

IN BRIEF

Rape of minor: 2 taken into custody

Noida: The Uttar Pradesh Police has taken two accused into custody in connection with an alleged rape of a minor girl in Dadri area, according to deputy commissioner of police (women security) Vrinda Shukla. The official said that the accused were neighbours of the victim and according to the girl's family had raped her on October 6. "On October 8, information was received at the Dadri police station about a rape happening with a 12-year-old girl by two boys living in the same Dadri Kasba on October 6. The boys were known to the family," Shukla said. "The information was given by the victim's mother to the police following which a case was registered in connection with the matter. Taking prompt action, the police have taken both the accused into custody and the victim has been sent for medical examination," she added. The official further informed that the Gautam Buddh Nagar Police Commissionerate is aiming to settle all POCSO (The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) related crime investigations in a fast-tracked fashion and extended the assurance that the same will be done in this matter as well. Further investigation is underway. — ANI

2 killed as truck crashes into building

New Delhi: A truck driver and his helper were killed in the early hours of Friday after their vehicle rammed into a factory building on the Mehrauli-Badarpur road in southeast Delhi, police said. Arif Ali was driving the truck and Mumtaz Ali Badre was seated beside him at the time of the accident, police said, adding that the duo hailed from a village in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh. According to police, the truck carrying iron rods had left Okhla Industrial area at around 4 am and was on its way to a warehouse in Palwal, Haryana. However, the driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed into the furniture factory in Pul Prahladpur area. There was no other casualty in the accident, said R.P. Meena, deputy commissioner of police (southeast). — PTI

3 held for ₹10 cr misappropriation

New Delhi: Three men have been arrested for allegedly misappropriating funds of a company to the tune of ₹10 crore, the Delhi Police said on Friday. The accused — Pramod Goel, Krishan Chand Bansal and Anil Gupta — were directors in M/S Indirapuram Habitat Centre Pvt. Ltd. They have been arrested and sent to judicial custody, they said. A case was registered against them on the complaint of M/S Moneywise Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. It has been alleged that in 2016, the accused company had availed a term loan of ₹10 crore from them for a period of two years for the completion of its project but they failed to repay the loan amount and defrauded them, according to police. It also emerged that the units mortgaged as collateral security have been sold to other investors after taking full payments from them. The accused company also offered them assured return on their investment but no such return was paid as promised. — PTI

HC asks govt to buy insurance for over 29K lawyers by Nov. 30

Policies to be purchased under Chief Minister's Advocates' Welfare Scheme

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

The Delhi High Court has asked the Delhi government to purchase before November 30, insurance policies from LIC and New India Assurance Company (NIAC) for over 29,000 lawyers under the Chief Minister's Advocates' Welfare Scheme. The high court passed the order on various petitions relating to implementation of the welfare scheme.

The court was informed that for the group (term) life insurance policies for 28,774 lawyers, the Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) final quotation is finalised at ₹10,07,70,894. For group mediclaim insurance policies for 29,077 advocates, NIAC has finalised at a final rate of ₹10,500 as per family premium, along with 25 per cent co-payment by advocate concerned.

"In view of the above figures having now been finalised with the companies, the Delhi Government shall now proceed to purchase the insurance policies from LIC for 28,744 members and from NIAC for 29,077 lawyers who are members of the Bar Council of Delhi (BCD), whose names already stand verified. The purchase of the poli-

Each lawyer to whom this benefit is given would be given a letter by the respective Insurance Companies specifying that the group (term) life insurance and group mediclaim insurance has been purchased for their benefit.

The Delhi government shall now proceed to purchase the insurance policies from LIC for 28,744 members and from NIAC for 29,077 members of the Bar Council of Delhi, whose names already stand verified.

cies shall be effected on or before November 30," Justice Prathiba M Singh said.

The court said since this is a group insurance policy, each lawyer to whom this benefit is given would be given a letter by the respective Insurance Companies specifying that the group (term) life insurance and group mediclaim insurance has been purchased for their benefit.

"The rates quoted above are slightly higher than what were quoted in November and December, 2019, however, since the figures are within the overall approved budget of the Delhi Government at this stage, the same are being approved by this court," the judge said.

As the policies are meant for the lawyers residing in the national capital, the Delhi government counsel raised an expression that

if the benefit of the scheme is extended to those advocates living in the NCR region, the approved budgetary allocation can be exceeded.

To this, the court said this issue would be decided at the time of final hearing and at that stage, the question of budgetary allocation would also be considered. The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 6.

The court had earlier expressed concerns over the "steep" rise in the premiums for the insurance and mediclaim policies to be provided by LIC and NIAC, respectively, under the welfare scheme.

According to the BCD's plea, by a cabinet decision of December 17, 2019, the Delhi government decided to provide a medical insurance of ₹5 lakh and a term insurance of ₹10 lakh to lawyers, who are

residents of the national capital, under the Chief Minister's Advocates' Welfare Scheme. The corpus of the scheme is ₹50 crore.

The petition contended that no scheme was made available in 2019-20 and even during the Covid crisis, nothing was done.

The court was also hearing a plea moved by advocate Govind Swaroop Chaturvedi, seeking a direction to extend the benefit of the scheme to all those enrolled with the BCD, whether their names appear on the voters' list of the national capital or not.

He has said he is enrolled with the BCD, has the membership of the Delhi High Court Bar Association, practises in the courts here, but does not reside in the national capital now and claimed that the notification is discriminatory, illegal and unreasonable.

The plea also said the discrimination on the basis of names on the voters' list in Delhi is not based on any reasonableness. The pleas have sought to quash or modify the government's March 17 notification to the extent of deleting the eligibility condition on the basis of names on the voters' list of Delhi, for extending the welfare benefits.

■ 'AAP govt wants cooperation, not confrontation'

Rai: Neighbouring states not serious on pollution control

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

The AAP government is taking the lead in the fight against air pollution in Delhi-NCR, but the neighbouring states are still "not serious" about the issue despite it becoming "more dangerous" due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai said.

He said that the AAP government wants cooperation not confrontation with other states on the issue of air pollution.

He said that the "Pusa bio-decomposer" initiative, as a solution to stubble burning, will benefit Haryana and Punjab more and Delhi's benefit is that it will get rid of the smoke from farm fires that makes the city a gas chamber every year. Stubble burning has started in Haryana and Punjab, which contributes significantly to the rise in pollution levels in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

In view of the air quality in Delhi-NCR hitting poor level, a Supreme Court-mandated body, on Thursday, announced implementation of a graded response action plan (GRAP) from October 15 and a ban on the use of diesel generators, except for essential and emergency services, in Delhi

We are very concerned about our 13 hotspots and working hard to reduce pollution levels there, but other states have hotspots as well. They have not been making enough efforts

—Gopal Rai, Environment minister



and the neighbouring cities of Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad, and Gurgaon. "We are very concerned about our 13 hotspots and working hard to reduce pollution levels there, but other states have hotspots as well. They have not been making enough efforts," the minister said.

Mr Rai said the Delhi government has been taking action against dust, biomass burning, and stubble and vehicular pollution.

"We are working with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, which took an initiative. We want to take the lead and set an example for other states," he said.

Mr Rai also questioned why the Centre was not taking any action against the 11 coal-fired power

plants within 300 kilometers of Delhi that have missed two deadlines to meet the new emission norms.

On the issue of smog towers, he said, "There is no fixed solution to the air pollution problem. One needs to take whatever options are available. Two smog towers are being set up (in Connaught Place and Anand Vihar). We will analyse the results and then a decision (for more towers in the future) will be taken."

Earlier this week, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a mega anti-air pollution campaign, "Yuddh Pradushan ke Viruddh."

As part of it, Mr Rai inaugurated a "green war room" at the Delhi Secretariat on Thursday to monitor steps being taken to bring down pollution levels in the city this winter. The minister said a 10-member team has been set up under senior scientists Mohan George and B.L. Chawla to monitor the levels of primary pollutants, measures taken to curb pollution, and status of complaints received through the Green Delhi mobile application.

Satellite data related to farm fires in the neighbouring states will also be analysed in the green war room.

Cabinet okays tree plantation, smog tower installation in Connaught Place

SANJAY KAW
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

To curb the rising pollution levels in the national capital, the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government on Friday announced a tree transplantation policy in Connaught Place. The tree transplantation policy for development or construction projects will be in addition to the compulsory plan-

tation of trees policy which is already in place.

The announcements come just ahead of the winter season, when Delhi sees a spike in the levels of air pollution due to stubble burning in the neighbouring states. Stubble burning has already started in Haryana and Punjab, which contributes significantly to the rise in pollution levels

in Delhi and the National Capital Region.

In view of air quality in Delhi-NCR hitting poor level, a Supreme Court-mandated body Thursday announced implementation of graded response action plan (GRAP) from October 15 and a ban on the use of diesel generators, except for essential and emergency services in Delhi and the neighbouring cities of

Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Gurugram.

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that a dedicated tree transplantation cell would be set up by the government under the new policy. Under the new tree transplantation policy, 80 per cent of trees uprooted for any construction or development project must be transplanted elsewhere.



A worker operates an anti-smog gun at a construction site at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

2,860 Covid-19 cases in city in 24 hrs, tally rises to 3.03 lakh

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

The national capital's cumulative Covid-19 case count rose to 3.03 lakh with authorities reporting 2,860 fresh cases on Friday while 39 fatalities took the number of deaths linked to the pandemic to 5,692.

This is the eighth day in a row that the city has reported less than 3,000 new cases. The figure stood at 2,726 on Thursday and 2,871 on Wednesday.

Delhi reported 39 deaths on Friday. The fatality count was 37 on Thursday and 35 on Wednesday.

Forty-eight deaths were reported on September 29, the highest in a day since July 16

when the city reported 58 deaths. The number of fatalities has remained below the 40-mark since October 2.

Of the total Covid-19 cases reported in Delhi so far, 2,76,046 have either recovered, been discharged, or have managed to. As many as 49,135 tests were conducted to detect Covid-19 infection on Thursday, of which 11,651 were RTPCR tests and 37,484 rapid antigen tests.

A total of 35,24,930 tests have been conducted in the national capital so far—1,85,522 tests per million population. The case positivity rate during the last 24 hours was 5.82 per cent while the cumulative positivity rate was 8.62 per cent.

Noida: 178 cases push Covid tally to 14,709

Noida, Oct. 9: Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar recorded 178 new Covid-19 patients on Friday that pushed the district's case tally to 14,709, official data showed. The district's number of active cases rose to 1,579 from 1,548 on Thursday, even as 147 more novel coronavirus patients got discharged, according to the data released by the UP Health Department for a 24-hour period.

The district has so far recorded 13,074 recoveries, seventh highest in the state. — PTI

Youth beaten to death by girl's kin

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

An 18-year-old youth was beaten to death allegedly by a group of five men as they objected to his friendship with their sister, police said on Friday. The incident took place on Wednesday evening in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar, they said.

The girl's brother and her relative have been arrested while three juveniles have been apprehended in connection with the incident, police said.

The deceased, Rahul Rajput, was doing his second-year BA from Delhi University's School of Open Learning. He also took tuitions for school students, they said.

According to police, the victim was friends with a

girl from his locality but her family was against their friendship and did not like them talking to each other.

On Wednesday evening, the victim was called at Nanda road on the pretext of talking about his tuition classes but when he reached at the spot, he was allegedly physically assaulted by a group of four-five persons including the girl's brothers, a senior police officer said. They slapped him and kicked him following which he sustained severe injuries.

On Wednesday, a call was received around 11.59 pm from BJRM hospital about a patient admitted in an unconscious condition. Later on, the injured expired during treatment. The deceased did not have any visible injury, police said.

RESTORATION OF NEW DELHI-SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI KATRA-NEW DELHI VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to restore train no. 22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express w.e.f. 15.10.2020, as per schedule given below:-

22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express (Except Tuesday)					
Train No. 22439			Train No. 22440		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	
---	06:00	New Delhi	23:00	---	
08:08	08:10	Ambala Cantt. Jn.	20:48	20:50	
09:19	09:21	Ludhiana Jn.	19:32	19:34	
12:38	12:40	Jammu Tawi	16:13	16:15	
14:00	---	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	---	15:00	

Days of Run : Six Days in week except every Tuesday
Accommodation : AC Executive Chair Car & AC Chair Car

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.

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

Security Helpline No. 182 | Integrated Helpline No. 139

Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Special Train as per schedule given below:-

02494/02493 H. Nizamuddin - Pune - H. Nizamuddin Darshan Express AC Special Weekly					
Train No. 02494			Train No. 02493		
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS	Arr.	Dep.	
-	21:35	H. Nizamuddin Jn	5:35	-	
2:55	3:05	Kota Jn	22:10	22:20	
7:00	7:10	Ratlam Jn	18:20	18:30	
11:15	11:25	Vadodara Jn	14:03	14:13	
13:17	13:22	Surat	12:10	12:20	
14:33	14:35	Vapi	10:41	10:43	
16:20	16:25	Vasai Road	8:50	9:00	
17:47	17:50	Kalyan Jn	7:47	7:50	
19:37	19:40	Lonavala	6:08	6:10	
21:25	-	Pune Jn	-	5:15	

Days of Run: 02494 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin on Friday from (16.10.2020) and 02493 Ex Pune on Sunday from (18.10.2020).
Accommodation: 1stAC, 2 TierAC, 3 TierAC

02462/02461 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra AC Express Special Daily					
Train No. 02462			Train No. 02461		
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS	Arr.	Dep.	
-	23:05	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	5:10	-	
23:30	23:32	Udhampur	4:02	4:04	
0:35	0:43	Jammu Tawi	2:55	3:05	
2:15	2:20	Pathankot Cantt	0:55	1:00	
4:20	4:30	Jalandhar Cantt	23:07	23:12	
5:40	5:50	Ludhiana Jn	22:05	22:15	
7:45	7:57	Ambala Cantt	20:08	20:18	
10:35	-	New Delhi	-	17:30	

Days of Run: 02462 Ex Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on Thursday from (15.10.2020) and 02461 Ex New Delhi on Friday from (16.10.2020).
Accommodation: 1stAC, 2 TierAC, 3 TierAC

02264/02263 H. Nizamuddin - Pune - H. Nizamuddin AC Durgam Express Special Weekly					
Train No. 02264			Train No. 02263		
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS	Arr.	Dep.	
-	10:55	H. Nizamuddin Jn	6:55	-	
15:20	15:30	Kota Jn	1:00	1:10	
18:35	18:40	Ratlam Jn	22:10	22:15	
22:28	22:38	Vadodara Jn	18:34	18:44	
3:50	3:55	Vasai Road	14:35	14:40	
6:04	6:07	Lonavala	11:58	12:00	
7:10	-	Pune Jn	-	11:10	

Days of Run: 02264 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin on Monday & Thursday from (15.10.2020) and 02263 Ex Pune on Tuesday & Friday from (16.10.2020).
Accommodation: 1stAC, 2 TierAC, 3 TierAC

02011/02012 New Delhi - Kalka - New Delhi Shatabdi Express Special Daily					
Train No. 02011			Train No. 02012		
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS	Arr.	Dep.	
-	7:40	New Delhi	21:55	-	
8:51	8:53	Panipat Jn	20:29	20:31	
9:37	9:39	Kurukshetra Jn	19:37	19:39	
10:28	10:30	Ambala Cantt	19:03	19:05	
11:05	11:13	Chandigarh	18:15	18:23	
11:45	-	Kalka	-	17:45	

Days of Run: 02011 Ex New Delhi on Thursday from (15.10.2020) and 02012 Ex Kalka, on Thursday from (15.10.2020).
Accommodation: Executive A.C. Chair Car & A.C. Chair Car

02017/02018 New Delhi - Dehradun - New Delhi Shatabdi Express Special Daily					
Train No. 02017			Train No. 02018		
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS	Arr.	Dep.	
-	6:45	New Delhi	22:50	-	
7:23	7:25	Ghaziabad	22:09	22:11	
8:03	8:05	Meerut City	21:23	21:25	
8:44	8:46	Muzaffarnagar	20:38	20:40	
9:50	10:15	Saharanpur Jn.	19:30	19:55	
10:44	10:46	Roorkee	18:47	18:49	
11:30	11:35	Haridwar	18:05	18:10	
12:50	-	Dehradun	-	16:55	

Days of Run: 02011 Ex New Delhi on Thursday from (15.10.2020) and 02012 Ex Dehradun on Thursday from (15.10.2020).
Accommodation: Executive A.C. Chair Car & A.C. Chair Car

02029/02030 New Delhi - Amritsar - New Delhi - Swarna Shatabdi Express Special 6 days a week Except Thursday					
Train No. 02029			Train No. 02030		
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS	Arr.	Dep.	
-	7:20	New Delhi	23:15	-	
9:55	9:57	Ambala Cantt	20:30	20:32	
10:18	10:20	Rajpura Jn	19:56	19:58	
11:29	11:32	Ludhiana Jn	18:50	18:55	
12:00	12:02	Phagwara Jn	18:13	18:15	
12:25	12:27	Jalandhar City	17:54	17:57	
12:58	13:00	Beas	17:18	17:20	
13:45	-	Amritsar	-	16:50	

Days of Run: 02029 Ex New Delhi, 6 days a week Except Thursday from (

SHORT TAKES

Uproar after Sikh man turban pulled

Kolkata: A day after a man named Balbinder Singh was arrested with a pistol from GT Road in Howrah during the agitation by BJP workers, the party alleged that the Sikh community was insulted as Singh's turban fell off when he was being taken into custody. The police, however, have denied the charge, saying that the pagri fell off during the scuffle and that the man was asked to put it on before he was arrested. The outrage had cricketer Harbhajan Singh tweeting to CM Mamata Banerjee on Friday, saying: "Please look into this matter @MamataOfficial this isn't done." He posted tweets and news video clips tweeted by BJP's Delhi unit secretary Impreet Singh Bakshi. The same tweets and videos were also shared by BJP secretary Arvind Menon and other leaders. "In Bengal, is there no respect for people from other religious faiths except a specific one?" tweeted Menon.

PIL accuses Arnab of bias in SSR case

New Delhi: A PIL has been moved in the Delhi high court alleging that journalist Arnab Goswami and his channel were reporting "distorted and misleading facts" on the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput resulting in infringement of the right to a fair trial of actor Rhea Chakraborty. The plea has sought directions to the Centre to frame rules, regulations or guidelines to govern reporting or broadcasting of all news related to criminal investigations. The petition was listed for hearing on Friday before a bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan which asked the petitioner to come on the next date — 27 November — with his suggestions on the kind of rules that can be framed to regulate media reporting of criminal probes. — *Agencies*

TRS allotted land in Delhi for office

Hyderabad: The Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) has been allotted 1,100 sq m of land at Vasant Vihar in Delhi for construction of the party office building. The land and development office of the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs sent a communication to TRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao in this regard on Friday, according to a TRS press release. The party would soon lay the foundation stone and complete the construction of the office building expeditiously, the release quoted Rao as saying. Rao floated the TRS in 2001 to fight for a separate Telangana. — *PTI*

INDIA'S ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES FALL BELOW 9L

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

Union health ministry on Friday said that India continues to report a trend of steadily dipping active cases and after a month, for the first time, active cases have come down below the 9 lakh mark. India registered 8.93 lakh active cases on Friday after registering 8.97 lakh on September 9. Health ministry officials said the active cases at present comprise 12.94% of the total positive cases of the country "demonstrating a steady falling percentage of the total cases. India on Friday had 69.06 lakh cases out of which 70, 496 were detected in the last 24 hours. The total number of deaths is 1.06 lakh out of which 964 fatalities were recorded in just one day. According to health ministry data, 78% of the new cases are from 10 states and UTs out of which Maharashtra continues to report very high number of new cases with more than 13,000 cases followed by Karnataka with more than 10,000 cases. Of the new fatalities, nearly 82% are concentrated in ten states and UTs and more than 37% of new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra (358 deaths). Ministry officials said the declining trend of the active cases is commensurately supported by rising percentage of recovered cases. The total recovered cases stand at 59.06 lakh and the gap between recovered and active cases is over 50 lakh.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets family members of Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party leader Ramvilas Paswan after his demise on Thursday evening at his Janpath residence in New Delhi on Friday. — *PTI*

Rahul takes dig at PM on wind turbines idea, BJP hits back

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his suggestion that wind turbines can be used to generate clean drinking water, oxygen and energy, evoking sharp reactions from BJP leaders who said he needs to read scientific papers. "The real danger to India isn't that our PM doesn't understand. It's the fact that nobody around him has the guts to tell him," Mr Gandhi tweeted. He also posted a video of the Prime Minister's views on wind turbines expressed a few days ago during an interaction with Henrik Andersen, head of Danish wind turbine-maker Vestas. In the video, the Prime Minister is heard saying that if wind turbines could collect moisture from air, besides producing power, it could help tackle drinking water shortage. Mr Modi said, "The other suggestion I have is that we can separate oxygen from the air using this same turbine... If this can be done, one wind turbine can then provide drinking water, oxygen, and energy... Can your scientists do something to innovate in that direction?" Hitting back at Mr Gandhi, Union minister Piyush Goyal said, "Nobody around Rahul Gandhi has the guts to tell him that he doesn't understand. He mocks PM Narendra Modi's ideas when the CEO of the world's leading company endorses them." He also tagged a news report with his tweet that says wind turbines create water from thin air.

Key China study group meets to set agenda for military talks

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

The high-powered China Study Group (CSG) met on Friday to set the agenda for the 7th round of Corps Commanders level meeting between India and China on October 12 on stand-off in Eastern Ladakh. According to sources, defence minister Rajnath Singh, foreign affairs minister S. Jaishankar, national security advisor Ajit Doval and Army Chief General M.M. Naravane among others attended the crucial meeting. India will again ask China to disengage its troops from all stand-off points in Eastern Ladakh. China Study Group discussed the current security situation along the line of actual control (LAC) and operational issues. This will be the last meeting under 14 Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh who is all set to take charge as Commandant of the Indian Military Academy (IMA) later this month after completing his one

▶ **INDIA WILL** again ask China to disengage its troops from all stand-off points in Eastern Ladakh

▶ **CHINA STUDY** Group discussed the current security situation along the line of actual control and operational issues

year tenure. Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon who will be the new 14 Corps Commander will also take part in the meeting on October 12. The representative from the ministry of external affairs joint secretary (East Asia) Naveen Srivastava too is expected to attend the Corps Commanders meeting. In the last Corps Commanders meeting, both had sides agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may complicate the situation. Since the 6th Corps Commanders meeting some type of uneasy peace has been maintained at LAC in Ladakh, which had witnessed a

number of firing incidents for the first time in over four decades. Both sides are prepared to keep their armies at these high altitude mountains during winters when temperatures dip away below zero degrees and bone-chilling wind makes survival extremely difficult. However, there is also a concern that if Chinese troops don't move out from places where they have transgressed, they may permanently change the alignment of the LAC. During the last meeting, India asked for complete disengagement from all points in Eastern Ladakh where China has transgressed into Indian Territory, including Pangong Tso and Gogra Post-Hot Springs. The Chinese army has also been preventing Indian patrols in the Depsang sector. India had made it clear that since it was China which had first transgressed, it will have to make the first move towards disengagement. India wants restoration of status quo ante of April 2020 at Eastern Ladakh.

Writer stages 20-hr stir as jeweller refuses to speak in Marathi

HARSHADA PARAB
MUMBAI, OCT. 9

Marathi writer Shobha Deshpande staged a 20-hour protest at Colaba in Mumbai after a city base jeweller refused to speak in the Marathi language and asked her to leave his shop. Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) backed the author and warned the jeweller, who was even manhandled by MNS activists, that he cannot open his shop till he learns Marathi. The jeweller later apologised to the writer.

The alleged incident took place on Thursday evening when the writer had gone to the jewellery shop to buy an earring. When the staff at the shop started talking to her in Hindi, she insisted that they should talk to her in Marathi, she said. Ms Deshpande further claimed that the shop owner refused to speak in Marathi after which she demanded that he show the licence required to run



Shobha Deshpande

▶ **MNS BACKED** the author and warned the jeweller, who was even manhandled by MNS activists, that he cannot open his shop till he learns Marathi. The jeweller later apologised to the writer.

▶ **IN TELEVISION** footage, MNS workers were seen slapping the jeweller as he apologised to the Marathi writer.

the shop. "He refused to show me his licence. When I called the police, they also sided with the jeweller. Then I staged the protest outside the shop," she said. The incident took another

BIHAR POLLS 'Why should they live like 2nd-class citizens'

Want to stop Bihari 'exodus': Shreyasi

ABHISHEK HORE
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

The range will make way for rallies in Commonwealth Games gold medal-winning shooter Shreyasi Singh's life as she gears up for the electoral battle in Bihar, aiming to restore an average Bihari's faith in the state so that there is an end to the "exodus".

While she calls that a "larger project", education is also a priority for the 29-year-old Asian Games bronze-medallist, who has joined the BJP and will contest the October 28 to November 7 assembly elections from the Jamui constituency. BJP and the Janta Dal United make the ruling alliance in the state right now.

"Why should Biharis leave Bihar and live like second-class citizens elsewhere. That's not good, that's not right," said Ms Singh in an interview with PTI on Friday. "When you talk about politics, it has to be with development in mind, not just infrastructure but my vision is multi-dimensional development."

"Why don't we create enough job opportunities in Bihar so that our people can live with dignity, with their families?" she asked. During the Covid-19 forced lockdown, Bihar endured massive reverse migration and special trains were run to facilitate people's return after



I will continue my shooting, try and devote as much time as possible while also working for my constituency. Shooting is one of the reasons I did not try Lok Sabha elections. The MLA's constituency is much smaller than that of an MP.

— Shreyasi Singh, BJP candidate

EC doubles broadcast time allotted to political parties

New Delhi, Oct. 9: The Election Commission on Friday doubled the broadcast time allotted to recognised political parties in Bihar on Doordarshan and All India Radio during the upcoming state assembly polls in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and the enhanced relevance of "non-contact based" campaign. Each recognised national and regional party will be given a base time of 90 minutes. The facilities will be available from the regional centre of All India Radio and Doordarshan and relayed

by other stations within Bihar, it said. The additional time to be allotted to a party has been decided on the basis of its poll performance in the last Bihar Assembly election in 2015. "A base time of 90 minutes will be given to each national party and recognised state party of Bihar uniformly on the regional kendras of Doordarshan network and All India Radio network in Bihar," the commission said. No party will be allocated more than 30 minutes in a single broadcast session. — *PTI*

Goyal gets additional charge of consumer affairs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

Railway minister Piyush Goyal will look after the consumer affairs, food and public distribution ministry, a portfolio held by the late LJP leader Ram Vilas Paswan, as an additional charge till the time government appoints a new minister. Paswan died on Thursday at the age of 74 due to heart ailment. "The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has directed that



Piyush Goyal

Piyush Goyal, Cabinet minister, be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, in addition to his existing portfolios," a commu-

niqué from Rashtrapati Bhavan said on Friday. This is the second Cabinet portfolio that has fallen vacant, the previous one was after Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned last month following which her ministry was handed over to Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar as additional charge. Meanwhile, the Cabinet conduced the death of Paswan and observed two minute silence in his memory.

5 yrs on, missing UP boy traced to Assam through 'Darpan'

Hyderabad, Oct. 9: After reported missing for five years from Uttar Pradesh, a boy was traced to Assam by the Telangana police using "Darpan", a face recognition tool, and reunited with his family. Som Soni was aged eight when he went missing from his house in Allahabad on July 14, 2015. He was traced to a Child Home at Golapara in Assam, Telangana additional director general of police (ADGP), Women Safety Wing, Swati Lakra said on Friday. On July 23 that year, Soni

was spotted by Golapara police and was admitted to a local Child Welfare Centre. Darpan, the face recognition software, developed by Telangana police, maintains a database of children and persons lodged at various rescue homes across the country. It tries to match photos of those missing with those lodged at the homes. Telangana police, using the face recognition tool to match photographs of missing children with those of children found at various child homes

across the country, detected the boy by matching his photos, she said. Immediately, the Telangana police informed their Uttar Pradesh counterparts, who in turn informed the parents of the missing child. The parents went to the Child Welfare Centre and identified their son now aged 13. Efforts are on to trace such missing children across the country through the tool and reunite them with their families, the ADGP added. — *PTI*

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PHE (QC&PD) DIVISION, HMT, SRINAGAR.**
Phone: - 0194- 2496307, E-Mail: - xenmandp@gmail.com

Dates-Corrigendum

Subject:-

Extension of dates for Supply of various types of assorted size Consumable items (As per BIS Code with latest Amendments/Manufacturers Test Certificates, as the case may be), for Electro Mechanical Workshop of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore.

Ref: 1.

This office NIT No: PHE/QC&PD/12/2020-21/e-Tender Dated: 22-09-2020.

Due to poor response, the above referred e-tender is hereby re-scheduled as follows:

1	Tender Notice No.	PHE/MS&P/ 12 of 2020-21/ e-Tender Dated: 22-09-2020.
2	Date of Inviting Tender	22-09-2020..... 10.00 AM
3	Clarification End Date	15-10-2020..... 04.00 PM
4	Document Downloading End Date	16-10-2020..... 02.00 PM
5	On Line Document Submission End Date	16-10-2020..... 4.00 PM
6	Date of opening of Cover 1st.	17-10-2020..... 2.00 PM

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

Jal Shakti PHE (QC&PD), HMT Srinagar

No: PHE/MS&P/4038-41

DIPK-7115/20 Dated 09.10.2020

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Akshya Kaushik, S/o: Sh. Rajesh Kaushik, R/o: H.No. B-418, 20, Room No. 4, Dev Kunj, Near Dada Dev Mandir, Palam, New Delhi, Aged: 24 years** has been missing from his house since 27.09.2020. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 117A, Dated 27.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi.** His physical description is as under:
Height: 5'5" Feet, Complexion: Fair, Built: Normal, Hair: Black, Clothing: Grey Colour T-Shirt and Grey Colour Payjama.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing man, may inform SHO, Palam Village, New Delhi at E-mail: ciccbi@cbi.nic.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: 011-230111334, Tele No. : 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229, 23015218 extn. 210

S.H.O
P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi
Ph. 7011709246

DP/321/SW/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work:
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1	Name of work and its location	Supply of portable drinking water at L-xings and colonies under ADEN/MSZ
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 32,00,102.00
3	Earnest Money.	Rs. 64,000.00
4	Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender.	Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15.00 hrs. on 23.10.2020 opening of e-Tender at 15.00 hrs. on 06.11.2020.
5	Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 22-W-IV/20-21
Date: 09.10.2020 2174/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SHORT TAKES

Ex-Ranji Trophy player found dead

Alappuzha: A former Ranji trophy player, M. Suresh Kumar was found dead in his house on Friday night, police said. The police said Kumar (47) was found hanging in his bedroom at his residence near here. “It was his son who found the cricketer hanging in his bedroom and informed us around 7.15 PM. Prima facie it is a suicide, but we are looking further into the matter,” the police said. Kumar, a first-class cricketer, had played for Kerala in the Ranji Trophy. A native of Alappuzha, Kumar played 72 First Class matches from 1991-92 to 2005-06 and scored 1,657 runs and taken 196 wickets. He had also played 52 matches for Kerala and 17 matches for Railways where he was currently employed and also played the Duleep Trophy where he represented South Zone and Central Zone. He had also figured in the India Under-19 Test and ODI teams in 1992. — *PTI*

3 women, man paraded naked

Garhwa: Three women and a man were allegedly stripped and thrashed by a mob of around 50 people who accused them of practising witchcraft, and then paraded without clothes throughout the village in Jharkhand’s Garhwa district. Two people have been arrested in connection with the incident that happened on Thursday night in the Narayanpur village, while a search is on to nab the rest, they said. “The police first provided clothes to the women and the man, and then brought the two accused — Ravi Kumar and Vasudev — to the Sadar police station,” he said. Strict action will be taken against those involved in the incident. — *PTI*

Over 1L guns...

■ **Continued from Page 1** police officer posted in the region told this newspaper on Friday. “Guns have become a social status in the region. The culture can be traced back to the Mughal era. But it’s the yesteryear’s bandits of Chambal who romanticised gun culture in the region,” the police officer said. “Gun culture runs in the veins of the region,” Gwalior district superintendent of police Amit Sanghi said. Of the 1.04 lakh weapons deposited in Gwalior-Chambal region, maximum number — 29,000 guns — has been deposited in Gwalior district. Similarly, 27,000 firearms have been deposited in Morena district, 22,000 in Bhind district, 10,000 in Shivpuri, a little over 8,000 in Datia district, around 4,500 in Guna district and 3,800 weapons have been deposited in Ashok Nagar district. The weapons are deposited in local police stations till the completion of the whole election process.

PM to launch property cards

■ **Continued from Page 1** one day. Since Maharashtra has a system of recovering the nominal cost of Property Card, it will take a month’s time in the state for cards to be delivered. Officials said the move will pave the way for using property as a financial asset by villagers for taking loans and other financial benefits. SVAMITVA is a Central sector scheme of the ministry of panchayati raj, which was launched by PM on National Panchayati Raj Day, April 24, 2020. The scheme aims to provide the “record of rights” to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards. All the six states under the scheme have signed an MoU with Survey of India for drone survey of rural areas and implementation of the scheme. These states have finalised the digital property card format and the villages to be covered for drone-based survey. Punjab and Rajasthan have signed MoU with Survey of India for the establishment of Continuous Operating System (CORS) stations’ network to assist in future drone-flying activities. Different states have different nomenclature for the Property Cards — “Title deed” in Haryana, “Rural Property Ownership Records (RPOR)” in Karnataka, “Adhikar Abhilekh” in Madhya Pradesh, “Sannad” in Maharashtra, “Svamitva Abhilekh” in Uttarakhand, and “Gharauni” in Uttar Pradesh.

Asset monetisation plan hits a roadblock

Covid pandemic hits hard Centre’s ambitious five-year roadmap to make India \$5tn economy by 2025

ANIMESH SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

While the coronavirus pandemic has hit the domestic economy hard, what with the GDP growth in the first quarter of the current financial year shrinking by 23 per cent and unemployment too touching an all-time high, what has been severely affected is the Centre’s ambitious five-year roadmap of achieving the \$5 trillion economy target by 2025, mainly through monetisation of its functioning assets.

Right from redevelopment of 50 railway stations, commercially

exploiting the three railway stadia, to the monetisation of towers belonging to MTNL and BSNL — which has found no takers — the timelines of monetising all major functioning assets have been delayed, much to the concern of the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) and a high-powered committee led by the Cabinet secretary which is overseeing the entire process.

In a recent meeting, the committee expressed grave concern over the incessant delays in expediting all major projects belonging to major infrastructure sectors and asked concerned depart-

ments to fast track the asset monetisation process and achieve the targets within proposed timelines.

According to top sources, while undertaking an exhaustive review of all the programmes being run under several ministries to monetise functioning assets, the committee which consists of all secretaries heading central departments, noted that

out of the 50 railway stations which are to be redeveloped, while 10 are being developed under public, private partnership (PPP) model, no work has begun for the remaining 40 stations.

Taking serious note of the delay, the committee was critical of the fact that the Railway Ministry has only begun the preliminary work of preparing detailed project reports (DPRs) for

40 stations’ redevelopment. It is reliably learnt that ‘Request For Qualification’ (RFQ) would be issued only by March 2021. Even the timelines for developing the three railway stadia, namely the Karnail Singh cricket stadium in New Delhi and Waltair and Railway Indoor Sports Enclave (RISE) stadia in Visakhapatnam are undecided.

Apart from this, the redevelopment work for four hill station destinations like Darjeeling, Nilgiris, Kalka and Matheran, too, is at a nascent stage.

The monetisation of new airports in Patna, Coimbatore, Jammu and

Bhopal is also in limbo with no timelines finalised for them.

Also, monetisation of the dedicated rail freight corridor track, signalling and overhead assets as well as Kolkata Metro Multi-functional complexes (real estate), are some of the key works, which have failed to take off at the desired pace.

In the telecommunication sector, the Centre’s plan of monetisation of BSNL and MTNL towers has not been found to be lucrative. The Centre had plans to monetise 68,000 BSNL towers pan India and 1,350 MTNL towers in Delhi and Mumbai.

Rajasthan: Priest burnt to death by land-grabbers

Jaipur, Oct. 9: A priest died after being set on fire allegedly by five people who wanted to encroach on temple land in Rajasthan’s Karauli district, police said on Friday.

The five accused allegedly poured petrol on Babu Lal Vaishnav and set him on fire in Bukna village on Wednesday. He was referred to the SMS hospital in Jaipur in a critical condition. Vaishnav succumbed to injuries on Thursday night.

“The main accused, identified as Kailash Meena, has been arrested while another accused was rounded up,” superintendent of police, Karauli, Mridul Kachhawa, said.

The SP said a case of attempt to murder was registered at Sapotra police station and it had been converted into a murder case after the death of the priest.

The accused wanted to encroach upon the land of

the temple, the police said. Chief minister Ashok Gehlot termed the incident extremely unfortunate and condemnable and said the guilty would not be spared.

“The Rajasthan government is with the grieving family. The main accused in the incident has been arrested and action is being taken. The guilty will not be spared,” he tweeted in Hindi.

Such acts have no place in a civilised society, he said. Targeting the state government over the incident, the opposition BJP charged that the law and order situation has worsened in the state under

Congress rule.

“There is no fear of law among criminals who are roaming freely under Congress rule. People are living in fear while criminals have no fear. This is the situation when the chief minister himself is holding the home portfolio,” BJP state president Satish Poonia told reporters.

Condemning the incident, former chief minister Vasundhara Raje said in a statement that the way the crime graph is rising in the state, it is clear that no woman, child, elderly person or dalit is safe in the state.

“The Congress government of the state should now wake up from slumber and should get the family justice by getting strict punishment for the culprits,” she said.

Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra said the police have already caught the main accused. — *PTI*



Stephen E. Biegun

US dy secy of state to visit India Oct. 12-14

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 9

United States deputy secretary of state Stephen E. Biegun will travel to India from October 12-14. The visit comes ahead of the forthcoming Indo-US 2+2 talks at the foreign and defence ministerial level. While no dates have officially been given yet for the 2+2 talks, there are reports that it could be held in New Delhi in the last week of this month. With the US going to presidential polls soon, it is expected to be the last major engagement between the US and Donald Trump.

“From October 12-14, the deputy secretary will visit New Delhi, India, where he will meet with senior government officials and deliver keynote remarks at the India-US Forum. Building on secretary Pompeo’s October 6 meeting with Indian minister of external affairs Dr S. Jaishankar and ahead of the US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue later this year, Mr Biegun’s engagements in India will focus on advancing the United States-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and how the United States and India can work together to advance peace, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific and around the globe,” the US state department said.

The US official will thereafter visit Bangladesh.

India committed to Afghan peace, says Jaishankar

New Delhi, Oct. 9: External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Friday assured Afghan peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah that India remained committed to peace, prosperity and stability in Afghanistan.

Mr Jaishankar and Mr Abdullah held extensive talks on various aspects of the ongoing peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban, and on bilateral cooperation.

“Pleased to meet Chairman HCNR @DrAbdullahCE. A good discussion on our bilateral cooperation and regional issues. Welcomed his insights and perspectives on recent developments. As a neighbour, India remains committed to peace, prosperity and stability in Afghanistan,” Mr Jaishankar tweeted.

On his part, Mr Abdullah said the external affairs minister assured him of India’s “full support” for peace in Afghanistan.

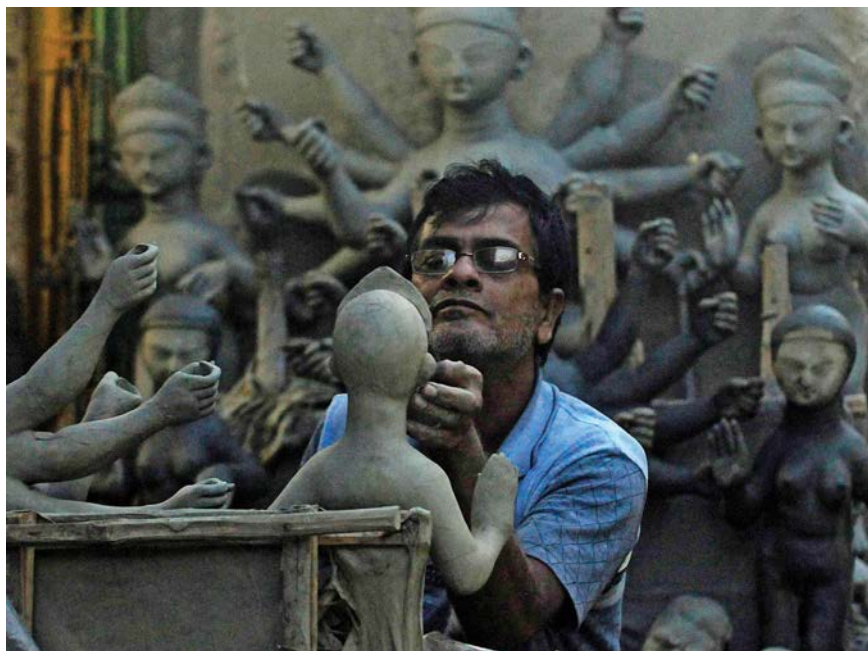
“As always pleased to meet HE @DrSJaishankar, the External Affairs Minister of India. We exchanged views on the #AfghanPeaceProcess, bilateral relations, & regional support for



IFS Day: Minister lauds Team MEA

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and external affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Friday praised the efforts of Indian diplomats on the occasion of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day that is celebrated every year on October 9. Mr Modi and EAM Jaishankar especially referred to the hard work put in by Indian diplomats as part of the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) to repatriate Indians back to India from various parts of the globe during the pandemic.

peace efforts. He assured me of India’s full support for peace in Afghanistan.” Mr Abdullah said on Twitter. Mr Abdullah arrived here on Tuesday on a five-day visit as part of his efforts to build a regional consensus and support for the Afghan peace process.

An artist gives finishing touches to idols of goddess Durga ahead of Durga Puja at Kumartuli, Kolkata, on Friday. — *PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY*

■ Abdullakutty’s car hit by truck in Malappuram, none hurt

BJP V-P attacked by goons in Kerala

AGE CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT. 9

BJP national vice president A.P. Abdullakutty’s car was hit by a truck while he was travelling to Kanur from Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday night.

The BJP leader alleged conspiracy behind the incident and sought a detailed investigation. Two separate cases were registered in different police stations on the basis of the complaint filed by Abdullakutty.

The BJP national vice-president alleged that the



A.P. Abdullakutty

“The BJP leader said the attack was planned as the lorry had hit his car twice. When he got down at a shop to have tea, a group misbehaved with him.

■ **ABDULLAKUTTY, WHO** has served two terms as CPM MP and Congress MLA respectively, had joined the BJP only last year

attack was planned as the lorry had hit his car twice. Earlier when he got down at a shop at Randathani in Malappuram district to have tea, a group of persons misbehaved with him.

The members of the same gang followed his car in the lorry and rear-

ended it. The state unit of BJP condemned the attack on their national leader. The party organized protests across the state, complying with Covid safety protocol.

BJP state president K. Surendran said the attack was part of a conspiracy to

create law and order issue. He urged the state police to carry out a detailed probe and nab the people behind the incident.

Abdullakutty who has served two terms as CPM MP and Congress MLA respectively had joined the BJP only last year. Within a short span of time, he rose to become the national vice-president in the recent reshuffle carried out by BJP president J.P. Nadda.

His appointment as one of the top national office bearers had caused heartburn among a section of senior BJP leaders in the state.

Chaibasa treasury case: Lalu gets bail, but to stay in jail

NAYEAR AZAD
PATNA, OCT. 9

The Jharkhand high court on Friday granted bail to RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav in a fodder scam case involving the illegal withdrawal of funds from the Chaibasa treasury.

The case pertains to fraudulent withdrawal of ₹33.67 crore from Chaibasa treasury in Jharkhand during 1992-93 when he was the chief minister of undivided Bihar.

While granting bail, the court asked him to submit two personal bonds of ₹50,000 each and deposit ₹2 lakh. According to Lalu Yadav’s counsel “the bail was granted after he completed half of the punishment of five years in the particular case.”

They, however, added that “Lalu Yadav will remain in prison as he has



Lalu Prasad Yadav

been convicted in other fodder scam cases.”

Sources said that the court on Friday heard only the petition related to Chaibasa treasury while another case related to Dumka treasury is to come up for hearing on November 9.

Lalu has been languishing in jail since December 2017. He was shifted to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Ranchi in March 2018 after his health condition deteriorated. However, recently he was shifted to

Kelly bungalow on the hospital premises due to Covid-19.

The court’s verdict has come as a huge relief for the RJD ahead of Assembly elections scheduled to begin from October 28. Talking to reporters in Patna RJD spokesperson Shakti Yadav said, “The party has welcomed the court’s verdict and hopes to see him out of jail soon. Lalu Yadav is a mass leader and always raised his voice for poor and deprived.”

Political analysts recall that since 1977 this would be the first Assembly elections when Lalu won’t be able to campaign for his party.

In the last two elections — 2014 Lok Sabha and 2015 Bihar Assembly elections he had actively campaigned for the grand alliance.

India test-fires anti-radiation missile to kill enemy radars

New Delhi, Oct. 9: In a major milestone, India on Friday successfully test fired a new generation anti-radiation missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force that can destroy a wide variety of enemy radars, air defence systems and communication networks from large stand-off ranges, officials said. The missile, Rudram-1, is India’s first indigenously developed anti-radiation weapon system and it was test-fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), at an integrated test range in Balasore in Odisha at around 10.30 am, officials said.

They said the missile, having a speed of Mach two or twice the speed of sound, is capable of bringing down a wide-range of enemy radar systems, communication networks and air defence systems within a range of up to 250 kilometers.

The defence ministry said Rudram hit the radiation target with “pin-point accuracy” and that the test established India’s capability to develop long range air launched anti-radiation missiles.

The flight testing of the missile comes in the midst of India’s bitter border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

“Rudram was successfully flight tested today onto a radiation target located on Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha,” it said. — *PTI*



THE ASIAN AGE

10 OCTOBER 2020

Second wave ahead; go easy on festivals

The government's decision to roll out a massive awareness campaign on containing the spread of Covid-19 ahead of the festival season, which will also see an election to the Bihar Assembly, is a welcome move. The focus of the campaign is not a new formula, rather the old one that all agencies including the World Health Organisation, have been advocating: wearing masks in public places, social distancing and hand hygiene. The government will use all media avenues, including social media, to spread the message.

India is second only to the United States in the total Covid-19 caseload and the daily spike in numbers these days vary anywhere between 70,000 and 90,000. The southern states, which in the initial days of the pandemic showed signs of resistance, have given in: Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have reported daily caseloads of 10,000 and above this week. There are experts who predict the numbers will see a further surge in the next two months, which is also the festival season in many states. There has been criticism that the government planned poorly during the national lockdown and no effective steps were taken nor massive awareness campaigns launched to contain the spread of the virus. Little effort was made to augment the healthcare infrastructure in the country, especially in the villages that have of late been bearing the brunt of the pandemic.

After four editions of the lockdown the government has been relaxing the controls that had been imposed on human and economic activity. Inter-state movement of people and vehicles, which was strictly banned during lockdown, has already been restored to the pre-lockdown days. Schools and educational institutions are on their way to return to normal functioning, albeit with precautionary measures. Recreational centres, including cinema halls are also being opened.

With the government allowing places of worship to function, the next weeks will see devotees flocking to their favourite pilgrim centres for celebrating their annual festivals. There have been indications that Kerala saw a sudden spurt in infection after Onam, the universal festival of the people of the state. If that is an indication, then the festivals across India could turn out to be super spreader events and only a massive campaign can help the country escape another disastrous bout of virus spread.

Elections to the Bihar Assembly are scheduled to be held in November. The Election Commission of India has announced restrictions on the campaigning but an effective implementation of the same must be ensured in the state, which is one of the states hit hard by the pandemic.

Experts say that the national lockdown has only postponed the peaking of the pandemic and predict that there will be a shortage of isolation beds, ventilators and intensive care units by the second week of November. The state governments and the health workers, the frontline warriors against the pandemic, are a fatigued lot, and the Union government should also design ways to strengthen them. It will only add to the impact of the awareness campaign.

Paswan's supple politics

Ram Vilas Paswan, who passed away following serious health complications on Thursday at the age of 74, is likely to be remembered for his long innings as a Union minister in governments of many hues. His identity as a Lohia socialist, with which he embarked on his political journey as a young man, as well as his identity as one born in a dalit sub-caste of Bihar, were submerged along the way.

But he fell back on the dalit factor to negotiate his way through the thicket of Bihar and national politics and to retain a place in the council of ministers of many Prime Ministers, cutting across party and ideological lines.

Unlike in some other states, the emergence of dalit political consciousness remained relatively weak in Bihar. It did not yield a vibrant political platform woven around that fundamental idea, as exemplified by Kanshi Ram and Mayawati in the case of Uttar Pradesh. Mr Paswan was not one to put his shoulder to the wheel.

The late leader of Bihar's Passi community had resigned his Cabinet position in the Atal Behari Vajpayee government to protest the communal carnage of 2002 in Gujarat, where the government was of the BJP, the PM's own party. The then state chief minister, Narendra Modi, came close to be sacked at the PM's instance. Subsequently, the senior Bihar politician showed enough suppleness to join the Cabinet of PM Modi.

When he first came to Parliament in 1977 on the Janata Party ticket, the young Lohiaite made an impression right away with his fine debating skills and careful preparation on the subjects he spoke on. That is an attitude legislators can emulate with profit.

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY
Editor in Chief

Printer & Publisher: K. SUDHAKAR

THE ASIAN AGE office is located at:
New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124.

Published and Printed on behalf of and for
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.
London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.

RNI Registration number: 57290/94

Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



"I never believed that caterpillars Would fly on sprouted wings Or why poets hearing chirpings Could say the nightingale sings

Or that all the people born Within minutes on the same day Were destined to a certain path Along this Milky way

Or that scattered haphazard stars Make shapes in the night sky So, tell me fellow traveller, Has beauty passed me by?"

— From **The Ruins of Bachchoo** by Bachchoo

Will India too leave 'divided histories', like US & Britain?

The mass protests occasioned by the killing of black citizens by the American police gave a universal and spectacular boost to the Black Lives Matter movement founded several years ago. The current phase of support has had some expected and some unexpected corollaries.

The demonstrations in the US resulted in a battlefield of verbal swordplay — and in this world of Twitters, Instagrammatic jitters and Facebook litters, that's not surprising. Everyone in the world thinks they have some

thing to say which amounts to news or wisdom.

One predictable consequence was that the BBC and national theatrical organisations announced that they would set aside funds and make space to include people of "diverse" origins and proclivities.

An unpredictable consequence was the statement from the supermarket chain Sainsbury who announced its intolerance of racism: "We proudly represent and serve our diverse society, and anyone who does not want to shop with an inclusive retailer is welcome to shop elsewhere." Now Sainsbury is 22 per cent owned by Qatar and a recent UN report said that country practices "structural racial discrimination through a de facto caste system based on national origin". Under this system, European, North American, Australian and Arab nationals "systematically enjoy greater human rights protections than South Asian and sub-Saharan nationalities".

I am the proud holder, gentle reader, of both a British passport and enjoy the status of an Overseas Citizen of my native India. The word "nationality" then is an ambivalent one. Will I enjoy full human rights in Qatar? And would

Barack and Michelle Obama? I shall keep going to Sainsbury, but Qatar? Maybe not.

One of the consequences of the public explosion that was BLM is that people in Britain who were deemed to have had a background of political activity in the cause of justice and progress for the immigrant population are in demand to speak and comment on the media.

For most of my short and happy life, from the late 1960s, gentle reader, I have been, I hope, an energetic (if nothing else) member, first of the Indian Workers' Association of Leicester, then of the British Black Panther Movement and then of the collective Race Today.

I am aware that at the time one subscribed to the ideology and vigorous activity of these organisations, which entailed demonstrating in favour of demands, propaganda and relentless agitation, pamphleteering and making a nuisance of oneself by battling the police and taking the long march through the institutions of Britain to ensure equality and progress, one didn't think of "history". Whew! (*Kamaal hein!* Did you really do all that? — Ed. *Hanh yaar*, read my autobiographical

fiction — fd. *Bathaya na toojhey*, no advertising! — Ed.)

So, the BBC and filmmakers, documentary producers and newspapers and blogwallahs have been turning up by phone or Zoom, or physically with cameras, to ask all the colleagues from those days about the determinations, events and campaigns that we undertook. They now want to call it history, but those who were in it never think it is. Or perhaps people like the Mahatma, or Napoleon or Churchill do.

In this flurry of enquiry and interviews, apart from recounting the "history" of campaigns and exploits, I've been repeatedly asked what one should make of the Black Lives Matter movement. Despite meetings with their organisers and asking them very specific questions, I still don't know that they are an organisation with a structure, a membership, clear aims and staying power. What one can see is that the upheaval they have caused, perhaps with the resources of the social media at their disposal, brings to the fore a singular fact.

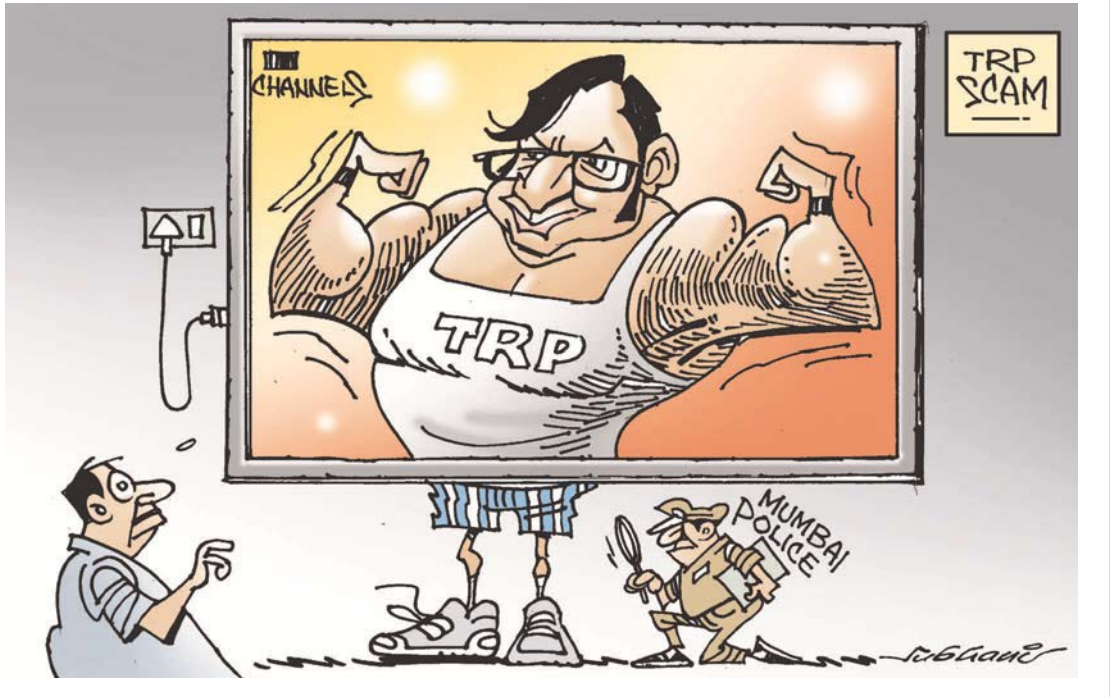
America is a nation with roughly two parallel "histories", or more accurately two distinct experiences of that single history. The Africans were brought to

America as slaves and have that cruel past, however hard they had fought against it. The white nation, consisting of the descendants of refugees from European persecution and the "wretched of the earth" in search of liberty, have the inheritance, however problematic, of the master race. If the BLM movement did a single thing, it pointed to this history and made the world see that a very substantial section of the contemporary American population, black and white, want to leave this divided history as just that. A new dawn?

So too in Britain, where the new communities carry with them the histories of colonialism. Immigrants from South Asia, the Caribbean and Africa were not brought or allowed into Britain to regale it with Carnival or to feed it tandoori chicken. They came as cheap labour for the sectors of the economy abandoned by the white working class. As such, they brought with them the history of oppression and fought in several ways over the past six decades for social and political equality. The mass support, "diverse" and white for BLM, indicates that Britain too wants to leave divided histories behind.

And India?

Subhani



India's new optics for post-US Afghanistan

Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near



Using the just-ended visit of Dr Abdullah Abdullah, the senior Afghan-istan politician who is now the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, India appears to have done its own signalling to the Afghan government, the various Afghan factions including the Taliban, and to the region at large.

Evidently, arranging the optics was deemed important since this was Dr Abdullah's first visit to New Delhi in his present capacity in which he guides Afghanistan's conversation with the Taliban (and its backer Pakistan) in all its multi-hued complexity in the Qatari capital of Doha.

As for timing, the visit took place within days of the inauguration of the negotiation process between the Afghan government and the Taliban last Saturday, 19 years after the start of the present war in Afghanistan. On this count too, the furtherance of the optics to convey intent, and long-term perspective, has been found useful since the situation and the atmospherics at the talking table, and the Afghan theatre more broadly, are likely to be fluid and carry a clear potential for regression.

The senior Afghan leader was on a briefing visit. New Delhi's well-known stance — and Kabul's just as well-known aspiration in the post-Taliban phase — were therefore reiterated for the record. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also assured the senior Afghan leader that the peace talks in Doha had India's backing. The reiteration was perhaps required in the light of certain elements in Pakistan attempting to establish the impression that India does not want the Doha talks to succeed.

India has for many years underlined the need for any reconciliation talks with the Taliban to be Afghan-owned, Afghan-led and Afghan-controlled. On the ground these conditions are not being fulfilled. It is well known that after many hiccups the talks have eventually reached the starting point, thanks to Washington's pushing, coaxing, and forcing Pakistan to let the Taliban (whom Islamabad has controlled) join meaningful negotiations, and Russia too lending its weight to the incipient process in the expectation of the possibility of peace. For the sake of the record, though, the talks are Afghan-owned in the sense that Kabul won't now disavow the present phase.

India has also sought to emphasise that any outcome acceptable to the Afghans themselves will be acceptable to it. The proviso — naturally — is that Afghanistan should remain independent, sovereign and free from foreign tutelage. Flowing from this is the sub-formulation, more recently explicated, that Afghan soil must not be permitted to be used for any anti-India terrorist activity.

Kabul accepts this readily and Dr Abdullah said so in New Delhi. To be realistic, however, the fulfilment of all, some, or none of the above objectives will depend on the shape the talks take and the texture of the final outcome whose horizon, at this stage, appears indeterminate and unattractive.

Although the grandiloquently billed peace talks have been inaugurated, the Taliban (in reality Pakistan) have not agreed to a ceasefire or cessation of violence, believing that they will lose leverage if ordinary Afghans were not pushed to the brink and to a stage of total war-exhaustion.

Since the end of February this year, when the United States and the Taliban reached an agreement which adumbrated the peace talks, around 12,000 civilians have been killed in the Afghan violence and 15,000 injured. This week alone, attacks have taken place in 20 out of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. There have been targeted assassinations and high-profile attempts, such as the one on vice-president Amrulla Saleh.

At the political level, some in the country are trying to pre-position themselves to reach a future accommodation with the Taliban (should this be necessary), while some factions are said to be keeping the powder dry for a renewed military flareup. On the broader, more popular plane, the emerging "New Afghanistan", although not armed, is eager to hold on to the gains of democracy secured in the past two decades. This includes women, large sections of the youth and the ethnic minorities. The channelisation of the political conduct of this constituency is yet to be ascertained.

It is in this background that New Delhi has done its signalling, which is of a kind it has not done before, although India and Afghanistan are "strategic" partners (to which Dr Abdullah alluded during his visit). When the senior Afghan figure sat in discussion with national security adviser Ajit Doval on Wednesday, there were also present on the Indian side the Chief of Defence Staff and the Army Chief, besides the diplomacy complement.

The new kind of well-advertised lineup at the discussion on the Indian

The new kind of well-advertised lineup at the discussion on the Indian side appears to semaphoring that India is likely to keep the military dimension of things in full view

LETTERS

TELEVISION CIRCUS

Little did Rhea know she will glitter in Bollywood mar-quees in a tragicomedy that even Shakespeare can 't match. The play starts with the hero already dead and a hint of murder raises the cur-tain. The spotlight on heroine is franchised to a TV channel that soon appropriates both the screenplay and script. It gains this privilege exclusively on its TRP standing, that runs as a sub-plot. The police walk in, as do the noble men in public office, all with a view to create a moral fable for an audience that is suddenly held captive by a dragon virus. As if this is not enough, the drug mafia makes an entry and the storyline is now on a rollercoaster. Will the lonely and troubled heroine find a patron saint springing to her rescue. With inspired Indian TV channels around, you just cannot bet.

R. Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

THE 'TINA' FACTOR

THE JHARKHAND high court on Friday granted bail to former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad in a fodder scam case related to Chaibasa treasury. The RJD chief, however, will have to remain in jail as he is serving time in another case related to Dumka treasury. His loss is what is contributing to TINA, the there is no alternative factor, in the Bihar Assembly polls.

Sankar Paul
Chakdaha, West Bengal

THANK YOU, NIA

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) deserves accolades for busting an Islamic State (IS) terror module and arresting two men, including a Bengaluru-based rice merchant. The accused are members of Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HT) or the "Party of the Liberation" and had raised funds to radicalise Muslim youths and facilitate their travel to the conflict zone in Syria to aid and assist the IS militants. It is apparent that the IS is sparing no effort in making inroads into India, and the authorities would do well to have an ear to the ground.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

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

IN BRIEF

Japan gears up for typhoon

Tokyo: A slow-moving typhoon off Japan's southern coast has triggered gusts and rain across a large part of the country and could bring heavy rains to the Tokyo region early next week, though it was not expected to make landfall, officials said on Friday. Disaster officials, nevertheless, urged residents to take precautions early. Typhoon Chan-hom was south of Japan's Shikoku island on Friday afternoon with maximum winds of 126 kilometres (78 miles) per hour, the Meteorological Agency said. The agency said Chan-hom took a route farther from the Japanese coast than expected and was not expected to make a landfall.

Another hurricane to hit Louisiana

Abbeville: Boarded windows and empty sidewalks made parts of Louisiana's Acadiana region look like empty movie sets as major Hurricane Delta roared ever closer to the US Gulf coast, apparently on track to smash into the same southwestern part of the state where Hurricane Laura blasted ashore six weeks ago. Forecasters said Delta — the 25th named storm of an unprecedented Atlantic hurricane season — would likely crash ashore on Friday evening somewhere on southwest Louisiana's coast. The question was whether it would remain at devastating Category 3 strength or drop just before landfall to a still extremely dangerous Category 2 storm — with winds falling below 110 miles per hour (177 kph).

Venezuelans flee on foot as troubles rise

Pamplona: Eleazar Hernández slept on a sidewalk amid a light drizzle, temperatures that dipped close to freezing and the roar of passing trucks. The 23-year-old Venezuelan migrant was trying to make it to the Colombian city of Medellín with his wife, who is seven months pregnant. But the couple had run out of money for transportation by the time they reached Pamplona, a small mountain town over 300 miles (482 km) away from their final destination. Unable to buy a bus ticket, Hernández pinned his hopes on catching a ride on the back of a truck. It was the safest way to cross the Paramo de Berlin, a freezing plateau located at 13,000 feet (4,000 meters). "My wife can barely walk," said Hernández, who had spent four days sleeping on Pamplona's sidewalks. "We need transport to get us out of here." After months of Covid-19 lockdowns that halted one of the world's biggest migration movements in recent years, Venezuelans are once again fleeing their nation's economic and humanitarian crisis.

ANTIBODIES FOUND IN BLOOD, SALIVA OF COVID PATIENTS

Boston, Oct. 9: Scientists, including one of Indian-origin, have documented the persistence of antibodies that target the Coronavirus in the blood and saliva of patients with Covid-19 at least three months after symptom onset, a finding that may lead to alternative methods of testing for the viral infection.

The study, published in the journal Science, points to the IgG class of antibodies as the longest-lasting antibodies detectable in the patients during this time frame, and may serve as promising targets to detect and evaluate immune responses against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. According to the researchers, including those from the Harvard Medical School in the US, these antibodies could be detected at similar levels in both blood and saliva, suggesting that saliva could be used as an alternative biofluid for antibody testing. In the research, Anita Iyer and her team measured antibody responses in the blood of 343 patients with Covid-19 for up to 122 days after symptom onset, and compared these responses to those of 1,548 control individuals sampled before the pandemic.

The scientists focused only on antibodies specific to the receptor binding domain of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein which it uses to enter host cells. They estimated sensitivities of the antibody types IgG, IgA, and IgM at 95 per cent, 90 per cent and 81 per cent, respectively, for detecting infected individuals between 15 to 28 weeks after symptom onset.

RIVALS RALLY IN KYRGYZSTAN AS PRESIDENT AGREES TO QUIT

Bishkek: Thousands were out in the streets of Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek on Friday as rival factions made grabs for power and embattled pro-Russian President Sooronbay Jeenbekov said he was ready to resign to end days of post-election chaos.

There has been little evidence of central government in Bishkek since a parliamentary vote in the ex-Soviet republic on Sunday sparked protests that morphed into violent unrest.

One person has been killed and more than a thousand injured in the violence. On Friday Jeenbekov signed off on the resignation of the government in place before the election, which opposition parties say was rigged by massive vote-buying in favour of parties close to the president. — AFP

PAK BANS TIKTOK CITING 'IMMORAL' CONTENT ON APP

Islamabad, Oct. 9: Pakistan's telecom watchdog on Friday banned the popular Chinese video-sharing app TikTok after getting numerous complaints against its "immoral" content.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said in a statement that a "number of complaints from different segments of the society" were made "against immoral/indecent content" on TikTok.

The regulator took the step after a "final notice" was given to TikTok to comply with the instructions for development of an effective mechanism for a proactive moderation of its unlawful online contents, it said. — PTI

CHINA JOINS COVAX PACT FOR GLOBAL SUPPLY OF VIRUS VACCINES

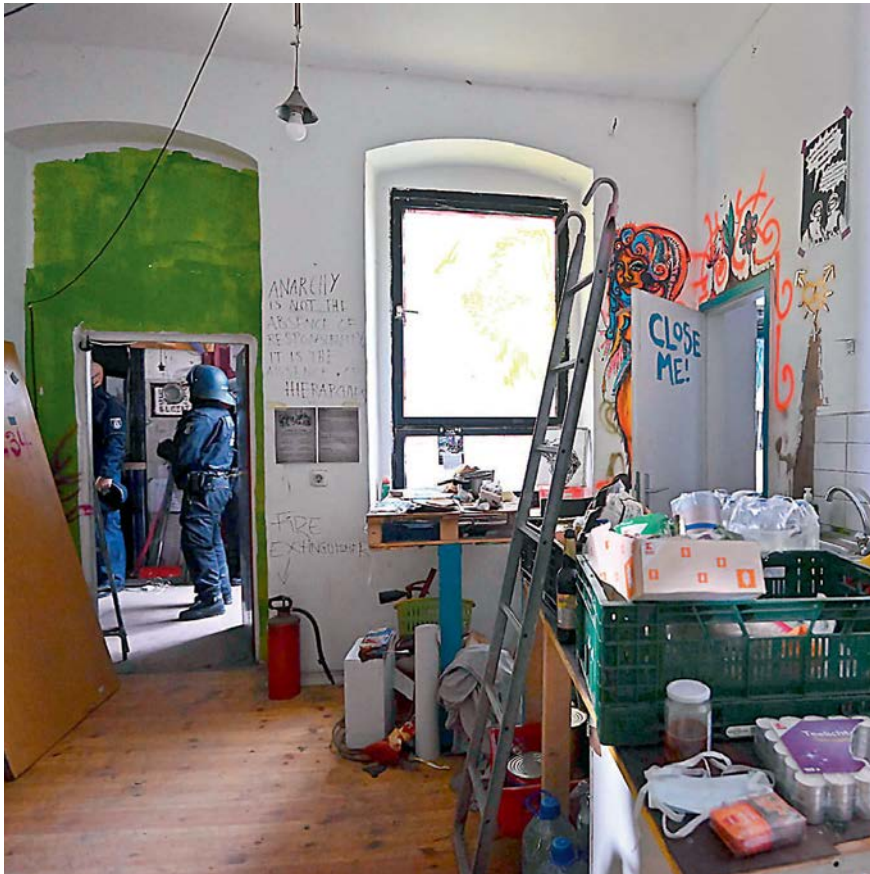
Beijing, Oct. 9: China has officially joined the World Health Organisation's (WHO) COVAX alliance to equitably distribute Covid-19 vaccines around the globe, ending speculation that it plans to supply them on its own to developing countries to improve its image dented by the pandemic since it emerged in Wuhan in December last year.

According to the WHO, countries should join the Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) by September 18 but not later than October 9 with upfront payments.

"On October 8, China and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, signed an agreement, officially joining COVAX," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a statement on Friday.

"This is an important step China has taken to uphold the concept of a shared community of health for all and to honour its commitment to turn Covid-19 vaccines into a global public good," she said, apparently refuting reports that China plans to distribute the vaccines to developing countries on its own ahead of developed countries. — PTI

Germany empties squatters



A policeman stands inside the squatted building at Liebig Street 34 after the eviction of squatters in the east Berlin neighbourhood of Friedrichshain on Friday. — AFP

UK trial hears last messages of 39 Vietnamese migrants

London, Oct. 9: "I am sorry I cannot take care of you. I cannot breathe." British jurors on Friday heard heartrending phone messages left by a group of Vietnamese migrants who suffocated to death in a sealed truck container.

The prosecutor at the trial of four men said the 39 migrants — including two boys aged 15 — may have died because "greedy" people-smugglers attempted to carry out two lorryloads in one, after a previous one was intercepted by authorities.

The migrants' bodies were found in the container in Essex, southeast

England, last October 23 after it had been transported on a cargo ship from Zeebrugge in Belgium. The container had docked in the port of Purfleet just after midnight, and the Vietnamese passengers had been sealed inside in the dark for at least 12 hours, in unbearably high temperatures. A forensic expert calculated it would have taken about nine hours for the air to turn toxic in the trailer, with death coming soon after.

Prosecutors have said the trapped Vietnamese were unable to get a phone signal inside the container, whose cooling system

was turned off. Prosecutor Bill Emlyn Jones said that haulage company boss Ronan Hughes had, via a Snapchat message, instructed lorry driver Maurice Robinson to "give them air quickly but don't let them out" once he picked up the container in Purfleet.

Security camera footage showed Robinson park the lorry, walk to the rear and open the door slightly.

He took a step back and stood for 90 seconds before walking slowly back to his cab, the jurors heard. First he called Hughes, then the UK emergency line 999 to report the deaths. — AFP

FB deletes fake profiles backing Trump

Menlo Park (US), Oct. 9: Facebook has removed 276 accounts that used fake profiles to pose as right-leaning Americans and comment on news articles, often in favour of President Donald Trump, the company announced on Thursday. The platform also permanently banned an Arizona-based digital communications firm that it said was behind the fake accounts.

The move was prompted by reporting last month in The Washington Post that a

pro-Trump group known as Turning Point Action was paying teenagers to post coordinated, supportive messages, a violation of Facebook's rules.

Facebook and Twitter have been regularly removing fake accounts — both domestic and foreign — that try to insert themselves in the US political discourse and influence the election. But social media companies face broader threats around misinformation and voter suppression that at times come

from President Donald Trump himself. The latest network Facebook removed became active before the 2018 midterm elections and went dormant until June, when the accounts began posting on topics including the Coronavirus pandemic, criticism of the Democratic Party and its nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, as well as praise for Trump and other Republicans.

"So sick of democrats continuing to make republicans look bad! It makes me tired of politics and I just believe Republicans are much more humble when it comes to money because Democrats will do anything to screw over Americans," read one post Facebook cited as an example.

Individuals behind the accounts used stock photos to create fake profiles, many of which were removed by Facebook's automated detection software. Facebook determined that the accounts were being coordinated by

licans look bad! It makes me tired of politics and I just believe Republicans are much more humble when it comes to money because Democrats will do anything to screw over Americans," read one post Facebook cited as an example.

Individuals behind the accounts used stock photos to create fake profiles, many of which were removed by Facebook's automated detection software. Facebook determined that the accounts were being coordinated by

Bid to kidnap Michigan Gov.

13 charged in plotting abduction, says police

Detroit, Oct. 9: Agents foiled a stunning plot to kidnap Michigan Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, authorities said on Thursday in announcing charges in an alleged scheme that involved months of planning and even rehearsals to snatch Whitmer from her vacation home.

Six men were charged in federal court with conspiring to kidnap the governor in reaction to what they viewed as her "uncontrolled power," according to a federal complaint. Separately, seven others were charged under the state's anti-terrorism laws for allegedly targeting police and the state Capitol.

"All of us in Michigan can disagree about politics, but those disagreements should never, ever amount to violence. Violence has been prevented today," Detroit U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider said.

The six men charged in federal court plotted for months, consulting and training with members of a group that federal authorities described as a militia, and undertaking rehearsals in August and September, according to an FBI affidavit. They were arrested on Wednesday night and face up to life in prison if convicted. Four planned to meet on Wednesday to "make a payment on explosives and exchange tactical gear," the FBI said in the court filing.

The FBI quoted one of the accused as saying Whitmer "has no checks and balances at all. She has uncontrolled power right now. All good things must come to an end." Andrew Birge, the U.S. attorney in western Michigan, called them "violent extremists." — AP

Amid Covid, Trump plans rally in Florida

Washington, Oct. 9: Donald Trump, who is still recovering from Covid-19, has suggested he might organise a rally in Florida on Saturday, while continuing to ignore questions on whether he has yet tested negative for the disease.

On Thursday night, Trump said: "I think I'm going to try doing a rally on Saturday night if we can, if we have enough time to put it together."

"But we want to do a rally in Florida, probably in Florida on Saturday night, might come back and do one in Pennsylvania, on the following night."

At least one Trump rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has been linked by a local health official to a spike in Coronavirus cases. Most supporters at recent Trump events have eschewed masks and social distancing measures to slow the spread of disease. On asking whether he had yet to test negative for Coronavirus — or whether he had been tested at all since his positive test last week — the president did not directly respond, instead touting the experimental drugs he had been treated with. He said he would be likely be tested on Friday. — Agencies

Pelosi doubts Trump's fitness to serve nation

Washington, Oct. 9: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is questioning President Donald Trump's fitness to serve, announcing legislation on Thursday that would create a commission to allow Congress to intervene under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution and remove the president from executive duties.

Just weeks before the November 3 election, Pelosi said Trump needs to disclose more about his health after his Covid-19 diagnosis. She noted Trump's "strange tweet" halting talks on a new Coronavirus aid package — he subsequently tried to reverse course — and said Americans need to know

when, exactly, he first contracted Covid as others in the White House became infected.

On Friday, she plans to roll out the legislation that would launch the commission for review. "The public needs to know the health condition of the president," Pelosi said, later invoking the 25th Amendment, which allows a president's cabinet or Congress to intervene when a president is unable to conduct the duties of the office. Trump responded swiftly via Twitter.

"Crazy Nancy is the one who should be under observation. They don't call her Crazy for nothing!" the president said. — AP

US military not informed about leaving Afghan

Washington, Oct. 9: The US military was blindsided on Thursday by President Donald Trump's assertion that all US troops will be out of Afghanistan by the end of the year, with US officials saying they are not aware of such a plan and have gotten no actual order to accelerate the more gradual pullout they've been executing.

Trump's comments, laid out in a confusing progression of comments and a tweet, alarmed Pentagon and State officials who fear that putting a definitive date on troop withdrawal could undercut negotiations to finalise a peace deal between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

They also fear a hasty withdrawal could force the US to leave behind sensitive military equipment. And they continue to stress that the Taliban has still not met requirements to reduce

violence against the Afghans, a key element of the US withdrawal plan. The Taliban welcomed Trump's announcements, which started with a tweet on Wednesday saying "we should have the small remaining number of our BRAVE Men and Women serving in Afghanistan home by Christmas". He reinforced early withdrawal plans on Thursday morning, in an interview that understated the number of troops currently in Afghanistan.

"We're down to 4,000 troops in Afghanistan. I'll have them home by the end of the year. They're coming home, you know, as we speak. Nineteen years is enough. They're acting as policemen, OK? They're not acting as troops," Trump said.

Multiple US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they know of no plan for either new deadline. — AP

Biden slams Don over remarks on Harris

Washington, Oct. 9: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has described President Donald Trump's remarks about Kamala Harris after a debate between her and Vice President Mike Pence as "despicable" and "beneath the office of the presidency".

Pence and Biden's running mate Harris came face to face in the vice presidential debate on Wednesday, which saw sparring over Trump's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, jobs,

China, racial tensions and climate change. Trump and Biden have separately lauded their deputies. In an interview on Thursday, Trump hit out at Harris saying, if Biden wins the November 3 US Elections, Harris will take over as president in a month's time. "She is a communist. She's not a socialist. She's well beyond a socialist. Take a look at her views. She wants to open up the borders to allow killers and murderers and rapists to pour into our country," he said.

Hours later, Biden hit out Trump for his remarks, saying the American people are sick and tired of it. "It's despicable, so beneath the office of the presidency and the American people are sick and tired of it. They know who this man is, it's got to stop," Biden said in the battle ground of State of Arizona with Harris by his side.

"This (Harris) is a person who is ready on day one to be president of the United States of America. This is a person who has more

integrity in her little finger than most people have in their whole body... He (Trump) has great difficulty dealing with strong women," the Democratic presidential candidate said. "You did a great job," he told Harris.

Responding to a query, Biden said there is no place for hate in America. "Both of us have been talking about this for some time, about how white supremacists and these militias are a genuine threat," he said. — PTI

PANDEMIC | DEFYING Government data says more than 45% of population took inter-country trips

637mn Chinese travel on Golden Week holiday

Hong Kong, Oct. 9: Some 637 million Chinese tourists took domestic trips during the eight-day Golden Week holiday, spending the equivalent of tens of billions of dollars at a time when China is seeking to boost consumer spending to stimulate the economy.

The holiday, which began on October 1, saw more than 45% of China's population take trips within the country and spend 466.6 billion yuan (\$69.5 billion), according to data from China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. That marked a decline of 21% for domestic tourists from last year's Golden Week and a 30% decline for spending. Still the numbers show consumption is beginning to bounce back following the

● **THE GOLDEN Week** tourism and spending figures indicated domestic consumption was recovering well, especially as consumers engaged in "revenge buying".

battering it took earlier in the year from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Travel within the country, and sometimes even within cities, was restricted beginning with the Lunar New Year in January as China fought the spread of the Coronavirus that emerged in the central city of Wuhan. During the five-day Labour Day holiday in May, domestic tourism revenue was down nearly 60% from the previous year. "Chinese consumer confi-

dence has been significantly recovered due to the proper control of pandemic, government pro-consumption policies and stimulus and faster than expected resumption of business activities," said Jennifer Ye, PwC's China consumer markets leader. The Golden Week tourism and spending figures indicated domestic consumption was recovering well, especially as consumers engaged in "revenge buying" to make up for the previous months when they were unable to travel, she said.

With many Chinese tourists unable to travel abroad due to global travel restrictions, those who previously travelled to Hong Kong and South Korea for duty-free shopping turned

to the southern Chinese island of Hainan instead, spending 530 million yuan (\$78 million) at duty free shops during the first five days of the holiday, according to a report by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV. The Chinese province raised duty-free shopping limits on July 1, hoping to attract domestic tourists and compete with shopping hubs in Europe and other parts of Asia. China has reported no locally transmitted Coronavirus infections since August 16, and restrictions have been eased. To boost domestic tourism, local governments and online travel platforms like Ctrip and Fliggy are offering tourists discounts on attraction tickets, hotels and tour packages. — AP

China denies Covid originated in Wuhan

Beijing, Oct. 9: China on Friday claimed that the coronavirus broke out in the various parts of the world last year but it was the only one to have reported and acted first, refuting the widely-held view that the deadly contagion originated in Wuhan before turning out to be a pandemic.

China, besides denying the US allegations that Covid-19 has emerged from a bio-lab in Wuhan, also rejected that it emanated from a wet market in the central Chinese city

from bats or pangolins before infecting humans.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said that "the Coronavirus is a new kind of virus as more and more facts emerge as reports reveal, we all know that the epidemic broke out in various places in the world at the end of last year, while China was the first to report the outbreak, identified the pathogen and shared the genome sequence with the world." — PTI

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,509.49	0.81
Nifty 50	11,914.20	0.67
S&P 500*	3,474.08	0.79
Dollar (₹)	73.14	0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.67	0.30
Euro (₹)	86.31	0.20
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,558*236	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.82	-0.52
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.937	-0.002
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.769	0.002

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Report only FY19 transactions in GST return: MoF

Taxpayers are required to report in the annual GST return of 2018-19 only the values of transactions pertaining to that financial year. The finance ministry said it is noticed certain tables in the auto populated GSTR-9 for 2018-19 also include the data for 2017-18, which has already been filed. "It is clarified that the taxpayers are required to report only the values pertaining to the financial year 2018-19."

Bulk transfer of EPFO funds now possible



EPFO has launched a facility for bulk transfer of funds from exempted establishments through a single payment. On change of employment of a member from exempted to unexempted establishment, his past accumulations are transferred to EPFO. Till now, exempted establishments had to approve and transfer the funds one-by-one for each member. The new facility will increase the speed of funds transfer.

Firms asked to disclose forensic audit info to SEs

Sebi has asked listed companies to make disclosures about initiation of forensic audit to stock exchanges. The listed entities will make disclosures about the fact of initiation of forensic audit along with the name of the entity initiating such audit and reasons for the same, if available, to stock exchanges, Sebi said. Firms will also be required to disclose about final forensic audit report on its receipt.

Hyundai gets over 1.15 lakh Creta bookings

Hyundai Motor India said it has received over 1.15 lakh bookings for its all-new Creta. "The overwhelming response reiterates trust and love of the Indian customers in the Creta brand name," Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) director sales and marketing Tarun Garg said. The company has already sold 58,000 units of the new version while the overall sales of the model since 2015 stands at over 5.2 lakh units.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

Capital cost to come down for big-ticket lenders Home loans above ₹75L to become attractive

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, OCT. 9

In a bid to boost demand for high value home purchases and the housing sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday allowed banks to consider only the loan to value (LTV) ratio while setting the risk weights—capital that banks have to set aside—for new home loans.

Till now, the risk weight of home loans was determined on the basis of loan amounts and LTV ratios. Higher loan amounts led to higher risk weights, requiring banks to set aside higher capital while sanctioning the loan. The latest announcement regarding the home loan risk weights has done away with the requirement of factoring in loan amount while setting risk weights for fresh home loans sanctioned till March 31, 2022. The move would benefit incremental housing loans in higher ticket size of over Rs 75 lakh (below 80 per cent LTV) which currently attracts 50 per cent risk weight. Experts said that the move should reduce capital cost for banks and help in transmission and improve credit offtake.

All fresh home loans with LTV ratios of 80 per cent or less will attract risk weight of 35 per cent whereas those with LTV ratios of above 80 per cent to 90 per cent will attract risk weight of 50 per cent, the RBI said.

"Recognising the criticality of real estate sector in the economic recovery,

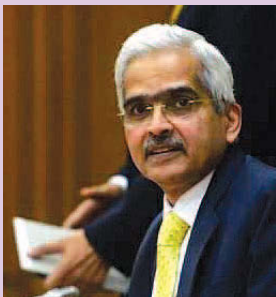
RTGS to go 24x7, PSOs to get perpetual validity

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 9

The central bank has made the real time gross settlement system (RTGS) available round-the-clock. It also has given perpetual validity for the authorisation granted to new and existing Payment System Operators.

Similar to the national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) system, large-value RTGS transactions will be made available round-the-clock on all days. Currently, it is available for customers from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm on all working days except 2nd and 4th Saturdays. This facility will be made effective from December.

This, according to the RBI, will support the ongoing efforts aimed at global integration of Indian



shaktikanta das

financial markets, facilitate India's efforts to develop international financial centres and provide wider payment flexibility to domestic corporates and institutions. With this, India will be one of the very few countries globally with a 24x7x365 large value real time payment system.

Further, the payment system operators will be

issued authorisation with a perpetual validity. Currently, the RBI issues "on-tap" authorisation to non-banks issuing prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), operating white label ATMs (WLAs) or the trade receivables discounting systems (TReDS), or participating as Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs). Authorisation, including renewal of authorisation of such PSOs has been largely for specified periods up to five years.

According to the apex bank, such limited period licences were necessitated in the initial period of evolution of the payment system. However, it can lead to business uncertainty for the PSOs and involves avoidable use of regulatory resources in the process of renewal.

given its role in employment generation and the interlinkages with other industries, it has been decided, as a countercyclical measure, to rationalise the risk weights by linking them only with LTV ratios for all new housing loans sanctioned up to March 31, 2022...This measure is expected to give a fillip to bank lending to the real estate sector," said the RBI.

Raj Kiran Rai, managing director and chief executive officer of Union Bank of India, said, "From the

regulatory announcements, linking the risk weight only to Loan to Value Ratio for individual housing loans is a positive measure. Due to Covid-19 lock down, construction is a beaten down sector. Since things are getting revived, this enabling policy support will help in augmenting the credit flow to the sector.

Krishnan Sitaraman, senior director, Crisil Ratings said, "Liberalisation in risk weights for individual housing loans

by removal of ticket size criteria and linking it only to Loan to Value will provide some tailwinds to housing loan disbursals from a supply side perspective. This is because it will bring about greater capital efficiency for lenders in housing loan disbursals of more than Rs 75 lakh ticket size. At the same time, the potential for any material uptick appears subdued as that will depend upon pick up in real estate sales and demand increase for home loans from home buyers."

Exporters happy as caution-listing goes

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Providing a relief to the exporter community during the pandemic, RBI has decided to discontinue the system of automatic caution-listing. Caution-listing will now be based on case-specific recommendations of banks.

Automatic caution-listing of exporters, introduced as part of Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) in 2016, happens if any shipping bill against them remained outstanding for more than two years in EDPMS and no extension was granted for realisation of export proceeds against the outstanding shipping bill.

Caution-listed exporters are denied packing credit and this affects their exports. It will also be difficult for them to claim incentives when they are caution-listed.

"In certain cases, some old transactions are shown as outstanding when the exporters are not able to reconcile them

and banks also are unable to help them," said K. Unnikrishnan, deputy director general, Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

Further, some of the accounts continue to remain as outstanding even after settlement. Banks, especially during times of merger, fail to update all such accounts. These also get caution-listed, he said.

In order to make the system more exporter friendly and equitable, it has been decided to discontinue the automatic caution-listing, the RBI said.

"The decision of the RBI to discontinue the 'automatic caution listing' of exporters whose shipping bills were pending for more than two years is a great relief to the exporting community, battling the pandemic-hit global meltdown, EEPIC India said. "The automatic caution-listing of exporters whose shipping bills were pending for over two years had caused an avoidable distrust in the exporting community," said EEPIC India chairman Mahesh Desai.

Bankers, experts hail RBI's discretion-based response

New Delhi, Oct. 9: Bankers and financial experts on Friday hailed the RBI policy, saying the decision to keep the key repo rate unchanged is an accommodative approach to manage inflation while keeping growth as target. Friday's policy statement by RBI is a perfect exposition of doing 'whatever it takes' to revive growth, SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara said in a statement.

Given the expectation of inflation to stay elevated and a GDP contraction of 9.5 per cent in 2020-21, RBI has done the right thing by announcing discretion-based policy responses rather than being rule based, he added.

Bank of India's chief executive A. K. Das said the retail and small business segments will also have better prospects by measures, such as, rationalisation of risk weight for housing loans, enhancement of regulatory retail cap and co-lending with NBFCs/HFCs.

Punjab National Bank's MD & CEO S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao welcomed the Rs 1 lakh crore

E-invoice begins for ₹100-cr firms from January

New Delhi, Oct. 9: The GST e-invoicing system will be extended to businesses with over Rs 100 crore turnover from January 1, 2021, for B2B business transaction, a top government official said on Friday.

Finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the e-invoicing system can eventually dispense with the present system of filing GST returns for smaller businesses and micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Under goods and services tax (GST) law, e-invoice for B2B transactions have been made mandatory for companies with a turnover of over Rs 500 crore from October 1.

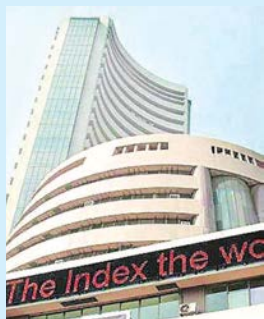
Pandey, who is also the revenue secretary, said by January 1, 2021, it will be available to taxpayers having turn-over of more than Rs 100 crore a year; and for all taxpayers for B2B transactions from April 1, 2021. The e-invoicing replaces the paper invoice and will soon replace the existing e-way bill system and taxpayers won't have to generate separate e-way bills.

"The e-invoicing system can also eventually dispense with the present system of filing GST returns for smaller businesses and MSMEs because e-invoice will pre-populate their returns and they have to simply pay the taxes. The returns will be automatically generated for all supplies," he said.

—PTI

Bank, NBFC stocks join IT in bull rally

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 9



Stocks of banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies, made big gains on RBI's dovish policy stance and measures announced to spur lending by the banks and NBFCs.

The market surged higher to a fresh seven-month high as financials joined the IT stocks in providing more strength to the bulls as the rally stretched to the seventh session.

The Sensex gained 326.82 points to close at 40,509.49 and the Nifty-50 gained 79.60 points, closing at 11,914.

The Nifty Bank Index gained 2.83 per cent, led by PSU banks, and the top gainers included State Bank of India (3.64 per cent), Punjab National Bank (4.14 per cent), Bank of Baroda (4.11 per cent), HDFC Bank (3.64 per cent), ICICI Bank (4.06 per cent) and Axis Bank (3.74 per cent).

Stocks that gained in the non-banking finance (NBFC) and housing finance (HFC) space included M&M Finance (2.73 per cent), LIC Housing Finance (7.03 per cent), HDFC (0.86 per cent), Indiabulls Housing Finance (4.43 per cent), PNB Housing Finance (5.81 per cent) and Can Fin Homes (5.81 per cent).

"RBI policy has been very dovish without any rate cut. It strengthens focus on the yield curve and provides a helping

hand to increase credit offtake. The policy stance is very accommodative and would remain as long as necessary, even going into FY22. There are other measures that will help banks and NBFCs to accelerate lending, especially in the housing finance segment and priority sector lending," said Rusmik Oza, head-fundamental research, Kotak Securities.

"Banks, HFCs and NBFCs have grossly underperformed the Nifty-50 in the last four months with valuations for most of the leading stocks going closer to the lower end of their historic valuation band. Feel the BFSI pack can play catch-up and try to cover some of the underperformance in the next few quarters," Oza said.

After Friday's friendly policy, the market would await the final Supreme Court verdict in the moratorium matter. There are enough green shoots emerging in the economy as many high frequency indicators show improvement, Oza added.

Govt lifts ban on export variety onions



SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 9

Having banned onion exports last month, the government has permitted shipping of Bangalore rose onions and Krishnapuram onions.

The export variety onions can be shipped up to 10,000 tonnes each till the end of the fiscal.

The export of both the varieties will be allowed only through the Chennai port. For Bangalore rose onions, exporters have to get a certificate from the Horticulture Commissioner of Karnataka and for Krishnapuram onions the licence has to be secured from assistant director, horticulture, Kadappa. The quantities for export have to be monitored by DGFT Bangalore and Chennai.

On September 14, the government had banned export of all onions as the retail prices moved up to Rs 40 a kg. It had suspected that increased exports would lead to further rise in prices.

Between April and July this year, the country had exported onions worth Rs 1,539 crore, registering a growth of 39 per cent in export revenue against the same period last year. In 2019-20, the country had exported around 10,11,378 mt onions, valued Rs 2,044 crore.

"At an average 60,000 tonnes of Bangalore Rose and 40,000 tonnes of Krishnapuram onions are exported per annum. The two varieties of onions are largely exported and are not consumed in the domestic market in large quantities," said the Federation of Indian Exporters Organisations.

VIEW | AND BUY

Goal is to convert videos into a catalogue of items that users can buy

YouTube to become a shopping platform

MARK BERGEN & LUCAS SHAW OCT. 9

Every toy, gadget and good you see on YouTube could soon be for sale online – not on Amazon, but right on YouTube itself.

The world's largest video site recently started asking creators to use YouTube software to tag and track products featured in their clips. The data will then be linked to analytics and shopping tools from parent Google.

The goal is to convert YouTube's bounty of videos into a vast catalogue of items that viewers can peruse, click on and buy directly, according to people familiar with

the situation. The company is also testing a new integration with Shopify Inc for selling items through YouTube.

A YouTube spokesperson confirmed the company is testing these features with a limited number of video channels. Creators will have control over the products that are displayed, the spokesperson said. The company described this as an experiment and declined to share more details.

The moves have the potential to transform YouTube from an advertising giant into a new commerce leader such as Amazon.com Inc. and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

"YouTube is one of the



least utilised assets," said Andy Ellwood, president of e-commerce startup Basket. "If they decided they want to invest in it, it's a huge opportunity for them."

It's unclear how YouTube will generate revenue from these sales. However, the service has begun offering subscriptions for creators and takes a cut of 30 per cent from those payments.

Alphabet Inc's Google has taken multiple stabs at online commerce, with limited success. The company has mostly preferred to sell ads that send people to other digital stores, rather than selling products itself.

However, the pandemic has hammered marketing budgets, particularly in the travel and physical retail sectors that are major Google advertisers. Meanwhile, e-commerce has boomed as people stay home. That's left Google watching from the sidelines as rivals such as Facebook Inc and its Instagram app become hotbeds of online shopping. Amazon has seen sales soar, while Google

suffered its first ever revenue decline in the second quarter.

For months now, Google executives have signalled that YouTube will be central to their e-commerce strategy. On a recent earnings call, CEO Sundar Pichai suggested YouTube's sea of popular product "unboxing" videos could be turned into a shopping opportunity. The video site is full of other popular categories, such as makeup and cooking tutorials, where creators tout commercial products.

Google has also revamped its e-commerce and payments division. In July, it announced a plan to lure merchants to Google Shopping. —Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

BCCI ponders hosting England

New Delhi: India's home series against England will be up for discussion alongside the scheduling of the upcoming tour of Australia and the domestic season when the BCCI's apex council holds an online meeting on October 17.

Board president Sourav Ganguly had said that the BCCI will do all it can to ensure that the home series against England remains in the country and domestic tournaments kick off at some point despite the fluid Covid-19 situation. England is scheduled to tour India next year between January and March for five Tests, three ODIs and three T20 Internationals. In view of the rising Covid cases in India, the UAE, which is currently hosting the IPL, had emerged as an alternative for the home series against England. — PTI

Russian lifters banned for doping

Geneva: Six Russian weightlifters were on Thursday handed doping bans of up to eight years, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) announced.

The group includes Dmitry Lapikov, bronze medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2009 world silver medalist and 2011 European champion. The 38-year-old received the heaviest sanction, a competition ban until August, 2026. Maksim Sheiko, European silver medalist in 2012 and 2013, was banned for six years, with Ruslan Albegov (bronze medalist at London 2012 and a two-time world champion), Egor Klimonov, Yuliya Konovalova, and Tima Turieva all receiving four year bans. — AFP

India's Dev in Jr French Open draw

Paris: India's Dev Javia has qualified for the boys' singles main draw of the Junior French Open after winning both his qualifying league matches here. The 18-year-old from Vadodra beat Emiliano Aguilera Guerrero of Mexico 6-2, 3-6, 10-8 in the final group match to make it to the junior singles main draw. Javia had earlier beaten Brazil's Nicolas Marcondes Zanellato 0-6, 6-1, 10-4 in his first group match held at the Roland-Garros. His coach Shrimal Bhatt, who had accompanied Javia to Paris, was extremely satisfied with his ward's performance. Javia had earlier won the qualifying tournament of the 'Roland-Garros Junior Wild Card Series by OPPO' which was held in New Delhi in February 2020. Javia is now the second Indian player to qualify for the Roland Garros Junior Singles in Paris. — PTI

Formula 1 practice session called off

Nurburg, Germany: The first practice session for the Eifel Grand Prix was cancelled Friday because of bad weather, keeping Michael Schumacher's son Mick from his first official drive as part of a Formula One race weekend. Low cloud and mist made for poor visibility around the Nrburg track and it was declared unsafe for the medical helicopter to take off before time ran out for the 90-minute session. The helicopter is required under F1 safety rules and must be able to fly any casualties to the hospital at high speed. Lewis Hamilton is aiming to win his 91st career F1 race on Sunday. That would put him equal with Michael Schumacher's record. — AP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Kings XI Punjab vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 3.30 pm; Chennai Super Kings vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FORMULA ONE

German Grand Prix: Practice 3 from 3.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD; Qualifying from 6.25 pm on Star Sports 3

TENNIS

French Open: Women's singles final from 6.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Marlon Moraes vs Cory Sandhagen and other bouts from 4.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002. And Printed by him at BFL Infotech Limited, C-9, Sector - III, Noida - 201301. Editor - T. Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 57290/94, Price in Nepal - Nep. Rs. 20.00 per copy.

Hetmyer shimmers

Dominant Delhi extend winning streak with Royal drub

Sharjah, Oct. 9: Delhi Capitals defeated Rajasthan Royals by 46 runs in an IPL match here on Friday.

Riding on Shimron Hetmyer's 45, they first made 184/8 in 20 overs and then bowled out the Royals for 138 in 19.4 overs. Yashasvi Jaiswal (34) and Rahul Tewatia (38) were the only ones who made decent scores for RR.

Earlier, desperate to snap their three-match losing streak, RR opted to field and the bowling unit delivered with Jofra Archer (3/24) taking three wickets and spinner Rahul Tewatia (1/20) and Kartik Tyagi (1/35) capturing one each.

The two run outs of the dangerous Shreyas Iyer (22 off 18) and Rishabh Pant (5) also proved crucial. Shimron Hetmyer smashed a 24-ball 45, studded with five sixes and a four to emerge as the top-scorer for Delhi. Marcus Stoinis (39 off 30) too chipped in.

Archer was the pick of the bowlers as he dismissed opener Shikhar Dhawan (5) in the second over for his first wicket in the Powerplay this year.

Skipper Iyer then smashed two fours off pacer Varun Aaron (0/25 in 2 overs) and then Prithvi Shaw (19 off 10) deposited him into the stands. — PTI



Shimron Hetmyer of Delhi Capitals plays a shot against Rajasthan Royals during their Indian Premier League match held at Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Friday. — BCCI

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw c and b Jofra Archer 19, Shikhar Dhawan c Jaiswal b Jofra Archer 5, Shreyas Iyer run out 22, Rishabh Pant run out 5, Marcus Stoinis c Steven Smith b Rahul Tewatia 39, Shimron Hetmyer c Rahul Tewatia b Kartik Tyagi 45, Harshal Patel c Rahul Tewatia b Jofra Archer 16, Axar Patel c Jos Buttler b Andrew Tye 17, Kagiso Rabada not out 2, V. Aaron c Pant b Rabada 1. **Extras:** (LB-2, NB-1, WO-7) 10. **Total:** (all out in 20 Overs) 138. **FoW:** 1-15, 2-56, 3-72, 4-76, 5-82, 6-90, 7-100, 8-121, 9-136, 10-138. **Bowler:** Kagiso Rabada 3.4-0-35-3, Anrich Nortje 4.0-25-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 4.0-22-2, H. Patel 4.0-29-1, A. Patel 2.0-8-1, Marcus Stoinis 2.0-17-2.

Rajasthan Royals: Y. Jaiswal b Stoinis 34, Jos Buttler c Dhawan b Ashwin 13, Steve Smith c Hetmyer b Nortje 24, Sanju Samson c Hetmyer b Stoinis 5, M. Lomror c A. Patel b Ashwin 1, R. Tewatia b Rabada 38, A. Tye c Rabada b A. Patel 6, J. Archer c Iyer b Rabada 2, S. Gopal c Hetmyer b H. Patel 2, K. Tyagi not out 2, V. Aaron c Pant b Rabada 1. **Extras:** (LB-2, NB-1, WO-7) 10. **Total:** (all out in 20 Overs) 138. **FoW:** 1-15, 2-56, 3-72, 4-76, 5-82, 6-90, 7-100, 8-121, 9-136, 10-138. **Bowler:** Kagiso Rabada 3.4-0-35-3, Anrich Nortje 4.0-25-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 4.0-22-2, H. Patel 4.0-29-1, A. Patel 2.0-8-1, Marcus Stoinis 2.0-17-2.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals	6	5	1	0	10	+1.267
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	+0.232
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	3	2	0	6	+0.002
Royal Challengers Bangalore	5	3	2	0	6	-1.355
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.371
Rajasthan Royals	6	2	4	0	4	-1.073
Kings XI Punjab	6	1	5	0	2	-0.431

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

Rahul rates run Some CSK batsmen think it's a government job: Viru

Dubai, Oct. 9: Strike rates are over-rated, said Kings XI Punjab captain K. L. Rahul, brushing aside criticism of his bottom-placed team which lost its fourth match on the trot here, failing miserably in a chase of 202 against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Punjab lost by 69 runs and Rahul could manage only 11 off 14 balls at a strike rate of 68.75. His innings featured no boundaries despite the power-play.

"I think strike rate is very, very overrated. For me, it is only about how I can win games for my team and on a certain day if 120 can win a game for my team then I will do that. This is how I bat and I like to take responsibility," Rahul said at the post-match press conference.

The skipper, who has 313 runs in the six games so far including a century

and two fifties and is the leading run-scorer of the tournament, was eventually dismissed by Abhishek Sharma in the seventh over.

Later, Rahul also rued the early run-out of Mayank Agarwal, saying it was a disaster for his side in its pursuit of a stiff 202-run target. "When we lose wickets in the powerplay, it's going to be tough, especially when we're playing only six batters. Getting Mayank run-out wasn't a disaster," Rahul said.

Rahul was full of praise for his bowlers, saying: "The last five games we struggled with our death bowling, but that was a positive today. The boys showed courage and pulled things back, you expect them to score 230-plus after that start." — PTI

New Delhi, Oct. 9: Former India opener Virender Sehwag has taken a dig at Chennai Super Kings' faltering IPL campaign, saying that some of their batsmen think of the franchise as a "government job" in which remuneration is assured irrespective of performance.

Chasing 168, veteran opener Shane Watson struck his second successive fifty to give CSK a perfect start on Wednesday, but the team choked at the back end of the innings and was restricted to 157 for five to suffer its fourth defeat in five matches.

"It should have been chased down. But the dot balls played by Kedar Jadhav and Ravindra Jadeja didn't help," Sehwag told *Cricbuzz*. "And, in my view, some of the Chennai Super Kings batsmen think of



It should have been chased down. But the dot balls played by Kedar Jadhav and Jadeja didn't help. In my view, some of the Chennai Super Kings batsmen think of CSK as a government job, whether you perform or not, they know they'll get their salary anyway.

— VIRENDER SEHWAG
former India player

CSK as a government job, whether you perform or not, they know they'll get their salary anyway," he added.

CSK added just 14 runs from 11-14 overs, a period when they lost both Watson and an in-form Ambati Rayudu. Sent ahead of West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, Kedar Jadhav laboured to

seven off 12 balls as KKR won the game by 10 runs.

This is not the first instance of batsmen letting the team down. Last week, the MS Dhoni-led side had lost a closely fought match to SRH by seven runs.

Chennai Super Kings are placed sixth in the eight-team standings. — PTI

Tired CSK take on hapless RCB

Dubai, Oct. 9: Chennai Super Kings will take on Royal Challengers Bangalore in an intriguing mid-table Indian Premier League clash here on Saturday with both teams battling inconsistency.

CSK all-rounder Kedar Jadhav's selection will be under the scanner after his failure in the defeat to Kolkata Knight Riders.

Despite Shane Watson finding his range in a 10-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab and Faf du Plessis's consistency at the top, the middle-order continues to remain a concern for CSK with skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni himself not being at his best.

While worries remain on the batting front, the CSK bowling has got better and they did well to restrict KKR in the previous game with influential all-rounder Dwayne Bravo returning to his wicket-taking ways.

However, the CSK bowling will be up against a strong RCB batting line-up led by captain Virat Kohli, who returned to form with a fine knock against Rajasthan Royals.

Kohli aside, young Devdutt Padikkal has looked in good touch, while

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 24
- Chennai: 15
- Bangalore: 8
- No Results: 1

MEETING IN 2019

- Chennai Super Kings beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 7 wickets at Chennai.
- Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Chennai Super Kings by 1 run at Bangalore.

FOR THE RECORD

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni who scored 3960 runs at an average of 44.49 in 148 innings of 166 matches, needs 40 runs to become second Chennai Super Kings batsman to score 4000 runs in IPL.

- Virat Kohli became the first Indian and seventh batsman overall to score over 9000 runs in Twenty-20 cricket during his 43-run knock in the previous match against Delhi Capitals.

— S. PERVEZ KAISER

AB de Villiers has been a key player for RCB over the years. It is the bowling which would worry Kohli except Yuzvendra Chahal. The pacers have not lived up to their reputation, with the likes of Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Navdeep Saini leaking runs. — PTI

Knights look to bruise Kings XI

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 9: Kings XI Punjab will have to play out of their skins to get their stuttering campaign back on track when they face fancied Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

Smarting from a 69-run drubbing at the hands of Sunrisers Hyderabad, it will not be an easy task for a struggling KXIP side to stand up to the challenge thrown by an all-round KKR team.

Shubman Gill has already created an impression as an opener and now KKR have found another option at the top in Rahul Tripathi, who will enter the game with some confidence after his swashbuckling innings of 81 against CSK two days ago.

The experienced Eoin Morgan is a huge presence in the middle-order which also has Nitish Rana, always on the lookout to impress the team management with his performances with the bat.

On the other hand, Kings XI Punjab will again rely on their trusted opening pair of captain KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal.

The mis-firing Glenn Maxwell is likely to make

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 25
- Kolkata: 17
- Punjab: 8

MEETING IN 2019

- Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Kings XI Punjab by 28 runs at Kolkata.
- Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Kings XI Punjab by 7 wickets at Mohali.

FOR THE RECORD

- Mandeeep Singh, who scored 961 runs at an average of 22.88 in 52 innings of 56 matches, needs 39 runs to become seventh batsman to score over 1000 runs for Kings XI Punjab in IPL.

- Sunil Narine took only three wickets at an average of 50.00 off 18 overs in five innings of as many matches in this edition so far.

— S. PERVEZ KAISER

way for Gayle. Nicholas Pooran's exploits with the bat is a positive for Kings XI Punjab and he will again look to play his shots freely. Death bowling is a major concern for Kings XI Punjab and they would need to get it right against a strong KKR batting line-up. — PTI

Nadal roars into 13th French final

Paris, Oct. 9: Twelve-time champion Rafael Nadal reached his 13th French Open final on Friday with a 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (7/0) win over Argentina's Diego Schwartzman, setting up a potential blockbuster title clash against Novak Djokovic.

For 34-year-old Nadal, it was a 99th win at Roland Garros since his 2005 debut and put him just one victory away from equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles.

He is also into his 28th final at the majors and has not dropped a set in the tournament this year.

Djokovic, the 2016 champion in Paris and chasing an 18th Grand Slam title, takes on Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the second semi-final.

The world number one has his own date with destiny should he make Sunday's final as he bids to become the first man in half a century to win all four Slams twice.

"It's always incredible to play here and this is a very special moment," said Nadal after a 10th win in 11 matches against Schwartzman who had shocked him in Rome last month.

Nadal fought off two break points in a marathon



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates after defeating Argentina's Diego Schwartzman in the men's singles semifinal at the French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on Friday. — AP

14-minute opening game. The world number two then broke for 2-0 but Schwartzman retrieved it immediately.

It was a brief respite for the 5ft 6in (1.68m) player affectionately known as "El Peque" ("shorty"), as the 28-year-old was broken again in the fourth game.

Schwartzman saved a couple of set points but dumped the third one in the net and the opener was Nadal's after 65 minutes on court. — AFP

Messi leads Argentina in qualies

Sao Paulo, Oct. 9: In their first matches in almost a year, Argentina and Uruguay won their South American World Cup qualifying openers without doing much to impress their fans watching from home.

Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez each scored from the spot, but did little else to energise the empty stadiums of a region still hard hit by the Covid-19. Messi netted the only goal of Argentina's victory over Ecuador at the La Bombonera stadium, while Suarez opened the scoring in Uruguay's 2-1 last-minute win over Chile in Montevideo, thanx to Gomez Gonzalez last minute curl. Paraguay was held to a 2-2 draw by Peru on Thursday.

Elsewhere, Georgia became the first team to advance to the European Championship playoff

finals by beating Belarus 1-0. A seventh-minute penalty kick earned and scored by Tornike Kriashvili settled the game played without fans in the stadium in Tbilisi on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic scored twice to lift Serbia into the European Championship playoff finals with a 2-1 extra-time win over Norway. Serbia kept Norway's feared forward Erling Haaland quiet and found its own unlikely threat in the Lazio midfielder who had not previously scored for the national team.

In another match, Scotland won their first ever penalty shootout to beat Israel in the Euro 2020 semifinal playoffs, but there was spot-kick heartbreak for the Republic of Ireland as they lost out to Slovakia. — Agencies



Lionel Messi (left) of Argentina dodges Ecuador's Angel Mena during their 2022 FIFA World Cup South American qualifier match at La Bombonera stadium in Buenos Aires on Thursday. Argentina won 1-0. — AFP