set among the Indian American community living in steaming Biloxi, Miss, captures in full all the prejudices and inward-looking mores that are prevalent in Hindu society back home carrying on as before among an expatriate Indian American community. The story is about the romance a girl of Ugandan Indian Gujarati origin and a handsome African American, played by Denzel Washington. But expectedly the family and friends, mostly in the potel business, vigorously oppose the romance with a "kalu", as persons of African origin are derogatively referred to by *desis*.

As America's wealthiest median income community, *desis* are now bigger players in American politics with PACs active in serving the many Indian causes, be it the civil nuclear deal with the United States or an increase in the number of work visas. The economic clout of the Indian American is also felt in many ways. It is good that they have begun to flex their muscles a bit. But it is not so good that some of them are showing themselves to be numbskulls.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

LETTERS

PUNJAB COUNTER

Glad to read the Punjab Assembly has passed four bills against the Centre's farm laws. The state government's legislative counter provides for imprisonment of no less than three years and fine for sale or purchase of wheat or paddy below the minimum support price. It exempts farmers from attachment of land of up to 2.5 acres and provides for prevention of hoarding and black-marketing of produce. Hope other Opposition ruled states in the country now follow suit.

Bhagwan Thadani  
Mumbai

COMEDOWN FOR CHINA

IN A SIGNIFICANT move that comes amid a Sino-India border row, India announced Australia's participation in the upcoming Malabar exercise along with the US and Japan, effectively making it the first military-level engagement between the four-member nation grouping — the Quad. Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square-mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. The exercise will showcase the deep trust between four major Indo-Pacific democracies and their shared will to work together on common security interests.

Sankar Paul  
Chakdaha, West Bengal

GIVE MURLI A BREAK

THE SEVERE backlash from political leaders and Tamil film celebrities has forced actor Vijay Sethupathi to walk out of Sri Lankan cricketing icon Muttiah Muralitharan's biopic, *800*. In yet another low, trolls have issued rape threats to the actor's daughter on social media. The biopic has run into rough weather because the cricketer's comments in the past were perceived to be supporting the Sri Lankan forces against the LTTE. Should we not distance the arts, films and sports from politics and make sure they do not become the fiefdom of a few rabble-rousers?

N.J. Ravi Chandar  
Bengaluru

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



## IN BRIEF

**66 Indians stuck in Dubai**

**Dubai:** Sixty-six Indian travellers were stranded at the Dubai International Airport (DXB) after they failed to comply with the United Arab Emirates government's immigration rules, according to a media report. Neeraj Agarwal, Consul (Press, Information, and Culture) at the Consulate General of India in Dubai, said the stranded passengers, included two women. "About 59 passengers who flew in from Delhi on a GoAir flight have been stranded for more than 48 hours now," he told the *Khaleej Times*. The consul said food and other supplies were being given to the passengers. He said the Indian embassy has reached out to the federal authorities. Meanwhile, the report said over 1,200 Pakistani travellers were stranded at the airport for not following the immigration rules, which include passenger carrying hotel reservation or a relative's reference, and a return ticket booking.

**Sudan to go off terror sponsor list**

**Cairo:** President Donald Trump on Monday said Sudan will be removed from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism if it follows through on its pledge to pay \$335 million to American terror victims and their families, but some hurt in the attacks weren't happy with the deal. The move would open the door for the African country to get international loans and aid needed to revive its battered economy and rescue the country's transition to democracy. The announcement, just two weeks ahead of the US presidential election, also comes as the Trump administration works to get other Arab countries, such as Sudan, to join the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain's recent recognition of Israel. Delisting Sudan from the state sponsors blacklist is a key incentive for the Sudanese government to normalise relations with Israel. Trump's announcement came after Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin travelled to Bahrain to cement the Gulf state's recognition of the Jewish state.

**Epsilon may become hurricane**

**Miami (US):** Tropical Storm Epsilon is expected to be at or near hurricane strength as it gets closer to Bermuda by Thursday morning. It is still too early to tell what Epsilon's track and intensity will be once it's near the island but the US National Hurricane Centre said there is a risk of direct impact. Bermuda residents should closely monitor the storm. The storm remained at maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 kph), early Tuesday but additional strengthening is expected. This year's hurricane season has had so many storms that the Hurricane Center has turned to the Greek alphabet for storm names after running out of official names. Epsilon also represents a record for the earliest 26th named storm, beating out November 22 in 2005, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

**NATO TO SET UP NEW SPACE CENTRE**

**Kester (Belgium), Oct. 20:** To a few of the locals, the top-secret, fenced-off installation on the hill is known as "the radar station". Some folks claim to have seen mysterious Russians in the area. Over the years, rumours have swirled that it might be a base for US nuclear warheads. It's easy to see how the rumours start. The site is visually striking. Four huge white Kevlar balls sit like giant spherical spacecraft in a compound in the middle of open farm country 25 kilometres (16 miles) west of Belgium's capital, Brussels. But the Kester Satellite Ground Station is both safer and more sophisticated than local lore might suggest. It's central to space communications at NATO — the biggest and most modern of four such stations the military alliance runs. Around 2,000 satellites orbit the earth, over half operated by NATO countries, ensuring everything from mobile phone and banking services to weather forecasts.

# Early voting starts in Florida as 30 mn exercise franchise

## Race between Trump and Biden for WH enters its final 15-day stretch

**Miami, Oct. 20:** Florida voters converged on early polling stations Monday in a pivotal state fought over relentlessly by President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden, as their contentious White House race enters its final 15-day stretch.

Record numbers of Americans have already cast ballots in person or by mail — just shy of 30 million, according to one tracker — ahead of the November 3 election, as the rivals race from one swing state to another to marshal support.

With Biden dispatching his running mate Kamala Harris to Florida to rally voters there, Trump was on a western swing in battleground Arizona, where he won in 2016 but now narrowly trails his rival in statewide polling.

Trump pledged to build the coronavirus-ravaged economy back to pre-pandemic levels and savaged Biden for wanting to "let socialists run wild in our country." "You're lucky I'm your president," Trump boomed to masses of protesters, many without masks and not practising social distancing, gathered at his outdoor rally in Prescott, north of Phoenix.

The election is rapidly boiling down to whether voters see Trump as best placed to revive the battered economy, or they believe the president has exacerbated the pandemic and want Biden to fulfill his pledge to unify a divided country. The battle has played out in eight or nine swing states for months, but perhaps nowhere more intensely than Florida, the largest up-for-grabs prize of them all, delivering 29 of the state-by-state Electoral College votes that decide who wins. — *AFP*



Hector Martin (R) carries his granddaughter, Isabella Luna, 2, both of Columbus, Ohio, as he waits in line to cast his vote during early voting on Monday at the Franklin County Board of Elections Early Voting Center in Columbus, Ohio. Despite steady rain all morning, voters waited for up to 45 minutes to cast their ballot. — *AP*

**REPUBLICAN STARS: TRUMP JR., GUILFOYLE**

**Washington, Oct. 20:** The US president's older son, Donald Trump Jr., and adviser, Kimberly Guilfoyle, have emerged as star campaigners for the Republican Party ahead of the November 3 presidential election, having crisscrossed the length and breadth of the country, drawing massive crowds to events where traditional 'Red' favourites — the president and his deputy Mike Pence — have been absent. — *PTI*

## Debate panel to mute microphones

**Washington, Oct. 20:** Ahead of the final US presidential debate, the non-partisan Commission on Presidential Debates has announced new rules under which it will mute microphones for two minutes of the rival speakers so as to give them uninterrupted opening remarks. Incumbent Republican President Donald Trump, 74, and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden, 77, are to hold their final debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee on October 22. — *PTI*

## APOLOGISE: HINDUS TELL HARRIS NIECE FOR AUNT AS DURGA

**Washington, Oct. 20:** Hindu groups in the US have sought an apology from the niece of Senator Kamala Harris for tweeting an "offensive" image, which depicted the Democratic vice presidential nominee as goddess Durga. The tweet has now been deleted by Meena Harris, 35, a lawyer, a children's book author and the founder of the Phenomenal Woman Action Campaign that works to bring awareness to intersectional social causes. — *PTI*

## Trump calls Fauci, health experts 'idiots'

**Washington, Oct. 20:** In an unprecedented attack on Dr Anthony Fauci and other public health experts, President Donald Trump has said that Americans are "tired" of hearing from "these idiots" who have been trying to quell the Coronavirus pandemic that has killed over 220,000 people in the country.

Trump, a Republican, has been at loggerheads with public health experts on how to contain the pandemic, a major topic that could impact the outcome of the November 3 presidential election in which he is being challenged by former US vice president Joe Biden, a Democrat.

"People are tired of Covid. I have these huge rallies. People are saying whatever. Just leave us alone. They're tired of it. People are tired of hearing Fauci and all these idiots," Trump said during a campaign conference call on Monday from his hotel in Las Vegas.

Trump then called Fauci, America's top infectious disease expert, "a disaster" and lamented that he would receive lots of negative press if he fired the doctor because he is a "nice guy." He attacked Fauci, who has been the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984 and is also a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force headed by US Vice President Mike Pence.

In a series of tweets, Trump said all he asked of Fauci is to "make better decisions." Trump slammed Fauci a third time, saying that the doctor is a "very nice man" but "sometimes he says things that are a little bit off." "He's been there for about 35 years, I don't want to hurt him," the 74-year-old added, before accusing Fauci of making some "bad calls" on how to control the Coronavirus that has hit over eight million people in the US.



Dr Anthony Fauci

**VACCINE HUMAN TRIAL IN ISRAEL THIS MONTH**

**Jerusalem, Oct. 20:** The human trial of Israel's Covid-19 vaccine candidate 'Brilife' will begin by the end of this month, with the Defence Minister terming it a "very significant moment" and "source of national pride" that could bring great news for the country and the world. The prospective vaccine is being developed by the Israel Institute of Biological Research. Israel had claimed in August that it already has the vaccine against the Coronavirus "in hand" but it has to go through regulatory processes that would begin with human trials following the autumn holidays. — *PTI*

Trump's attack on Fauci came a day after the 79-year-old doctor said he was "absolutely not" surprised when Trump contracted Covid-19 after seeing the president surrounded by several people not wearing face masks and flouting best public health practices against the deadly pandemic. Fauci was apparently referring to the White House Rose Garden event on September 26 where Trump announced Judge Amy Coney Barrett was his pick to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court. — *PTI*

## Russia, US appear ready for deal to extend N-control pact for one year

**Moscow, Oct. 20:** Russia said Tuesday it's ready to accept a US proposal to freeze the number of nuclear warheads and extend the two nations' last arms control pact for one year and Washington responded that it's prepared to make a quick deal.

US State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugas welcomed the Russian offer and said that the US is ready to quickly clinch an agreement. "We appreciate the Russian Federation's willingness to make progress on the issue of nuclear

arms control," Ortugas said in a statement.

"The United States is prepared to meet immediately to finalize a verifiable agreement. We expect Russia to empower its diplomats to do the same." The statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry marked a shift in Moscow's position after Russia and the US rejected each other's offers regarding the New START treaty that expires in February. The ministry noted that it's ready for a deal if the US does the same and doesn't put forward any

additional demands, the statement read. The New START treaty was signed in 2010 by then US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

The pact limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers, and envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance. After both Moscow and Washington withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty last year, the New START is

the only remaining nuclear arms control deal between the two countries.

Russia has offered its extension without any conditions, while President Donald Trump's administration initially pushed for a new arms control agreement that would also include China.

It recently modified its stance and proposed a one-year extension of the 2010 treaty, but said this must be coupled with the imposition of a broader cap on US and Russian nuclear warheads. — *AP*

## Shehbaz sent to jail in money laundering case

**Lahore, Oct. 20:** Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif was sent to jail on Tuesday in a money laundering case. Shehbaz, the younger brother of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on September 28 after a court here rejected his bail application in the Rs 700 crores money laundering case.

Next day, the 69-year-old former chief minister of Punjab province was sent on a physical remand by an accountability court. On Tuesday, an accountability court of Lahore rejected the NAB's plea seeking further extension to his physical remand. Shehbaz told the court that NAB didn't ask any questions about money laundering during his three weeks detention.

Talking to reporters, Shehbaz criticised the Imran Khan government for arresting Mohammad Safdar, son-in-law of Nawaz Sharif, for raising slogans in giving respect to the ballot. Safdar was on Monday briefly arrested from his hotel room in Karachi. — *PTI*

## Maryam calls Imran Army puppet, booked

**Lahore, Oct. 20:** Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter and Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's vice-president Maryam Nawaz was on Tuesday booked along with over 2,000 party members for holding an anti-government rally in Lahore where she called Prime Minister Imran Khan a "coward, selected and puppet" who hides behind

the Army.

The rally by the 11-member opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was held here on October 16 before the Gujranwala public meeting. Maryam had openly called Prime Minister Khan a "coward, selected and puppet" in the rally, saying he hid behind the Army to cover up his 'Nalaaiki' (bad governance). — *PTI*

**COURT NO TO PUBLISHING PROCLAMATION AGAINST NAWAZ IN TWO UK NEWSPAPERS**

**Islamabad, Oct. 20:** A court in Pakistan on Monday rejected a petition by the federal government seeking the publication of a proclamation against deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif in two newspapers in the UK — *The Guardian* and *Daily Telegraph*. Additional Attorney General Tariq Mehmood Khokhar submitted a

compliance report relating to the publication of proclamation issued in Al-Azizia and Avenfield properties cases against Sharif in *Dawn* and *Jang* newspapers. A division bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the petition on Monday. — *PTI*

## Teacher killing: France closes Paris mosque

**Paris, Oct. 20:** French authorities said Tuesday they would close a Paris mosque in a clampdown on radical Islam that has yielded over a dozen arrests following the beheading of a teacher who had shown his pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

The mosque in a densely-populated suburb northeast of Paris had published a video on its Facebook page days before Friday's gruesome murder, railing against teacher Samuel Paty's choice of material for a class discussion on freedom of expression, said a source close to the investigation.

The interior ministry said the mosque in Pantin, which has some 1,500 worshippers, would be shut on Wednesday night for six months.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin has vowed there would be "not a minute's respite for enemies of the Republic".

The order came after police on Monday launched a series of raids targeting Islamist networks, mainly in the Paris region.

Paty, 47, was attacked on his way home from the junior high school where he taught in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, 40 kilometres (25 miles) northwest of the capital.

A photo of the teacher and a message confessing to his murder was found on the mobile phone of his killer, 18-year-old Chechen Abdullah Anzorov, who also posted images of the decapitated body on Twitter. Anzorov was shot dead by police.

Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer said Tuesday that Paty would be posthumously bestowed France's high-

● **THE MOSQUE** in a densely-populated suburb northeast of Paris had published a video on its Facebook page days before Friday's gruesome murder.

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est order of merit, the Legion of Honour, for having been "martyred" because of his profession.

The murder was preceded by a fierce online campaign against Paty and the school, led by the father of a schoolgirl who accused the teacher of disseminating "pornography" for showing a cartoon of the prophet naked. The school said Paty had given Muslim pupils the choice to leave the classroom.

The father who posted the video shared by the Pantin mosque is among 15 people arrested after the killing, along with a known Islamist radical and four members of Anzorov's family.

Darmanin accused the father and the radical of having issued a "fatwa" against the teacher.

On Tuesday, the head of the Pantin mosque, M'hamed Henniche, said he had shared the video not to "validate" the complaint about the cartoons, but out of fear that Muslim children were singled out in class. — *AFP*



Donald Trump

**SUIT CHALLENGES TRUMP ADMIN'S H-1B VISA RULES**

**Washington, Oct. 20:** Several individuals and organisations, including the US Chambers of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, have filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration's recent rules related to the H-1B visa, terming them "arbitrary" and "haphazard" regulations that will undermine high skilled immigration into America.

Early this month, the Trump administration announced new restrictions on H-1B non-immigrant visa programme which it said is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners, a move which is likely to affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.

The interim final rule announced by the Department of Homeland Security will narrow the definition of "specialty occupation" as Congress intended by closing the overbroad definition that allowed companies to game the system. It will also require companies to make "real" offers to "real employees," by closing loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers. The lawsuit filed by the US Chambers of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and several other organisations in Columbia alleges that "harmful and haphazard rules on H-1B visas" if left in place, would affect hundreds of thousands of American-based workers. — *PTI*



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,544.37	0.28
Nifty 50	11,896.80	0.20
S&P 500*	3,438.76	0.35
Dollar (₹)	73.46	-0.11
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.09	0.20
Euro (₹)	86.53	-0.52
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,790▼103	0.20
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.45	0.17
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.931	-0.010
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.789	0.027

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

Retail inflation for farm workers declines in Sept.

The retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers eased only marginally to 6.25 per cent and 6.1 per cent, respectively in September as food prices remained high. Point-to-point rate of inflation based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL decreased to 6.25 per cent and 6.10 per cent in September from 6.32 per cent and 6.28 per cent, respectively in August, a labour ministry statement said.

Private gas firms can't bid to buy their own fuel



The government has banned natural gas and coal-bed methane (CBM) producers from buying their own produce in the newly notified gas marketing freedom guidelines. The government on October 15 allowed producers the freedom to discover the market price of gas through e-bidding. However, the producer or any member of its gas field consortium cannot bid and buy the fuel, the notified guidelines said.

Granules India's Q2 net profit surges 71%

Granules India on Tuesday reported a 70.82 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹163.63 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, mainly on account of robust sales. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 95.79 crore for the corresponding period previous fiscal, Granules India said in a BSE filing. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹858.12 crore for the quarter under review.

SH AG to invest ₹1,300cr to set up innovation hub

Medical technology major Siemens Healthineers AG on Tuesday said it plans to invest 160 million euros (₹1,300 crore) over the next five years to set up an innovation hub in Bengaluru. The investment is part of Siemens Healthineers' Strategy 2025, in which India plays an important role. The hub will assume increased responsibility for customer-centric solutions to serve such markets even better.

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Imports hint at greenshoots

Growth in non-petroleum and non-bullion imports shows revival in demand

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 20

The month-on-month growth in non-petroleum and non-bullion imports in September shows possible improvement in consumer demand and industrial activity. Imports had inched up from \$29.5 billion in August to \$30.3 billion in September 2020. However, compared to August, there was a fall in imports of crude and petroleum products and imports of gold and silver in September 2020. While the imports of crude and petroleum products fell by 9.3 per cent on a month-on-month basis in September, gold

imports tumbled down to \$0.6 billion in September against \$3.7 billion in August. Despite this, the fall in overall imports was restricted by a jump in imports of non-petroleum and non-bullion commodities. Non-petroleum and non-bullion imports improved from \$19.3 billion in August to \$23.9 billion in September. Prior to the lockdown between April 2019 and February 2020, the average import of these commodities used to hover around \$26.6 billion per month. With \$23 billion, September imports have moved closer to the pre-Covid levels. An improvement in the imports of non-petroleum

● AN IMPROVEMENT in the imports of non-petroleum and non-bullion commodities is a small indication of a possible uptick in domestic demand in September. This could also be the release of pent-up demand after the lockdown, finds private think tank CMIE.

and non-bullion commodities is a small indication of a possible uptick in domestic demand in September. This could well be the release of pent-up demand after the lockdown, finds private think tank CMIE. Among the 27 major

commodities, 17 recorded double digit month-on-month growth in September 2020. Imports of electronic goods, pearls and precious stones, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, project goods, chemical material and products, metalliferous ores and other minerals, pulses and vegetable oil improved in September 2020 compared to their year-ago levels. According to Kruti Shah, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, electronic goods have seen a 24 per cent month-on-month recovery in September and pearls and precious stones grew by 79 per cent. Higher imports of electronic goods could be

linked to exports as well. There has been a growth in exports and then the anticipated demand during festive season too has helped the category. In the case of pearls and precious stones, there has been considerable recovery in cutting and polishing activity. This has reflected in the exports as well. "In September we have not seen a positive growth in manufacturing, but the imports indicate that we could return to growth in October. Further, the festive buying will help demand. However, it has to be seen whether the momentum can be sustained in November once the festive season buying subsides," said Shah.

Trump slaps anti-trust suit against Google

Washington, Oct. 20: The US Justice Department and 11 states filed an antitrust lawsuit against Alphabet Inc's Google on Tuesday for allegedly breaking the law in using its market power to fend off rivals. Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Google, whose search engine is so ubiquitous that its name has become a verb, had revenue of \$162 billion in 2019, more than the nation of Hungary. Republican Senator Josh Hawley, a vociferous Google critic, accused the company of keeping power through "illegal means".

● THE LAWSUIT promises to be the biggest antitrust case in a generation, comparable to the lawsuit against Microsoft filed in 1998 and the 1974 case against AT&T which led to the breakup of the Bell System. ● THE MICROSOFT lawsuit was credited with clearing the way for the explosive growth of the internet since the scrutiny prevented the company from attempting to thwart competitors.

The lawsuit promises to be the biggest antitrust case in a generation, comparable to the lawsuit against Microsoft Corp filed in 1998 and the 1974 case against AT&T which led to the breakup of the Bell System. The Microsoft lawsuit was credited with clearing the way for the explosive growth of the internet since the antitrust scrutiny prevented the company from attempting to thwart competitors. Tuesday's federal lawsuit marks a rare moment of agreement between the Trump administration and Democrats. "In order for anything to have real bite, you need Congress, and they want to break them up. But given the fact there's so much animosity, even though they agree some-

thing needs to be done with Big Tech, it's going to take a long time to push through," said Robert Pavlik, chief investment strategist, senior portfolio manager at SlateStone Wealth LLC in New York. More lawsuits could be in the offing since probes by state attorneys general into Google's broader businesses are under way, as well as an investigation of its broader digital advertising businesses. The lawsuit comes more than a year after the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission began antitrust investigations into four big tech companies: Amazon.com Inc, Apple Inc, Facebook Inc and Google. Seven years ago, the FTC settled an antitrust probe into Google over alleged bias in its search function to favour its products, among other issues. — Reuters

Pharma sector may post Covid-induced rise in Q2 earnings

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 20

After the IT sector, it is the pharma sector that is expected to reap benefits of Covid-induced business environment in their July-September quarter earnings. The pharma sector's outlook for the second quarter earnings season is quite optimistic given domestic demand, new launches in the US markets and savings on regular expenditure due to Covid-related restrictions like travelling, promotional and marketing costs, according to analysts. "The pharma sector is expected to return a better earnings traction for this quarter, gaining from the revival in the domestic market and new product launches in the US followed by recovery in some business segments. Promotional, marketing and travelling spends still continuing to be lower than the pre-Covid levels companies are expected to deliver better EBITDA margins," said Cyndrella Carvalho, analyst, Pharmaceuticals, Centrum Institutional Research. "We expect the quarter growth to be in favour of Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Cipla and Abbott. Except GSK Pharma most of the companies are expected to deliver mid-single digit growth in the domestic market," said Centrum earnings outlook. "DRL would see full quarter consolidation of

WE EXPECT the quarter growth to be in favour of Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Cipla and Abbott. Except GSK Pharma most of the companies are expected to deliver mid-single digit growth in the domestic market

CENTRUM EARNINGS OUTLOOK

the Wockhardt brands. Cipla is driven by the Remdessevir and Tocilizumab and faviparivir along with the trade generics benefits. Abbott continues to reflect strong growth amid its lead core brands," according to a Centrum analyst. US revenues are expected to show recovery along with better contribution from key launches. The US business of the Indian pharma companies is expected to report eight per cent year on year and five per cent quarter on quarter growth as a recovery over the previous quarter. "We expect the recovery of injectable business for Aurobindo Pharma, DRL and Sun Pharma. However, the derma space may continue to face some impact considering Taro. The galbuteol launch is expected to support Lupin along with gMeformin relaunch. Also the benefit of galbuteol launch is expected to continue for Cipla," Centrum earnings outlook said.



Actress Lavanya Tripathi takes a selfie with the newly unveiled 'OnePlus 8T' during the smartphone's unboxing event at Bajaj Electronics store at Banjara Hills in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Mr Karan Bajaj, the CEO of Bajaj Electronics, said his company is delighted to associate with OnePlus brand and extremely happy to unveil the OnePlus 8T at his Banjara Hills store.

India gets \$35bn FDI in first 5 months of fiscal

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 20

The first five months of the financial year 2020-21 saw the highest-ever FDI inflow. The inflow was 13 per cent higher than the same period last year. During the period between April and August, the country received a total FDI inflow of \$35.73 billion. It is the highest ever for the first five months of a financial year, according to the government. The inflow in the first five months of this year is 13 per cent higher than \$31.60 billion invested in the same period last year. Of this, FDI equity inflow accounts for \$27.10 billion. It is also the high-

est ever for the first five months of a financial year and 16 per cent more compared to \$23.35 billion in the first five months of 2019-20. FDI is largely made by multinational companies, large institutions and private equity and venture capital firms. Of this, private equity and venture capital firms made a total investment of \$19 billion in the five month period, as per the data from EY. A major chunk of these funding has to be attributed to the investments made in Reliance and Jio platforms. According to an earlier report of UNCTAD, India had moved into the list of top-10 countries in terms of FDI inflows in 2019 by

attracting \$50 billion. Despite the Covid-19 related downside risks, the United Nations trade body said positive economic growth of the country in the post-pandemic period and its large market will continue to attract market-seeking investments. In 2019, India had recorded a 20 per cent growth in FDI inflows to \$50.5 billion from \$42 billion in 2018. With this, India, which stood at the 12th position in the global rankings of FDI inflows in 2018, moved up to the 9th position. FDI into India has been on a long-term growth trend and India's large market will continue to attract market-seeking investments.

Verdict on Future-RIL deal soon

New Delhi, Oct. 20: A one-man arbitration panel heard the plea of Amazon and Future Group last week and a verdict is expected in a few days, according to sources. A hearing of the arbitration took place at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre on October 16 after Amazon had slapped a legal notice on Future Group, alleging that the retailer's ₹24,713 crore asset sale to Reliance Industries (RIL) violated an agreement with the e-commerce giant. According to sources familiar with the matter, V.K. Rajah — the sole arbitrator in the Amazon vs Future vs Reliance arbitration matter — heard the matter on October 16. Rajah, former Attorney General of Singapore, is expected to deliver his judgment in the next few days, the sources said. Amazon has declined to comment over the development. "We cannot offer any comments as the matter is sub-judice," said an Amazon spokesperson. E-mails sent to Future Group and Reliance did not solicit any response. An outcome in this matter would decide the fate of the Future-Reliance deal announced on August 29, 2020 in which Future Group had announced sale of its retail, wholesale and logistics etc to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, the retail arm of Reliance Industries. — PTI



Oil major boss seeks to cut fossil fuel use

Mumbai, Oct. 20: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd., said India must redefine its manufacturing sector to boost growth. "There is a need to rethink and redefine manufacturing in India. We need to strengthen our small and medium scale enterprises," Ambani said at an online book launch on Monday evening, in response to a question on what can make Indian manufacturing more competitive. "There should be a focus on bricks as much as clicks," said Ambani. When asked about the legacy he'd like to leave behind, Reliance Industries chairman outlined three areas — making India a digital society in ways never imagined before, boosting India's education system, and transformation of the energy sector to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. "If I can play my small part in achieving this, if I can create institutions to perpetuate and sustain these objectives, then I would have done my bit," the RIL chairman said. — Bloomberg

Mercedes to make AMG in India

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 20

Mercedes-Benz, India's biggest luxury car maker, on Tuesday said that it will start local assembly of its performance vehicle range AMG sub-brand at its factory at Chakan, near Pune. The localisation would reduce the prices by about 20 per cent and make it affordable to the buyers. The first to roll out from the assembly-line would be the Mercedes AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupe which would be tagged around ₹80 lakh instead of



₹1 crore for the same imported vehicle. Mercedes AMG GLC 43 will be followed by others. Mercedes has been selling well their AMG performance line and at pres-

ent has eight AMG models in its portfolio in India, offered in the 43, 53, 63 and GT series. These models, as well as previous AMGs, have all been imported into India as fully built up

units, which automatically raised prices due to heavy import taxes. "The decision to locally produce the AMG range in India underlines Mercedes-Benz's clear road map for the Indian market and our long-term commitment to our Indian customers," Martin Schwenk, MD and CEO at Mercedes-Benz India, said. "We want AMG to be more accessible to the potential customers and play a bigger role in our overall portfolio we offer in India," the company MD pointed out.

Most farmers clueless about details of farm laws

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 20

While more than half of the farmers oppose the new agri laws, both supporting and opposing farmers are not fully aware of the laws, finds a survey. A face-to-face survey conducted by Gaon Connection in 53 districts of 16 states to find the perception of farmers about the new laws found that every second respondent

opposed the three laws, while 35 per cent farmers supported these Acts. Of the 52 per cent opposing the laws, over 36 per cent were not informed about the details of these laws. Similarly, of the 35 per cent supporting them, almost 18 per cent were not informed about them. The survey found that overall 67 per cent farmer respondents were aware of the recent three agricultural laws. However, only two-third was aware about

● A SURVEY found that every second respondent opposed the three laws, while 35 per cent farmers supported the newly enacted laws on farm produce. the recent farmers' protest in the country. Awareness about such protests was more among the farmers in the northwest region (91 per cent), which includes the states of Punjab, Haryana and

Himachal Pradesh. Least awareness was reported in the east region (West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh) where less than half (46 per cent) were aware about recent farmers' protest. The biggest fear of these new agri laws among the respondent farmers (57 per cent) is that they will now be forced to sell their crop produce at a lower price in the open market, while 33 per cent farmers fear the government will

end the system of minimum support price (MSP). As many as 46 per cent respondent farmers said they thought the three laws will lead to big corporates/private companies exploiting farmers. Further, 39 per cent respondents felt that because of the new agricultural laws, the mandi system/APMC will collapse in the country. For 36 per cent, sarkari mandi/APMC is the most preferred medium of sell-

ing and the largest proportion of farmers in the northwest region (78 per cent) prefer selling to these mandis. Further, 59 per cent respondent farmers want the MSP system to be made a mandatory law in India. A bigger proportion of marginal and small farmers, who own less than five acres of land, support these agri laws in comparison to medium and large farmers.



## SHORT TAKES

## Johnson upsets Cilic in first round

**Cologne:** Steve Johnson upset former U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic to reach the second round of the Cologne Championships. Johnson won 7-6 (3), 6-4 to set up a second-round match with Damir Dzumhur or Alejandro Davidovich Fokina on Monday. The first set went with serve before Johnson won the tiebreaker, and the American followed up by breaking Cilic to love in the first game of the second.

Eighth-seeded Adrian Mannarino won against lucky loser Alexei Popyrin 6-2, 6-2 in their first-round match. Mannarino faces Miomir Kecmanovic in the second round. Japanese player Yoshihito Nishioka reached the second round after beating Britain's Kyle Edmund 6-4, 6-0. He next plays seventh-seeded Jan-Lennard Struff or Marco Cecchinato.

The Cologne Championships is the second of two back-to-back ATP tournaments in the German city. They were added to the calendar following the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Alexander Zverev won the first tournament on Sunday. — AP

## Wolves sink Leeds as goal rush ends

**Leeds:** After a feast of goals came a relative famine in the English Premier League. Just one across two games and that being a fortunate deflected effort to earn Wolves a win at Leeds ended the goal rush that had made the most-watched league in the world even more compelling viewing over the first five rounds.

After West Bromwich Albion and Burnley fought to the first goalless draw of the top-flight in their 47th match, Wolves edged to win thanks to Raul Jimenez's second-half shot from the edge of the penalty area that ricocheted in off the bowed head of Leeds midfielder Calvin Phillips in the 70th minute.

Before Monday, there had been 171 goals in 46 matches for a rate of scoring never previously seen at the start of a season in the Premier League era (since 1992). Leeds missed the chance to go third in the standings instead, Wolves climbed above their beaten opponents and into sixth place after fading following a bright start.

Wolves had a goal by left wing back Romain Saiss ruled out for a narrow offside by the VAR before Jimenez's third goal of the season. — AP

## Tainted Czech FA deputy resigns

**Prague:** Czech Football Association deputy head Roman Berbr resigned from all of his posts after he was detained by police last week for suspected corruption in a match-fixing scandal. Berbr's move was announced by association president Martin Malik after a meeting of the executive committee on Monday.

The executive also dismissed the entire committee of referees except for the member who represents the two top professional leagues.

Czech police raided the association headquarters on Friday as part of a corruption and match-fixing investigation targeting 20 people, including referees and other soccer officials, and detaining 19. — AP

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Kolkata Knight Riders vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## FOOTBALL

**Champions League:** Salzburg vs Lokomotiv Moskva from 10.25 pm on Sony Six; Real Madrid vs Shakhtar Donetsk from 10.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Bayern Munich vs Atlético Madrid from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six; Inter Milan vs Borussia Mönchengladbach from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3; Manchester City vs Porto from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1; Ajax vs Liverpool from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2

## WWE NXT

Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

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## Pooran peps up Punjab

## Nicholas' quick-fire half century helps KXIP beat Delhi

**Dubai, Oct. 20:** Nicholas Pooran smashed a 28-ball 53 as Kings XI Punjab defeated Delhi Capitals by five wickets in an Indian Premier League game here on Tuesday.

Pooran hit three sixes and six boundaries in his knock as KXIP scored 167 for 5 in 19 overs to notch up their third successive win in the tournament. Earlier, opener Shikhar Dhawan blasted a second successive unbeaten hundred but KXIP pulled things back in the death overs to restrict Delhi Capitals to a below-par 164 for 5.

Dhawan, who had scored an unbeaten 101 off 58 against Chennai Super Kings in their last match, clobbered 12 fours and three sixes in his 61-ball 106-run knock to become the first batsmen to score back-to-back centuries in IPL.

On way to his innings, Dhawan also became the fourth Indian batsman to cross 5,000 runs in IPL.

It seemed he was batting on a different surface with the second highest score of the innings coming from skipper Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, who made 14 each.

KXIP bowled well at the back end of the innings to restrict DC to below 180 with lead pacer Mohammed Shami (2/28) being the stand out performer.

Fresh off a hundred in the last game, Dhawan began by slog sweeping off Glenn Maxwell in the opening over.

Shaw, who failed to get off the mark in the preview

## SCORECARD

**Delhi Capitals:** Prithvi Shaw c Glenn Maxwell b Neesham 7, Shikhar Dhawan not out 106, Shreyas Iyer c K. L. Rahul b Murugan Ashwin 14, Rishabh Pant c Mayank Agarwal b Glenn Maxwell 14, Marcus Stoinis c Mayank Agarwal b Mohammed Shami 9, Shimron Hetmyer b Shami 10. **Extras:** (lb-1 w-3) 4. **Total (for 5 wkts, in 20 overs) 164.** **FoW:** 1-25, 2-73, 3-106, 4-141, 5-164.

**Bowling:** Glenn Maxwell 4-0-31-1, Mohammed Shami 4-0-28-2, Arshdeep Singh 3-0-30-0, James Neesham 2-0-17-1, Murugan Ashwin 4-0-33-1, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-24-0.

**Kings XI Punjab:** K.L. Rahul c Sams b Patel 15, Mayank Agarwal run out 5, Chris Gayle b Ashwin 29, Nicholas Pooran c Pant b Kagiso Rabada 53, Glenn Maxwell c Pant b Kagiso Rabada 32, Deepak Hooda not out 15, J. Neesham not out 10. **Extras:** (lb-1, nb-1, w-6) 8. **Total (for 5 wkts, in 19 over) 167.** **FoW:** 1-17, 2-52, 3-56, 4-125, 5-147.

**Bowling:** D. Sams 4-0-30-0, K. Rabada 4-0-27-2, A. Patel 4-0-27-1, T. Deshpande 2-0-41-0, R. Ashwin 4-0-27-1, M. Stoinis 1-0-14-0.

two games, perished cheaply once again, trying to smash Jimmy Neesham over extra cover when he was in no position to play that aerial stroke.

— PTI



Shikhar Dhawan of Delhi Capitals celebrates his century against Kings XI Punjab in an IPL match in Dubai on Tuesday.

— BCCI

## ZIMBABWE | SERIES

## Rajput 'exempted' from touring Pak

**Karachi, Oct. 20:** Zimbabwe cricket coach Lalchand Rajput has not travelled with the team for a tour of Pakistan after the Indian embassy in Harare requested his exemption from the limited-over series.

A statement from Zimbabwe Cricket said that Rajput will miss the tour following the request from the Indian Embassy. In Rajput's absence, bowling coach Douglas Hondo would take charge of the team during the tour.

"@Lalchandrajput7 will miss the @TheRealPCB tour after the Embassy of India in Harare wrote to @ZimCricketcv asking that he be exempted from visiting Pakistan. The Embassy of Pakistan in Harare had issued a visa to Rajput," the ZC tweeted.

"ESPNcricinfo" reported that the exemption was sought citing "travel guidelines of the government for its citizens".

The Zimbabwean team is scheduled to play three ODIs against Pakistan in Rawalpindi, starting October 30, before moving

to Lahore for three T20Is. The visiting team arrived in Pakistan on Tuesday.

A top source in the PCB said that the directives of the Indian government to not allow Rajput to visit Pakistan had caused some concerns in the Board. India and Pakistan have had no bilateral cricketing ties due to tense diplomatic ties between the two countries.

"The concerns are genuine because the PCB is waiting for confirmation from the ICC and BCCI by January-February that the national team would be issued visas by the Indian government for next year's World T20 in India," the source said.

"Makes no sense to stop him from travelling to Pakistan when he has been issued a visa. The PCB is bound to provide the best security and hospitality to the visiting contingent as per regulations," he added.

The PCB has also invited South Africa and England to send teams to Pakistan in January-February.

— PTI

## Shardul, Siraj vie for 5th pacer's slot

**New Delhi, Oct. 20:** Mohammed Siraj will fight it out with Shardul Thakur to claim the fifth bowler's spot in the Test format for the upcoming Australia tour while Gujarat left-arm spinner Axar Patel is also likely to be in contention for a place in India's consolidated squad.

With the two white ball series (T20Is and ODIs) slated before the marquee four-Test rubber, the selection committee

under Sunil Joshi's chairmanship is expected to pick a jumbo squad for all three formats when it meets later this week.

With two senior pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar (thigh injury) and Ishant Sharma (side strain) all but ruled out, Navdeep Saini will certainly be the fourth pacer after Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav.

— PTI

## Knight Riders bank on Ferguson power

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 20:** Kolkata Knight Riders have finally found their mojo with the late inclusion of tearaway pacer Lockie Ferguson and they would look to

avenge their first leg rout by the star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore when the two sides clash in the IPL here on Wednesday. It needed KKR nine games, and a change of captaincy, to realise the true potential of the World Cup star pacer for runners-up New Zealand, and when the Eoin Morgan-led side finally brought him in, he blew away Sunrisers Hyderabad with his relentless pace and variations.

Ferguson made all the difference to KKR's yet another ordinary show, returning with sensational figures of 3/15 (four overs) and 2/2 from three balls in Super-Over.

It's a welcome inclusion for the Morgan-led KKR (10 points) who are placed fourth with five matches left and

NUMBERS GAME	
HEAD TO HEAD	
OVERALL:	
Matches: 25,	Kolkata: 14, Bangalore: 11
MEETING IN 2019	
Kolkata Knight Riders beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets in Bengaluru.	
Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 10 runs in Kolkata	
MEETING IN CURRENT EDITION	
FOR THE RECORD	
AB de Villiers, who has scored 8,942 at an average of 37.51 in 301 innings of 319 matches, needs 58 runs to become the eighth batsman to score 9,000 runs in Twenty-20 cricket.	
Lockie Ferguson claimed 50 wickets at an average of 26.92 in 52 innings of as many matches in T20 cricket.	
— S. PERVEZ QAISER	

Ferguson will be their key man to take them to the playoffs at a time when their star Aussie recruit Pat Cummins (three wickets from nine matches) is not making much of an impact of late.

AB de Villiers' incredible assault of 73 not out from 33 balls, which had led to an 82-run defeat not many days ago, will be still fresh in their minds.

It will be interesting to see how Morgan uses

Ferguson against the likes of De Villiers, RCB skipper Virat Kohli and opener Aaron Finch.

RCB, on the other hand, are ahead of KKR by two points and occupy the third place in the table.

De Villiers has been in ominous form for them and single-handedly won the game with an unbeaten 55 from 22 balls in their 178-run chase against Rajasthan Royals.

— PTI

## LONG STAYS IN BIO BUBBLES CHALLENGING

**Dubai, Oct. 20:** Eoin Morgan and Jason Holder have expressed their reservations about players spending long periods of time in bio-secure bubbles, warning that it can lead to "extreme burnout".

The English white-ball skipper said that players can't be expected to spend extended periods in these bubble.

"But to keep that level of bubble for a 12-month period, or 10 of the 12 months that we normally travel, I think is untenable. I actually think it's probably one of the more challenging times for anybody involved in the cricket industry. You can drill a player both mentally and physically. And it can cause extreme burnout, which nobody wants to see."

— PTI

## INTRODUCTION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS IN LIEU OF FIVE PAIRS OF SUVIDHA SPECIAL TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to cancel following five pairs of Suvidha Special trains w.e.f. 22.10.2020. Further, in order to facilitate the passengers, five pairs of festival special trains will be introduced on the routes of Cancelled Suvidha Special trains as per the following detail:-

## CANCELLATION OF SUVIDHA SPECIAL TRAINS FROM 22.10.2020

Train No.	From - To	Category
84406/ 84405	Anand Vihar (T) - Bhagalpur - Anand Vihar (T)	Superfast Special Express Train (Suvidha)
84408/ 84407	New Delhi - Barauni Jn. - New Delhi	Superfast Special Express Train (Suvidha)
84410/ 84409	New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn. - New Delhi	Superfast Special Express Train (Suvidha)
84414/ 84413	New Delhi - Patna Jn. - New Delhi	Superfast Special Express (Suvidha)
84412/ 84411	Delhi Jn. - Saharsa Jn - Delhi Jn.	Superfast Special Express (Suvidha)

## 04404/04403 Anand Vihar (T) - Bhagalpur - Anand Vihar (T) Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 04404	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04403
ARR. DEP.			ARR. DEP.
---	18:35	Anand Vihar (T)	15:25
15:00	---	Bhagalpur	---

**Days of Run :** 04404 from Anand Vihar (T) on every Friday & Monday from 23.10.20 to 30.11.20 and 04403 from Bhagalpur on every Saturday & Tuesday from 24.10.2020 to 01.12.2020

**Accommodation:** AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved). **Stoppages :** Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna, Mokama Jn., Kiul, Jamalpur and Sultanganj stations.

## 04406/04405 New Delhi - Barauni Jn. - New Delhi Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 04406	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04405
ARR. DEP.			ARR. DEP.
---	19:25	New Delhi	14:50
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**Days of Run :** 04406 from New Delhi on every Tuesday & Friday from 23.10.20 to 27.11.20 and 04405 from Barauni on every Wednesday & Saturday from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020

**Accommodation:** AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved). **Stoppages :** Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra and Hajipur stations.

## 04408/04407 New Delhi - Darbhanga - New Delhi Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 04408	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04407
ARR. DEP.			ARR. DEP.
---	19:25	New Delhi	17:30
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**Days of Run :** 04408 from New Delhi on every Monday & Thursday from 22.10.20 to 26.11.20 and 04407 from Darbhanga on every Tuesday & Friday from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020

**Accommodation:** AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved). **Stoppages :** Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur stations.

## 04410/04409 New Delhi - Patna Jn. - New Delhi Superfast Special Train (Tri-Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 04410	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04409
ARR. DEP.			ARR. DEP.
---	14:55	New Delhi	05:00
---	---	---	---

**Days of Run :** 04410 from New Delhi on every Friday, Sunday & Tuesday from 23.10.20 to 29.11.20 and 04409 from Patna Jn. on every Saturday, Monday & Wednesday from 24.10.20 to 30.11.20

**Accommodation:** AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved). **Stoppages :** Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara and Danapur stations.

## 04412/04411 Delhi Jn. - Saharsa Jn. - Delhi Jn. Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 04412	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04411
ARR. DEP.			ARR. DEP.
---	23:00	Delhi Jn.	19:20
19:45	---	Saharsa	---
---	---	---	---

**Days of Run :** 04412 from Delhi Jn. on every Wednesday & Sunday from 25.10.20 to 29.11.20 and 04411 from Saharsa on every Thursday & Monday from 26.10.20 to 30.11.20

**Accommodation:** AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved). **Stoppages :** Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni and Khagaria stations.

**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 your tickets from an authorised railway counter or authorised rail travel agent only.

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

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
S.R. 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, GURUGRAM	WIDENING STRENGTHENING OF DELHI MATHURA ROAD TO DHOLAGARH IN DISTT. PALWAL (DETAILED ESTIMATE FOR PDG. STREET LIGHT) + 1 OTHER WORK	20.10.2020 02.11.2020	37.26 LACS	<a href="https://etendehry.nic.in">https://etendehry.nic.in</a> TENDER NO 2020_HRY_138317_2 + 1 OTHER	Pwd-ceed-gurgaon@hy.nic.in 0124-2320874
2	PWD B&R, YAMUNA NAGAR	RE-INVITE STRENGTHENING OF KATHI KALANAU ROAD TO DARWA (ID 515) ( 0.00 TO 0.0.87) IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT + 2 OTHER WORKS	27.10.2020 09.11.2020	1652.16 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	pwd-eeepd-yamunaganar@hy.nic.in01732-237834
3	PWD B&R, BHIWNAI	COLLECTION, CLEANING & SHREDDING OF WASTE PLASTIC COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES IN BHIWANI ZONE AS DEFINED BY HARYANA PWD (B&R) AND SUPPLY OF SHREDDED PLASTIC SUITABLE FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION.	20.10.2020 09.11.2020	56.80LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01664-242436 pwd-eeepd-bhiwani@hy.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, KATHAL	UPGRADATION OF ROAD FOR PROVIDING WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF HARYANA STATE BOUNDARY TO GHANA AGRAN ROAD IN KATHAL DISTT. (ROAD ID 7027) (UNDER NABARD RIDF-XXVI SCHEME) + 8 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 04.11.2020	2149.41 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01746-234087 esp22_pwd.k8-hry@nic.in
5	KALPANA CHAWLA GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, KARNAL	REGARDING E- TENDER FOR CMC OF 36 NO. LIFTS IN KCGMC, KARNAL	23.10.2020 09.11.2020	1,00,000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	kcgcmkarnal13@gmail.com
6	KALPANA CHAWLA, GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, KARNAL	REGARDING E- TENDER FOR CMC OF RD SYSTEM INSTALLED IN KCGMC, KARNAL	23.10.2020 09.11.2020	26000/-	<a href="https://etendehry.nic.in">https://etendehry.nic.in</a>	Kcgcmkarnal13@gmail.com
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, BHIWANI	REPAIRING OF PIPE CULVERT AT VARIOUS RD'S OF BHIWANI GRABBER DRAIN AT RD 28420, 38631, 42750, 45200, 49620, 55400 + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 28.10.2020	14.18 LACS	<a href="https://etendehry.nic.in">https://etendehry.nic.in</a>	01664-242141 xenwbsbhiwani@rediffmail.com
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